

Question ID 4f37c2a3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4f37c2a3

Having written the impassioned call to arms “Letter to the Spanish Americans” in 1791, Peruvian intellectual Juan Pablo Viscardo y Guzmán is often considered a forerunner for the independence movements in Latin America. But Viscardo’s role in history would have remained insignificant were it not for Venezuelan revolutionary Francisco de Miranda, who was handed the unpublished letter after Viscardo’s death. Miranda not only helped circulate the letter, but his edits and footnotes to the text position Miranda as a central figure in the text’s creation.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The original authorship of “Letter to the Spanish Americans” is disputed by contemporary historians.
- B. The majority of the most eloquently stated arguments in “Letter to the Spanish Americans” were written by Miranda.
- C. Miranda played a crucial role in influencing the content and distribution of “Letter to the Spanish Americans.”
- D. “Letter to the Spanish Americans” persuaded many people in Latin America to pursue national independence.

ID: 4f37c2a3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text describes how Miranda circulated, edited, and added footnotes to “Letter to the Spanish Americans,” and it claims that the letter and its author would have “remained insignificant” if it weren’t for Miranda’s efforts.

Choice A is incorrect. The text only says that Viscardo wrote the letter and that Miranda edited it: it never suggests that the original authorship of the letter is up for debate. Choice B is incorrect. This contradicts the text. The text says that Miranda edited and footnoted the letter, but it identifies Viscardo as the letter’s author. It also never identifies certain arguments as more eloquent than others. Choice D is incorrect. This is outside the scope of the text. The paragraph describes Miranda’s role in the creation and distribution of the letter, but it doesn’t get into the effects of the letter on other people.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 30ed228d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 30ed228d

Microplastics are pieces of plastic that are smaller than a grain of rice. These small plastics can be found in large quantities in ocean waters. Ecologist Jessica Reichert and her team are studying the role reef-building corals have in capturing microplastics from ocean waters. Through research, her team has found that these corals may be storing up to 20 million kilograms of microplastics each year in their skeletons and tissues.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Ecologists are interested in learning more about how certain corals build large reefs.
- B. Questions remain around the impact certain corals have on ocean ecosystems.
- C. Microplastics are small pieces of plastic that can be found in ocean waters.
- D. Ecologists predict that corals store large amounts of microplastics from ocean waters.

ID: 30ed228d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text describes a study about how reef-building corals capture microplastics from ocean waters, which found that these corals are storing 20 million kilograms of microplastics in their skeletons and tissues.

Choice A is incorrect. While the researchers are studying “reef-building corals,” the focus of their study isn’t how the corals build the reefs. Rather, they’re studying how corals may be storing microplastics from ocean waters. Choice B is incorrect. The text doesn’t mention any unanswered questions about the impact of corals on ocean ecosystems—rather, the study assesses one interaction between corals and microplastics. Choice C is incorrect. The text does say this, but it’s a detail—not the main idea. The main idea of the text is about the study that found that corals may be storing microplastics from ocean waters in their skeletons and tissues.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 85026120

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 85026120

In 1935 Hallie Flanagan was chosen to lead the Federal Theatre Project (FTP). This project was part of the new Works Progress Administration (WPA), a program created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to provide jobs for unemployed people during the Great Depression. As the director of the FTP, Flanagan created jobs for over 12,500 performers, designers, and other theater professionals across the country. She also kept ticket prices low for the shows they staged, which meant that many people could afford to experience theater for the first time.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Jobs provided by the FTP were intended mainly for performers, designers, and other theater professionals.
- B. President Roosevelt created the WPA to provide jobs for unemployed people.
- C. During the Great Depression, many people couldn't afford to buy theater tickets.
- D. As the director of the FTP, Flanagan succeeded in creating many jobs and introducing people to theater.

ID: 85026120 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by stating that Flanagan was chosen in 1935 to lead the Federal Theatre Project (FTP), which was part of a program created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The text then explains that as the director of the FTP, Flanagan created jobs for more than 12,500 theater professionals and ensured that ticket prices stayed low so that many people could afford to experience theater for the first time. Thus, the main idea of the text is that as the FTP's director, Flanagan succeeded in creating many jobs and introducing people to theater.

Choice A is incorrect. The text does suggest that jobs provided by the FTP were intended mainly for theater professionals, but this isn't the text's main idea. The focus of the text is Hallie Flanagan's work as the director of the FTP, with the text's main point being that Flanagan succeeded in creating many jobs and introducing people to theater. Choice B is incorrect. The text does state that President Roosevelt created the WPA to provide jobs for unemployed people, but this is supporting information, not the text's main idea. The focus of the text is Hallie Flanagan's work as the director of the FTP, which was part of the WPA, and the text's main point is that Flanagan succeeded in creating many jobs and introducing people to theater. Choice C is incorrect. It's true that many people couldn't afford to buy theater tickets during the Great Depression, but this isn't the text's main idea. The focus of the text is Hallie Flanagan's work as the director of the FTP, with the text's main point being that Flanagan succeeded in creating many jobs and introducing people to theater.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f03c06a0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f03c06a0

The following text is adapted from Johanna Spyri’s 1881 novel *Heidi* (translated by Elisabeth Stork in 1915). Eight-year-old Heidi and her friend’s grandmother are looking at some illustrated books.

Heidi had come and was looking with wondering eyes at the splendid pictures in the large books, that Grandmama was showing her. Suddenly she screamed aloud, for there on the picture she saw a peaceful flock grazing on a green pasture. In the middle a shepherd was standing, leaning on his crook. The setting sun was shedding a golden light over everything. With glowing eyes Heidi devoured the scene.

- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. Heidi is upset until she sees a serene image of a pasture in one of Grandmama’s books.
 - B. Heidi is delighted and fascinated by an image she sees in one of Grandmama’s books.
 - C. Heidi is initially frightened by an image in one of Grandmama’s books but quickly comes to appreciate its beauty.
 - D. Heidi is inspecting an image in one of Grandmama’s books because she has never seen a shepherd with his sheep before.

ID: f03c06a0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively states the main idea of the text, which is that Heidi is delighted and fascinated by an image she sees in one of Grandmama’s books. In the text, Heidi screams upon first seeing the picture of the green pasture. In another context, such a reaction might suggest fear, but here the reaction is followed by descriptions of an image that’s peaceful rather than scary. The text goes on to describe Heidi’s eyes as “glowing” and states that she “devoured the scene,” suggesting that the image delights and fascinates her so much that she wants to examine every detail. Together, these descriptions suggest that Heidi is thrilled and intrigued by the image in the book.

Choice A is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that Heidi is upset before seeing the peaceful image of the green pasture. Before Heidi sees that image, the text describes her as “looking with wondering eyes at the splendid pictures” in the book, suggesting that Heidi is intrigued, not that she’s unhappy. Choice C is incorrect. Although Heidi screams upon first seeing the image, the text’s description of the image and Heidi’s other reactions to it suggest that she is screaming with delight, not fear. The text describes the images in the book as “splendid” and the particular image that causes her to scream as peaceful rather than frightening. It also describes Heidi’s eyes as “glowing” and states that she “devoured the scene,” suggesting that the image of the green pasture delights and fascinates her so much that she wants to examine every detail. Choice D is incorrect because it’s unclear from the text whether Heidi has ever seen a shepherd with his sheep before. The text merely suggests that she is delighted and fascinated by the image of the shepherd and his sheep.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 63f5df37

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 63f5df37

The following text is adapted from Charles W. Chesnutt’s 1901 novel *The Marrow of Tradition*.
Mrs. Ochiltree was a woman of strong individuality, whose comments upon her acquaintance[s], present or absent, were marked by a frankness at times no less than startling. This characteristic caused her to be more or less avoided. Mrs. Ochiltree was aware of this sentiment on the part of her acquaintance[s], and rather exulted in it.

- Based on the text, what is true about Mrs. Ochiltree’s acquaintances?
- A. They try to refrain from discussing topics that would upset Mrs. Ochiltree.
 - B. They are unable to spend as much time with Mrs. Ochiltree as she would like.
 - C. They are too preoccupied with their own concerns to speak with Mrs. Ochiltree.
 - D. They are likely offended by what Mrs. Ochiltree has said about them.

ID: 63f5df37 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about Mrs. Ochiltree’s acquaintances that is supported by the text. The text indicates that Mrs. Ochiltree makes comments about her acquaintances that are frank, or direct and blunt, and sometimes startling. It also states that because of this behavior, the acquaintances tend to avoid Mrs. Ochiltree. Together, these details suggest that the acquaintances choose not to be around Mrs. Ochiltree because they are offended by the things she has said about them.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Mrs. Ochiltree’s acquaintances avoid discussing topics that would upset Mrs. Ochiltree; instead, it states that they avoid being around Mrs. Ochiltree at all. Choice B is incorrect because the text makes it clear that Mrs. Ochiltree knows her acquaintances often avoid her and is pleased about it (she “rather exulted in it”), not that she wants to spend more time with them. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Mrs. Ochiltree’s acquaintances don’t speak with Mrs. Ochiltree because they are too focused on their own concerns, but rather because they don’t like the frank comments she makes.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b05dc884

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b05dc884

In the 1960s, Chavela Vargas became an unlikely star in ranchera, a style of traditional Mexican music. Most ranchera singers had clear, polished voices and performed with a full band. But Vargas accompanied her raspy voice with just her guitar. Dressed in men’s trousers and a poncho, she would perform classic songs that had been written from a male point of view and were usually sung by men. She also altered those songs by performing them much more slowly than other ranchera singers did. The slower tempo allowed her to express the emotional quality of the lyrics more fully.

According to the text, what is one way that Vargas differed from other ranchera singers?

- A. She possessed a voice that was clear and polished.
- B. She avoided singing songs written from a male point of view.
- C. She disliked performing classic songs.
- D. She altered classic songs by slowing them down.

ID: b05dc884 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately describes an aspect of Chavela Vargas that the text indicates is unusual among ranchera artists. According to the text, Vargas differed from other ranchera singers by slowing the tempo of classic songs, which allowed her to express the emotional quality of the lyrics more fully.

Choice A is incorrect because the text states that Vargas possessed an unusually raspy voice for a ranchera singer, not a clear and polished voice. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that Vargas was known to perform songs written from a male point of view, not that she avoided such songs. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Vargas disliked performing classic songs. Rather, it suggests that she found innovative ways of performing them to emphasize their emotional content, which seems to suggest an affinity for such songs, not dislike.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 65fe215b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 65fe215b

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic waste. Areas of the ocean with higher concentrations of microplastic particles also have smaller and fewer waves. A study by Yukun Sun and colleagues found that the concentration of microplastic particles cannot be the only reason for this reduced wave activity because the concentration of particles that would have the observed effect is much higher than that found in these areas of the ocean. However, they found that surfactants, chemicals often used to manufacture plastics, are released into the water from microplastics and have a much stronger wave-reducing effect.

According to the text, what did Sun and colleagues discover about surfactants?

- A. They have a much stronger effect on wave activity than microplastics alone do.
- B. They are mainly composed of water.
- C. They are helpful for removing microplastics from the ocean.
- D. They can be used to contain microplastics within certain areas of the ocean.

ID: 65fe215b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a statement about surfactants that is supported by the text. The text indicates that higher concentrations of microplastics have been associated with waves that are relatively small and few. According to the text, however, a study by Sun and colleagues found that concentrations of microplastic particles can't be the only reason for the reduced wave activity because a much higher concentration of particles is needed to produce that observed effect. Instead, the text indicates that Sun and colleagues found that surfactants are released from microplastics into the ocean and have a much stronger wave-reducing effect than microplastics alone do.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss what surfactants are made of. Instead, it indicates that surfactants are frequently used to manufacture microplastics and that Sun and colleagues discovered that surfactants are released from microplastics into the ocean. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss how microplastics can be removed from the ocean. Instead, the text indicates that Sun and colleagues discovered that surfactants are released into the ocean from microplastics and have a much stronger wave-reducing effect than microplastics alone do. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that surfactants can be used to contain microplastics within certain areas of the ocean. Instead, the text indicates that Sun and colleagues discovered that surfactants are released from microplastics into the ocean and have a much stronger wave-reducing effect than microplastics alone do.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 601865dc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 601865dc

The following text is adapted from Edith Nesbit’s 1906 novel *The Railway Children*.
Mother did not spend all her time in paying dull [visits] to dull ladies, and sitting dully at home waiting for dull ladies to pay [visits] to her. She was almost always there, ready to play with the children, and read to them, and help them to do their home-lessons. Besides this she used to write stories for them while they were at school, and read them aloud after tea, and she always made up funny pieces of poetry for their birthdays and for other great occasions.

- According to the text, what is true about Mother?
- A. She wishes that more ladies would visit her.
 - B. Birthdays are her favorite special occasion.
 - C. She creates stories and poems for her children.
 - D. Reading to her children is her favorite activity.

ID: 601865dc Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it describes something that is true of Mother, as presented in the text. The text indicates that in addition to other activities, Mother writes stories for her children while they are at school and makes up “funny pieces of poetry” for certain occasions.

Choice A is incorrect because the text suggests that Mother prefers to spend her time with her children and doesn’t sit at home hoping that ladies will visit her. Choice B is incorrect because the text says only that Mother makes up poetry for the children’s birthdays, not that she likes birthdays more than other special occasions. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Mother prefers reading to her children over the other activities she does with them, such as playing with them and writing stories and poems for them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bfd616cb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bfd616cb

The ice melted on a Norwegian mountain during a particularly warm summer in 2019, revealing a 1,700-year-old sandal to a mountaineer looking for artifacts. The sandal would normally have degraded quickly, but it was instead well preserved for centuries by the surrounding ice. According to archaeologist Espen Finstad and his team, the sandal, like those worn by imperial Romans, wouldn't have offered any protection from the cold in the mountains, so some kind of insulation, like fabric or animal skin, would have needed to be worn on the feet with the sandal.

What does the text indicate about the discovery of the sandal?

- A. Temperatures contributed to both protecting and revealing the sandal.
- B. The discovery revealed that the Roman Empire had more influence on Norway than archaeologists previously assumed.
- C. Archaeologists would have found the sandal eventually without help from the general public.
- D. The sandal would have degraded if it hadn't been removed from the ice.

ID: bfd616cb Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. A "particularly warm summer" revealed the sandal, and centuries of ice kept it "well preserved." Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the information in the text. The sandal is similar to Roman sandals, but there is no indication that it was a result of Roman influence. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't support this choice. We don't have enough information to know whether or not archaeologists would have found the sandal without people like the treasure-hunting mountaineer. Choice D is incorrect. The text says the opposite of this choice. The sandal was preserved by the ice for centuries.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 83e30628

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 83e30628

The painter María Izquierdo played an important role in the development of twentieth-century Mexican art, but her work has never been well-known in the United States except among art historians. One reason for Izquierdo’s relative obscurity is the enormous popularity of some of her peers. In particular, the painters Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera have so captivated the interest of US audiences that Izquierdo and other Mexican artists from the period often get overlooked, despite the high quality of their work.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Izquierdo’s work is not as well-known in the United States as it should be because Kahlo and Rivera draw so much of the public’s attention.
- B. During Izquierdo’s lifetime, her paintings were displayed in galleries in the United States much more frequently than paintings by Kahlo and Rivera were.
- C. Izquierdo painted some of the same subjects that Kahlo and Rivera painted but used different techniques than they used.
- D. Few of Izquierdo’s works are in galleries today because she produced only a small number of paintings.

ID: 83e30628 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by stating that María Izquierdo was an important figure in the history of twentieth-century Mexican art, but despite her importance, her work hasn’t received widespread recognition in the United States. According to the text, one reason for this is that Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera are so famous in the US that they overshadow other important Mexican artists, including Izquierdo. Thus, the main idea of the text is that Izquierdo’s work is less well known in the US than it should be because Kahlo and Rivera draw most of the public’s attention.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss the appearance of Izquierdo’s paintings in galleries in the US during her lifetime, nor does it suggest that her paintings were displayed more frequently than paintings by Kahlo or Rivera were. Instead, the text focuses on the fact that Izquierdo has been overlooked in the US because of Kahlo’s and Rivera’s greater popularity. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss either the subject matter of Izquierdo’s paintings or the techniques she used, nor does it compare these aspects of her paintings with those of Kahlo’s and Rivera’s paintings. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention how many of Izquierdo’s paintings appear in galleries today, nor does it state that she produced only a small number of paintings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4e2de1c4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4e2de1c4

The following text is adapted from Ann Petry’s 1946 novel *The Street*. Lutie lives in an apartment in Harlem, New York.

The glow from the sunset was making the street radiant. The street is nice in this light, [Lutie] thought. It was swarming with children who were playing ball and darting back and forth across the sidewalk in complicated games of tag. Girls were skipping double dutch rope, going tirelessly through the exact center of a pair of ropes, jumping first on one foot and then the other.

©1946 by Ann Petry

Which choice best describes what is happening in the text?

- A. Lutie is observing the appearance of the street at a particular time of day and the events occurring on it.
- B. Lutie is annoyed by the noise of children playing games on her street.
- C. Lutie is puzzled by the rules of certain children’s games.
- D. Lutie is spending time alone in her apartment because she doesn’t want to interact with her neighbors.

ID: 4e2de1c4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states what is happening in the text. The narrator notes that Lutie thinks the street looks nice in the light of the sunset. The narrator goes on to describe what Lutie can see in the street: children playing ball or tag and girls skipping rope. Thus, what is happening in the text is that Lutie is observing the appearance of the street at a particular time of day and the events occurring on it.

Choice B is incorrect. Although Lutie is observing children playing games on her street, the text doesn’t suggest that she is annoyed by the noise of the games. Instead, the text says that Lutie thinks the street looks nice in the light of the sunset. Choice C is incorrect. Although Lutie is observing children playing games on her street, the text doesn’t suggest that she is puzzled by the rules of the games. Choice D is incorrect because there is no evidence in the text that Lutie doesn’t want to interact with her neighbors or that she is in her apartment alone. All the text indicates about Lutie is that she is watching the events on the street and thinks the street looks nice in the light of the sunset.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9c34527e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9c34527e

When Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, who had previously published four novels in English, began writing in his native language, Gĩkũyũ, in the 1970s, several fellow writers and critics cautioned that doing so might make his works inaccessible outside his own community. Some noted that Kiswahili—widely spoken in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa—would be a more practical choice. Rejecting their arguments, Ngũgĩ went on to author dozens of acclaimed works in Gĩkũyũ that have been translated into a total of more than thirty languages.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The reaction to Ngũgĩ’s rejection of English illustrates that some literary experts believe that fame is most easily gained by writing in a widely understood language, such as Gĩkũyũ.
- B. Although Ngũgĩ insisted on publishing his first works in Gĩkũyũ, they have since been translated into many other languages.
- C. Although Ngũgĩ’s decision to write in Gĩkũyũ was met with some skepticism, it didn’t prevent him from achieving literary success.
- D. In the 1970s, Ngũgĩ became convinced that literature ought to be written in authors’ native languages, and he proceeded to publish many works in Gĩkũyũ.

ID: 9c34527e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by explaining that Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o had published four novels in English before he began writing in his native language, Gĩkũyũ, in the 1970s. The text then explains that fellow writers and critics were skeptical of this decision, warning that the choice to publish in his native language, which the text implies isn’t widely understood, would limit his readership. The text concludes by stating that despite those warnings, Ngũgĩ proceeded to publish several acclaimed novels in Gĩkũyũ that were translated into several languages, suggesting that Ngũgĩ’s works in Gĩkũyũ achieved literary success in the forms of critical recognition and a wide international readership. Thus, the main idea is that although Ngũgĩ’s decision to write in Gĩkũyũ was met with some skepticism, this choice didn’t prevent him from achieving literary success.

Choice A is incorrect because it contradicts the description of Gĩkũyũ provided in the text. Rather than indicating that Gĩkũyũ is a widely understood language, as this choice claims, the text states that colleagues cautioned Ngũgĩ that writing in Gĩkũyũ instead of English “might make his works inaccessible outside his own community.” Furthermore, the text contrasts the choice of Gĩkũyũ with another alternative to English, Kiswahili, which the text indicates is “a more practical choice” given that it is “widely spoken in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa.” Choice B is incorrect because it contradicts information in the text. Although the text states that the novels Ngũgĩ published in Gĩkũyũ were later translated into other languages, the text explicitly states that Ngũgĩ had previously published four novels in English before he began writing in Gĩkũyũ in the 1970s. Thus, his first works were published in English,

not Gĩkũyũ. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't address what motivated Ngũgĩ's choice to publish in his native Gĩkũyũ, and nothing in the text suggests that he intended for other authors to follow his example.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b433f1f5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b433f1f5

The following text is from Beatrice Harraden’s 1894 novel *Ships that Pass in the Night*.

In an old second-hand bookshop in London, an old man sat reading Gibbon’s *History of Rome*. He did not put down his book when the postman brought him a letter. He just glanced indifferently at the letter, and impatiently at the postman. Zerviah Holme did not like to be interrupted when he was reading Gibbon; and as he was always reading Gibbon, an interruption was always regarded by him as an insult.

Based on the text, how did Zerviah Holme most likely feel when the letter was delivered?

- A. He felt relieved because he had been expecting an important letter.
- B. He felt excited because the letter was from a good friend.
- C. He felt sad because the postman did not stop to talk with him before leaving.
- D. He felt annoyed because he was interrupted while reading his favorite author.

ID: b433f1f5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a description of how Zerviah Holme felt that is directly supported by the text. The text states that Holme "did not like to be interrupted" while reading Gibbon and that he considered interruptions to be "an insult." Furthermore, the text suggests that Gibbon is Holme’s favorite author because, as the text states, "he was always reading Gibbon." Thus, Holme would have felt annoyed at having been interrupted when the letter was delivered.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Holme is relieved to receive the letter. Instead, the text states that Holme "just glanced indifferently at the letter," suggesting that the letter wasn’t important to him. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Holme is excited to receive the letter. Instead, the text states that Holme didn’t put down his book to receive the letter and that he looked at the letter "indifferently" and at the postman "impatiently." This suggests that Holme isn’t excited. Also, there is no mention that Holme knows who sent the letter. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that Holme is sad or that he wants to speak with the postman. Instead, the text describes Holme as looking "impatiently at the postman," which suggests that he wants the postman to leave.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0c04ab16

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0c04ab16

Recently, scientists looked at data collected by NASA’s InSight lander to learn more about seismic activity on Mars, known as marsquakes. The data show that the marsquakes all started from the same location on the planet. This discovery was surprising to scientists, as they expected that the marsquakes would originate from all over the planet because of the cooling of the planet’s surface. Now, scientists believe that there could be areas of active magma flows deep beneath the planet’s surface that trigger the marsquakes.

According to the text, what was surprising to scientists studying the seismic activity data from NASA’s InSight lander?

- A. The surface temperature of Mars has been rising.
- B. There were different types of seismic waves causing marsquakes.
- C. NASA’s InSight lander collected less data than scientists had expected.
- D. All the marsquakes started from the same location on the planet.

ID: 0c04ab16 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

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

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t say that the data from NASA’s InSight lander revealed any surprising information about the planet’s surface temperature. Instead, the text mentions the cooling of Mars’s surface as a reason the scientists expected that marsquakes had multiple origins. In addition, cooling would indicate that the temperature has been falling rather than rising. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that by studying seismic activity scientists found a possible explanation for what causes marsquakes, the text doesn’t say that they discovered that marsquakes are caused by different types of seismic waves. Rather, the text states that based on the data from NASA’s InSight lander, scientists now believe that this seismic activity happens because of areas of active magma that flow below the planet’s surface. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss the amount of data NASA’s InSight lander collected or whether scientists who studied the data found the amount to be as expected. Instead, the text focuses on what the data revealed about where on Mars the marsquakes originated.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9fb642f0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9fb642f0

Using the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA), a team of astronomers mapped out the magnetic field of G47, one of the Milky Way’s galactic bones (dense clouds of gas and dust that run through the middle of the arm of a spiral galaxy). Surprisingly, the map revealed a magnetic field with no clear pattern or direction. The researchers had expected the magnetic field to be similar to the more uniform fields seen in galactic bones in other arms of the Milky Way.

According to the text, what was surprising about the researchers’ mapping of the magnetic field of galactic bone G47?

- A. It showed a weaker magnetic field than expected.
- B. It implied that previous mappings of the magnetic field were inaccurate.
- C. It produced magnetic field measurements similar to those for other galactic bones.
- D. It revealed a magnetic field that wasn’t uniform.

ID: 9fb642f0 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the point about the magnetic field mapping that the text describes as surprising. The text indicates that a team of astronomers mapped the magnetic field of G47, a galactic bone in the Milky Way, and that the mapping "surprisingly" revealed "no clear pattern or direction" in the magnetic field. The text then adds that the researchers had thought the magnetic field would be as uniform as the magnetic fields of other galactic bones in the Milky Way are. In other words, the researchers were surprised that the mapping revealed a magnetic field that wasn’t uniform.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the mapping surprisingly showed a weaker magnetic field than the researchers had expected. The text makes no mention of the magnetic field’s strength, only its lack of a clear pattern or direction. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the magnetic field mapping suggested to researchers that previous mappings were inaccurate. Although the text states that the mapping didn’t show what researchers had expected based on their knowledge of other magnetic fields, there’s no indication that G47’s magnetic field had ever been mapped before. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that the researchers were surprised that the magnetic field was different from, not similar to, the magnetic fields of other galactic bones; the text states that because other galactic bones in the Milky Way are more uniform, the researchers had expected the magnetic field of G47 to be more uniform than it turned out to be.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 04c42a09

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 04c42a09

A common assumption among art historians is that the invention of photography in the mid-nineteenth century displaced the painted portrait in the public consciousness. The diminishing popularity of the portrait miniature, which coincided with the rise of photography, seems to support this claim. However, photography’s impact on the portrait miniature may be overstated. Although records from art exhibitions in the Netherlands from 1820 to 1892 show a decrease in the number of both full-sized and miniature portraits submitted, this trend was established before the invention of photography.

- Based on the text, what can be concluded about the diminishing popularity of the portrait miniature in the nineteenth century?
- A. Factors other than the rise of photography may be more directly responsible for the portrait miniature’s decline.
 - B. Although portrait miniatures became less common than photographs, they were widely regarded as having more artistic merit.
 - C. The popularity of the portrait miniature likely persisted for longer than art historians have assumed.
 - D. As demand for portrait miniatures decreased, portrait artists likely shifted their creative focus to photography.

ID: 04c42a09 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text says that the impact of photography on the portrait miniature might be "overstated," as some records show a decrease in the number of portrait miniatures *before* the invention of photography. From this, we can conclude that factors *other* than the rise of photography may be more directly responsible for the portrait miniature’s decline.

Choice B is incorrect. The text never discusses the "artistic merit" of either art form. Choice C is incorrect. The text never suggests that the portrait miniature was popular for longer than historians thought—if anything, it suggests that the portrait miniature started losing its popularity *earlier* than historians thought. Choice D is incorrect. The text never suggests that portrait painters shifted to become photographers.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 40f85228

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 40f85228

The following text is from Anton Chekhov’s 1898 short story “Ionitch” (translated by Marian Fell in 1915). The text is set in a Russian city referred to as the city of S.

If newcomers to the little provincial city of S. complained that life there was monotonous and dull, its inhabitants would answer that, on the contrary, S. was a very amusing place, indeed, that it had a library and a club, that balls were given there, and finally, that very pleasant families lived there with whom one might become acquainted. And they always pointed to the Turkins as the most accomplished and most enlightened family of all.

- What does the text suggest about the Turkins?
- A. They are relative newcomers to the city of S.
 - B. They have a unique status in the city of S.
 - C. They have long disliked living in the city of S.
 - D. They are amused by the other residents of the city of S.

ID: 40f85228 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a statement about the Turkins that is suggested by the text. The text explains that while many pleasant families live in the city of S., inhabitants of the city consider the Turkins to be "the most accomplished and most enlightened family of all." Thus, by indicating that they are seen as more accomplished and more enlightened than all the other families in the city of S., the text suggests that the Turkins have a unique status there.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the Turkins have recently moved to the city of S.; it provides no information about when the Turkins arrived. Choice C is incorrect because the text explains how the Turkins are viewed by others in the city of S. but gives no indication of how the Turkins feel about living there. Choice D is incorrect because the text explains how the Turkins are viewed by other residents of the city of S. but gives no indication of how the Turkins view the other residents.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1c3de414

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1c3de414

Archaeologist Veronica Waweru visited the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. While exploring there, Waweru noticed many rows of shallow pits carved into stone. Waweru believed the pits could have been used as game boards to play ancient versions of mancala, a two-person strategy game that is still popular today. Some of the more recent pits were carved on top of older pits. This led Waweru to think that the game was played at the site for a long time.

According to the text, why does Waweru think that mancala was played at the site for a long time?

- A. Some of the newer pits were carved on top of the older pits.
- B. She noticed many rows of shallow pits carved into stone.
- C. She discovered the pits at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.
- D. Some of the pits were shallow and others were quite deep.

ID: 1c3de414 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a statement about Veronica Waweru’s thinking that is supported by the text. The text begins by discussing Waweru’s discovery of evidence that ancient versions of the board game mancala had been played at a site in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. The evidence consisted of many rows of shallow pits carved into stone. The text goes on to state that some newer pits were carved on top of older pits, suggesting that people may have continued to play the game there over multiple generations, creating new pits over time. The text then explicitly states that the presence of newer pits carved on top of older pits was precisely what caused Waweru to think that mancala had been played at the site for a long time.

Choice B is incorrect. While the text does state that Waweru "noticed many rows of shallow pits carved into stone," this observation led her to believe that the pits could have been used as game boards for ancient versions of mancala but did not specifically suggest to her that the game had been played at the site for a long time. The multiple rows of pits merely suggest that these pits functioned as part of a game board; they don’t necessarily indicate how long the site had been used for that purpose. Rather, it was the fact that there appeared to be newer pits carved on top of older pits that led Waweru to think that mancala had been played at the site for a long time. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text states that Waweru found the pits at the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, this isn’t the reason the text gives for why she thought that mancala had been played at the site for a long time. The location of the discovery only provides information about where the game was played, not how long the game had been played there. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention any variation in the depth of the pits. The text only describes the pits collectively as shallow and doesn’t indicate that the depth of the pits factored into Waweru’s thinking about how long the site had been used for playing mancala.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 373f503e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 373f503e

The following text is adapted from Edgar Allan Poe’s 1849 story “Landor’s Cottage.”

During a pedestrian trip last summer, through one or two of the river counties of New York, I found myself, as the day declined, somewhat embarrassed about the road I was pursuing. The land undulated very remarkably; and my path, for the last hour, had wound about and about so confusedly, in its effort to keep in the valleys, that I no longer knew in what direction lay the sweet village of B—, where I had determined to stop for the night.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The narrator remembers a trip he took and admits to getting lost.
- B. The narrator recalls fond memories of a journey that he took through some beautiful river counties.
- C. The narrator describes what he saw during a long trip through a frequently visited location.
- D. The narrator explains the difficulties he encountered on a trip and how he overcame them.

ID: 373f503e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The narrator is “embarrassed” about the route he took, which ends up leaving him lost and confused about how to get to his destination for the evening.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t match the passage. The narrator is embarrassed, rather than fond, and he doesn’t describe the beauty of the place. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t match the passage. We don’t know from this excerpt whether or not the narrator has visited this part of New York multiple times. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t match the passage. The narrator doesn’t explain how he overcame being lost in this excerpt.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 84abce3e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 84abce3e

The following text is from Ezra Pound’s 1909 poem “Hymn III,” based on the work of Marcantonio Flaminio.

As a fragile and lovely flower unfolds its gleaming
foliage on the breast of the fostering earth, if
the dew and the rain draw it forth;
So doth my tender mind flourish, if it be fed with the
sweet dew of the fostering spirit,
Lacking this, it beginneth straightway to languish,
even as a floweret born upon dry earth, if the
dew and the rain tend it not.

Based on the text, in what way is the human mind like a flower?

- A. It becomes increasingly vigorous with the passage of time.
- B. It draws strength from changes in the weather.
- C. It requires proper nourishment in order to thrive.
- D. It perseveres despite challenging circumstances.

ID: 84abce3e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a description of how the human mind is like a flower that is directly supported by the text. The text compares the needs of a “fragile and lovely flower” to those of the speaker’s “tender mind”: both need to be fed if they’re going to survive. Without such feeding, they’ll “beginneth straightway to languish,” or weaken. Thus, the text suggests that the human mind is like a flower in that they both need proper nourishment in order to thrive.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t address the passage of time or describe either the human mind or a flower as becoming increasingly vigorous. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that human minds or flowers draw strength from changes in weather. The references to rain in the text pertain to a flower’s need for water rather than the general effects of changing weather. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that the human mind or a flower will persist regardless of challenging circumstances. In fact, the text indicates that they’ll both languish right away if not given what they need.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 83aee444

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 83aee444

Philadelphia’s Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, founded by Jeri Lynne Johnson, performs classical music, from well-known compositions by Beethoven to contemporary works by Jessie Montgomery. For the orchestra’s iConduct! program, Johnson invites community members to learn some basic elements of conducting and then experience conducting the Black Pearl orchestra themselves.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The Black Pearl orchestra performs music from all over the world but mostly performs music composed by Philadelphians.
- B. Johnson founded the Black Pearl orchestra to perform classical music by contemporary artist Jessie Montgomery.
- C. The Black Pearl orchestra gives community members the chance to both listen to and participate in classical music performance.
- D. Johnson has community members conduct an orchestra to demonstrate how difficult the task is.

ID: 83aee444 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by stating that the Black Pearl orchestra performs classical music, and then goes on to explain that the orchestra offers an iConduct! program. According to the text, this program offers community members the opportunity to learn some basics about conducting and then apply what they learn by conducting the orchestra themselves. Thus, the main idea of the text is that community members can both listen to and participate in a classical music performance.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that the Black Pearl orchestra is based in Philadelphia, it doesn’t indicate that most of the music it plays was composed by Philadelphians. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text does state that Johnson founded the Black Pearl orchestra, this is just a detail and not the main focus of the text. Moreover, while the text does say that the orchestra sometimes plays music by Montgomery, it doesn’t assert that the orchestra was founded solely for the purpose of performing Montgomery’s work. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text explains that community members are invited to conduct the Black Pearl orchestra after participating in the iConduct! program, the text doesn’t indicate that Johnson allows community members to do this for the specific purpose of showing how difficult the task is.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2c1d7966

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2c1d7966

Paleontologist Alan Tennyson and colleagues studied fossil bones found in New Zealand that are more than 55 million years old. The researchers determined that the fossil bones belonged to two previously unknown species of prehistoric penguins. Moreover, they estimated that one of the two penguin species was more than three times the size of the emperor penguin, which is the largest penguin species that exists today.

Based on the text, which choice best describes the two previously unknown penguin species?

- A. They are frequently studied by paleontologists.
- B. They are no longer living species.
- C. They were smaller than penguin species that exist today.
- D. They spent little of their lives in water.

ID: 2c1d7966 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a statement about the two previously unknown penguin species that is supported by the text. According to the text, Alan Tennyson and colleagues studied fossil bones belonging to two previously unknown penguin species that are described as prehistoric, or ancient. The text goes on to say that one of the two species was considerably larger than the emperor penguin, which is currently the largest penguin in existence. Thus, the text indicates that the other species aren't in existence today, or that the two previously unknown penguin species are no longer living species.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that Alan Tennyson is a paleontologist who studied the fossils of two previously unknown penguin species, it doesn't say whether these penguins are frequently studied by paleontologists. Choice C is incorrect because the text says that one of the two previously unknown penguin species was three times larger than the emperor penguin (a penguin alive today), not that they were both smaller than penguin species that exist today. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss whether the two previously unknown penguin species spent any time in water.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4480b74b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4480b74b

Online surveys are a common tool researchers use to collect information. These surveys are usually designed for use on personal computers (PCs), but more people are using smartphones to complete them than they are PCs. This shift in device usage may change how participants interact with online surveys. When researchers Jean Philippe Décieux and Philipp E. Sischka investigated, they found that PC users were more likely to multitask while taking surveys than smartphone users were, but PC users were also more likely to complete the surveys.

- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. People are choosing to take online surveys on smartphones more often than they are on PCs because smartphones are convenient.
 - B. Researchers are investigating why survey completion rates are higher on PCs than they are on smartphones, despite increased multitasking on PCs.
 - C. Researchers prefer online surveys to other ways of collecting information because they think online survey results are more reliable.
 - D. A study shows that the type of device people use to complete online surveys affects how they interact with these surveys.

ID: 4480b74b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text opens by noting that online surveys are usually designed for PCs but that more people now use smartphones to take them—a shift, the text proposes, that may affect how participants interact with the surveys. The text then describes study findings—PC users were more likely to multitask but also more likely to complete surveys than smartphone users were—as evidence to illustrate the overall point that device type does indeed change how participants behave when responding to surveys. Thus, the text as a whole conveys the idea that according to a study, the type of device people use to complete online surveys affects how they interact with these surveys.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text notes that more people are using smartphones than PCs for surveys, it doesn't indicate why people are making this choice, much less suggest that convenience is a factor in this shift. The text focuses on the consequences of the shift in device usage, not on its causes. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text reports that PC users were more likely to complete surveys than smartphone users were despite also being more likely to multitask while taking the surveys, it doesn't frame the study as an inquiry into the reasons for these differences in completion rates. Instead, the text presents these findings to illustrate how device type affects survey participants' interactions with online surveys. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text states that online surveys are commonly used in research, the text doesn't discuss whether researchers prefer online surveys over other data collection methods, nor does it indicate that online surveys are more reliable than alternative methods. Rather, the text focuses on how different devices affect the way participants interact with online surveys.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 650a2b04

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 650a2b04

The following text is from Jane Austen’s 1811 novel *Sense and Sensibility*. Elinor lives with her younger sisters and her mother, Mrs. Dashwood.

Elinor, this eldest daughter, whose advice was so effectual, possessed a strength of understanding, and coolness of judgment, which qualified her, though only nineteen, to be the counsellor of her mother, and enabled her frequently to counteract, to the advantage of them all, that eagerness of mind in Mrs. Dashwood which must generally have led to imprudence. She had an excellent heart;—her disposition was affectionate, and her feelings were strong; but she knew how to govern them: it was a knowledge which her mother had yet to learn; and which one of her sisters had resolved never to be taught.

According to the text, what is true about Elinor?

- A. Elinor often argues with her mother but fails to change her mind.
- B. Elinor can be overly sensitive with regard to family matters.
- C. Elinor thinks her mother is a bad role model.
- D. Elinor is remarkably mature for her age.

ID: 650a2b04 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it provides a detail about Elinor that is established in the text. The text indicates that although Elinor is “only nineteen,” she gives good advice and exhibits such a high level of understanding and judgment that she serves as “the counsellor of her mother.” Thus, Elinor is mature beyond her years.

Choice A is incorrect because it isn’t supported by the text: although the text says that Elinor advises her mother and often counteracts her mother’s impulses, there’s no mention of Elinor arguing with her mother or failing to change her mother’s mind. Choice B is incorrect because it isn’t supported by the text: although the text mentions that Elinor has strong feelings, it doesn’t indicate that she’s excessively sensitive when it comes to family issues. Choice C is incorrect because it isn’t supported by the text: there’s no mention of what Elinor thinks about her mother and no suggestion that she thinks her mother is a bad role model. Because she’s described as having “an excellent heart,” Elinor likely doesn’t think ill of her mother.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6a40bde7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6a40bde7

To dye wool, Navajo (Diné) weaver Lillie Taylor uses plants and vegetables from Arizona, where she lives. For example, she achieved the deep reds and browns featured in her 2003 rug *In the Path of the Four Seasons* by using Arizona dock roots, drying and grinding them before mixing the powder with water to create a dye bath. To intensify the appearance of certain colors, Taylor also sometimes mixes in clay obtained from nearby soil.

- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. Reds and browns are not commonly featured in most of Taylor’s rugs.
 - B. Taylor draws on local resources in the approach she uses to dye wool.
 - C. Taylor finds it difficult to locate Arizona dock root in the desert.
 - D. *In the Path of the Four Seasons* is widely acclaimed for its many colors and innovative weaving techniques.

ID: 6a40bde7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. It best states the main idea of the text. The text opens with the statement that Taylor uses local plants and vegetables to dye wool. The rest of the text describes how she does this.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t state the main idea of the text. The text only mentions one rug: *In the Path of the Four Seasons*, in which reds and browns *are* featured. It never mentions whether or not these colors are featured in her other rugs. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t state the main idea of the text. The text never says that Taylor finds it difficult to locate Arizona dock roots. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn’t state the main idea of the text. The text never says that *In the Path of the Four Seasons* is widely acclaimed. Rather, it discusses the rug to illustrate the point made earlier in the passage: that Taylor uses local plants and vegetables to dye wool.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d60cc9fa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d60cc9fa

Biologists have predicted that birds’ feather structures vary with habitat temperature, but this hadn’t been tested in mountain environments. Ornithologist Sahas Barve studied feathers from 249 songbird species inhabiting different elevations—and thus experiencing different temperatures—in the Himalayan Mountains. He found that feathers of high-elevation species not only have a greater proportion of warming downy sections to flat and smooth sections than do feathers of low-elevation species, but high-elevation species’ feathers also tend to be longer, providing a thicker layer of insulation.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Barve’s investigation shows that some species of Himalayan songbirds have evolved feathers that better regulate body temperature than do the feathers of other species, contradicting previous predictions.
- B. Barve found an association between habitat temperature and feather structure among Himalayan songbirds, lending new support to a general prediction.
- C. Barve discovered that songbirds have adapted to their environment by growing feathers without flat and smooth sections, complicating an earlier hypothesis.
- D. The results of Barve’s study suggest that the ability of birds to withstand cold temperatures is determined more strongly by feather length than feather structure, challenging an established belief.

ID: d60cc9fa Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The first sentence of the text introduces the prediction that the structures of birds’ feathers vary with habitat temperature and notes that this prediction hadn’t been tested in mountain environments. The rest of the text focuses on a study by Barve, an ornithologist. The text indicates that Barve studied feathers of 249 songbird species in habitats at different elevations—and, therefore, different temperatures (as the text establishes that elevation affects temperature)—in the Himalayan Mountains. The text then explains that Barve found that compared to feathers of low-elevation species, feathers of high-elevation species have a greater proportion of warming sections and are of a length that provides more insulation—in other words, feather structure varies with elevation-driven temperature differences. Thus, the main idea of the text is that Barve found an association between habitat temperature and feather structure among Himalayan songbirds and that this finding supports a general prediction that hadn’t previously been tested in mountain environments.

Choice A is incorrect because the text specifically focuses on Barve’s finding of a relationship between feather structure and elevation—which corresponds to temperature differences—and not on the broader claim that some birds have feathers better suited to regulating body temperature than others, without reference to a consistent pattern. Moreover, Barve’s finding supports the prediction presented in the text (that feather structures vary with habitat temperature), and there’s no indication that it contradicts any other predictions. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that Barve found that songbird species have adapted to their environment by growing feathers without flat and smooth sections; his finding of different proportions of

such sections in feathers depending on elevation suggests that they do have flat and smooth sections. Moreover, Barve's finding supports the prediction presented in the text (that feather structures vary with habitat temperature), and there's no indication that it complicates any other earlier hypothesis. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't mention a comparison of the effects of feather structure and feather length; in fact, the text suggests that length is part of feather structure, since Barve's finding concerning structure addresses proportions of warming downy sections and insulation-providing length. Moreover, the text doesn't refer to an established belief, presenting instead a prediction that hadn't been tested in mountain environments before Barve conducted his study.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b69b512b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b69b512b

Businesses selling clothing and other fashion items face obstacles in trying to forecast how much product to order: tastes and styles change quickly, while manufacturing clothing takes a significant amount of time. Researchers Youran Fu and Marshall Fisher have found that combining sellers’ own data with information gathered from social media can dramatically improve the accuracy of such forecasts—by 24 to 57 percent in the cases they directly studied. Better predictions mean demand is easier to meet without retailers becoming overstocked.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Using multiple data sources can enhance the ability of sellers in the fashion industry to anticipate demand.
- B. Social media is revolutionizing how both sellers and researchers view the fashion industry.
- C. Becoming overstocked is the main preoccupation of sellers trying to forecast demand for fashion items.
- D. Retailers can use their own data to accurately predict how tastes and styles are evolving.

ID: b69b512b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text explains that fashion retailers face challenges in forecasting product demand due to rapidly changing tastes and lengthy manufacturing times. It then presents research by Fu and Fisher showing that combining retailers’ own data with social media information significantly improves forecast accuracy. The text concludes by noting that better predictions help retailers meet demand without becoming overstocked. Thus, the main idea is that using multiple data sources (retailers’ own data combined with social media information) can enhance fashion retailers’ ability to anticipate demand.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t claim that social media is revolutionizing, or fundamentally changing, how sellers and researchers view the fashion industry. The text never addresses the way the fashion industry is viewed; rather, it discusses a practical approach sellers in the industry can take to better match production with demand. Choice C is incorrect. Although avoiding overstocking is mentioned as a benefit of an approach that can help fashion sellers better predict demand, the text doesn’t focus on overstocking or characterize it as the main concern of sellers. Rather, the text is focused on discussing the approach itself. Choice D is incorrect because the text suggests that fashion sellers encounter obstacles when using their own data to try to forecast demand as tastes and styles change; the text focuses on the idea that instead of using their own data alone, retailers should combine their own data with social media information to more accurately forecast demand.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 25311ea7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 25311ea7

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

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

According to the text, what is true about Dorian?

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

ID: 25311ea7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a statement about Dorian that is directly supported by the text. The narrator of the text says that when Dorian sees his portrait, “his cheeks flushed for a moment with pleasure” and “a look of joy came into his eyes.” The narrator goes on to say that Dorian looked at the portrait “in wonder” and presents him as being so entranced by the portrait that he doesn’t notice what Hallward is saying to him. All these details support the description of Dorian as being delighted by what he sees in the portrait.

Choice A is incorrect because Dorian isn’t depicted as interested in Hallward’s opinion of the portrait but rather as so enraptured by the painting that he’s hardly even aware of Hallward. Choice C is incorrect because the portrait of Dorian is the only painting that is mentioned in the text, so there’s no evidence that Dorian prefers portraits to other types of paintings. Although Dorian is depicted as delighted with this particular portrait, there’s no way of knowing from the text whether he likes portraits better than other kinds of paintings. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Dorian is uncertain about Hallward’s talent. Instead, the text is focused on Dorian’s delight with the portrait.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 12287bfc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 12287bfc

Culinary anthropologist Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor may be known for her decades of work in national public television and radio, but her book *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* is likely her most influential project. The 1970 book, whose title refers to Smart-Grosvenor’s roots in the Low Country of South Carolina, was unusual for its time. It combined memoir, recipes, travel writing, and social commentary and challenged notions about conventions of food and cooking. Long admired by many, the book and its author have shaped contemporary approaches to writing about cuisine.

Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?

- A. Smart-Grosvenor’s unconventional book *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* is an important contribution to food writing.
- B. Smart-Grosvenor held many different positions over her life, including reporter and food writer.
- C. Smart-Grosvenor’s groundbreaking book *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* didn’t receive the praise it deserved when it was first published in 1970.
- D. Smart-Grosvenor was a talented chef whose work inspired many people to start cooking for themselves.

ID: 12287bfc Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text describes the book *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* as Smart-Grosvenor’s “most influential project” and as “unusual for its time.” The text also notes that the book and author have influenced contemporary approaches to writing about food and cooking. Therefore, the text mainly conveys that *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* is an unconventional and important contribution to food writing.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions that Smart-Grosvenor worked in national public television and radio and was a food writer, these details aren’t the main focus. Rather than focusing on Smart-Grosvenor’s various jobs, the text focuses specifically on one specific book she wrote. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text suggests that *Vibration Cooking: or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl* was groundbreaking, it doesn’t suggest that the book didn’t receive praise when it was published. In fact, the text states that the book is “long admired.” Choice D is incorrect because the text states that Smart-Grosvenor was a culinary anthropologist and that her book influenced later approaches to food writing but doesn’t indicate that Smart-Grosvenor or her book influenced people to begin cooking for themselves.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 95487550

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 95487550

Oluwaseyi Moejoh cofounded U-recycle Initiative Africa when she was only a teenager. Moejoh and her team founded the organization to teach young people how their actions affect the environment and why recycling is important. For example, the organization put on an exhibit of art made using recycled materials.

According to the text, what is one reason Moejoh and others founded U-recycle Initiative Africa?

- A. To bring attention to overlooked African artists
- B. To teach young people why recycling is important
- C. To help adults gain important outdoor skills
- D. To give teenagers advice about starting businesses

ID: 95487550 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes a reason that Moejoh and team founded U-recycle Initiative Africa. The text mentions two reasons the initiative was founded: to teach young people about how they affect the environment and to teach them “why recycling is important.” Thus, teaching the importance of recycling to young people accurately describes a motivation that the text cites as a reason for the initiative’s founding.

Choice A is incorrect. Although art is mentioned in the text, there are no details about artists or whether they are being overlooked. Choice C is incorrect because the text is explicitly about young people and their relationship to the environment and recycling. There is no mention of adults or outdoor skills. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text discusses young people, which likely includes teenagers, there is no mention of starting businesses.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b9f65cd9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b9f65cd9

Utah is home to Pando, a colony of about 47,000 quaking aspen trees that all share a single root system. Pando is one of the largest single organisms by mass on Earth, but ecologists are worried that its growth is declining in part because of grazing by animals. The ecologists say that strong fences could prevent deer from eating young trees and help Pando start thriving again.

According to the text, why are ecologists worried about Pando?

- A. It isn't growing at the same rate it used to.
- B. It isn't producing young trees anymore.
- C. It can't grow into new areas because it is blocked by fences.
- D. Its root system can't support many more new trees.

ID: b9f65cd9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents an explanation that is directly stated in the text for why ecologists are worried about Pando. The text states that Pando is a colony of about 47,000 quaking aspen trees that represents one of the largest organisms on Earth. According to the text, ecologists are worried that Pando's growth is declining, partly because animals are feeding on the trees. In other words, the ecologists are worried that Pando isn't growing at the same rate it used to.

Choice B is incorrect. Rather than indicating that Pando isn't producing young trees anymore, the text reveals that Pando is indeed producing young trees, stating that those trees can be protected from grazing deer by strong fences. Choice C is incorrect because the text states that fences can be used to prevent deer from eating Pando's young trees, not that Pando itself can't grow in new areas because it's blocked by fences. Choice D is incorrect because the text offers no evidence that Pando's root system is incapable of supporting new trees or is otherwise a cause of worry for ecologists.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 57fda702

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 57fda702

Bicycles were first mass-produced in the late nineteenth century throughout Europe and North America, allowing individuals remarkable freedom to travel longer distances quickly and comfortably. This freedom, coupled with the affordability of the vehicle, made the bicycle immensely popular. Individuals were able to live farther from their workplaces, easily visit neighboring towns, and participate in new leisure and sport activities. Bicycling quickly became a popular social endeavor, with enthusiasts forming local cycling clubs to enjoy these newfound activities with others.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The widespread adoption of the bicycle in the late nineteenth century provided new opportunities for people.
- B. The affordability of the bicycle in the late nineteenth century made it the preferred way to travel.
- C. The popularity of the bicycle in the late nineteenth century gave rise to the first cycling clubs.
- D. The mass production of the bicycle in the late nineteenth century made it safer for people to use.

ID: 57fda702 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text discusses how the mass production of bicycles in the late nineteenth century allowed people to travel longer distances, live farther from their workplaces, visit neighboring towns, and participate in new activities and social clubs. All of these are new opportunities that were provided by the widespread adoption of the bicycle.

Choice B is incorrect. The text never says this. It does say that the bicycle was “affordable,” and that the “freedom to travel longer distances quickly and comfortably” made the bicycle “popular,” but it never says that the bicycle was more popular than any other way of traveling (like cars or trains or horses). Choice C is incorrect. This is a detail mentioned in the text, but not the main idea. Cycling clubs are only one of the new opportunities that arose from the popularity of the mass-produced bicycle. A “main idea” should capture more of the information in the text. Choice D is incorrect. The text never says this. It doesn’t mention the safety of the mass-produced bicycle at all.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f5b7d74f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f5b7d74f

The following text is adapted from Christina Rossetti’s 1881 poem “Monna Innominata 2.”

I wish I could remember that first day,
First hour, first moment of your meeting me,
If bright or dim the season, it might be
Summer or Winter for [all] I can say;
So unrecorded did it slip away,
So blind was I to see and to foresee,
So dull to mark the budding of my tree
That would not blossom yet for many a May.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The speaker celebrates how the passage of time has strengthened a relationship that once seemed unimportant.
- B. Because the speaker did not anticipate how important a relationship would become, she cannot recall how the relationship began, which she regrets.
- C. As the anniversary of the beginning of an important relationship approaches, the speaker feels conflicted about how best to commemorate it.
- D. After years of neglecting a once valuable relationship, the speaker worries it may be too late for her to salvage the relationship.

ID: f5b7d74f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The speaker says that they wish they could remember when they first met someone, but they can’t remember the meeting at all, because they didn’t know at the time that the relationship would “blossom” later on.

Choice A is incorrect. The speaker does say that the relationship has “blossomed” over time, but only briefly at the end—and they don’t really “celebrate” that fact. Rather, the text has a more regretful tone: it’s about how the speaker can’t remember first meeting this person, and they wish they could. Choice C is incorrect. The speaker doesn’t mention an anniversary—in fact, the speaker can’t remember when they met the person they’re talking about. Choice D is incorrect. The speaker doesn’t say that they neglected the relationship. In fact, the speaker suggests that the relationship has become very important to them—that’s why the speaker wishes that they could remember their first meeting.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID dad72da6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: dad72da6

During the World War II era, some Mexican American women adopted a striking new look called *pachuca* style. They wore altered men’s jackets or zoot suits (wide-legged, long-coated suits) and dramatic makeup, and they combed their hair into high, rounded shapes. Some people criticized *pachuca* style, saying it was dangerous and women should dress traditionally. But historians see things differently. They see *pachuca* style as a form of rebellion against the era’s rigid social expectations for women. They say that it showed a desire for self-expression and freedom on the part of women who adopted the style.

According to the text, how do historians view *pachuca* style?

- A. They think that *pachuca* style was such a popular trend that it continues to influence fashion in the United States to the present day.
- B. They think that *pachuca* style was a way for some Mexican American women to express themselves and resist strict social expectations.
- C. They think that *pachuca* style was celebrated because it enabled some Mexican American women to show their support for the United States during World War II.
- D. They think that *pachuca* style was similar to other fashion trends that different groups of women adopted in the same period.

ID: dad72da6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a statement about how historians view *pachuca* style that is supported by the text. The text first describes the distinctive *pachuca* style of dress adopted by some Mexican American women during World War II, saying that some criticized it and asserted that women should dress traditionally. The text then goes on to contrast this position with that of historians, who "see things differently": according to these historians, the *pachuca* style showed a wish for freedom and self-expression, and it acted as a kind of rebellion against what society expected of women at the time. Therefore, according to the text, historians think that the *pachuca* style was a way for Mexican women to express themselves and resist strict social expectations.

Choice A is incorrect because the text explicitly describes the *pachuca* style as a distinctive look adopted during the World War II era. It does not indicate that the *pachuca* style influences fashion in the United States in the present day. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not indicate that Mexican American women wore the *pachuca* style to show support for the United States during World War II; rather, the style was a means of self-expression and rebellion against social expectations. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not compare the *pachuca* style to other fashion trends: the *pachuca* style is the only style mentioned.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a2fa3c42

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a2fa3c42

Archaeologists have discovered a runestone in Norway that may contain the earliest example of written words in Scandinavia. Carbon dating at the discovery site revealed that the stone was likely carved between 1 and 250 CE. Runologist Kristel Zilmer believes the stone will be helpful in learning more about the use of runic alphabets in early Iron Age Scandinavia.

Which choice best states the main topic of the text?

- A. Battles of the Iron Age
- B. A runestone found in Norway
- C. A new method for dating rock samples
- D. The research interests of Kristel Zilmer

ID: a2fa3c42 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main topic of the text. The text begins by stating that archaeologists in Norway have discovered what may be the oldest known runestone (a stone with an inscription in the runic alphabets used in the region in ancient times). According to the text, the object was created between 1 and 250 CE. The text then mentions a researcher who comments on the runestone’s significance to the study of runic alphabets. Thus, the main focus throughout the text is a runestone found in Norway.

Choice A is incorrect because the text mentions the Iron Age only to indicate the era when the runestone was created and when runic alphabets were in use; there’s no discussion of battles during this era. Choice C is incorrect because the text mentions the carbon dating method just once and does so only to indicate the age of the runestone; moreover, the text doesn’t suggest that this method is new. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that Zilmer is a runologist, or a scholar of runestones, it does so in a single sentence, so Zilmer’s scholarly interests are therefore not a primary focus of the text.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 24577960

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 24577960

The following text is adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1883 novel *Treasure Island*. Bill is a sailor staying at the Admiral Benbow, an inn run by the narrator’s parents.

Every day when [Bill] came back from his stroll he would ask if any seafaring men had gone by along the road. At first we thought it was the want of company of his own kind that made him ask this question, but at last we began to see he was desirous to avoid them. When a seaman did [stay] at the Admiral Benbow (as now and then some did) he would look in at him through the curtained door before he entered the parlour; and he was always sure to be as silent as a mouse when any such was present.

According to the text, why does Bill regularly ask about “seafaring men”?

- A. He’s hoping to find an old friend and fellow sailor.
- B. He’s trying to secure a job as part of the crew on a new ship.
- C. He isn’t sure that other guests at the inn will be welcoming of sailors.
- D. He doesn’t want to encounter any other sailor unexpectedly.

ID: 24577960 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill actually wanted to avoid them.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about “seafaring men.” The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them. Choice B is incorrect. This isn’t the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about “seafaring men.” The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t the reason the text gives for why Bill regularly asks about “seafaring men.” The narrator says that, at first, they thought Bill asked regularly about other seafarers because he wanted their company, but eventually they realized that Bill wanted to avoid them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a147299d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a147299d

In 2022, researchers rediscovered ancient indigenous glyphs, or drawings, on the walls of a cave in Alabama. The cave’s ceiling was only a few feet high, affording no position from which the glyphs, being as wide as ten feet, could be viewed or photographed in their entirety. However, the researchers used a technique called photogrammetry to assemble numerous photos of the walls into a 3D model. They then worked with representatives of tribes originally from the region, including the Chickasaw Nation, to understand the significance of the animal and humanoid figures adorning the cave.

According to the text, what challenge did the researchers have to overcome to examine the glyphs?

- A. The cave was so remote that the researchers couldn’t easily reach it.
- B. Some of the glyphs were so faint that they couldn’t be photographed.
- C. The researchers were unable to create a 3D model of the cave.
- D. The cave’s dimensions prevented the researchers from fully viewing the glyphs.

ID: a147299d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text describes the very low ceiling of the cave, making it impossible to photograph the very wide glyphs all at once.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn’t say this. It never suggests that the cave was remote or difficult to access, just that the cave itself was difficult to photograph well. Choice B is incorrect. The text doesn’t say this. The glyphs were so wide that they couldn’t be photographed completely. Choice C is incorrect. The text states the opposite of this. The researchers “used a technique called photogrammetry to assemble numerous photos of the walls into a 3D model.”

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1d7dbd81

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1d7dbd81

Scrapbooks of saved fabric pieces were commonly kept by women in the nineteenth-century United States, but few are as meticulously detailed as Hannah Ditzler Alspaugh’s work. Alongside each piece of fabric, Alspaugh recorded intimate memories, such as dressmaking with her sister. Additionally, she listed the prices and how she used the fabric. Historians note that by representing fifty years of changing textures, patterns, and dress styles, the scrapbook is a record of nineteenth-century textiles and dressmaking as well as Alspaugh’s life.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Alspaugh inspired other women to save pieces of fabric in scrapbooks and provide historical records of nineteenth-century fashions in the United States.
- B. Historians rely on fabric scrapbooks to understand how fashions changed throughout the nineteenth-century United States.
- C. Fabric scrapbooks were a popular hobby for many women in the nineteenth-century United States.
- D. Alspaugh’s scrapbook provides a detailed account of her life and historical record of fashion trends in the nineteenth-century United States.

ID: 1d7dbd81 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is correct. The text describes how Alspaugh’s scrapbook is both a record of her life and a historical record of nineteenth-century textiles and dressmaking.

Choice A is incorrect. The text says that it was common for American women to keep scrapbooks of fabric pieces in the nineteenth century, and it says that Alspaugh was one of these women. However, it never says that other women were inspired by Alspaugh. Choice B is incorrect. This is too general and too strong. The text says that Alspaugh’s scrapbook is a historical record of nineteenth-century textiles and dressmaking, but it never says that historians rely on such scrapbooks in general to understand how fashions changed throughout that time period. This choice also fails to even mention Alspaugh, who is the real focus of the text. Choice C is incorrect. The text does say this, but it’s a detail—not the main idea. The text is mainly about one woman’s scrapbook (Alspaugh’s), and this choice doesn’t even mention her.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4eab98a3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4eab98a3

Cats can judge unseen people’s positions in space by the sound of their voices and thus react with surprise when the same person calls to them from two different locations in a short span of time. Saho Takagi and colleagues reached this conclusion by measuring cats’ levels of surprise based on their ear and head movements while the cats heard recordings of their owners’ voices from two speakers spaced far apart. Cats exhibited a low level of surprise when owners’ voices were played twice from the same speaker, but they showed a high level of surprise when the voice was played once each from the two different speakers.

According to the text, how did the researchers determine the level of surprise displayed by the cats in the study?

- A. They watched how each cat moved its ears and head.
- B. They examined how each cat reacted to the voice of a stranger.
- C. They studied how each cat physically interacted with its owner.
- D. They tracked how each cat moved around the room.

ID: 4eab98a3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it explains how the researchers determined the level of surprise displayed by the cats in the study. The text states that Saho Takagi and colleagues played recordings of the voice of each cat’s owner and measured how surprised the cat was by the recording based on how it moved its ears and head.

Choice B is incorrect because, as the text explains, the recordings played for each cat in the study were of the voice of the cat’s owner, not a stranger’s voice. Choice C is incorrect because the text explains that during the study, the cats didn’t interact directly with their owners; instead, the cats listened to recordings of their owners’ voices. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the researchers monitored the cats’ movement around the room in which the study was conducted.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6151a032

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6151a032

NASA's *Cassini* probe has detected an unusual wobble in the rotation of Mimas, Saturn's smallest moon. Using a computer model to study Mimas's gravitational interactions with Saturn and tidal forces, geophysicist Alyssa Rhoden and colleagues have proposed that this wobble could be due to a liquid ocean moving beneath the moon's icy surface. The researchers believe other moons should be examined to see if they too might have oceans hidden beneath their surfaces.

- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. Rhoden and colleagues were the first to confirm that several of Saturn's moons contain hidden oceans.
 - B. Research has failed to identify signs that there is an ocean hidden beneath the surface of Mimas.
 - C. Rhoden and colleagues created a new computer model that identifies moons with hidden oceans without needing to analyze the moons' rotation.
 - D. Research has revealed that an oddity in the rotation of Mimas could be explained by an ocean hidden beneath its surface.

ID: 6151a032 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The study isn't definitive, but it says that Mimas's wobbly rotation could be explained by the hidden ocean.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice goes too far beyond the information in the text. Rhoden's team proposed that one moon of Saturn could have a liquid ocean beneath its surface, and that other moons should also be examined, but no one has confirmed anything. Choice B is incorrect. This choice conflicts with the text. Research has identified at least one sign—the unusual wobble in Mimas's rotation—that might be due to a hidden ocean beneath its surface. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't reflect the text. The computer model studies "gravitational interactions," which seem to account for the wobbly rotation of Mimas.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1d58e4d8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1d58e4d8

The following text is from Edith Nesbit’s 1902 novel *Five Children and It*. Five young siblings have just moved with their parents from London to a house in the countryside that they call the White House.

It was not really a pretty house at all; it was quite ordinary, and mother thought it was rather inconvenient, and was quite annoyed at there being no shelves, to speak of, and hardly a cupboard in the place. Father used to say that the ironwork on the roof and coping was like an architect’s nightmare. But the house was deep in the country, with no other house in sight, and the children had been in London for two years, without so much as once going to the seaside even for a day by an excursion train, and so the White House seemed to them a sort of Fairy Palace set down in an Earthly Paradise.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Although their parents believe the house has several drawbacks, the children are enchanted by it.
- B. The children don’t like the house nearly as much as their parents do.
- C. Each member of the family admires a different characteristic of the house.
- D. The house is beautiful and well built, but the children miss their old home in London.

ID: 1d58e4d8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text lists complaints about the house made by the mother and father, but then it says that the children thought the house was a "Fairy Palace" and "Earthly Paradise."

Choice B is incorrect. The text states the opposite of this. It describes how the mother and father dislike the house and says the children think the house seems like paradise. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t what the text says. Only the children are said to admire the house; mother and father both complain about the house. Choice D is incorrect. The text states the opposite of this. It tells us the house was ugly and poorly built ("an architect’s nightmare") and suggests the children were tired of London.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4048da03

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4048da03

A contraction of “you all,” the pronoun “y’all” has long been used as a plural version of “you” in the South and in Black communities around the US. In recent decades, most other English-speaking communities in the US have begun to use “y’all.” What explains its rise in popularity? Many varieties of English have no pronoun that specifically addresses more than one person and instead must use “you” to address both one person and more than one. But “y’all” always refers to two or more people. As a result, it conveys the speaker’s meaning more precisely than “you” can.

Which question does the text most directly attempt to answer?

- A. How many other plural versions of the pronoun “you” are there in English, besides “y’all”?
- B. Why has the pronoun “y’all” become more widely used in the US?
- C. When was the first recorded use of the pronoun “y’all” in the English language?
- D. Is “y’all” commonly used in English-speaking regions of the world besides the US?

ID: 4048da03 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a question that the text is attempting to answer: why has the pronoun "y'all" become more widely used in the US? The text begins by explaining where and how the plural pronoun "y'all" originated and then goes on to state that its use has been rising in popularity, even in areas outside of its place of origin. The text then attributes this rise in popularity to the fact that many varieties of English do not have a pronoun to address more than one person, and thus "you" must function as both a singular and plural pronoun.

Choice A is incorrect because while the text states that "y'all" is used as a plural of "you" in English, it does not discuss other plural forms of the word. Choice C is incorrect because while the text discusses the general origins of the pronoun "y'all," it does not state when the use of the pronoun was first recorded in the English language. Choice D is incorrect because though the text addresses the use of the pronoun "y'all" within English-speaking communities in the US, it does not address its use outside of that geographic area.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8f989580

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8f989580

The ancient writing system used in the Maya kingdoms of southern Mexico and Central America had a symbol for the number zero. The earliest known example of the symbol dates to more than 2,000 years ago. At that time, almost none of the writing systems elsewhere in the world possessed a zero symbol. And the use of zero in Mexico and Central America may be even more ancient. Some historians suggest that Maya mathematicians inherited it from the Olmec civilization, which flourished in the region 2,400–3,600 years ago.

According to the text, what do some historians suggest about Maya civilization?

- A. Maya civilization acquired the use of zero from the Olmec civilization.
- B. Maya civilization respected its historians more than it respected its mathematicians.
- C. Maya civilization was highly secretive about its intellectual achievements.
- D. Maya civilization tried to introduce its writing system to other civilizations.

ID: 8f989580 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

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

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

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4c249e65

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4c249e65

In West Africa, jalis have traditionally been keepers of information about family histories and records of important events. They have often served as teachers and advisers, too. New technologies may have changed some aspects of the role today, but jalis continue to be valued for knowing and protecting their peoples’ stories.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Even though there have been some changes in their role, jalis continue to preserve their communities’ histories.
- B. Although jalis have many roles, many of them like teaching best.
- C. Jalis have been entertaining the people within their communities for centuries.
- D. Technology can now do some of the things jalis used to be responsible for.

ID: 4c249e65 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best states the main idea of the text. According to the text, jalis’ traditional role has been to maintain information about families’ histories and significant events. The text goes on to say that although technological changes have altered jalis’ role somewhat, jalis are still valued for preserving the histories of their communities.

Choice B is incorrect because the text says nothing about jalis’ views of the various tasks they perform. There is no information to support the idea that many jalis prefer teaching to other tasks. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t describe jalis as being sources of entertainment. Rather, jalis are presented as valued sources of knowledge. Additionally, the text gives no indication of how long jalis have been serving their communities. Choice D is incorrect because the main focus of the text is on jalis’ role and their continued value despite the effects of technology, not on what technology can now do. Although the text indicates that jalis’ role has changed as a result of technological changes, the text doesn’t present any specific information about technology performing tasks that jalis once performed.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9dbb7520

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9dbb7520

A subject of much speculation, distinctive sets of parallel ridges mark the icy crust of Europa, Jupiter’s smallest moon. Researchers now claim that the ridges’ formation mechanism mirrors that of a strikingly similar pair on Greenland’s ice sheet. There, surface water seeped through fissures in the sheet and formed a water pocket that subsequently disrupted the overlying ice, forcing fragments of it upward and outward into peaks, as the pocket froze and expanded. Although Europa lacks liquid surface water, the same process could be driven by the moon’s subsurface ocean.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Researchers think that the ridges on Europa and the ridges in Greenland may have been formed by the same process even though Europa, unlike Greenland, doesn’t have liquid water on its surface.
- B. The primary difference between the ridges on Europa and the ridges in Greenland is that unlike the Europa ridges, the Greenland ridges are parallel.
- C. The pair of ridges found on Greenland’s ice sheet appear to have formed long before the recently discovered sets of ridges on Europa formed.
- D. Researchers don’t understand why Europa is marked by so many sets of ridges when the moon doesn’t have any liquid water on its surface that could have collected and expanded under the icy crust.

ID: 9dbb7520 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately states the main idea of the text. The text focuses on formations of parallel ice ridges on Jupiter’s moon Europa that are said to be formed by the same mechanism that formed a parallel set of ridges on Greenland’s ice sheet. The text indicates that in Greenland, water on the surface seeps to the lower portion of the ice sheet, resulting in uplift that creates the ridges, and it states that although Europa lacks liquid water on its surface, the same process could be driven by an ocean below Europa’s surface. In other words, the main idea of the text is that parallel ridges in the ice on Europa and Greenland are likely caused by similar processes even though in Greenland the process begins with liquid water on the surface while Europa lacks liquid water on the surface.

Choice B is incorrect because the text states outright that the ridges on Europa are parallel and furthermore refers to Greenland’s ridges as "strikingly similar" to those on Europa. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no mention of when any of the ice ridges formed, either separately or relative to one another. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not indicate any uncertainty about the reason for the ice ridges on Europa and, in fact, clearly states that researchers now claim to know the mechanism that created the ridges.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ac01e42d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ac01e42d

Algae living within the tissues of corals play a critical role in keeping corals, and the marine ecosystems they are part of, thriving. Some coral species appear brown in color when healthy due to the algae colonies living in their tissues. In the event of an environmental stressor, the algae can die or be expelled, causing the corals to appear white. To recover the algae, the bleached corals then begin to produce bright colors, which block intense sunlight, encouraging the light-sensitive algae to recolonize the corals.

What does the text most strongly suggest about corals that produce bright colors?

- A. These corals have likely been subjected to stressful environmental conditions.
- B. These corals are likely more vulnerable to exposure from intense sunlight than white corals are.
- C. These corals have likely recovered from an environmental event without the assistance of algae colonies.
- D. These corals are more likely to survive without algae colonies than brown corals are.

ID: ac01e42d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text says that corals produce bright colors to block sunlight and encourage algae to recolonize after “an environmental stressor.” From this, we can infer that corals that produce bright colors have probably been subjected to an environmental stressor.

Choice B is incorrect. The text says that corals produce bright colors to block intense sunlight, which protects the light-sensitive algae that keep the coral healthy. In other words, bright colors make the coral’s health less vulnerable to intense sunlight. Choice C is incorrect. The text says that corals produce bright colors to encourage algae to recolonize, not that they have recovered without the assistance of algae colonies. Choice D is incorrect. The text never compares the likelihood of differently colored corals surviving without algae colonies.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3fbbe31f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3fbbe31f

The following text is from Laila Lalami’s 2019 novel *The Other Americans*. The narrator is a member of her middle school’s jazz band.

One day the jazz band was invited to perform at the Summer Festival in Palm Springs. Walking across the stage to the piano, I did what my teacher had advised. Pretend you’re only playing for one person. That way you won’t be so nervous. I glanced at my father, who sat in the front row, leaning his head just so, waiting. Then I closed my eyes, and began to play.

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According to the text, what does the narrator do as she walks across the stage?

- A. She thinks about the differences between playing the piano alone and playing in a band.
- B. She feels excitement about playing in a music festival for the first time.
- C. She remembers how hard she has practiced for the performance.
- D. She follows her teacher’s advice about managing her nervousness.

ID: 3fbbe31f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about what the narrator is doing that is directly supported by the text. According to the text, as the narrator walks across the stage to her piano, she recalls her teacher’s advice to pretend that she is playing for only one person. The text indicates that this advice was intended to help manage any nerves related to performing. Moreover, the text implies that the narrator follows this advice by deciding to focus on her father sitting in the audience. Thus, the text supports the idea that as she walks across the stage, the narrator follows her teacher’s advice about managing her nervousness.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the narrator is thinking about how playing the piano alone is different from playing the piano in a band. Rather, the narrator thinks about her teacher’s advice to pretend that she is playing the piano for only one person to help ease her nervousness about performing. Choice B is incorrect because the text provides no indication that this is the first music festival that the narrator has performed in. Furthermore, the text indicates that the narrator is nervous, not excited, to play the piano at the festival. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that the narrator is remembering how hard she practiced for the performance. Rather, she is thinking about what her teacher told her to do to help ease her nerves about playing the piano in front of an audience.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a80b4c52

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a80b4c52

Since its completion in 2014, Bosco Verticale (Vertical Forest)—a pair of residential towers in Milan, Italy, covered by vegetation—has become a striking symbol of environmental sustainability in architecture. Stefano Boeri intended his design, which features balconies that are home to hundreds of trees, to serve as a model for promoting urban biodiversity. However, the concept has faced skepticism: critics note that although the trees used in Bosco Verticale were specifically cultivated for the project, it’s too early to tell if they can thrive in this unusual setting.

According to the text, why are some critics skeptical of the concept behind Bosco Verticale?

- A. Some essential aspects of Bosco Verticale’s design are difficult to adapt to locations other than Milan.
- B. The plant life on Bosco Verticale ended up being less varied than Boeri had envisioned it would be.
- C. The construction of Bosco Verticale was no less environmentally damaging than the construction of more conventional buildings is.
- D. It is unclear whether Bosco Verticale can support the plant life included in its design.

ID: a80b4c52 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about critics’ skepticism of Bosco Verticale that is supported by the text. The text states that Boeri’s design for Bosco Verticale features hundreds of trees on balconies and is intended to serve as a model for promoting urban biodiversity. But the text goes on to state that some critics believe that it is too early to determine if the trees planted on Bosco Verticale can thrive there. Therefore, according to the text, critics are skeptical of the concept behind Bosco Verticale because it is unclear whether Bosco Verticale can support the plant life included in its design.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that one of Boeri’s goals was for Bosco Verticale to serve as a model for promoting biodiversity in architecture, which suggests that Boeri would likely support the idea of reproducing the same concept in other locations, the text does not discuss whether it is feasible to adapt the design to locations other than Milan. Instead, the text describes critics’ concerns that the plant life that currently exists on Bosco Verticale might not thrive in its current setting. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that one of Boeri’s goals in creating Bosco Verticale was to promote biodiversity, which implies a goal of including varied plant life in the design, it does not mention whether the hundreds of trees that were planted on its balconies failed to meet this goal. Rather, the text states that some critics are concerned that the trees on Bosco Verticale’s balconies may not thrive in this setting. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not mention how Bosco Verticale was constructed, let alone how environmentally destructive its construction may have been relative to the construction of more conventional buildings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 996d7691

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 996d7691

In 2014, Amelia Quon and her team at NASA set out to build a helicopter capable of flying on Mars. Because Mars’s atmosphere is only one percent as dense as Earth’s, the air of Mars would not provide enough resistance to the rotating blades of a standard helicopter for the aircraft to stay aloft. For five years, Quon’s team tested designs in a lab that mimicked Mars’s atmospheric conditions. The craft the team ultimately designed can fly on Mars because its blades are longer and rotate faster than those of a helicopter of the same size built for Earth.

According to the text, why would a helicopter built for Earth be unable to fly on Mars?

- A. Because Mars and Earth have different atmospheric conditions
- B. Because the blades of helicopters built for Earth are too large to work on Mars
- C. Because the gravity of Mars is much weaker than the gravity of Earth
- D. Because helicopters built for Earth are too small to handle the conditions on Mars

ID: 996d7691 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents an explanation about a helicopter that is directly supported by the text. The text states that Mars’s atmosphere is much less dense than Earth’s, and as a result, the air on Mars doesn’t provide the resistance required to support the blades of a helicopter built for Earth and to keep the helicopter aloft. In other words, a helicopter built for Earth can’t fly on Mars because of the differences in the two planets’ atmospheres.

Choice B is incorrect because instead of stating that the blades of helicopters built for Earth are too large to work on Mars, the text indicates that the helicopter built to fly on Mars actually has even longer blades than a helicopter built for Earth. Choice C is incorrect because the text never addresses the role of gravity on Mars or on Earth; instead, it focuses on atmospheric conditions. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that helicopters built for Earth are too small to operate in the conditions on Mars. In fact, the text states that the size of the helicopter built to fly on Mars is the same size as a helicopter built for Earth, even though it has longer blades that rotate faster.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5a75bc29

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5a75bc29

The following text is adapted from Frances Hodgson Burnett’s 1911 novel *The Secret Garden*. Mary, a young girl, recently found an overgrown hidden garden.

Mary was an odd, determined little person, and now she had something interesting to be determined about, she was very much absorbed, indeed. She worked and dug and pulled up weeds steadily, only becoming more pleased with her work every hour instead of tiring of it. It seemed to her like a fascinating sort of play.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Mary hides in the garden to avoid doing her chores.
- B. Mary is getting bored with pulling up so many weeds in the garden.
- C. Mary is clearing out the garden to create a space to play.
- D. Mary feels very satisfied when she’s taking care of the garden.

ID: 5a75bc29 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text describes Mary’s activities in an overgrown hidden garden, saying that she was “very much absorbed” and was “only becoming more pleased with her work every hour” rather than getting tired of it. She also thinks of garden activities as a “fascinating sort of play.” Thus, the main idea of the text is that Mary feels very satisfied when taking care of the garden.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never makes any mention of Mary’s chores. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that Mary finds pulling up weeds to be fascinating, not boring. Choice C is incorrect because Mary thinks of garden activities in and of themselves as play, not as something necessary to do to create a space to play.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 33d07ae1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 33d07ae1

The following text is adapted from Countee Cullen’s 1926 poem “Thoughts in a Zoo.”

They in their cruel traps, and we in ours,
Survey each other’s rage, and pass the hours
Commiserating each the other’s woe,
To mitigate his own pain’s fiery glow.
Man could but little proffer in exchange
Save that his cages have a larger range.
That lion with his lordly, untamed heart
Has in some man his human counterpart,
Some lofty soul in dreams and visions wrapped,
But in the stifling flesh securely trapped.

Based on the text, what challenge do humans sometimes experience?

- A. They cannot effectively tame certain wild animals because of a lack of compassion.
- B. They cannot focus on setting attainable goals because of a lack of motivation.
- C. They quickly become frustrated when faced with difficult tasks because of a lack of self-control.
- D. They have aspirations that cannot be fulfilled because of certain limitations.

ID: 33d07ae1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text metaphorically likens humans to animals in a zoo, suggesting that humans have dreams that they cannot fulfill because they are trapped.

Choice A is incorrect. The speaker says that the lion has an “untamed heart,” but the speaker doesn’t actually mention anything about humans taming wild animals or a lack of compassion. Choice B is incorrect. The speaker doesn’t suggest that humans lack motivation. Rather, the speaker thinks that humans are “trapped” and prevented from achieving their dreams. Choice C is incorrect. The speaker doesn’t mention anything about humans becoming frustrated or lacking self-control. Rather, the speaker thinks that humans are “trapped” and prevented from achieving their dreams.

Question Difficulty: Medium