

Reading Test

60 MINUTES, 47 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 1 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage or pair of passages below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage or pair, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage or passages and in any accompanying graphics (such as a table or graph).

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Jane Austen, *Emma*, originally published in 1815.

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of
Line existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in
5 the world with very little to distress or vex her.

She was the youngest of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father, and had, in consequence of her sister's marriage, been mistress of his house from a very early period. Her mother had
10 died too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses, and her place had been supplied by an excellent woman as governess, who had fallen little short of a mother in affection.

15 Sixteen years had Miss Taylor been in Mr. Woodhouse's family, less as a governess than a friend, very fond of both daughters, but particularly of Emma. Between them it was more the intimacy of sisters. Even before Miss Taylor had ceased to hold
20 the nominal office of governess, the mildness of her temper had hardly allowed her to impose any restraint; and the shadow of authority being now long passed away, they had been living together as friend and friend very mutually attached, and Emma
25 doing just what she liked; highly esteeming Miss Taylor's judgment, but directed chiefly by her own.

The real evils indeed of Emma's situation were the power of having rather too much her own way, and a
30 disposition to think a little too well of herself; these were the disadvantages which threatened alloy to her many enjoyments. The danger, however, was at present so unperceived, that they did not by any means rank as misfortunes with her.

35 Sorrow came—a gentle sorrow—but not at all in the shape of any disagreeable consciousness.—Miss Taylor married. It was Miss Taylor's loss which first brought grief. It was on the wedding-day of this beloved friend that Emma
40 first sat in mournful thought of any continuance. The wedding over and the bride-people gone, her father and herself were left to dine together, with no prospect of a third to cheer a long evening. Her father composed himself to sleep after dinner, as
45 usual, and she had then only to sit and think of what she had lost.

The event had every promise of happiness for her friend. Mr. Weston was a man of unexceptionable character, easy fortune, suitable age and pleasant
50 manners; and there was some satisfaction in considering with what self-denying, generous friendship she had always wished and promoted the match; but it was a black morning's work for her. The want of Miss Taylor would be felt every hour of
55 every day. She recalled her past kindness—the kindness, the affection of sixteen years—how she had taught and how she had played with her from five years old—how she had devoted all her powers to attach and amuse her in health—and how nursed her
60 through the various illnesses of childhood. A large

debt of gratitude was owing here; but the intercourse of the last seven years, the equal footing and perfect unreserve which had soon followed Isabella's marriage on their being left to each other, was yet a
 65 dearer, tenderer recollection. It had been a friend and companion such as few possessed, intelligent, well-informed, useful, gentle, knowing all the ways of the family, interested in all its concerns, and peculiarly interested in herself, in every pleasure,
 70 every scheme of her's;—one to whom she could speak every thought as it arose, and who had such an affection for her as could never find fault.

How was she to bear the change?—It was true that her friend was going only half a mile from them; but
 75 Emma was aware that great must be the difference between a Mrs. Weston only half a mile from them, and a Miss Taylor in the house; and with all her advantages, natural and domestic, she was now in great danger of suffering from intellectual solitude.
 80 She dearly loved her father, but he was no companion for her. He could not meet her in conversation, rational or playful.

The evil of the actual disparity in their ages (and Mr. Woodhouse had not married early) was much
 85 increased by his constitution and habits; for having been a valetudinarian* all his life, without activity of mind or body, he was a much older man in ways than in years; and though everywhere beloved for the friendliness of his heart and his amiable temper, his
 90 talents could not have recommended him at any time.

* a person in weak health who is overly concerned with his or her ailments

1

The main purpose of the passage is to

- A) describe a main character and a significant change in her life.
- B) provide an overview of a family and a nearby neighbor.
- C) discuss some regrettable personality flaws in a main character.
- D) explain the relationship between a main character and her father.

2

Which choice best summarizes the first two paragraphs of the passage (lines 1-14)?

- A) Even though a character loses a parent at an early age, she is happily raised in a loving home.
- B) An affectionate governess helps a character to overcome the loss of her mother, despite the indifference of her father.
- C) Largely as a result of her father's wealth and affection, a character leads a contented life.
- D) A character has a generally comfortable and fulfilling life, but then she must recover from losing her mother.

3

The narrator indicates that the particular nature of Emma's upbringing resulted in her being

- A) despondent.
- B) self-satisfied.
- C) friendless.
- D) inconsiderate.

4

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 1-5 ("Emma . . . her")
- B) Lines 9-14 ("Her . . . affection")
- C) Lines 28-32 ("The real . . . enjoyments")
- D) Lines 32-34 ("The danger . . . her")

5

As used in line 26, "directed" most nearly means

- A) trained.
- B) aimed.
- C) guided.
- D) addressed.

6

As used in line 54, “want” most nearly means

- A) desire.
- B) lack.
- C) requirement.
- D) request.

7

It can most reasonably be inferred that after Miss Taylor married, she had

- A) less patience with Mr. Woodhouse.
- B) fewer interactions with Emma.
- C) more close friends than Emma.
- D) an increased appreciation for Emma.

8

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Line 37 (“Miss . . . married”)
- B) Lines 47-48 (“The event . . . friend”)
- C) Lines 60-65 (“A large . . . recollection”)
- D) Lines 73-79 (“How . . . solitude”)

9

Which situation is most similar to the one described in lines 83-91 (“The evil . . . time”)?

- A) A mother and her adult son have distinct tastes in art and music that result in repeated family arguments.
- B) The differences between an older and a younger friend are magnified because the younger one is more active and athletic.
- C) An older and a younger scientist remain close friends despite the fact that the older one’s work is published more frequently.
- D) The age difference between a high school student and a college student becomes a problem even though they enjoy the same diversions.

Questions 10-19 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Marina Gorbis, *The Nature of the Future: Dispatches from the Socialstructured World*. ©2013 by Marina Gorbis.

Visitors to the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s always marveled at the gap between what they saw in state stores—shelves empty or filled with things no one wanted—and what they saw in
 5 people’s homes: nice furnishings and tables filled with food. What filled the gap? A vast informal economy driven by human relationships, dense networks of social connections through which people traded resources and created value. The Soviet people
 10 didn’t plot how they would build these networks. No one was teaching them how to maximize their connections the way social marketers eagerly teach us today. Their networks evolved naturally, out of necessity; that was the only way to survive.

15 Today, all around the world, we are seeing a new kind of network of relationship-driven economics emerging, with individuals joining forces sometimes to fill the gaps left by existing institutions—corporations, governments,
 20 educational establishments—and sometimes creating new products, services, and knowledge that no institution is able to provide. Empowered by computing and communication technologies that have been steadily building village-like networks on a
 25 global scale, we are infusing more and more of our economic transactions with social connectedness.

The new technologies are inherently social and personal. They help us create communities around interests, identities, and common personal
 30 challenges. They allow us to gain direct access to a worldwide community of others. And they take anonymity out of our economic transactions. We can assess those we don’t know by checking their reputations as buyers and sellers on eBay or by
 35 following their Twitter streams. We can look up their friends on Facebook and watch their YouTube videos. We can easily get people’s advice on where to find the best shoemaker in Brazil, the best

programmer in India, and the best apple farmer in
 40 our local community. We no longer have to rely on
 bankers or venture capitalists as the only sources of
 funding for our ideas. We can raise funds directly
 from individuals, most of whom we don't even know,
 through websites that allow people to
 45 post descriptions of their projects and generate
 donations, investments, or loans.

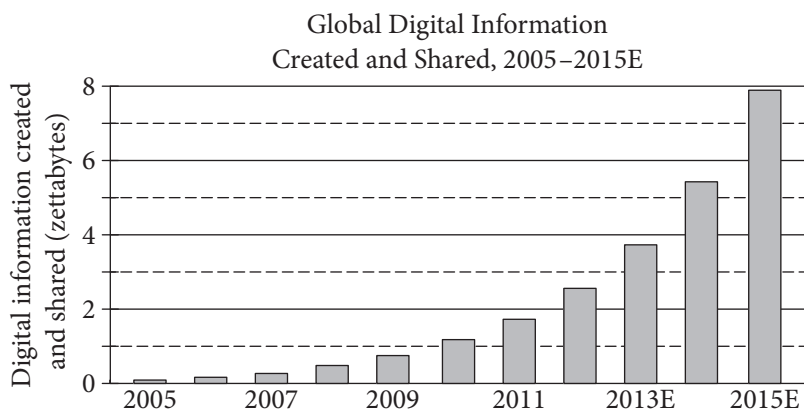
We are moving away from the dominance of the
 depersonalized world of institutional production and
 creating a new economy around social connections
 50 and social rewards—a process I call *socialstructing*.
 Others have referred to this model of production as
 social, commons-based, or peer-to-peer. Not only is
 this new social economy bringing with it an
 unprecedented level of familiarity and connectedness
 55 to both our global and our local economic exchanges,
 but it is also changing every domain of our lives,
 from finance to education and health. It is rapidly
 ushering in a vast array of new opportunities for us
 to pursue our passions, create new types of
 60 businesses and charitable organizations, redefine the
 nature of work, and address a wide range of
 problems that the prevailing formal economy has
 neglected, if not caused.

Socialstructing is in fact enabling not only a new
 65 kind of global economy but a new kind of society, in
 which amplified individuals—individuals

empowered with technologies and the collective
 intelligence of others in their social network—can
 take on many functions that previously only large
 70 organizations could perform, often more efficiently,
 at lower cost or no cost at all, and with much greater
 ease. Socialstructing is opening up a world of what
 my colleagues Jacques Vallée and Bob Johansen
 describe as the world of impossible futures, a world
 75 in which a large software firm can be displaced by
 weekend software hackers, and rapidly orchestrated
 social movements can bring down governments in a
 matter of weeks. The changes are exciting and
 unpredictable. They threaten many established
 80 institutions and offer a wealth of opportunities for
 individuals to empower themselves, find rich new
 connections, and tap into a fast-evolving set of new
 resources in everything from health care to education
 and science.

Much has been written about how technology
 distances us from the benefits of face-to-face
 communication and quality social time. I think those
 are important concerns. But while the quality of our
 face-to-face interactions is changing, the
 90 countervailing force of socialstructing is connecting
 us at levels never seen before, opening up new
 opportunities to create, learn, and share.

The following graph, from a 2011 report from the International Data Corporation, projects trends in digital information use to 2015 (E=Estimated).



Note: 1 zettabyte = 1 trillion gigabytes

10

As used in line 10, “plot” most nearly means

- A) mark.
- B) form.
- C) plan.
- D) claim.

11

The references to the shoemaker, the programmer, and the apple farmer in lines 37-40 (“We can easily . . . community”) primarily serve to

- A) illustrate the quality of products and services in countries around the world.
- B) emphasize the broad reach of technologies used to connect people.
- C) demonstrate that recommendations made online are trustworthy.
- D) call attention to the limits of the expansion of the global economy.

12

The passage’s discussion of life in the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s primarily serves to

- A) introduce the concept of social networking.
- B) demonstrate that technology has improved social connections.
- C) list differences between the Soviet Union and other countries.
- D) emphasize the importance of examining historical trends.

13

As used in line 45, “post” most nearly means

- A) publish.
- B) transfer.
- C) assign.
- D) denounce.

14

The author indicates that, in comparison to individuals, traditional organizations have tended to be

- A) more innovative and less influential.
- B) larger in size and less subject to regulations.
- C) less reliable and less interconnected.
- D) less efficient and more expensive.

15

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 22-26 (“Empowered . . . connectedness”)
- B) Lines 40-42 (“We no longer . . . ideas”)
- C) Lines 47-50 (“We are moving . . . *socialstructing*”)
- D) Lines 66-72 (“amplified . . . ease”)

16

The author recognizes counterarguments to the position she takes in the passage by

- A) acknowledging the risks and drawbacks associated with new technologies and social networks.
- B) admitting that some people spend too much time unproductively on the Internet.
- C) drawing an analogy between conditions today and conditions in the Soviet Union of the 1960s and 1970s.
- D) conceding that the drawbacks of *socialstructing* may prove over time to outweigh the benefits.

17

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 35-37 (“We can look . . . videos”)
- B) Lines 74-76 (“a world . . . hackers”)
- C) Lines 79-84 (“They . . . science”)
- D) Lines 85-87 (“Much . . . time”)

18

Which statement best summarizes the information presented in the graph?

- A) Far more people around the world own computers and cell phones today than in 2005.
- B) The number of people sharing digital information has more than tripled since 2005.
- C) The volume of digital information created and shared has increased tremendously in recent years.
- D) The amount of digital information created and shared is likely to be almost 8 zettabytes in 2015.

19

According to the graph, which statement is true about the amount of digital information projected to be created and shared globally in 2012?

- A) Growth in digital information creation and sharing was projected to be wildly out of proportion to growth in 2011 and 2013E.
- B) The amount of digital information created and shared was projected to begin a new upward trend.
- C) The amount of digital information created and shared was projected to peak.
- D) The amount of digital information created and shared was projected to pass 2 zettabytes for the first time.

Questions 20-28 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Tina Hesman Saey, "Lessons from the Torpid." ©2012 by Society for Science & the Public.

Understanding how hibernators, including ground squirrels, marmots and bears, survive their long winter's naps may one day offer solutions for problems such as heart disease, osteoporosis and muscular dystrophy.

Nearly everything about the way an animal's body works changes when it hibernates, and preparations start weeks or months in advance. The first order of business is to fatten up.

"Fat is where it's at for a hibernator," says Matthew Andrews, a molecular biologist at the University of Minnesota Duluth who studies 13-lined ground squirrels. "You bring your own lunch with you." Packing lunch is necessary because the animals go on the world's strictest diet during the winter, surviving entirely off their white fat. "They have their last supper in October; they don't eat again until March," Andrews says.

Bigger fat stores mean a greater chance of surviving until spring. "If they go in really chunky, nice and roly-poly, that's going to be a good hibernator," he says.

Bears also watch their waistlines expand in the months before settling in for the season. The brown bears cardiologist Ole Frøbert studies pack on the pounds by chowing down on up to 40 kilograms of blueberries a day. Such gluttony among humans could have severe consequences: Obesity is associated with a greater risk of heart attack and diabetes, among other ailments.

To see how fattening up affects Scandinavian brown bears, Frøbert and his colleagues ventured into the wilds of Sweden following signals given off by radio transmitters or GPS devices on tagged bears.

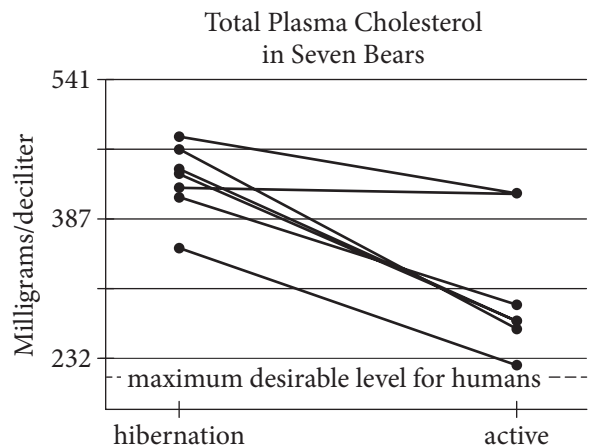
Bears can be dangerous close-up. Even hibernating bears can rouse to action quickly, so scientists tracking down bears in the winter use darts to tranquilize the animals from a distance. Scientists studying the bears in the summer tranquilize them from a helicopter.

Once a bear is under the tranquilizer's influence (which takes about five minutes), the scientists have 60 minutes max to get the animal from its den, weigh and measure it, draw blood samples and do minor surgeries to collect fat and other tissues. The bear is returned to its den by minute 61.

Precious materials collected during this high-pressure encounter need to be analyzed within 24 hours, so the researchers often test for levels of cholesterol or certain proteins in the blood while working in the snow or at a nearby research station. A pilot sometimes flies samples from field sites to a lab in Denmark in order to meet the deadline, Frøbert says. Samples such as bones and arteries that can't be collected from live bears come from bears killed by hunters during the legal hunting season.

Recent analyses revealed that Scandinavian brown bears spend the summer with plasma cholesterol levels considered high for humans; those values then increase substantially for hibernation, Frøbert and his colleagues reported. These "very, very fat" bears with high cholesterol also get zero exercise during hibernation. Lolling about in the den pinches off blood vessels, contributing to sluggish circulation. "That cocktail would not be advisable in humans," Frøbert says. It's a recipe for hardened arteries, putting people at risk for heart attacks and strokes.

Even healthy young adult humans can develop fatty streaks in their arteries that make the blood vessels less flexible, but the bears don't build up such artery-hardening streaks. "Our bears, they had nothing," Frøbert says. It's not yet clear how the bears keep their arteries flexible, but Frøbert hopes to find some protective molecule that could stave off hardened arteries in humans as well.



20

The passage is written from the perspective of someone who is

- A) actively involved in conducting hibernator research.
- B) a participant in a recent debate in the field of cardiology.
- C) knowledgeable about advances in hibernator research.
- D) an advocate for wildlife preservation.

21

It is reasonable to conclude that the main goal of the scientists conducting the research described in the passage is to

- A) learn how the hibernation patterns of bears and squirrels differ.
- B) determine the role that fat plays in hibernation.
- C) illustrate the important health benefits of exercise for humans.
- D) explore possible ways to prevent human diseases.

22

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 1-5 (“Understanding . . . dystrophy”)
- B) Lines 10-13 (“Fat . . . squirrels”)
- C) Lines 31-35 (“To . . . bears”)
- D) Lines 42-46 (“Once . . . tissues”)

23

What main effect do the quotations by Andrews in lines 10-18 have on the tone of the passage?

- A) They create a bleak tone, focusing on the difficulties hibernators face during the winter.
- B) They create a conversational tone, relating scientific information in everyday language.
- C) They create an ominous tone, foreshadowing the dire results of Andrews’s research.
- D) They create an absurd tone, using images of animals acting as if they were human.

24

As used in line 19, “stores” most nearly means

- A) preservatives.
- B) reserves.
- C) stacks.
- D) shelters.

25

Based on the passage, what is Fröbert’s hypothesis regarding why bears’ arteries do not harden during hibernation?

- A) The bears’ increased plasma cholesterol causes the arteries to be more flexible.
- B) Sluggish circulation pinches off the blood vessels rather than hardening the arteries.
- C) Bears exercise in short, infrequent bursts during hibernation, which staves off hardened arteries.
- D) Bears possess a molecule that protects against hardened arteries.

26

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 19-20 (“Bigger . . . spring”)
- B) Lines 24-27 (“The brown . . . day”)
- C) Lines 69-72 (“Even . . . streaks”)
- D) Lines 73-76 (“It’s . . . well”)

27

What information discussed in paragraph 10 (lines 58-68) is represented by the graph?

- A) The information in lines 58-62 (“Recent . . . reported”)
- B) The information in lines 62-64 (“These . . . hibernation”)
- C) The information in lines 64-65 (“Lolling . . . circulation”)
- D) The information in lines 67-68 (“It’s . . . strokes”)

28

Which statement about the effect of hibernation on the seven bears is best supported by the graph?

- A) Only one of the bears did not experience an appreciable change in its total plasma cholesterol level.
- B) Only one of the bears experienced a significant increase in its total plasma cholesterol level.
- C) All of the bears achieved the desirable plasma cholesterol level for humans.
- D) The bear with the lowest total plasma cholesterol level in its active state had the highest total plasma cholesterol level during hibernation.

Questions 29-37 are based on the following passage.

This passage is from Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," originally published in 1889. Arriving penniless in Pennsylvania from Scotland in 1848, Carnegie became one of the richest people in the United States through the manufacture of steel.

The problem of our age is the proper administration of wealth, that the ties of brotherhood may still bind together the rich and poor in
 Line harmonious relationship. The conditions of human
 5 life have not only been changed, but revolutionized, within the past few hundred years. In former days there was little difference between the dwelling, dress, food, and environment of the chief and those of his retainers. . . . The contrast between the palace
 10 of the millionaire and the cottage of the laborer with us to-day measures the change which has come with civilization. This change, however, is not to be deplored, but welcomed as highly beneficial. It is well, nay, essential, for the progress of the race that
 15 the houses of some should be homes for all that is highest and best in literature and the arts, and for all the refinements of civilization, rather than that none should be so. Much better this great irregularity than universal squalor. Without wealth there can be no
 20 Maecenas.* The "good old times" were not good old times. Neither master nor servant was as well situated then as to-day. A relapse to old conditions would be disastrous to both—not the least so to him who serves—and would sweep away civilization with
 25 it. But whether the change be for good or ill, it is upon us, beyond our power to alter, and, therefore, to be accepted and made the best of. It is a waste of time to criticize the inevitable.

It is easy to see how the change has come.
 30 One illustration will serve for almost every phase of the cause. In the manufacture of products we have the whole story. It applies to all combinations of human industry, as stimulated and enlarged by the inventions of this scientific age. Formerly, articles
 35 were manufactured at the domestic hearth, or in small shops which formed part of the household. The master and his apprentices worked side by side,

the latter living with the master, and therefore subject to the same conditions. When these
 40 apprentices rose to be masters, there was little or no change in their mode of life, and they, in turn, educated succeeding apprentices in the same routine. There was, substantially, social equality, and even political equality, for those engaged in industrial
 45 pursuits had then little or no voice in the State.

The inevitable result of such a mode of manufacture was crude articles at high prices. To-day the world obtains commodities of excellent quality at prices which even the preceding generation would
 50 have deemed incredible. In the commercial world similar causes have produced similar results, and the race is benefited thereby. The poor enjoy what the rich could not before afford. What were the luxuries have become the necessities of life. The laborer has
 55 now more comforts than the farmer had a few generations ago. The farmer has more luxuries than the landlord had, and is more richly clad and better housed. The landlord has books and pictures rarer and appointments more artistic than the king could
 60 then obtain.

The price we pay for this salutary change is, no doubt, great. We assemble thousands of operatives in the factory, and in the mine, of whom the employer can know little or nothing, and to whom he is little
 65 better than a myth. All intercourse between them is at an end. Rigid castes are formed, and, as usual, mutual ignorance breeds mutual distrust. Each caste is without sympathy for the other, and ready to credit anything disparaging in regard to it. Under the law of
 70 competition, the employer of thousands is forced into the strictest economies, among which the rates paid to labor figure prominently, and often there is friction between the employer and the employed, between capital and labor, between rich and poor.
 75 Human society loses homogeneity.

The price which society pays for the law of competition, like the price it pays for cheap comforts and luxuries, is also great; but the advantages of this law are also greater still than its cost—for it is to this
 80 law that we owe our wonderful material development, which brings improved conditions in its train.

* Gaius Maecenas (70–8 B.C.E.) was a great patron of the arts.

29

Which choice best describes the structure of the first paragraph?

- A) A personal history is narrated, historical examples are given, and a method is recommended.
- B) A position is stated, historical context is given, and earnest advice is given.
- C) Certain principles are stated, opposing principles are stated, and a consensus is reached.
- D) A historical period is described, and its attributes are reviewed.

30

The author most strongly implies which of the following about “the ties of brotherhood” (line 2)?

- A) They were always largely fictitious and are more so at present.
- B) They are stronger at present than they ever were before.
- C) They are more seriously strained in the present than in the past.
- D) They will no longer be able to bring together the rich and the poor.

31

The author uses “dwelling, dress, food, and environment” (lines 7-8) as examples of

- A) things more valued in the present than in the past.
- B) bare necessities of life.
- C) things to which all people are entitled.
- D) possible indications of differences in status.

32

The author describes the people who live in the “houses of some” (line 15) as interested in the

- A) materials from which their houses are constructed.
- B) size of their homes.
- C) advantages of culture.
- D) pedigree of their guests.

33

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 9-10 (“the palace . . . laborer”)
- B) Lines 15-16 (“all . . . arts”)
- C) Lines 18-19 (“Much . . . squalor”)
- D) Lines 19-20 (“Without . . . Maecenas”)

34

The author uses the phrase “good old times” (line 20) as an example of

- A) a cliché that still has life and usefulness left in it.
- B) a bit of folk wisdom from his childhood.
- C) something said by those who have acquired great riches.
- D) something said by people who do not share his viewpoint.

35

What is the author’s main point about the disadvantages of the modern economic system?

- A) It provides only a few people with the advantages of culture.
- B) It replicates many of the problems experienced in the past.
- C) It creates divisions between different categories of people.
- D) It gives certain people great material advantages over others.

36

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 37-39 (“The master . . . conditions”)
- B) Lines 43-45 (“There was . . . State”)
- C) Lines 46-47 (“The inevitable . . . prices”)
- D) Lines 65-66 (“All intercourse . . . end”)

37

As used in line 82, “in its train” is closest in meaning to

- A) before it.
- B) with it.
- C) anticipating it.
- D) advancing it.

Questions 38–47 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from Stewart Brand, “The Case for Reviving Extinct Species.” ©2013 by the National Geographic Society. Passage 2 is adapted from the editors at *Scientific American*, “Why Efforts to Bring Extinct Species Back from the Dead Miss the Point.” ©2013 by Nature America, Inc.

Passage 1

Many extinct species—from the passenger pigeon to the woolly mammoth—might now be reclassified as “bodily, but not genetically, extinct.” They’re dead, but their DNA is recoverable from museum specimens and fossils, even those up to 200,000 years old.

Thanks to new developments in genetic technology, that DNA may eventually bring the animals back to life. Only species whose DNA is too old to be recovered, such as dinosaurs, are the ones to consider totally extinct, bodily and genetically.

But why bring vanished creatures back to life? It will be expensive and difficult. It will take decades. It won’t always succeed. Why even try?

Why do we take enormous trouble to protect endangered species? The same reasons will apply to species brought back from extinction: to preserve biodiversity, to restore diminished ecosystems, to advance the science of preventing extinctions, and to undo harm that humans have caused in the past.

Furthermore, the prospect of de-extinction is profound news. That something as irreversible and final as extinction might be reversed is a stunning realization. The imagination soars. Just the thought of mammoths and passenger pigeons alive again invokes the awe and wonder that drives all conservation at its deepest level.

Passage 2

The idea of bringing back extinct species holds obvious gee-whiz appeal and a respite from a steady stream of grim news. Yet with limited intellectual bandwidth and financial resources to go around, de-extinction threatens to divert attention from the modern biodiversity crisis. According to a 2012 report from the International Union for Conservation of Nature, some 20,000 species are currently in grave danger of going extinct. Species today are vanishing in such great numbers—many from hunting and habitat

destruction—that the trend has been called a sixth mass extinction, an event on par with such die-offs as the one that befell the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. A program to restore extinct species poses a risk of selling the public on a false promise that technology alone can solve our ongoing environmental woes—an implicit assurance that if a species goes away, we can snap our fingers and bring it back.

Already conservationists face difficult choices about which species and ecosystems to try to save, since they cannot hope to rescue them all. Many countries where poaching and trade in threatened species are rampant either do not want to give up the revenue or lack the wherewithal to enforce their own regulations. Against that backdrop, a costly and flamboyant project to resuscitate extinct flora and fauna in the name of conservation looks irresponsible: Should we resurrect the mammoth only to let elephants go under? Of course not.

That is not to say that the de-extinction enterprise lacks merit altogether. Aspects of it could conceivably help save endangered species. For example, extinct versions of genes could be reintroduced into species and subspecies that have lost a dangerous amount of genetic diversity, such as the black-footed ferret and the northern white rhino. Such investigations, however, should be conducted under the mantle of preserving modern biodiversity rather than conjuring extinct species from the grave.

38

The author of Passage 1 suggests that the usefulness of de-extinction technology may be limited by the

- A) amount of time scientists are able to devote to genetic research.
- B) relationship of an extinct species to contemporary ecosystems.
- C) complexity of the DNA of an extinct species.
- D) length of time that a species has been extinct.

39

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 7-9 (“Thanks . . . life”)
- B) Lines 9-11 (“Only . . . genetically”)
- C) Line 13 (“It will be . . . difficult”)
- D) Lines 13-14 (“It will take . . . succeed”)

40

As used in line 27, “deepest” most nearly means

- A) most engrossing.
- B) most challenging.
- C) most extensive.
- D) most fundamental.

41

The authors of Passage 2 indicate that the matter of shrinking biodiversity should primarily be considered a

- A) historical anomaly.
- B) global catastrophe.
- C) scientific curiosity.
- D) political problem.

42

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 37-41 (“Species . . . ago”)
- B) Lines 42-45 (“A program . . . woes”)
- C) Lines 53-56 (“Against . . . irresponsible”)
- D) Lines 65-67 (“Such . . . grave”)

43

As used in line 37, “great” most nearly means

- A) lofty.
- B) wonderful.
- C) large.
- D) intense.

44

The reference to the “black-footed ferret and the northern white rhino” (line 64) serves mainly to

- A) emphasize a key distinction between extinct and living species.
- B) account for types of animals whose numbers are dwindling.
- C) provide examples of species whose gene pools are compromised.
- D) highlight instances of animals that have failed to adapt to new habitats.

45

Which choice best states the relationship between the two passages?

- A) Passage 2 attacks a political decision that Passage 1 strongly advocates.
- B) Passage 2 urges caution regarding a technology that Passage 1 describes in favorable terms.
- C) Passage 2 expands on the results of a research study mentioned in Passage 1.
- D) Passage 2 considers practical applications that could arise from a theory discussed in Passage 1.

46

How would the authors of Passage 2 most likely respond to the “prospect” referred to in line 21, Passage 1?

- A) With approval, because it illustrates how useful de-extinction could be in addressing widespread environmental concerns.
- B) With resignation, because the gradual extinction of many living species is inevitable.
- C) With concern, because it implies an easy solution to a difficult problem.
- D) With disdain, because it shows that people have little understanding of the importance of genetic diversity.

47

Which choice would best support the claim that the authors of Passage 2 recognize that the “imagination soars” (line 24, Passage 1) in response to de-extinction technology?

- A) Lines 28-30 (“The . . . news”)
- B) Lines 30-33 (“Yet . . . crisis”)
- C) Lines 58-59 (“That . . . altogether”)
- D) Lines 61-63 (“For . . . diversity”)

STOP

If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this section only.

Do not turn to any other section.