Reading and Writing

Module 1

(33 questions)

QUESTION 1

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of a prediction about a kilonova. In this context, a "theory" is an explanation that is considered scientifically acceptable. The text states that astronomers predicted in the 1990s that a collision between a black hole and a neutron star or between two neutron stars could release a massive gamma ray burst called a kilonova, explaining that they determined this possibility based on their extensive work with existing data and simulations ("calculations and models"). In other words, the prediction was a theory—a well-supported explanation—that, as the text indicates, was later confirmed with observations in 2017.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017, and a prediction of an event isn't "evidence," or proof, of that event's existence, even when the prediction is based on extensive study. Further, there would be no need for later confirmation of something that was already recognized as evidence. *Choice C* is incorrect because in this context, a "constant" is a situation or factor that doesn't change. The text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017, and there is no reason to describe the prediction as a constant because the text doesn't suggest that the prediction was completely unchanged over time—it addresses only the making of the prediction and its later confirmation. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017; although a prediction might be informed by an "experiment," or a controlled test, a prediction is an idea rather than a test.

QUESTION 2

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "clear" most nearly means transparent, or see-through. Muir states that the water beneath the boat "was so clear that it was almost invisible," suggesting that those on the boat were able to see through the water and easily observe plants and fish below the surface.

Choice A is incorrect. In some contexts "clear" can mean "simple," or uncomplicated, but Muir is describing the water, and water isn't typically described as either simple or complicated. Muir emphasizes the water's transparency, not its simplicity. *Choice B* is incorrect. In some contexts "clear" can mean "understandable," or reasonable or easily comprehended, but Muir is describing the water, and it doesn't make much sense to describe water as understandable. Muir emphasizes the water's transparency, not how easily the water can be understood. *Choice C* is incorrect. Although "clear" can mean "obvious," or easily seen or understood, in some contexts, Muir's description emphasizes that the water "was almost invisible" and that the boat seemed to be "sustained in the air," suggesting that the water was almost impossible to see, not that it was obvious.

QUESTION 3

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how Maggie Lena Walker addressed the lack of financial services available to Black residents in Richmond, Virginia, at the turn of the twentieth century. In this context, "rectify" means to correct or remedy something undesirable. The text indicates that by chartering the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in 1903, Walker took action to provide local Black residents with greater access to financial services like home loans and savings opportunities. This context supports the idea that she aimed to rectify the undesirable situation affecting these residents.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "prolong" would mean to lengthen something in time. The text indicates that at the turn of the twentieth century, Black residents in Richmond, Virginia, were faced with a lack of formal banking options. The text then states that Walker founded a new bank that provided these residents with financial services. Therefore, instead of prolonging the situation, she took steps to rectify, or correct, it. *Choice C* is incorrect because in this context, "retain" would mean to continue to have or to keep something. According to the text, at the turn of the twentieth century, Black residents in Richmond, Virginia, had few formal banking options, and Walker chartered a new institution to provide these residents with expanded financial services; therefore, she took steps to rectify, not retain, the situation. *Choice D* is incorrect because in this context, "highlight" would mean to emphasize or call attention to something, but the text indicates that Walker took concrete steps beyond merely drawing attention to the situation Black residents were facing in Richmond, Virginia, at the turn of the twentieth century. According to the text, Walker worked to rectify, or correct, the lack of formal banking options that were available to these residents by establishing a bank that provided them with home loans and savings opportunities.

QUESTION 4

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of a relationship between the results of randomized clinical tests of how effective common medical interventions are and the conclusions practitioners reach about such interventions in real-world settings. In this context, "corroborate" means confirm or support with evidence. The text indicates that one possible explanation for the relationship being discussed is that practitioners may overlook confounding variables—that is, additional factors other than the medical interventions being investigated that affect the observed outcomes. This means that practitioners may assume that an outcome is the direct result of a medical intervention when it is actually the result of a combination of factors. Clinical trials take steps to rule out factors other than the one being studied, so if those extra factors are actually having an effect on real-world outcomes, the trials are likely to produce conclusions different from those practitioners reach in their real-world observations. In other words, clinical trials may fail to corroborate practitioners' conclusions.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "circumvent," or find a way around or bypass, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; it's possible that researchers conducting the trials might avoid engaging with practitioners' conclusions, but findings from a study can't choose to get around something. *Choice C* is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "disseminate," or spread widely, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; the researchers conducting the trials might choose to draw attention to practitioners' conclusions, but findings from a study can't spread anything. *Choice D* is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "implement," or put into effect, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; the researchers conducting the trials might consider practitioners' conclusions, but findings from a study can't put anything into effect.

QUESTION 5

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of diadromous fish. In this context, "demarcated from" means separate or set apart from. The text indicates that diadromous fish differ from euryhaline fish in that diadromous fish "migrate between freshwater and marine biomes during their life," whereas euryhaline fish do not relocate to a different biome because they can tolerate higher salinity environments. Therefore, this context suggests that because of differences between their migration patterns, diadromous fish are distinct and can be demarcated from euryhaline fish.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that diadromous fish migrate and relocate, the text does not suggest that diadromous fish would be "reconstituted as," or formed again as, anything new. Only their environments change and not the fish themselves. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text does not suggest that diadromous fish can be "conflated with," or combined with, euryhaline fish. Instead, the text distinguishes the two types of fish by pointing out their

differences with regard to migration and tolerance for salinity. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text indicates that based on migration habits and tolerance for salinity, diadromous fish are different from euryhaline fish; so it would not make logical sense to say that diadromous fish would be "derived from," or be an extension of or result from, euryhaline fish.

QUESTION 6

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first two sentences of the text establish that in California, houses were heated by building fires year-round. The underlined portion then indicates that the fires didn't merely provide physical warmth: they also represented being "home" and feeling protected. The underlined portion thus illustrates that a fire provides comfort beyond physical warmth.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't summarize information that came before it. Whereas the previous two sentences describe fires' ability to provide physical warmth to homes, the underlined portion focuses on the psychological comfort the fires offered. *Choice C* is incorrect. Although the text's second sentence mentions that fires were built in the summer because fog came in, which may have cooled the house, this detail isn't the focus of the underlined portion. Instead, the underlined portion indicates that fires were built for reasons beyond physical warmth: to create a sense of being home and safe. *Choice D* is incorrect because the underlined portion focuses on the emotional significance the author places on having a fire going inside the home. There is no indication that the author feels equally comfortable without a fire present.

QUESTION 7

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined phrase functions in the text as a whole. The text states that the wax produced by Liu and colleagues' reactor can be turned into a surfactant. The underlined phrase, which is set off with parentheses, then provides a definition for the term "surfactant," explaining that it's a chemical compound that can be used as a detergent. Thus, the underlined portion of the text functions to clarify the meaning of a scientific term.

Choice B is incorrect. Though the text as a whole focuses broadly on an environmental concern, the underlined phrase does not; it simply indicates what a surfactant is. *Choice C* is incorrect. Though the text as a whole focuses on a scientific discovery (Liu and colleagues' solution to the problem of plastic recycling), the underlined phrase does not explain its significance; it simply defines a scientific term used in the discussion. *Choice D* is incorrect. Though the text as a whole includes discussion of the result found by Liu and colleagues, the underlined phrase does not discuss it; it simply defines a scientific term used in the discussion. Additionally, at no point in the text is it mentioned that the team was confused.

QUESTION 8

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. In the text, the speaker mentions the occurrence in nature of seedpods being shaken by a slight wind. The speaker then goes on to compare the black seeds to thoughts, using language that indicates that the speaker's state of mind is unsettled (e.g., "my thoughts are spent"; "My thoughts tear me, I dread their fever"). The text concludes with a comparison between the speaker's "scattered" state of mind and the "hot shrivelled seeds." Thus, the underlined portion of the text presents an observation of an occurrence in the natural world that the speaker then expands on to convey a sense of a turbulent interior state.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not indicate that the seedpods are the cause of the speaker's state of mind; thus, they could not be responsible for any misgivings the speaker has. *Choice B* is incorrect because the text does not contrast the natural landscape with the speaker's state of mind or describe the wind shaking the seedpods as consistent; rather, the text suggests that the state of the natural world and the speaker's state of mind are similar in that both are unsettled. *Choice D* is incorrect because there is no indication in the text that the speaker regularly engages in critical self-evaluation, only that in this particular instance the speaker's state of mind is turbulent.

QUESTION 9

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text introduces literary scholar Jeremy Douglass's warning to technology investors and enthusiasts against predicting the displacement of conventional books by newer media forms. The next sentence, which is underlined in part, presents Douglass's observation that interactive texts are hardly new; they have been available for longer than technologists assume, beginning with the first time readers wrote notes in texts' margins. Thus, the function of the underlined portion is to challenge the stance of the technology investors and enthusiasts mentioned earlier in the text. As the remainder of the text points out, newer media doesn't necessarily replace older media, but rather, as Douglass believes, leads to new forms of expression.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion challenges the position taken by investors and enthusiasts; it doesn't provide context for their claims. *Choice C* is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't mention academics or compare them to investors regarding their ability to see potential in using contemporary interactive texts; instead, the underlined portion challenges the position of investors and enthusiasts who predict that conventional books will be replaced by newer forms of media. *Choice D* is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't address technological challenges; instead, it disputes the stance taken by investors and enthusiasts, suggesting that conventional books haven't been displaced by traditional interactions with texts, such as writing in the margins, and won't be supplanted by newer forms of media either.

QUESTION 10

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the *M. robustus* population at the Octopus Garden. The text states that the scientists concluded that the site is likely used only for reproduction because over three years they saw many adults, freshly hatched octopuses, and eggs but didn't see any juveniles. This suggests that the *M. robustus* octopuses that hatch at the Octopus Garden leave the site when they reach an intermediary state of development, returning only as adults for reproductive purposes.

Choice B is incorrect because the text never discusses the stability of the *M. robustus* population at the site, only that the scientists observed 6,000 adults, hatchlings, and eggs there. Further, the text presents the site's temperatures as likely beneficial. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text doesn't provide any details about the eggs at the site and makes no mention of nests; it indicates only that eggs are present along with hatchlings and adults. *Choice D* is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the hatchlings feeding at the Octopus Garden, indicating only that the temperatures at the site are probably beneficial and that the site is likely used for reproduction.

QUESTION 11

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about Hans Castorp's story that is suggested by the text. The narrator of the text indicates that the story about Hans Castorp will be told not because there is something particularly notable about him, since he is pleasant but "perfectly ordinary," but because the story itself is remarkable ("very much worth telling"). The narrator then notes that there is a benefit in being at the heart of the story—that it is "in Hans Castorp's favor" that the story is his, and maybe uniquely so ("not every story happens to everybody"). Thus, the text suggests both that the story that will be told is a remarkable one that happened to an unremarkable person and that it is reasonable to argue that the person at the center of a valuable story takes on some of the story's value.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the narrator of the text makes the point that "not every story happens to everybody," the narrator doesn't state that stories are interesting simply because the people they are about are unique. Rather, the narrator suggests that one particular story is "very much worth telling" on its own and that Hans Castorp benefits from the fact that the story is remarkable and may be unique to him. Further, the narrator never suggests that the story will be hard to understand even though it is old. *Choice B* is incorrect. Although the narrator of the text suggests that Hans Castorp is of no particular importance, since he is a "perfectly ordinary" person, the narrator never reveals what makes the story of Castorp important, just that "the story itself" is "very much worth telling." The narrator states that the story "took place long ago," is "covered with the patina of history," and can be told only "with verbs whose tense is that of the deepest past," but the story's age and the way it must be told aren't presented as reasons the story is important; the narrator is simply providing details about how the story will be told. *Choice C* is incorrect because the narrator of the text doesn't suggest that all stories about people who are "perfectly ordinary" (like Hans Castorp) must

be told in particular ways to make it clear why those stories are consequential. Further, the narrator suggests that Hans Castorp's story must be told "with verbs whose tense is that of the deepest past" because it took place so long ago, not because telling it that way will convey the story's importance.

QUESTION 12

Choice D is the best answer because it states the percentage of participants who mentioned costs in the interviews conducted by Judith Hilton and her team. The text states that Hilton and her team interviewed participants about factors that would encourage them to switch from single-use plastic containers to reusable containers. The graph presents three factors mentioned in the interviews (convenience, costs, and established behaviors) and the percentage of participants who mentioned each one. The graph shows that about 50% of participants mentioned costs as a factor.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows that about 50% of participants, not 10%, mentioned costs as a factor. *Choice B* is incorrect because the graph shows that about 50% of participants, not 95%, mentioned costs as a factor. *Choice C* is incorrect because the graph shows that about 50% of participants, not 25%, mentioned costs as a factor.

QUESTION 13

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the quotation that best supports the student's claim that in *The Politics*, Aristotle gives advice on preserving constitutions—preventing governments from falling and maintaining order—and specifically asserts that in a healthy state, laws must be followed as strictly as possible and infractions should not be overlooked even if they are minor. The philosopher states that when Aristotle builds his argument about the characteristics of a well-functioning government, Aristotle asserts that transgression, or violation of law, will ruin the state if it "creeps in unperceived," or goes unnoticed. The philosopher then adds that Aristotle illustrates this point by comparing the situation to one in which small but frequent expenses diminish a fortune almost unnoticeably until, eventually, the fortune is entirely gone. In other words, the philosopher indicates that Aristotle makes the point that total obedience to law preserves a healthy state while even small violations, if ignored, will undermine the health of the state.

Choice B is incorrect because the philosopher addresses Aristotle's observation about corruption within the government (in particular, preventing the possibility that members of the government can take bribes), and although corruption can involve infractions, the observation is about a subset of people within the state and isn't directly connected to the importance of upholding total obedience to the law throughout the state. *Choice C* is incorrect because the philosopher discusses Aristotle's point about those who would intentionally destroy a constitution altogether and the need for rulers to remind the populace that it would be dangerous for a constitution to collapse, but neither idea is directly connected to the importance of upholding total obedience to the law. *Choice D* is incorrect because the philosopher explains that Aristotle makes the point that

oligarchic leaders may retain power by having members of disenfranchised classes participate in government alongside governing classes, and this point doesn't address the importance of ensuring obedience to the law and addressing even minor violations.

QUESTION 14

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion that an observable pattern in time references in novels reflects a shift in human behavior prompted by the spread of electric lighting in the late nineteenth century. If novels published after 1880 contain significantly more references to activities occurring after 10 p.m. than novels from earlier periods do, this would suggest a change in human behavior and daily routines enabled by the availability of electric lighting. Before electric lighting—which provided illumination more easily than other available forms of light—many activities ceased after nightfall, so references to late-night activities would be less common in earlier novels. An increase in such references after 1880 would align with the researchers' conclusion, reflecting an increase in late-night activities made possible by electric lighting.

Choice A is incorrect because a decrease in references to 10 a.m. after the year 1800 would not support the researchers' conclusion involving a shift in human behavior prompted by the spread of electric lighting toward the end of the 1800s. The time of 10 a.m. is in the morning and, in most places, characterized by daylight, so a change in references to that time would not be clearly linked to the impact of electric lighting. *Choice C* is incorrect because while an increase in implied time references relative to clock phrases in nineteenth-century novels could suggest a change in writing style or conventions, it does not directly support the conclusion involving a shift in human behavior prompted by the spread of electric lighting. The text indicates that the researchers' conclusion is based on the content of the time references themselves, not the phrasing used. *Choice D* is incorrect. If references to noon and midnight are used with roughly the same frequency in all the novels analyzed by the researchers, this would reflect a lack of change in human behavior with regard to time and therefore would not support the researchers' conclusion involving a shift in human behavior that occurred in response to the spread of electric lighting.

QUESTION 15

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement about Mahtta et al.'s proposal regarding factors that affect urban land expansion (ULE). According to the text, ULE is influenced by urban population growth and by gross domestic product (GDP) growth per capita. Reasoning that efficient national governments provide urban services and infrastructure needed to attract economic investment, Mahtta et al. suggest that, as governments become more efficient at providing urban services and infrastructure, GDP growth per capita will account for more ULE and urban population growth will account for less. But according to the graph, Region 1 saw an increase in the percentage attributed to urban population growth from 1970–2000 (between 60 and 65%) to 2000–2014 (between 70 and 75%) and a decrease

in the percentage attributed to GDP growth per capita from 1970–2000 (between 35 and 40%) to 2000–2014 (about 25%). Because the percentage attributed to GDP growth per capita decreased (the opposite of what Mahtta et al. claimed would happen if the governments had become more efficient), the data suggest that the governments of Region 1 became less efficient at providing urban services and infrastructure over that period.

Choice B is incorrect. Neither the graph nor the text gives the regions' relative levels of economic growth or what effect Mahtta et al. would expect such growth to have. Furthermore, Mahtta et al.'s proposal suggests that Region 1's decline in the percentage of ULE attributed to GDP growth per capita from 1970–2000 (between 35 and 40%) to 2000–2014 (about 25%) would suggest decreasing, not increasing, government efficiency over this time. *Choice C* is incorrect. Neither the text nor the graph provides information about the relative efficiencies of different governments in Region 2. *Choice D* is incorrect. Mahtta et al.'s proposal suggests that more efficient governments will have a higher percentage of their ULE driven by GDP growth per capita and a lower percentage driven by urban population growth. For Region 2, the percentage of ULE attributed to GDP growth per capita increased from 1970–2000 (between 10 and 15%) to 2000–2014 (between 45 and 50%), but the opposite is true for Region 1, which saw the percentage of ULE attributed to GDP growth per capita decline over the same period. Thus, whereas the data suggest governments in Region 2 became more efficient, the data for Region 1 suggest that those governments became less efficient, not more.

QUESTION 16

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that best support the student's assertion that initial efforts at trade liberalization in China were shaped by firms having limited capital (assets available for use) and that this situation resolved during the 2000s. The text explains that an approach to trade liberalization involves engaging in processing imports, one type of which doesn't require payment to a trade partner (processing with assembly) and one type of which requires upfront payment to a trade partner for raw materials (processing with inputs). The graph, which presents China's imports for ordinary imports and both types of processing imports in the years 2000, 2003, and 2006, shows that while processing imports with assembly rose from about 250 hundred million dollars in 2000 to about 750 hundred million dollars in 2006, processing imports with inputs rose much more sharply, increasing from approximately 650 hundred million dollars in 2000 to about 2,300 hundred million dollars in 2006. Because processing with inputs requires firms to pay for materials (expending capital) and processing with assembly doesn't, the sharper rise in processing imports with inputs suggests that Chinese firms' assets—and thus their ability to engage in that type of processing imports—were relatively limited in (and before) 2000 and then substantially increased from 2000 to 2006. In other words, the data suggest that the situation of having limited capital resolved during the 2000s.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph indicates that ordinary imports were greater than both types of processing imports in 2006, not that processing imports with inputs were greater than ordinary imports and processing imports

with assembly that year. *Choice C* is incorrect because the observation that ordinary imports were greater than both types of processing imports in 2000, 2003, and 2006 doesn't address a change within any type of imports from 2000 to 2006, and an indication of a change in that period that might be related to the availability of assets is needed to support the assertion that the situation of having limited capital resolved during the 2000s. *Choice D* is incorrect because the fact that processing imports with assembly were greater at the end of the period from 2000 to 2006 than processing imports with inputs were at the start of the same period doesn't address a change within either type of imports during the period, and an indication of such a change that might be related to the availability of assets is needed to support the assertion that the situation of having limited capital resolved during the 2000s.

QUESTION 17

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Kristin Laidre's reasoning about the purpose of the tusk that many, but not all, narwhals have. The text explains that one group of scientists thinks the tusk may help narwhals detect the threat of freezing water and that Laidre disagrees with that idea, given the importance of avoiding a dangerous situation. It's logical to suggest that if the tusk serves such an important purpose for narwhals, the trait would be more common among them—specifically, that more narwhals would have a tusk.

Choice A is incorrect because there's no reason to think Laidre would say that if the tusk has the important function of helping narwhals detect when the water around them is about to freeze (meaning that it isn't always freezing), some narwhals would choose a different habitat altogether. Indeed, if it's true that the tusk helps narwhals avoid areas with dangerous conditions when they occur in their Arctic Ocean habitat, the tusk would likely enable the narwhals to continue living in that habitat rather than drive them elsewhere entirely. *Choice B* is incorrect because the text focuses only on narwhals and makes no mention of other marine animals or how having a tusk might affect them. And if anything, it would be more logical to expect a very important trait to be more widespread, not less common, among other similar types of animals. *Choice D* is incorrect. Although the text describes narwhals as shy, it doesn't indicate that the scientists' conclusion has anything to do with shyness. And because shyness and detection of the threat of freezing water aren't logically connected, there's no reason to think that Laidre would expect narwhals to become less shy over time if the tusk serves that important purpose.

QUESTION 18

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of silicon carbide (SiC) fibers and creep, or deformation related to ongoing mechanical stress and elevated temperatures. The text states that Bhatt et al. found that a nitrogen-treated SiC fiber had a lower minimum creep rate than two polymer-derived SiC fibers did. Because having a lower creep rate means that the material is slower to deform with exposure to stress, as the text explains, this finding suggests that aerospace composites made with the nitrogen-treated SiC

fiber may be able to withstand mechanical stress for a longer period than those made with the other two polymer-derived SiC fibers can.

Choice A is incorrect because it overstates the implications of the study's findings, which have to do with the rate of a material's deformation under stress, not the absolute degree of deformation. The text states that Bhatt et al. observed that a nitrogen-treated SiC fiber had a lower minimum creep rate than two polymer-derived SiC fibers did, meaning only that it deformed more slowly over time under constant stress, not that it underwent less deformation overall. *Choice B* is incorrect because the text doesn't establish any similarity between the two polymer-derived SiC fibers other than that both had a higher creep rate than the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber did in Bhatt et al.'s study. Moreover, reducing a material's resistance to creep would mean that the material becomes more susceptible to deformation with exposure to stress and elevated temperatures, which would be expected to shorten rather than prolong the lifespan of machinery made with that material. *Choice C* is incorrect because the text suggests that the stability of aerospace equipment may be better improved by composites containing nitrogen-treated SiC fiber than by composites containing the two polymer-derived SiC fibers, not the other way around. The text indicates that Bhatt et al. observed that the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber had a lower minimum creep rate than the other two fibers did, meaning that it was slower to degrade under exposure to mechanical stress and elevated temperatures—suggesting that it may remain stable for longer periods.

QUESTION 19

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The singular verb "describes" agrees in number with the singular subject "map."

Choice B is incorrect because the plural verb "describe" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "map." *Choice C* is incorrect because the plural verb "have described" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "map." *Choice D* is incorrect because the plural verb "are describing" doesn't agree in number with the singular subject "map."

QUESTION 20

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of determiners in a sentence. The plural determiner "these" agrees in number with the plural noun "letters" that it modifies. This choice clearly indicates that the letters demonstrate Alcott's business sense.

Choice A is incorrect because the singular determiner "one" doesn't agree in number with the plural noun "letters." *Choice B* is incorrect because the singular determiner "that" doesn't agree in number with the plural noun "letters." *Choice C* is incorrect because the singular determiner "this" doesn't agree in number with the plural noun "letters."

QUESTION 21

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verbs to express tense in a sentence. In this choice, the past tense verb "affected," used in conjunction with the phrase "during this time," correctly indicates that the dust storms occurred in the 1930s.

Choice A is incorrect because the present progressive tense verb "are affecting" doesn't indicate that the dust storms occurred in the 1930s. *Choice B* is incorrect because the future perfect tense verb "will have affected" doesn't indicate that the dust storms occurred in the 1930s. *Choice C* is incorrect because the future tense verb "will affect" doesn't indicate that the dust storms occurred in the 1930s.

QUESTION 22

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma and a coordinating conjunction ("but") to join the first main clause ("Leibniz...century") and the second main clause ("these ingenious...calculators").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. *Choice B* 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 D* is incorrect because joining the two main clauses in this way with the subordinating conjunction "that" results in an ungrammatical and illogical sentence.

QUESTION 23

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of verb forms within a sentence. The nonfinite past participle "characterized" is correctly used within a supplementary element that modifies the main clause "Zhang...*shanshui*," defining *qinglü shanshui* and explaining some of its identifying traits.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite present perfect tense verb "has been characterized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and the two main clauses can't be joined in this way by only the comma before "a type." *Choice B* is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite future tense verb "will be characterized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and the two main clauses can't be joined in this way by only the comma before "a type." *Choice D* is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Using the finite present tense verb "is characterized" creates a second main clause in the sentence, and the two main clauses can't be joined in this way by only the comma before "a type."

QUESTION 24

Choice A is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation use between sentences. In this choice, the period is used correctly to mark the boundary between one sentence ("What…vapor") and another ("With…point").

Choice B is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The sentences ("What…vapor" and "with…point") 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 25

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-modifier placement. This choice makes the noun phrase "the Alaska Centennial Commission" the subject of the sentence and places it immediately after the modifying phrase "wanting…Purchase." In doing so, this choice clearly establishes that the Alaska Centennial Commission—and not another noun in the sentence—wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase.

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "a contest" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the contest wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase. *Choice B* is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "an award of $300" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the award of $300 wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase. *Choice C* is incorrect because it results in a dangling modifier. The placement of the noun phrase "$300" immediately after the modifying phrase illogically suggests that the $300 wanted to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase.

QUESTION 26

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of punctuation within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a comma to mark the boundary between the main clause ("Recently...supposed") and the supplementary element ("a finding...Paleolithic") that provides additional information about the implications of the Neronian tool discovery.

Choice A is incorrect because a semicolon can't be used in this way to join the main clause ("Recently...supposed") and the supplementary element ("a finding... Paleolithic"). *Choice B* is incorrect because it results in a rhetorically unacceptable sentence fragment beginning with "a finding." *Choice C* is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The main clause ("Recently...supposed") and the supplementary element ("a finding...Paleolithic") are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction.

QUESTION 27

Choice A is the best answer. "Additionally" logically signals that guard cells' role in regulating water loss is an additional function of these specialized plant cells that is separate from the function of regulating carbon dioxide intake.

Choice B is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence occurs earlier in a chronological sequence of events

than the regulation of carbon dioxide intake described in the previous sentence. Instead, regulating water loss is an additional function of guard cells that is separate from the function of regulating carbon dioxide intake. *Choice C* is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the description of guard cells' role in regulating water loss concludes or summarizes the information about guard cells provided in the previous sentences. Instead, regulating water loss is one of the two distinct functions of guard cells described in the text. *Choice D* is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence happens in place of the activity of regulating carbon dioxide intake described in the previous sentence. Rather, regulating water loss is an additional function of guard cells.

QUESTION 28

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence identifies the type of scientist Chaudhuri is, noting that she is a sedimentologist.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides an example of a type of sedimentary rock; it doesn't identify what type of scientist Chaudhuri is. *Choice B* is incorrect. The sentence indicates types of rock that some scientists study; it doesn't identify what type of scientist Chaudhuri is. *Choice C* is incorrect. While the sentence states that some scientists study sedimentary rocks, it doesn't identify Chaudhuri as this type of scientist.

QUESTION 29

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence indicates where "Raymond's Run" takes place, stating that it takes place in Harlem.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence identifies the book in which the story "Raymond's Run" was published; it doesn't indicate where the story takes place. *Choice C* is incorrect. The sentence indicates the point of view used in "Raymond's Run"; it doesn't indicate where the story takes place. *Choice D* is incorrect. The sentence identifies the author of "Raymond's Run"; it doesn't indicate where the story takes place.

QUESTION 30

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the two styles of tiles, noting that tiles in the arista style have designs stamped into them, whereas tiles in the majolica style have designs painted directly on them.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence indicates that the two styles of tile can be found in the same location; it doesn't contrast the two styles of tile. *Choice B* is incorrect because the sentence indicates that the Royal Alcázar of Seville features tiles in both the majolica and arista styles; it doesn't contrast the two styles of tile. *Choice D* is incorrect because the sentence indicates that the tilework of the Royal Alcázar of Seville includes tiles in the majolica style; it doesn't contrast tiles in the majolica style with tiles in the arista style.

QUESTION 31

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the two songs, noting that "Poor Miner's Farewell" is about coal miners in Kentucky, whereas "Bring Him Back Home" is about Nelson Mandela.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between "Poor Miner's Farewell" and "Bring Him Back Home"; it doesn't contrast the two songs. *Choice C* is incorrect. While the sentence provides a description of the song "Bring Him Back Home," it doesn't mention "Poor Miner's Farewell" or contrast the two songs. *Choice D* is incorrect. While the sentence provides a description of the song "Poor Miner's Farewell," it doesn't mention "Bring Him Back Home" or contrast the two songs.

QUESTION 32

Choice C is the best answer. Using a quotation from Stewart, the sentence challenges Thucydides's explanation that the rise of Athens caused the conflict, suggesting that it was instead caused by a "clash of cultures."

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence uses a quotation, the quotation doesn't challenge Thucydides's explanation of the conflict. *Choice B* is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that Stewart challenged Thucydides's explanation of the conflict, it doesn't use a quotation to challenge Thucydides's explanation: the quoted word "inevitable" is from Thucydides. *Choice D* is incorrect. While the sentence appears to refute Thucydides's explanation, it does so in a way that misrepresents the information in the notes; Allison's Thucydides trap theory is based on Thucydides's explanation of the conflict. Thus, Allison's theory affirms, rather than challenges, Thucydides's explanation.

QUESTION 33

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence presents an overview of the study's findings, noting that, for some of the languages (the examples of Spanish and Vietnamese are given in the notes), the number of syllables spoken per second varied, while the amount of information conveyed per second remained roughly constant across all 17 languages.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence describes one of the metrics the study assessed, it doesn't present any of the study's findings. *Choice B* is incorrect. While the sentence compares specific findings about two of the languages studied, it doesn't provide an overview of the study's findings across all 17 languages. *Choice C* is incorrect. The sentence compares specific findings about two of the languages studied; it doesn't provide an overview of the study's findings across all 17 languages. It also misrepresents the information from the notes about Spanish's information rate.