

Question ID 6be6ffdd

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

ID: 6be6ffdd

Archaeologist Christiana Kohler and her team excavated the Egyptian tomb of Queen Merneith, the wife of a First Dynasty pharaoh. Some scholars claim that she also ruled Egypt on her own and was actually the first female pharaoh. The team found a tablet in Merneith’s tomb with writing suggesting that she was in charge of the country’s treasury and other central offices. Whether Merneith was a pharaoh or not, this discovery supports the idea that Merneith likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. had an important role in Egypt’s government.
- B. lived after rather than before the First Dynasty of Egypt.
- C. traveled beyond Egypt’s borders often.
- D. created a new form of writing in Egypt.

ID: 6be6ffdd Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the evidence found in Queen Merneith’s tomb. The text begins by mentioning archaeologists’ efforts to excavate the tomb of Queen Merneith, the wife of a pharaoh who some scholars think was actually the first female pharaoh. The text states that a tablet discovered in her tomb suggests she "was in charge of the country’s treasury and other central offices," which supports the idea that she had an important role in Egypt’s government.

Choice B is incorrect because since the text explicitly states that Merneith’s husband was a First Dynasty pharaoh, it can be inferred that she lived during the First Dynasty, not after it. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not provide any evidence that Merneith traveled beyond Egypt’s borders often. The text is focused on the archaeological discovery in her tomb and the implications about her potential role as a ruler in Egypt but does not mention anything about her traveling habits. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not mention anything about Merneith creating a new form of writing in Egypt. The text discusses the discovery of a tablet with writing suggesting her governmental role but does not imply that this writing represented a new form created by Merneith.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 81656faf

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

ID: 81656faf

In many cultures, a handshake can create trust between people. Engineer João Avelino and his team are designing a robot to shake hands with a human in order to improve human-robot interactions. The robot hand adjusts its movements and pressure to better imitate the feel of a human hand. The researchers want the robot’s handshake to feel realistic because _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. lifelike handshakes may make people more comfortable interacting with robots.
- B. it’s easier to program a robot to perform handshakes than it is to program a robot to perform some other types of greetings.
- C. people are less likely to interact with robots that don’t look like humans.
- D. the robot in the researchers’ study may have uses other than interacting with humans.

ID: 81656faf Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text says that handshakes create trust, and that the engineers’ goal is to “improve human-robot interactions.” This suggests that they want the robot’s handshake to feel real because they want humans to trust the robot.

Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses any other types of greetings, so there is no basis to make this inference. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses the appearance of this robot or any other robots, so there is no basis to make this inference. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses any uses for the robot other than interacting with humans, so there is no basis to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID db7c6192

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

ID: db7c6192

A typical string quartet consists of two violin players, a viola player, and a cello player. When a string quartet performs, one violinist and the cellist usually sit facing the audience. The violist and the other violinist usually sit facing each other. This seating arrangement causes the viola’s carved sound openings, or f-holes, to be angled away from the audience. Therefore, if the viola player has a musical solo and wants to make sure that the audience can hear it clearly, the violist typically _____

- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. instructs the other members of the quartet to play louder.
 - B. plays at the same volume as the cellist.
 - C. shifts position in order to face outwards toward the audience.
 - D. looks at the sheet music instead of looking at the audience.

ID: db7c6192 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how a violist in a string quartet might behave to ensure their instrument can be heard clearly by the audience during a solo. According to the text, such quartets consist of two violins, a viola, and a cello, configured as follows: the cellist and one of the violinists both face the audience, while the other violinist and the violist face each other. In other words, the viola and its f-holes, or sound openings, are “angled away from the audience,” just as the musician playing the instrument is. As the text implies, the f-holes are crucial for projecting sound, so this positioning reduces the volume of the viola as perceived by the audience and in turn presents a dilemma during a solo, in which the viola should be heard clearly above the other instruments in the quartet. Therefore, during a viola solo, the violist would most logically adjust their position and face the audience directly, thereby projecting the sound emerging from the instrument’s f-holes toward listeners. This adjustment would maximize the viola’s sound for the benefit of the audience for the duration of the solo.

Choice A is incorrect because the text’s discussion is about how a violist in a string quartet behaves to ensure that their instrument can be heard clearly by the audience during a solo, given the orientation of this instrument in a typical string quartet configuration, and a soloist would want the viola to be more prominent relative to the other instruments in this context, not less prominent. Therefore, it wouldn’t be sensible for the violist to instruct the other members of the quartet to play louder during the solo. Choice B is incorrect because the text’s discussion is about how a violist behaves to ensure that their instrument can be heard clearly by the audience during a solo, given the orientation of this instrument in a typical string quartet configuration, and a violist would want the viola to be more prominent and therefore louder relative to all the other instruments. Therefore, it wouldn’t be sensible for the violist to play at the same volume as the cellist during a solo. Choice D is incorrect. While a violist might very well look at the sheet music during a solo to ensure they are playing the piece correctly, the direction that a musician looks in doesn’t determine how effectively the sound of their instrument is projected to the audience. If, as the text stipulates, a violist wants to ensure that their instrument can be heard clearly, given the orientation of the viola in the typical seating configuration of

a string quartet, then the violist would likely change their physical orientation, facing toward the audience and therefore angling the viola's f-holes in that direction during the solo.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 83a521c9

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

ID: 83a521c9

Researchers Eugeni Vidal-Tortosa and Robin Lovelace looked at the relationship between street lighting in a city and people’s willingness to ride a bicycle. Their results suggest that poor street lighting can deter new or inexperienced cyclists from riding in a city but has little effect on experienced cyclists. Therefore, increasing the number of streetlights in a city could potentially _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. decrease the number of new or inexperienced cyclists riding in the city.
- B. increase the number of experienced cyclists riding in the city.
- C. decrease the number of experienced cyclists riding in the city.
- D. increase the number of new or inexperienced cyclists riding in the city.

ID: 83a521c9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the relationship between street lighting and people’s cycling behavior. According to the text, Eugeni Vidal-Tortosa and Robin Lovelace found that poor street lighting deters new or inexperienced cyclists from riding their bikes in a city but has little effect on experienced cyclists. This finding establishes a causal relationship between street lighting and the willingness of new or inexperienced cyclists to ride a bicycle in the city: if poor lighting discourages new or inexperienced cyclists from riding, then improving lighting conditions by increasing the number of streetlights would logically remove this deterrent, potentially leading to an increase in the number of new or inexperienced cyclists willing to ride in the city.

Choice A is incorrect because it contradicts the logical relationship established in the text. If poor street lighting deters new or inexperienced cyclists from riding in the city, then increasing the number of streetlights (improving lighting conditions) would be expected to encourage more of these cyclists to ride, not decrease their numbers. Choice B is incorrect because the text explicitly states that street lighting didn’t have an effect on experienced cyclists. If lighting conditions don’t significantly influence experienced cyclists’ decisions to ride, then increasing the number of streetlights wouldn’t necessarily increase the number of experienced cyclists riding in the city. Choice C is incorrect. The text indicates that street lighting didn’t affect experienced cyclists, so increasing the number of streetlights wouldn’t decrease the participation of these cyclists. Instead, their numbers would be expected to remain about the same.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bafb715e

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

ID: bafb715e

One aspect of in-person shopping that online shopping can't replicate is the opportunity to touch a product before buying it. Does this difference matter? In an experiment, researchers asked one group of participants to touch a mug and a toy, while another group was prohibited from touching the two items. The participants were then asked how much money they'd pay for the items. People who got to touch the items were willing to pay much more money for them than were people who weren't allowed to touch the items. This finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. people who mainly shop online probably spend more money every month than people who mainly shop in person do.
- B. in-person shopping may make products seem more valuable than they seem if only viewed online.
- C. retailers with in-person and online stores should charge the same price for a given product in both places.
- D. online retailers may be able to raise the prices they charge for products that are only available online.

ID: bafb715e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text tells us that "people who got to touch the items were willing to pay much more money for them than people who weren't allowed to touch" them. This suggests that being able to interact with a product in person may make it seem more valuable to a shopper.

Choice A is incorrect. The text doesn't discuss how much people spend each month, so there's not much basis for this claim. Furthermore, since being able to touch a product tends to make people "willing to pay much more money" for it, we might predict that an online shopper would be willing to spend less on the same purchases as an in-person shopper. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't discuss what retailers "should charge," so there's not much basis for this claim. Furthermore, the study in the text suggests that in-person stores may actually be able to charge more for a given product, since shoppers can touch it. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't discuss products that are only available online, so there's not much basis for this claim. Furthermore, products only available online would still have the problem of shoppers not being able to touch them, and the study suggests that this lowers the prices shoppers are willing to pay.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6e51c9f5

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

ID: 6e51c9f5

If an animal has been extinct for a long time, how can scientists learn what color it was? One group of scientists came up with a possible answer. When the scientists examined the fossilized feather of an extinct bird, they found melanosomes in it. Melanosomes produce pigment, or grains of color, inside cells. Because melanosomes are shaped differently depending on which colors they produce, the scientists hypothesized that they could _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. show how melanosomes can be found in fossils belonging to animals from other extinct species.
- B. determine the colors of the bird based on the appearance of the melanosomes in the feather.
- C. explain why the melanosomes in the feather were so well preserved.
- D. identify the colors of extinct animals whose fossils lack melanosomes.

ID: 6e51c9f5 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of a hypothesis by one group of scientists about how to determine the colors of a long-extinct animal. The text explains that the scientists found melanosomes in the fossilized feather of an extinct bird and that melanosomes are responsible for producing color inside cells. The text also explains that melanosomes have different shapes depending on the colors they produce. Given this information, it follows that the scientists hypothesized that they could determine the colors of the extinct bird by examining the shapes of the melanosomes in the feather.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never suggests that the scientists were seeking to show how melanosomes can be found in fossils belonging to animals from other extinct species. Rather, the text indicates that the scientists were seeking to identify an extinct bird’s colors, and the text strongly suggests that the scientists hypothesized that they could achieve their goal by examining the shapes of the melanosomes in the bird’s fossilized feather. Choice C is incorrect because the text never suggests that the scientists were seeking to explain why the melanosomes in the feather were so well preserved. Rather, the text indicates that the scientists were seeking to identify an extinct bird’s colors, and the text strongly suggests that the scientists hypothesized that they could achieve their goal by examining the shapes of the melanosomes in the bird’s fossilized feather. Choice D is incorrect because the text suggests only one method of identifying the colors of extinct animals: by examining the shapes of melanosomes found in fossils. The text doesn’t discuss other methods for learning the colors of extinct animals and therefore provides no support for the idea that the scientists could identify the colors of extinct animals whose fossils lack melanosomes.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 5214212b

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

ID: 5214212b

Georgia Douglas Johnson wrote many plays in the 1920s and 1930s. At the time, professional theater companies rarely put on plays by Black women, so few of Johnson’s plays made it to the stage. Only a small number of her plays were published in her lifetime. But that doesn’t mean that Johnson never learned what other people thought of her plays. Johnson hosted weekly get-togethers for fellow Black writers and artists in her Washington, DC, home. Attendees would read and discuss one another’s work, including Johnson’s own. These gatherings could therefore serve as _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. an occasion for professional theater companies to put on plays.
- B. an opportunity for Johnson to get feedback on her plays.
- C. a way for Johnson to learn about plays that were produced in other cities.
- D. subject matter for future plays by Johnson.

ID: 5214212b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Georgia Douglas Johnson. The text explains that Johnson wrote many plays, but few of her plays were staged or published. Although this may suggest that Johnson was therefore prevented from learning what others thought of her work, the text goes on to explain that she regularly met with other Black writers and artists to discuss their work, including her own. Thus, these get-togethers could have served as a chance for Johnson to get feedback on her work.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that professional theater companies put on plays at Johnson’s get-togethers. Instead, the text explains that the gatherings were an opportunity for Black writers and artists to discuss their own work at Johnson’s home. In addition, the text indicates that during the 1920s and 1930s, professional theater companies rarely put on plays by Black women. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention plays produced in other cities and instead only states that the writers and artists attending her get-togethers were meeting in Washington, DC, to discuss their own work. The text doesn’t indicate what kinds of work the attendees were sharing or where those works had been produced. Choice D is incorrect. Although some of the discussions held during the gatherings at Johnson’s home may have inspired her writing, there’s nothing in the text to support that this occurred. Instead, the text characterizes the gatherings as an opportunity to read and discuss one another’s work, which would have given Johnson the chance to get feedback on her plays.

Question Difficulty: Easy