Question ID 4f37c2a3

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

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would have remained insignificant were it not for Venezuelan revolutionary Francisco de Miranda, who was handed the unpublished letter after Viscardo’s death.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.

Question ID 30ed228d

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

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.

Question ID 85026120

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

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.

Question ID f03c06a0

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

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.

Question ID 63f5df37

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

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.

Question ID b05dc884

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

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.

Question ID 65fe215b

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

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.

Question ID 601865dc

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

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.

Question ID bfd616cb

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

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.

Question ID 83e30628

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

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.

Question ID 4e2de1c4

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

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.

Question ID 9c34527e

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

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.

Question ID b433f1f5

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

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.

Question ID 0c04ab16

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

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.

Question ID 9fb642f0

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

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.

Question ID 04c42a09

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

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.

Question ID 40f85228

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

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.

Question ID 1c3de414

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

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.

Question ID 373f503e

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

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.

Question ID 84abce3e

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

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.

Question ID 83aee444

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

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.

Question ID 2c1d7966

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

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.

Question ID 4480b74b

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

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.

Question ID 650a2b04

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

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.

Question ID 6a40bde7

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

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.

Question ID d60cc9fa

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

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.

Question ID b69b512b

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

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.

Question ID 25311ea7

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

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.

Question ID 12287bfc

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

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.

Question ID 95487550

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

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

Question ID b9f65cd9

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

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.

Question ID 57fda702

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

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.

Question ID f5b7d74f

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

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.

Question ID dad72da6

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

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.

Question ID a2fa3c42

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

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

Question ID 24577960

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

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.

Question ID a147299d

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

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.

Question ID 1d7dbd81

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

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.

Question ID 4eab98a3

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

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.

Question ID 6151a032

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

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.

Question ID 1d58e4d8

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

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.

Question ID 4048da03

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

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?

Question ID 8f989580

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

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.

Question ID 4c249e65

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

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.

Question ID 9dbb7520

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

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.

Question ID ac01e42d

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

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.

Question ID 3fbbe31f

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

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.
>
> ©2019 by Laila Lalami

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.

Question ID a80b4c52

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

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.

Question ID 996d7691

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

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

Question ID 5a75bc29

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

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.

Question ID 33d07ae1

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

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.