Reading and Writing

33 QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS

The questions in this section address a number of important reading and writing skills. Each question includes one or more passages, which may include a table or graph. Read each passage and question carefully, and then choose the best answer to the question based on the passage(s).

All questions in this section are multiple-choice with four answer choices. Each question has a single best answer.

1

As Mexico's first president from an Indigenous community, Benito Juarez became one of the most _____ figures in his country's history: among the many significant accomplishments of his long tenure in office (1858–1872), Juarez consolidated the authority of the national government and advanced the rights of Indigenous peoples.

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

A) unpredictable
B) important
C) secretive
D) ordinary

2

Mônica Lopes-Ferreira and others at Brazil's Butantan Institute are studying the freshwater stingray species *Potamotrygon rex* to determine whether biological characteristics such as the rays' age and sex have _____ effect on the toxicity of their venom—that is, to see if differences in these traits are associated with considerable variations in venom potency.

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

A) a disconcerting
B) an acceptable
C) an imperceptible
D) a substantial

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3

Kelp forests grow underwater along the eastern Pacific Coast. These underwater forests are important to fish and other marine animals. Ocean currents can be powerful and rough, making it difficult for animals to find safe places to hide from predators. The underwater forests slow down the currents. This creates a more _____ environment with calmer waters where animals can take shelter.

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

A) tranquil
B) dangerous
C) imaginative
D) surprising

4

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

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

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

5

Ofelia Zepeda's contributions to the field of linguistics are _____: her many accomplishments include working as a linguistics professor and bilingual poet, authoring the first Tohono O'odham grammar book, and co-founding the American Indian Language Development Institute.

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

A) pragmatic
B) controversial
C) extensive
D) universal

6

Archaeologists studying the ancient city of Pompeii in Italy recently discovered a well-preserved food shop known as a *thermopolium*. The site contains food remains, artworks, and decorations. These items give researchers a better understanding of what daily life in Pompeii may have been like. For example, the archaeologists found a ceramic jar that they believe likely contained a meat and seafood stew.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A) To compare ancient artworks with modern ones
B) To discuss the political system of Italy
C) To present a recent archaeological discovery
D) To describe a region's climate

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7

The following text is from Sarah Orne Jewett's 1899 short story "Martha's Lady." Martha is employed by Miss Pyne as a maid.

> Miss Pyne sat by the window watching, in her best dress, looking stately and calm; she seldom went out now, and it was almost time for the carriage. Martha was just coming in from the garden with the strawberries, and with more flowers in her apron. It was a bright cool evening in June, the golden robins sang in the elms, and the sun was going down behind the apple-trees at the foot of the garden. The beautiful old house stood wide open to the long-expected guest.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A) To convey the worries brought about by a new guest

B) To describe how the characters have changed over time

C) To contrast the activity indoors with the stillness outside

D) To depict the setting as the characters await a visitor's arrival

8

The following text is adapted from Aphra Behn's 1689 novel *The Lucky Mistake*. Atlante and Rinaldo are neighbors who have been secretly exchanging letters through Charlot, Atlante's sister.

> [Atlante] gave this letter to Charlot; who immediately ran into the balcony with it, where she still found Rinaldo in a melancholy posture, leaning his head on his hand: She showed him the letter, but was afraid to toss it to him, for fear it might fall to the ground; so he ran and fetched a long cane, which he cleft at one end, and held it while she put the letter into the cleft, and stayed not to hear what he said to it. But never was man so transported with joy, as he was at the reading of this letter; it gives him new wounds; for to the generous, nothing obliges love so much as love.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

A) It describes the delivery of a letter, and then portrays a character's happiness at reading that letter.

B) It establishes that a character is desperate to receive a letter, and then explains why another character has not yet written that letter.

C) It presents a character's concerns about delivering a letter, and then details the contents of that letter.

D) It reveals the inspiration behind a character's letter, and then emphasizes the excitement that another character feels upon receiving that letter.

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9

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

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

A) It elaborates on a claim about labor relations in a particular industry made earlier in the text.

B) It offers an example of a trend in the World War II–era economy discussed earlier in the text.

C) It notes a possible exception to the historical narrative of labor activism sketched earlier in the text.

D) It provides further details about the identities of the workers discussed earlier in the text.

10

For many years, the only existing fossil evidence of mixopterid eurypterids—an extinct family of large aquatic arthropods known as sea scorpions and related to modern arachnids and horseshoe crabs—came from four species living on the paleocontinent of Laurussia. In a discovery that expands our understanding of the geographical distribution of mixopterids, paleontologist Bo Wang and others have identified fossilized remains of a new mixopterid species, *Terropterus xiushanensis*, that lived over 400 million years ago on the paleocontinent of Gondwana.

According to the text, why was Wang and his team's discovery of the *Terropterus xiushanensis* fossil significant?

A) The fossil constitutes the first evidence found by scientists that mixopterids lived more than 400 million years ago.

B) The fossil helps establish that mixopterids are more closely related to modern arachnids and horseshoe crabs than previously thought.

C) The fossil helps establish a more accurate timeline of the evolution of mixopterids on the paleocontinents of Laurussia and Gondwana.

D) The fossil constitutes the first evidence found by scientists that mixopterids existed outside the paleocontinent of Laurussia.

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11

Video Game Availability by Initial Release Years

Initial release years	Percentage of games still available
1975–1979	0.89
1980–1984	3.65
1985–1989	15.38
1990–1994	19.33
1995–1999	14.22

In a recent study, researchers found that relatively few video games released over the decades remain available today. For example, only 14.22 percent of games are still available that were initially released in _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) 2000–2004.

B) 1995–1999.

C) 1970–1974.

D) 1985–1989.

12

Depths at Which Four Deep-Sea Fish Species Live

Species	Depth below the ocean surface
Footballfish	200–1,000 meters
Southern stoplight loosejaw	500–2,000 meters
Black seadevil	250–2,000 meters
Bollons' rattail	300–800 meters

Some oceanic fish species live very deep underwater. Researchers collected data about the depths at which various species live.

Based on the information in the table, at what depth does the southern stoplight loosejaw live?

A) More than 2,000 meters below the surface

B) 150 to 400 meters below the surface

C) 500 to 2,000 meters below the surface

D) 250 to 500 meters below the surface

13

Housing Starts in the US, January–April 2022
(in thousands)

Month	Housing starts
January	1,669
February	1,771
March	1,713
April	1,803

When construction of a single-family house begins, it is called a housing start. In the first four months of 2022, the highest number of housing starts in the United States was in _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) April.

B) March.

C) January.

D) February.

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14

Born in 1891 to a Quechua-speaking family in the Andes Mountains of Peru, Martín Chambi is today considered to be one of the most renowned figures of Latin American photography. In a paper for an art history class, a student claims that Chambi's photographs have considerable ethnographic value—in his work, Chambi was able to capture diverse elements of Peruvian society, representing his subjects with both dignity and authenticity.

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

A) Chambi took many commissioned portraits of wealthy Peruvians, but he also produced hundreds of images carefully documenting the peoples, sites, and customs of Indigenous communities of the Andes.

B) Chambi's photographs demonstrate a high level of technical skill, as seen in his strategic use of illumination to create dramatic light and shadow contrasts.

C) During his lifetime, Chambi was known and celebrated both within and outside his native Peru, as his work was published in places like Argentina, Spain, and Mexico.

D) Some of the peoples and places Chambi photographed had long been popular subjects for Peruvian photographers.

15

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

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

A) Declines in the regional abundance of dusky sharks' prey other than cownose rays are associated with regional declines in dusky shark abundance.

B) Eastern oyster abundance tends to be greater in areas with both dusky sharks and cownose rays than in areas with only dusky sharks.

C) Consumption of eastern oysters by cownose rays in the region substantially increased before the regional decline in dusky shark abundance began.

D) Cownose rays have increased in regional abundance as dusky sharks have decreased in regional abundance.

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16

In the mountains of Brazil, *Barbacenia tomentosa* and *Barbacenia macrantha*—two plants in the Velloziaceae family—establish themselves on soilless, nutrient-poor patches of quartzite rock. Plant ecologists Anna Abrahão and Patricia de Britto Costa used microscopic analysis to determine that the roots of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha*, which grow directly into the quartzite, have clusters of fine hairs near the root tip; further analysis indicated that these hairs secrete both malic and citric acids. The researchers hypothesize that the plants depend on dissolving underlying rock with these acids, as the process not only creates channels for continued growth but also releases phosphates that provide the vital nutrient phosphorus.

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

A) Other species in the Velloziaceae family are found in terrains with more soil but have root structures similar to those of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha.*

B) Though *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* both secrete citric and malic acids, each species produces the acids in different proportions.

C) The roots of *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* carve new entry points into rocks even when cracks in the surface are readily available.

D) *B. tomentosa* and *B. macrantha* thrive even when transferred to the surfaces of rocks that do not contain phosphates.

17

Many mosquito repellents contain natural components that work by activating multiple odor receptors on mosquitoes' antennae. As the insects develop resistance, new repellents are needed. Ke Dong and her team found that EBF, a molecular component of a chrysanthemum-flower extract, can repel mosquitoes by activating just one odor receptor—and this receptor, Or31, is present in all mosquito species known to carry diseases. Therefore, the researchers suggest that in developing new repellents, it would be most useful to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A) identify molecular components similar to EBF that target the activation of Or31 receptors.

B) investigate alternative methods for extracting EBF molecules from chrysanthemums.

C) verify the precise locations of Or31 and other odor receptors on mosquitoes' antennae.

D) determine the maximum number of different odor receptors that can be activated by a single molecule.

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18

Birds of many species ingest foods containing carotenoids, pigmented molecules that are converted into feather coloration. Coloration tends to be especially saturated in male birds' feathers, and because carotenoids also confer health benefits, the deeply saturated colors generally serve to communicate what is known as an honest signal of a bird's overall fitness to potential mates. However, ornithologist Allison J. Shultz and others have found that males in several species of the tanager genus *Ramphocelus* use microstructures in their feathers to manipulate light, creating the appearance of deeper saturation without the birds necessarily having to maintain a carotenoid-rich diet. These findings suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A) individual male tanagers can engage in honest signaling without relying on carotenoid consumption.

B) feather microstructures may be less effective than deeply saturated feathers for signaling overall fitness.

C) scientists have yet to determine why tanagers have a preference for mates with colorful appearances.

D) a male tanager's appearance may function as a dishonest signal of the individual's overall fitness.

19

When writing *The Other Black Girl* (2021), novelist Zakiya Dalila Harris drew on her own experiences working at a publishing office. The award-winning book is Harris's first novel, but her writing _____ honored before. At the age of twelve, she entered a contest to have a story published in *American Girl* magazine—and won.

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

A) were

B) have been

C) has been

D) are

20

In order to prevent nonnative fish species from moving freely between the Mediterranean and Red Seas, marine biologist Bella Galil has proposed that a saline lock system be installed along the Suez Canal in Egypt's Great Bitter Lakes. The lock would increase the salinity of the lakes and _____ a natural barrier of water most marine creatures would be unable to cross.

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

A) creates

B) create

C) creating

D) created

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CONTINUE

21

Paintings by the renowned twentieth-century US _____ were featured in *Artist to Artist*, an exhibition at the Smithsonian Art Museum that paired the works of artists whose career trajectories intersected in meaningful ways.

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

A) artists: Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock,
B) artists Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock
C) artists Thomas Hart Benton, and Jackson Pollock,
D) artists, Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock

22

In 1943, in the midst of World War II, mathematics professor Grace Hopper was recruited by the US military to help the war effort by solving complex equations. Hopper's subsequent career would involve more than just _____ as a pioneering computer programmer, Hopper would help usher in the digital age.

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

A) equations, though:
B) equations, though,
C) equations. Though,
D) equations though

23

Increased gender diversity is revitalizing the field of economics, according to Harvard's Claudia Goldin. The trailblazing accomplishments of Goldin, winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics for her work on women in the labor force, _____ to the value of scholars of diverse backgrounds in spurring research into previously unexplored, but vitally important, topics.

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

A) attests
B) has attested
C) is attesting
D) attest

24

During the English neoclassical period (1660–1789), many writers imitated the epic poetry and satires of ancient Greece and Rome. They were not the first in England to adopt the literary modes of classical _____ some of the most prominent figures of the earlier Renaissance period were also influenced by ancient Greek and Roman literature.

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

A) antiquity, however
B) antiquity, however,
C) antiquity, however;
D) antiquity; however,

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25

English poet and Shakespeare contemporary John Donne's _____ much admired during his lifetime (1572–1631) and in the decades that followed, had, at the time of their enthusiastic rediscovery by the early twentieth-century modernists, been essentially gathering dust for the intervening 250 years.

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

A) works were
B) works, were
C) works,
D) works had been

26

Compared to that of alumina glass, _____ silica glass atoms are so far apart that they are unable to re-form bonds after being separated.

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

A) silica glass is at a significant disadvantage due to its more dispersed atomic arrangement:
B) silica glass has a more dispersed atomic arrangement, resulting in a significant disadvantage:
C) a significant disadvantage of silica glass is that its atomic arrangement is more dispersed:
D) silica glass's atomic arrangement is more dispersed, resulting in a significant disadvantage:

27

In November 1934, Amrita Sher-Gil was living in what must have seemed like the ideal city for a young artist: Paris. She was studying firsthand the color-saturated style of France's modernist masters and beginning to make a name for herself as a painter. _____ Sher-Gil longed to return to her childhood home of India; only there, she believed, could her art truly flourish.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

A) Still,
B) Therefore,
C) Indeed,
D) Furthermore,

28

In 1974, Mexican chemist Mario Molina and US chemist F. Sherwood Rowland discovered that chemicals called CFCs were harmful to the ozone layer. Their research was extremely influential in the fight against CFCs. _____ it laid the foundation for a 1987 treaty that phased out the use of CFCs across the globe.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

A) Regardless,
B) Specifically,
C) However,
D) Earlier,

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29

With his room-sized installation *Unicorn/My Private Sky*, Norwegian artist Børre Sæthre succeeds in creating a whimsical yet perplexing experience. _____ when visitors set foot inside the fantastically blue room and encounter the life-sized stuffed unicorn preening at the far end of it, they are both dazzled and confused—as if stepping into a strange and enchanting new world.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

A) Second,

B) Instead,

C) Indeed,

D) Nevertheless,

30

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

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

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

A) The sixty-two-mile-long Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike connected the Pennsylvania cities of Philadelphia and Lancaster.

B) The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was the first private turnpike in the United States.

C) The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, which connected two Pennsylvania cities, was built between 1792 and 1794.

D) A historic Pennsylvania road, the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was completed in 1794.

31

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

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

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

A) As it orbited the Moon, the Kaguya satellite collected data that was later analyzed by cosmochemist Kentaro Terada.

B) Before 2008, Kentaro Terada wondered if the Moon was receiving some of its oxygen from Earth.

C) Cosmochemist Kentaro Terada set out to determine whether some of the Moon's oxygen was coming from Earth.

D) Kentaro Terada's study determined that Earth is sending a small amount of oxygen to the Moon.

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32

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

- The factors that affect clutch size (the number of eggs laid at one time) have been well studied in birds but not in lizards.
- A team led by Shai Meiri of Tel Aviv University investigated which factors influence lizard clutch size.
- Meiri's team obtained clutch-size and habitat data for over 3,900 lizard species and analyzed the data with statistical models.
- Larger clutch size was associated with environments in higher latitudes that have more seasonal change.
- Lizards in higher-latitude environments may lay larger clutches to take advantage of shorter windows of favorable conditions.

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

A) Researchers wanted to know which factors influence lizard egg clutch size because such factors have been well studied in birds but not in lizards.

B) After they obtained data for over 3,900 lizard species, researchers determined that larger clutch size was associated with environments in higher latitudes that have more seasonal change.

C) We now know that lizards in higher-latitude environments may lay larger clutches to take advantage of shorter windows of favorable conditions.

D) Researchers obtained clutch-size and habitat data for over 3,900 lizard species and analyzed the data with statistical models.

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CONTINUE

33

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

- British musicians John Lennon and Paul McCartney shared writing credit for numerous Beatles songs.
- Many Lennon-McCartney songs were actually written by either Lennon or McCartney, not by both.
- The exact authorship of specific parts of many Beatles songs, such as the verse for "In My Life," is disputed.
- Mark Glickman, Jason Brown, and Ryan Song used statistical methods to analyze the musical content of Beatles songs.
- They concluded that there is 18.9% probability that McCartney wrote the verse for "In My Life," stating that the verse is "consistent with Lennon's songwriting style."

The student wants to make a generalization about the kind of study conducted by Glickman, Brown, and Song. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A) Based on statistical analysis, Glickman, Brown, and Song claim that John Lennon wrote the verse of "In My Life."

B) There is only an 18.9% probability that Paul McCartney wrote the verse for "In My Life"; John Lennon is the more likely author.

C) It is likely that John Lennon, not Paul McCartney, wrote the verse for "In My Life."

D) Researchers have used statistical methods to address questions of authorship within the field of music.

STOP

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