Question ID 3a203189

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

ID: 3a203189

The musical *Hadestown* was produced off-Broadway in New York in 2016. A revised version of the musical premiered on Broadway in 2019, in a larger production. In a review of the Broadway production, theater critic Jesse Green enthusiastically praised the musical's storytelling. However, Green also explained that he had seen the earlier version of *Hadestown* in 2016 and had found the storytelling to be very confusing. This suggests that in Green's view, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the 2016 version of *Hadestown* had fewer storytelling problems than the 2019 version did.

B. *Hadestown* should have had a larger production in 2019 than it actually did.

C. the 2019 version of *Hadestown* was less enjoyable than the 2016 version.

D. *Hadestown* improved greatly between 2016 and its premiere on Broadway.

ID: 3a203189 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of critic Jesse Green's review of the 2016 and 2019 productions of *Hadestown*. The text states that Green found the storytelling in the 2016 off-Broadway version to be "very confusing" but that he "enthusiastically praised" the storytelling in the revised 2019 Broadway version. This stark contrast in Green's opinions suggests that he believed the musical had significantly improved between 2016 and its 2019 Broadway premiere.

Choice A is incorrect because it contradicts the information in the text. The text indicates that Green found the storytelling in the 2016 version to be "very confusing," while he "enthusiastically praised" the storytelling in the 2019 version. This suggests that the 2019 version had fewer, not more, storytelling problems. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't provide any information about Green's opinion on the size of the 2019 Broadway production. While it mentions that the 2019 production was larger than the 2016 production, there's no indication in the text that Green thought the 2019 production should have been even larger than it was. Choice C is incorrect because it contradicts the information in the text. The text's description of Green's enthusiastic praise for the 2019 production suggests that he found this version more enjoyable, not less enjoyable, than the 2016 version, which he described as "very confusing."

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a95dc146

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

ID: a95dc146

Colonized by Spain in the 1600s, New Mexico is home to a dialect of Spanish that differs significantly from dialects spoken in Spain's other former colonies in the Americas. Most notably, the New Mexican dialect retains older features of the language that other dialects lost in later centuries. But why would it have done so? New Mexico was so distant from population centers in Spain's other colonies that it attracted few colonists after its initial colonization. Geographical isolation in turn would have limited the exposure of New Mexican colonists to changes occurring to Spanish grammar and vocabulary elsewhere in the empire. Thus, the present-day uniqueness of the New Mexican dialect suggests the extent to which _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. a language can protect itself from being influenced by other languages.

B. the grammar and vocabulary of any given language change from one generation to the next.

C. geographical isolation can influence how a language develops.

D. speakers of one dialect of a language can understand speakers of another dialect of that language.

ID: a95dc146 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it is the choice that most logically completes the text. The text mentions a dialect of Spanish spoken in New Mexico, which was colonized by Spain in the 1600s. The text then states that the New Mexican dialect differs greatly from other Spanish dialects in that it still has characteristics of an older Spanish that other dialects eventually lost. After asking why this might be, the text points out that the New Mexico colony was distant from Spain's other colonies, making it less attractive to colonists after the initial colonization. This geographic isolation limited the colony's exposure to other Spanish colonists who would have otherwise introduced the changes to the Spanish language that occurred in their respective colonies. It can therefore be inferred that this isolation is a reason why the New Mexican dialect still has characteristics of an older Spanish, while the Spanish dialects spoken in less isolated areas that have more interaction with speakers of other dialects would lose those characteristics over time. Thus, the most logical completion of the text is that geographical isolation can influence how a language develops.

Choice A is incorrect because the text discusses different dialects of Spanish, not different languages altogether. Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses on how the New Mexican dialect has stayed the same over time in some ways, not on how it has changed from one generation to the next. Choice D is incorrect because though the text discusses how the New Mexican dialect of Spanish is different from others, it does not discuss how speakers of different dialects are able to understand each other.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 64f41ce4

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

ID: 64f41ce4

A main goal of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), an arts organization founded in 1965, is to advance new works by Black musicians. The AACM achieves this goal in part by focusing on young artists. By having established musicians and composers serve as mentors, the AACM gives young artists the benefits of expert technical training and creative guidance. Numerous organizations offer similar kinds of support to new generations of painters, writers, and other artists, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. artists of all ages benefit more from technical training than from creative guidance.

B. many arts organizations recognize the importance of providing opportunities for young artists to learn from experienced mentors.

C. most established artists could become even better artists by serving as mentors.

D. finding a mentor is more important for musicians than it is for painters, writers, and other types of artists.

ID: 64f41ce4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the relationship between the AACM's use of mentors to support young Black musicians and similar support that other organizations offer their young artists. According to the text, in service of AACM's goal to support new works by Black musicians, AACM mentors provide beneficial training and guidance to young artists. The text goes on to say that many other art organizations support new artists in similar ways, suggesting that these organizations recognize the importance of providing opportunities for young artists to learn from mentors who are established in their field.

Choice A is incorrect because the text gives no indication that technical training is more beneficial than creative guidance. The text states that AACM mentors offer both technical training and creative guidance to young artists and that other arts organizations offer similar kinds of support; however, nothing in the text suggests that young artists, or artists of any age, benefit more from technical training. Choice C is incorrect because the text is mainly concerned with the fact that established artists are mentoring young artists through AACM and other arts organizations. The text states that young musicians benefit from AACM mentors but does not address what mentors gain from the relationship, so there is no reason to conclude that most established artists could improve as artists by serving as mentors. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that mentors are beneficial to young musicians and that young people pursuing other kinds of art (including painting and writing) can also find mentors through arts organizations, the text gives no indication that mentors are more important for musicians than for other types of artists.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 58a42665

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

ID: 58a42665

To create the poems in her 2017 collection *One Last Word*, poet Nikki Grimes used a writing method called the golden shovel. This method often involves choosing a line from an existing poem and then using each word from that line as the last word of each line in a new poem. Grimes wanted the poems in *One Last Word* to honor important Black poets of the past, so she chose lines by poets such as Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson. Writing in this way can be challenging and might seem as though it would produce awkward poems. However, reviewers praised *One Last Word* as a beautiful and powerful tribute to the poets who inspired it. This reaction suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. most reviewers didn't understand Grimes's goal for *One Last Word*.

B. Grimes successfully used the golden shovel method to achieve her goal for *One Last Word*.

C. Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson are two of Grimes's favorite poets.

D. Grimes inspired many other writers to create poems using the golden shovel method.

ID: 58a42665 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Nikki Grimes's poetry collection *One Last Word*. The text explains that Grimes used a writing method called the golden shovel to create the poems in her book. According to the text, the method involves basing a new poem on a line from an existing poem. The text then mentions Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson as examples of important Black poets whose lines of poetry form the basis of Grimes's poems. The text goes on to say that this writing method is difficult and that the resulting poems can be awkward, but reviewers have positively reviewed Grimes's book. If the reviewers of *One Last Word* specifically note that the work is a "beautiful and powerful tribute to the poets who inspired it," then they must have appreciated how Grimes used the golden shovel method to pay tribute to other poets. This suggests that Grimes was successful in using the golden shovel method to achieve her goal of honoring Black poets in her book.

Choice A is incorrect because the reaction suggests that most reviewers did understand Grimes's goal for her book. According to the text, the reviewers noted that the poems in her book were a "beautiful and powerful tribute to the poets who inspired it." Earlier, the text claims that Grimes intended the poems "to honor important Black poets of the past," so in their praise of her book, the reviewers clearly indicated that they understood Grimes's goal. Choice C is incorrect. Although it's likely that Grimes sought to honor Hughes and Johnson in her book of poetry because they're among her favorite poets, this fact isn't suggested by the reviewers' positive reaction to her book. Instead, the reaction suggests that Grimes was successful in her use of the golden shovel method. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss whether other writers were inspired by Grimes to use the golden shovel method in their poetry. The text mentions the poets Hughes and Johnson as examples of poets honored in Grimes's book and describes reviewers' positive reception of her book, but it doesn't detail Grimes's impact on other writers.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bf0520d0

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

ID: bf0520d0

During the Bourbon Restoration in France (1814–1830), the right to vote required in part that a person paid at least 300 francs in direct taxes to the government. The four most common taxes (the *quatre vieilles*) were levied on real estate (both land and buildings); the doors and windows in taxpayer homes; the rental values of homes; and the businesses of artisans and merchants. (Foreign investments were either exempt from taxation or taxed lightly.) Although relatively few people paid the tax on real estate, it was the main means of voter qualification and accounted for over two-thirds of government receipts during this period, suggesting that during the Bourbon Restoration _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. those people who had the right to vote most likely had substantial holdings of French real estate.

B. the voting habits of French artisans and merchants were effective in reducing tax burdens on businesses.

C. the number of doors and windows in French residences was kept to a minimum but increased after 1830.

D. French people with significant foreign investments were unlikely to have the right to vote.

ID: bf0520d0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. We're told that people needed to pay "at least 300 francs in direct taxes" to be able to vote. We're also told that, while "relatively few people paid the tax on real estate," real estate taxes were both the main way people qualified to vote and the main source of revenue for the government. Based on this, we can infer that those who did qualify to vote likely had significant French real estate holdings.

Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the voting habits of artisans and merchants nor any reduction in tax burdens on businesses, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. Although we know that doors and windows were taxed during the Bourbon Restoration, we don't have enough information to infer if doors and windows increased after this time. Choice D is incorrect. Although we know that foreign investments were only minimally taxed, we don't have enough information to determine if those with significant foreign investments were unlikely to have voting rights. For example, it's possible that those with significant foreign investments were likely to also be people with significant domestic investments which they did pay taxes on, so we don't have the information necessary to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID dc3d5510

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

ID: dc3d5510

In a study of the mechanisms underlying associative memory—or the ability to learn and remember connections between inherently unrelated things—neuroscientists Kei Igarashi, Jasmine Chavez, and others presented mice with memory tests. The team discovered that fan cells, a type of cell found in the medial temporal lobe of the brain, are necessary for the acquisition of new associative memories. They also found that fan cell activity requires dopamine, a chemical the brain produces in response to pleasure and rewards. Consequently, receiving a reward should likely help to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. decrease an individual's capacity to utilize dopamine.

B. increase an individual's capacity to recognize differences between unrelated things.

C. increase an individual's capacity to form associative memories.

D. decrease an individual's capacity to create fan cells.

ID: dc3d5510 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the mechanisms underlying associative memory. The text explains that fan cells—a type of brain cell—are necessary for the acquisition of new associative memories, and that activity among these cells requires a chemical known as dopamine, which the brain produces in response to rewards. Since the brain cells that enable the formation of associative memories require dopamine in order to function, and since the brain produces dopamine in response to rewards, it can be inferred that receiving a reward should likely help to increase an individual's capacity to form associative memories.

Choice A is incorrect because the relationship between rewards and dopamine sketched by the text is that rewards result in the production of dopamine, not that they cause an individual's capacity to utilize dopamine to decrease. Choice B is incorrect. The text suggests that receiving a reward would produce dopamine and thereby assist with associative memory formation. However, the text never suggests that associative memory involves the capacity to recognize differences between unrelated things, indicating only that associative memory involves remembering what connects those things. Choice D is incorrect because the text never discusses how fan cells are initially created and therefore provides no evidence for a conclusion about how receiving a reward would affect their creation.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 37dd1c8f

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

ID: 37dd1c8f

The Haitian Declaration of Independence was issued in 1804, bringing to an end the revolution against colonial France that began in 1791. Written in French, which was not the first language of most Haitians but which was used throughout Europe as the language of international diplomacy, the declaration notes that Haiti will not bring rebellion to other Caribbean nations, promises to respect the sovereignty of its neighbors—widely understood as a reassurance to the United States—and sets up Haiti as an example for future struggles against colonizers (an implicit reference to the many colonies then found in the Americas). So even though the declaration is explicitly addressed to the Haitian people, it's reasonable to conclude that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. aspects of the declaration were modeled on similar documents from other countries.

B. the French government may have been surprised by the declaration.

C. many Haitian people opposed the revolution and the declaration.

D. the declaration actually had several intended audiences.

ID: 37dd1c8f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the Haitian Declaration of Independence. According to the text, the declaration was written in French (a language important to European diplomacy but not to most Haitians) and brought an end to the revolution against colonial France. The text goes on to note that the declaration contained several assurances that Haiti would "respect the sovereignty of its neighbors" and characterizes this as a form of reassurance to the United States. The text also points out that the declaration describes Haiti as an example for future struggles against colonizers, including those still in the Americas at the time. These examples illustrate that the declaration had widespread implications and was likely intended for several audiences, including the United States and nearby colonies.

Choice A is incorrect because the Haitian Declaration of Independence is the only document discussed in the text. Although it's possible that the declaration was modeled on similar documents from other countries, there's no information in the text about other documents that would support this conclusion. Choice B is incorrect. Although there's an implicit reference to European governments when the text discusses how the declaration was written in French, "the language of international diplomacy," the text doesn't discuss the French government's response to the declaration; instead, the text focuses on the contents of the declaration and its possible audiences. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses on the contents of the Haitian Declaration of Independence and its possible audiences. There is no information in the text to support a conclusion about how the Haitian people felt about the declaration or the revolution.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 10c9a0e3

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

ID: 10c9a0e3

Researchers wanted to study how consumers' reactions to an ad may be affected by other ads. The researchers began by showing study participants an ad for a product, with some seeing a less detailed ad and others seeing a more detailed one. Then, all participants viewed the same second ad for a store and shared their opinion of the store based on this second ad. Participants who had first seen an ad less detailed than the second ad had a higher opinion of the store than the participants who had first seen a more detailed ad. The researchers concluded that reactions to an ad may be affected by _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the number of people who viewed the ad.

B. the length of time viewing previous ads.

C. the amount of detail viewed in previous ads.

D. the time of day that the ad is viewed.

ID: 10c9a0e3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The passage tells us that participants who had seen a less detailed ad for a product beforehand had a higher opinion of the store than those who had seen a more detailed ad. This suggests that reactions to an ad may be affected by the amount of detail viewed in previous ads.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the number of people who viewed the ad, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the length of time viewing previous ads, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention the time of day that the ad is viewed, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5aa0f950

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

ID: 5aa0f950

Songbirds learn to respond to and imitate their species' songs from an early age. With each generation, small differences are introduced that result in distinct variations—called dialects—among geographically isolated populations of the same species. A research study examined whether twelve-day-old *Ficedula hypoleuca* (pied flycatcher) nestlings prefer local dialects over the unfamiliar dialects of nonlocal *F. hypoleuca* populations: the more begging calls the nestlings made in response to a song, the stronger their preference. The researchers found that nestlings produced more begging calls in response to their own dialect than to nonlocal dialects. Since song preference plays a role in songbird mate selection, the finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings' preference for their own dialect likely disappears as they mature to promote socialization between different *F. hypoleuca* populations.

B. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings who show an early preference for their own dialect are likely to receive more food from their caretakers than nestlings who show no preferences among any *F. hypoleuca* dialects.

C. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings' preference for their own dialect likely drives them when they mature to reproduce with other *F. hypoleuca* from local rather than nonlocal populations.

D. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings show a preference for both local *F. hypoleuca* dialects and the songs of other local songbirds over the songs of nonlocal birds of any species.

ID: 5aa0f950 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. Because "song preference plays a role in songbird mate selection," and because *F. hypoleuca* nestlings display a preference for local dialects, we can infer that they will be more likely to choose mates from local populations.

Choice A is incorrect. We don't have any information suggesting that this preference disappears, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice B is incorrect. Although the passage discusses the number of begging calls made in response to various *F. hypoleuca* dialects, no mention is made about the amount of food received based on dialect preference. Therefore, there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. There's no mention in the passage of methods of other types of local songbirds, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a98a3255

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

ID: a98a3255

Over 600 languages are spoken in New York City in addition to English—one can find Amharic spoken in the neighborhood of Norwood, or Ilocano in Woodside. Most speakers of Chinese languages reside in the neighborhood of Flushing (part of New York City's borough of Queens) and in Chinatown, in the borough of Manhattan. New immigrants from north China, where Mandarin is the primary first language, tend to settle in Queens, while new immigrants from south China, where many people speak Cantonese or Fuzhounese as a first language, tend to settle in Manhattan. It can therefore be inferred that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. languages tend to change more rapidly in areas where many languages are spoken than in areas where few languages are spoken.

B. languages spoken by immigrant peoples can differ significantly in vocabulary and pronunciation from those same languages in their country of origin.

C. there is a positive correlation between the physical size of a country and the number of languages spoken in that country.

D. correlations in a country between languages and regions where they are spoken can replicate themselves in a new country to which the original country's citizens emigrate.

ID: a98a3255 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it logically completes the text's discussion of patterns of linguistic distribution in New York City. The text explains how Chinese immigrants in New York City tend to settle in different boroughs based on their region of origin in China: those from north China (Mandarin speakers) typically settle in Queens, while those from south China (Cantonese or Fuzhounese speakers) typically settle in Manhattan. This pattern demonstrates that the regional language distribution in China (north versus south) has reproduced itself in New York City (Queens versus Manhattan). Therefore, it can be reasonably inferred that correlations between languages and regions in one country can replicate themselves when citizens of that country emigrate to a new country.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss rates of language change. The text indicates that many languages are spoken in New York City, but it doesn't provide any information about how quickly these languages might be changing, either in relation to each other or compared to areas where fewer languages are spoken. Choice B is incorrect because the text provides no information about changes in vocabulary or pronunciation of immigrant languages compared to their original forms. The text only discusses where different groups of language speakers tend to settle, not how their languages might have evolved after immigration. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't provide any information about a relationship between a country's physical size and the number of languages spoken there. While the text mentions that over 600 languages are spoken in New York City, it doesn't relate this to the physical size of New York or the United States, nor does it suggest that large countries like China have more languages than geographically smaller countries.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9226b546

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

ID: 9226b546

The ancient Sumerian civilization formed around 4000 BCE between two large rivers in an area that is now Iraq and Syria. The extremely hot and sunny weather in that area helped crops grow very quickly, but it also made it hard to keep the crops from drying up and dying. So, the Sumerians used water from the rivers in their farming. That method worked so well that they often could harvest even more crops than they needed in a season. As a result, the Sumerians _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. harvested crops only on the hottest days of each season.

B. found ways to shield their crops from the sun.

C. did not begin farming until long after 4000 BCE.

D. were able to store extra crops for later use.

ID: 9226b546 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text's discussion of Sumerian civilization and crop growth. The text mentions the hot, sunny weather in the area where the Sumerians lived, which made crops grow quickly but also made it difficult to keep them alive. The Sumerians solved this problem by using river water for their farming—as a result, they often harvested more crops than were needed in a season. It follows that the Sumerians must have needed to find something to do with the surplus crops—that is, they stored the extra crops for later use.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't logically follow that a surplus in crops would lead the Sumerians to choose only certain days of the season to harvest. Nor is there any indication in the text that the Sumerians improved their farming methods with the goal of reducing the time spent farming. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the Sumerians tried to shield their crops from the sun: in fact, the text indicates that the sunny weather helped crops grow very quickly and that the Sumerians used river water to allow crops to be exposed to the sun without dying. Choice C is incorrect. Having a surplus of crops wouldn't have caused the Sumerians to begin farming until long after 4000 BCE: in fact, since the text indicates that the Sumerian civilization formed around 4000 BCE and farming was a part of that civilization, the statement that Sumerians only began farming long after 4000 BCE isn't supported by the text.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID da5a97e5

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

ID: da5a97e5

Narwhals are shy whales that live in the remote Arctic Ocean. Some of them have a long tusk, like a unicorn horn, with sensitive nerves. Narwhals are known for this tusk, but many actually don't have one and its purpose is unknown. One group of scientists came up with a possible purpose in 2014. The scientists suggested that the tusk may help narwhals determine when water around them is likely to start freezing and become dangerous for them. Marine biologist Kristin Laidre disagrees with that idea, though. She reasons that if the narwhal's tusk serves such an important purpose, then it's most likely that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. some narwhals would seek a new habitat.

B. fewer marine animals would also have tusks.

C. more narwhals would have a tusk.

D. narwhals would become less shy over time.

ID: da5a97e5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Kristin Laidre's reasoning about the purpose of the tusk that many, but not all, narwhals have. The text explains that one group of scientists thinks the tusk may help narwhals detect the threat of freezing water and that Laidre disagrees with that idea, given the importance of avoiding a dangerous situation. It's logical to suggest that if the tusk serves such an important purpose for narwhals, the trait would be more common among them—specifically, that more narwhals would have a tusk.

Choice A is incorrect because there's no reason to think Laidre would say that if the tusk has the important function of helping narwhals detect when the water around them is about to freeze (meaning that it isn't always freezing), some narwhals would choose a different habitat altogether. Indeed, if it's true that the tusk helps narwhals avoid areas with dangerous conditions when they occur in their Arctic Ocean habitat, the tusk would likely enable the narwhals to continue living in that habitat rather than drive them elsewhere entirely. Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses only on narwhals and makes no mention of other marine animals or how having a tusk might affect them. And if anything, it would be more logical to expect a very important trait to be more widespread, not less common, among other similar types of animals. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text describes narwhals as shy, it doesn't indicate that the scientists' conclusion has anything to do with shyness. And because shyness and detection of the threat of freezing water aren't logically connected, there's no reason to think that Laidre would expect narwhals to become less shy over time if the tusk serves that important purpose.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 80a4ce6f

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

ID: 80a4ce6f

Parthenogenesis is a form of reproduction in which a female reproduces without mating. She produces an egg containing a single offspring whose DNA, or genetic material, comes entirely from its mother. Among birds, parthenogenesis has been found in a handful of species, including pigeons and turkeys. When scientists at the San Diego Zoo analyzed the DNA of the zoo's California condors (a species of vulture), they discovered that two individuals weren't genetically similar enough to any of the males in the condor enclosure to be their offspring. However, both had hatched from eggs laid by females in the enclosure. Thus, the scientists concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. at least one of those individuals' mothers was born as a result of parthenogenesis.

B. California condors may reproduce through parthenogenesis in zoos but not in the wild.

C. the mothers of the two individuals probably reproduced through parthenogenesis.

D. California condors reproduce through parthenogenesis only if females lack sufficient access to males.

ID: 80a4ce6f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of parthenogenesis as it relates to two California condors at the San Diego Zoo. The text explains that parthenogenesis is a form of reproduction in which a female reproduces without mating, producing an egg containing an offspring with DNA that comes entirely from its mother. After noting examples of parthenogenesis among birds, the text then reports on a discovery at the San Diego Zoo. According to the text, scientists at the zoo found that two of the zoo's California condors weren't similar enough to any of the zoo's male condors to be their offspring. Given that parthenogenesis occurs without mating and results in an offspring with DNA entirely from its mother, it can reasonably be inferred that the scientists concluded that the mothers of the two condors probably didn't mate with any of the male condors at the zoo, reproducing through parthenogenesis instead.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never suggests that at least one of the condors' mothers was born as a result of parthenogenesis. Rather, the text suggests that the two condors were themselves both probably born as a result of parthenogenesis, which would account for their lack of strong genetic resemblance to any of the male condors in the zoo's condor enclosure. Choice B is incorrect because the text never discusses wild California condors, only California condors living at the San Diego Zoo. For this reason, the text doesn't support a conclusion that distinguishes between how California condors reproduce in zoos and how they reproduce in the wild. Choice D is incorrect because the text never suggests that the zoo's female condors lacked sufficient access to males or that this would be a cause of parthenogenesis, indicating only that the condor enclosure included males.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a57355d8

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

ID: a57355d8

In the 1950s and ’60s, plant breeders created shorter varieties of wheat and rice plants with improved yields. Kelly Gillespie, Rex Bernardo, and other plant specialists are building on that work by exploring the development of shorter corn varieties. Greater height can allow individual plants to produce more ears of corn. However, greater height also makes the stalks more likely to snap or be uprooted in strong winds before the corn can be harvested. Because of this trade-off, some plant specialists suggest that shorter corn varieties will actually _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. help improve yields of harvested corn by being more likely to survive in severe winds.

B. be more likely to be uprooted due to the weight of the corn on the stalks.

C. require more land for planting than short varieties of wheat and rice typically do.

D. begin developing more ears of corn on each plant than the tallest variety of corn currently does.

ID: a57355d8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text’s discussion about a trade-off in growing shorter varieties of corn. The text explains that plant specialists are working to develop shorter corn varieties in an effort to improve yields. The text points out that although greater height in corn plants can lead to more ears of corn per plant, it also makes the stalks more likely to be damaged by strong winds before there is a chance to harvest the corn. This presents a clear trade-off between potential yield (taller plants producing more ears per plant) and harvest reliability (shorter plants surviving until harvest time). Given this information, it is reasonable to infer that shorter corn varieties, while possibly producing fewer ears per plant, would be more likely to survive until harvest time. This survival advantage would result in improved yields of harvested corn because more plants would remain intact, thus offsetting the potential reduction in ears per shorter plant.

Choice B is incorrect. According to the text, greater height makes cornstalks vulnerable to snapping or being uprooted in strong winds, implying that taller plants—not shorter ones—have greater stability problems. The text provides no basis for inferring that shorter corn varieties would be more likely to be uprooted due to corn weight; in fact, the text suggests the opposite relationship between height and stability. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t provide information about the land requirements of either shorter corn varieties or shorter wheat and rice varieties, much less make any comparisons. The text mentions that plant breeders in the 1950s and ’60s created shorter varieties of wheat and rice with improved yields and that researchers are now exploring shorter corn varieties, but it doesn’t compare land-use requirements of these crops. Choice D is incorrect because the idea that shorter cornstalks would yield more ears of corn would contradict the relationship between height and corn production described in the text. The text explicitly states that greater height allows individual plants to produce more ears of corn, which suggests that shorter varieties would produce fewer ears per plant, not more. The text therefore provides no basis for concluding that shorter varieties would begin developing more ears than the taller varieties currently do.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 47af9636

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

ID: 47af9636

Individuals with visual impairments who want to experience a solar eclipse may be able to make use of a device that converts light into sound. The device is made up of a microcontroller board and a light sensor that measures the brightness of light shining onto the device. It also has a component called a MIDI, which allows the device to play different sounds. The device plays a high-pitched flute sound in bright light, a neutral-pitched clarinet sound in mid-range light, and a soft clicking sound in low light. After a solar eclipse starts, the sun becomes more covered and the amount of light slowly reduces. Therefore, during a solar eclipse the device will _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. play a flute sound, then a clarinet sound, and then a clicking sound.

B. play a clicking sound, then a flute sound, and then a clarinet sound.

C. start with fast clarinet sounds that become steadily slower.

D. start with a soft flute sound that becomes steadily louder.

ID: 47af9636 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of a device that converts light into sound during a solar eclipse. The text states that the device plays different sounds based on the amount of light shining on it, producing a high-pitched flute sound in bright light, a neutral-pitched clarinet sound in mid-range light, and a soft clicking sound in low light. The text also indicates that during a solar eclipse, the sun becomes more covered and the amount of light slowly reduces from full brightness. Thus, because the eclipse begins with full sunlight that progressively decreases, the device would first play a flute sound (bright light), then a clarinet sound (mid-range light), and then a clicking sound (low light).

Choice B is incorrect. Based on the text's description of the sounds the device makes, if the device played clicking sounds, then a flute sound, and then a clarinet sound, the light would have to be going from low to bright to mid-range. But the text indicates that when a solar eclipse starts, the light is bright and then slowly reduces, meaning it would go from bright to mid-range light and then to low light. And even as the sun begins to be less covered again, which isn't discussed in the text, there's no reason to think the light would jump from low to bright and then back to mid-range. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates only that the device plays a distinct sound (flute, clarinet, or clicking) for each of the three levels of brightness, not that it varies the speed of any of those sounds. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates only that the device plays a distinct sound (flute, clarinet, or clicking) for each of the three levels of brightness, not that it varies the volume of any of those sounds.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3ede7f00

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

ID: 3ede7f00

Arthur Conan Doyle's stories about detective Sherlock Holmes were published between 1887 and 1927. They have inspired countless successful adaptations, including comic strips, movies, and a television series *Sherlock Hound*, directed by Hayao Miyazaki, who is celebrated for his animated movies. Until 2014, these stories were copyrighted. The right to adapt was only available to those who could afford the copyright fee and gain approval from the strict copyright holders of Doyle's estate. Some journalists predict that the number of Sherlock Holmes adaptations is likely to increase since the end of copyright means that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. Doyle's original stories will become hard to find.

B. people will become more interested in detective stories than they were in the 1800s.

C. producing adaptations will become easier and less expensive.

D. the former copyright holders of Doyle's estate will return fees they collected.

ID: 3ede7f00 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text tells us that because of the copyright, adapting Sherlock Holmes stories used to be expensive and difficult. This suggests that after the copyright ends, it will be less expensive and less difficult to adapt these stories.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never suggests that the copyright ending will make Sherlock Holmes stories harder to find. Instead, it suggests that adaptations of these stories will be easier and less expensive to make. Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses people's interest in detective stories, so there is no basis to make this inference. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never suggests that copyright fees from the past are returned after a copyright ends, so there is no basis to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID aa1179e1

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

ID: aa1179e1

The Indus River valley civilization flourished in South Asia from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE. Many examples of the civilization's writing system exist, but researchers haven't yet deciphered it or identified which ancient language it represents. Nevertheless, archaeologists have found historical artifacts, such as clay figures and jewelry, that provide information about the civilization's customs and how its communities were organized. The archaeologists' findings therefore suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. investigating an ancient civilization is easier without knowledge of the civilization's language.

B. knowing an ancient civilization's language isn't necessary in order to learn details about the civilization.

C. archaeological research should focus on finding additional artifacts rather than deciphering ancient languages.

D. examining the civilization's historical artifacts has resolved the debate about this civilization's language.

ID: aa1179e1 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Indus River valley civilization. The text establishes that archaeologists haven't been able to interpret the Indus River valley civilization's writing system but have nevertheless acquired information about the civilization through historical artifacts. The fact that archaeologists have been able to learn about the Indus River valley civilization's customs and community organization from historical artifacts suggests that it isn't necessary to understand an ancient civilization's language to learn about the civilization.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't discuss how easy it is to investigate ancient civilizations with or without knowledge of the civilization's language; rather, it states that even though researchers have not yet deciphered the language of the Indus River valley civilization, they are still able to learn about it through historical artifacts. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't make any claims as to what the focus of archaeological research should be. Rather, the text discusses how archaeologists have been able to learn about an ancient civilization through historical artifacts despite not understanding the civilization's language. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that the civilization's language has not yet been interpreted; it makes no mention of a debate about the language. Instead, the text suggests that examination of the historical artifacts has allowed archaeologists to learn about the civilization but has not aided thus far in deciphering its language.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8436e393

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

ID: 8436e393

The practice of logging (cutting down trees for commercial and other uses) is often thought to be at odds with forest conservation (the work of preserving forests). However, a massive study in forest management and preservation spanning 700,000 hectares in Oregon's Malheur National Forest calls that view into question. So far, results of the study suggest that forest plots that have undergone limited logging (the careful removal of a controlled number of trees) may be more robust than plots that haven't been logged at all. These results, in turn, suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. logging may be useful for maintaining healthy forests, provided it is limited.

B. other forest management strategies are more effective than limited logging.

C. as time passes, it will be difficult to know whether limited logging has any benefits.

D. the best way to support forest health may be to leave large forests entirely untouched.

ID: 8436e393 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the potential effects of logging on forest conservation. The text begins by stating that logging practices are often thought of as being contrary to forest conservation efforts. Then, the text presents the results of a research study examining the effect of limited logging practices on specific forest plots, finding that the plots with limited logging may be "more robust" (healthier) than the plots that hadn't been logged at all. Given these results, it follows that logging may be a useful practice for maintaining healthy forests if it is practiced in a limited way.

Choice B is incorrect because the study referenced in the text only provides information on limited logging as a potential forest management strategy. There is no information in the text about how other forest management strategies support forest conservation efforts. Therefore, the text does not support the assertion that other forest management strategies are more successful than limited logging. Choice C is incorrect because the text presents a research study with findings that specific plots of forest with limited logging may be more robust than the forest plots that were not logged. Rather than suggesting that it is hard to know whether limited logging might be beneficial, the text suggests that the practice could be useful in forest conservation efforts. Choice D is incorrect. The text discusses the results of a research study that compares the health of forest plots with limited logging to forest plots that were not logged. It does not take a position on the best way to support forest health but rather presents a research study with findings that question conventionally held thoughts regarding the practice of logging.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bc7f0958

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

ID: bc7f0958

North American gray wolves usually have mixed gray and white fur, but some members of the species have a version of a gene, or gene variant, that gives them a mostly black coat instead. Sarah Cubaynes and her team studied twelve populations of North American gray wolves. They found that the black-furred wolves are more common in areas where outbreaks of distemper virus happen regularly. The team also discovered that the black-furred wolves are more likely to be immune to distemper than the gray-furred wolves are. Taken together, these findings suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. North American gray wolves experience more outbreaks of distemper virus than other wolf species do.

B. the gene variant that results in black fur may be linked to immunity to the distemper virus.

C. the average life span of gray wolves is likely to increase over time because of a particular gene variant.

D. gray-furred wolves will soon replace black-furred wolves across North America.

ID: bc7f0958 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text tells us that the black-furred wolves are more common in areas with regular outbreaks of distemper virus and are more likely to be immune to distemper than the gray-furred wolves. This suggests that the gene variant that results in black fur may be linked to immunity to the distemper virus.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never compares North American gray wolves to other wolf species—in fact, it never discusses other wolf species at all, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The life span of gray wolves is never mentioned in this text, so we have no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. This is too extreme. The text says that "black-furred wolves are more likely to be immune to distemper than the gray-furred wolves," but that alone doesn't mean that black-furred wolves will replace gray-furred wolves across North America.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a809e1bf

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

ID: a809e1bf

In Switzerland, the white fuzzy mountain flowers known as edelweiss are widely treated as a symbol of strength and courage. Although edelweiss can thrive in extreme conditions, they aren't notably tougher or harder to reach than other mountain flowers growing in the Swiss Alps. Historian Tobias Scheidegger has shown that the popular view of the flowers originated in the mid-1800s when mountain climbing became popular in Switzerland. Mountain climbers spread the idea that the flowers grew only in steep, icy terrains that were dangerous to climb to. Scheidegger says that these claims were self-interested. He suggests that mountain climbers presented edelweiss in this way in order to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. make themselves appear brave and strong for being able to climb to difficult places where edelweiss supposedly grew.

B. encourage more flower enthusiasts to explore the Swiss Alps.

C. share their observations about the unusual characteristics of edelweiss with scientists.

D. prove that edelweiss were more common in the Swiss Alps than in other mountain regions in Europe.

ID: a809e1bf Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of mountain climbers' motivations for exaggerating the difficulty of reaching edelweiss. The text establishes that edelweiss became symbols of strength and courage in Switzerland in the mid-1800s. The text goes on to state that mountain climbing became popular around the same time and that climbers spread the false idea that the flowers grew only in dangerous, hard-to-reach locations. According to the text, historian Tobias Scheidegger argues that these claims were "self-interested," meaning they served the climbers' own purposes. The text therefore implies that by claiming that edelweiss could be found only in perilous locations, mountain climbers could enhance their own reputations: climbers who encountered edelweiss would appear to have undertaken a dangerous journey, thereby making themselves seem brave and strong.

Choice B is incorrect because making edelweiss seem more dangerous to reach than other mountain flowers are would likely discourage flower enthusiasts from trying to reach edelweiss rather than encourage them to explore the Swiss Alps. The text suggests that climbers' self-interested motivation for exaggerating the difficulty of climbing to areas where edelweiss grew was to enhance their own reputations for being especially brave, not to promote tourism in the Swiss Alps. Choice C is incorrect because the text states that according to Scheidegger, mountain climbers exaggerated the difficulty of reaching edelweiss for self-interested reasons, not because they wanted to report genuine scientific observations about the flower's unique characteristics. The text provides no indication that the climbers sincerely believed that their claims about the especially challenging terrain in which edelweiss grew were accurate, much less that they wanted to share this information with scientists. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that mountain climbers were trying to prove that edelweiss were more common in Switzerland than elsewhere. The text's focus is on the supposed difficulty and danger of reaching the flowers, not on their relative abundance

in the Swiss Alps compared to other regions. In fact, the text implies that mountain climbers exaggerated how difficult edelweiss were to reach; it therefore wouldn't make sense to say that they exaggerated this difficulty to demonstrate that edelweiss were relatively common.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2128c88c

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

ID: 2128c88c

Alice Guy-Blaché directed hundreds of films between 1896 and 1920. She wanted audiences to feel like they were watching real people on screen. She would encourage actors in her films to behave naturally. Guy-Blaché even hung a large sign reading “Be Natural” in the studio where she made her films. At the time, films lacked sound, so actors needed to rely solely on their bodies and facial expressions to convey emotions. As a result, actors tended to highly exaggerate their actions and expressions. The style of acting in Guy-Blaché’s films was therefore _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. copied by many of Guy-Blaché’s peers.

B. familiar to actors who had worked on other directors’ films.

C. very unusual for the period.

D. better than film acting today.

ID: 2128c88c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text tells us that “actors tended to highly exaggerate their actions and expressions” in films produced from 1896 to 1920. This suggests that the natural style of acting in Guy-Blaché’s films was very unusual for the time.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never discusses any other directors copying the style of acting found in Guy-Blaché’s films, and in fact suggests the opposite—that it was unusual for directors to suggest this style of acting at the time. Choice B is incorrect. The text never discusses actors’ familiarity with the style of acting found in Guy-Blaché’s films, so there isn’t much basis for this inference. But since the text tells us that other films of the period used a highly exaggerated form of acting, we might predict that the natural style in Guy-Blachés films would have been unfamiliar to these actors. Choice D is incorrect. The text never discusses film acting today, so there’s no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3b774f00

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

ID: 3b774f00

Microbes that live in shallow lakes and ponds produce methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. Ecologist Ralf Aben and his team wanted to see how different types of shallow-water plants might affect the amount of methane that escapes into the atmosphere. Aben's team set up some water tanks with soil and microbes from local ponds. Some tanks had a type of underwater plant that grows in the soil called watermilfoil. Other tanks had either duckweed, a type of plant that floats on the water's surface, or algae. Aben and his team found that tanks with duckweed and algae released higher levels of methane than tanks with watermilfoil did. This finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the presence of some kinds of underwater plants like watermilfoil helps prevent methane from escaping shallow lakes and ponds.

B. shallow lakes and ponds release more methane than deeper bodies of water because shallow bodies of water usually have more plants than deep bodies of water do.

C. shallow lakes and ponds are more likely to contain algae than to contain either watermilfoil or duckweed.

D. having a mix of algae, underwater plants, and floating plants is the best way to reduce the amount of methane in shallow lakes and ponds.

ID: 3b774f00 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The passage tells us that "tanks with duckweed (a floating plant) and algae released higher levels of methane than tanks with watermilfoil (an underwater plant) did." This suggests that the presence of some kinds of underwater plants like watermilfoil may help prevent methane from escaping shallow lakes and ponds.

Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention deeper bodies of water at all, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't compare the likelihood of shallow lakes and ponds containing algae, watermilfoil, or duckweed. Choice D is incorrect. The study didn't include any tanks with a mix of plants, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fc8c2a8c

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

ID: fc8c2a8c

The Nacional tree is a rare variety of cacao. Nacionals were thought to have gone extinct by the twentieth century due to a fungus. This fungus can spread from tree to nearby tree through the air and causes disease. But around 2013, cacao expert Servio Pachard located some of these Nacional trees. The trees were in the Piedra de Plata coastal forest, within a hard-to-reach valley in Ecuador. Conservationists inferred that the Nacional trees in Piedra de Plata might have avoided the diseases that wiped out the other Nacionals because _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. early twentieth-century scientists did not know why so many Nacionals were becoming infected.

B. the ability of the fungus to travel through the air was only recently discovered.

C. they were too far from the other Nacional trees infected by the fungus to become infected themselves.

D. the chocolate made from their pods was highly valued.

ID: fc8c2a8c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Nacional trees' survival in Piedra de Plata. The text states that the fungus that caused Nacional trees elsewhere to become diseased spreads from tree to nearby tree through the air. The text also mentions that the surviving Nacional trees were found in a hard-to-reach valley in Ecuador. Given this information, it's logical to conclude that these trees might have avoided infection because they were geographically isolated from infected Nacional trees, which prevented the airborne fungus from reaching them.

Choice A is incorrect because early twentieth-century scientists' lack of knowledge about the infection that affected many Nacionals doesn't explain how the trees in the Piedra de Plata coastal forest survived. The text is concerned with the physical factors that allowed certain trees to avoid infection, not with scientists' understanding of the disease. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions that the fungus spreads through the air, it doesn't indicate when this ability was discovered. Moreover, even if the ability to move through the air was recently discovered, that wouldn't explain how the trees in Piedra de Plata avoided infection in the past. Choice D is incorrect because the value of the chocolate made from Nacional pods doesn't explain how the trees in the Piedra de Plata coastal forest avoided disease. The text focuses on the physical spread of the fungus that caused most Nacionals to become diseased, not on economic factors related to the trees' products.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4a2e52d3

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

ID: 4a2e52d3

Zines are small-scale, self-printed magazines. They have been around since the Black literary zine *Fire!!* was created in the 1920s. Since then, zines have appealed to creators looking for an inexpensive form of expression to share with a select audience. Zine creators often mix art with social commentary and challenge mainstream culture. At first, the internet appeared to replace the zine, but this old form persists. Today, there are enough zines in the United States to support annual zine festivals. This suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. creators can reach a larger audience by posting online.

B. zines are still a meaningful form of expression.

C. creators can continue to explore new art forms.

D. zines are good sources of mainstream culture.

ID: 4a2e52d3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically follows from the text's point about zines today. The text describes zines as a form of expression that goes back to the 1920s and asserts that "this old form persists." The text then indicates that multiple zines exist in the US today and that they are popular enough to support annual festivals, a point that suggests that people continue to view zines as a meaningful form of expression.

Choice A is incorrect because the text's point about current interest in zines in the US doesn't logically suggest that zine creators can reach a larger audience by posting online. The text indicates that zines have long had an audience, and there's no indication that online posts have caused that audience to grow; there's no mention of zine creators' use of the internet at all. Choice C is incorrect because the idea that zine creators can explore new art forms—while objectively true—isn't logically connected to the text's discussion of zines as an existing form of expression (one that often includes art) or the point that zines are still popular enough in the US to support annual festivals. Choice D is incorrect because the point that zines are popular enough in the US today to support annual festivals doesn't logically suggest that zines present mainstream culture (or are themselves mainstream); moreover, the text states that zine creators often "challenge mainstream culture."

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 48381ebb

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

ID: 48381ebb

Off-off-Broadway theaters emerged in the late 1950s as a rebellion against mainstream Broadway theaters in New York, freeing artists to create productions that were more experimental than typical Broadway shows. One such artist was playwright María Irene Fornés. Working with off-off Broadway theaters enabled Fornés not only to direct her own plays but also to direct them exactly as she intended them to be staged, regardless of how strange the results might have seemed to audiences accustomed to Broadway shows. In this way, Fornés _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. wrote plays that would have been too expensive to produce if someone else had directed the production.

B. recognized that staging an off-off-Broadway play was more complicated than staging a Broadway play.

C. would have been more famous if she had created plays that were mainstream instead of experimental.

D. illustrates the artistic opportunity offered by off-off Broadway theaters.

ID: 48381ebb Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text says that off-off-Broadway theaters allowed artists to create more experimental shows, and then discusses how Fornés was free to direct her own “strange” plays however she wanted. This suggests that Fornés exemplifies the artistic freedom of off-off Broadway theaters.

Choice A is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses the costs of production, so we can’t logically make this claim. Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses the complexity of staging plays either on Broadway or off-off Broadway, so there’s no basis to make this inference. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn’t supported. The text never discusses fame at all, so there’s no basis to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 316bff1f

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

ID: 316bff1f

The Younger Dryas was a period of extreme cooling from 11,700 to 12,900 years ago in the Northern Hemisphere. Some scientists argue that a comet fragment hitting Earth brought about the cooling. Others disagree, partly because there is no known crater from such an impact that dates to the beginning of the period. In 2015, a team led by Kurt Kjær detected a 19-mile-wide crater beneath a glacier in Greenland. The scientists who believe an impact caused the Younger Dryas claim that this discovery supports their view. However, Kjær's team hasn't yet been able to determine the age of the crater. Therefore, the team suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. it can't be concluded that the impact that made the crater was connected to the beginning of the Younger Dryas.

B. it can't be determined whether a comet fragment could make a crater as large as 19 miles wide.

C. scientists have ignored the possibility that something other than a comet fragment could have made the crater.

D. the scientists who believe an impact caused the Younger Dryas have made incorrect assumptions about when the period began.

ID: 316bff1f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of a crater's connection to the start of the Younger Dryas. According to the text, some scientists believe that a comet fragment hitting Earth caused the cooling of the Younger Dryas period to come about. The text then indicates that a team of scientists found a crater in Greenland, which some believe supports the theory of a comet fragment hitting Earth to initiate the Younger Dryas. However, the text also notes that the team was unable to determine the age of the crater. If the age of the crater can't be determined, then its connection to the Younger Dryas period of time can't be confirmed either. Thus, it can't be concluded that the impact that made the crater was connected to the beginning of the Younger Dryas.

Choice B is incorrect because though the text suggests that the age of the comet crater found by a team of scientists is uncertain, it doesn't address whether a comet fragment can make a crater as large as 19 miles wide. The text doesn't consider the size of comet fragments and how they relate to the size of craters they might make. Choice C is incorrect because the debate in the text centers on the age of the crater found, not the cause of the crater. The text doesn't indicate uncertainty about what caused the discovered crater. Choice D is incorrect because the text suggests that the age of the crater found by the team of scientists is uncertain, not that the dates of the Younger Dryas are uncertain or incorrect. The text states that "the Younger Dryas was a period of extreme cooling from 11,700 to 12,900 years ago" but doesn't indicate any debate about the timing of the period.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5d1e3490

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

ID: 5d1e3490

Red velvet cake has been a favorite dessert of many for years, but the recipe's origins are unclear. A bakery in Dallas, Texas, argued that it created the first recipe for the cake when the bakery opened in the 1860s. The Adams Extract Co., which sells baking products, claims to have created the recipe in the 1930s to help market their red dye. A US hotel and a Canadian department store also publicly stated that the red velvet cake sold in each of their establishments in the 1930s was an original creation, each alleging that it was the recipe author. No clear evidence has emerged to favor one of these claims over the others, however. It thus seems that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. red velvet cake was first baked sometime before the 1860s.

B. we cannot say at present who actually baked the first red velvet cake.

C. none of the supposed inventors of red velvet cake are likely to have invented it.

D. the bakery in Dallas, Texas, probably invented red velvet cake.

ID: 5d1e3490 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically completes the text's discussion of competing claims about the origins of red velvet cake. The text states that the origins of the recipe for red velvet cake "are unclear." The text then presents four different entities that claim to have created the first red velvet cake recipe: a Dallas bakery (1860s), the Adams Extract Co. (1930s), a US hotel (1930s), and a Canadian department store (1930s). Lastly, the text states that "no clear evidence has emerged to favor one of these claims over the others." Given this information, it most logically follows that it's not possible to determine who baked the first red velvet cake, as there is insufficient evidence to determine which claim, if any, is correct.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't provide information indicating that red velvet cake existed before the 1860s. According to the text, the earliest claim for creating red velvet cake comes from a bakery in Dallas, Texas, that asserted it developed the first recipe for the cake at the time of the bakery's opening in the 1860s. There's no textual support for the conclusion that the cake existed before this earliest claimed date, since the text presents only competing claims starting from the 1860s and extending to the 1930s without evidence of earlier origins. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't support the conclusion that none of the supposed inventors of red velvet cake likely invented the cake. The text states that multiple entities claim to have invented the recipe and that "no clear evidence has emerged to favor one of these claims over the others." This lack of decisive evidence doesn't logically lead to the conclusion that all the claims are false; it merely indicates that the cake's true origins can't be determined with the available evidence. The text leaves open the possibility that one of the claimants could indeed be the actual inventor. Choice D is incorrect because the text provides no basis for concluding that the Dallas bakery is "probably" the inventor of red velvet cake. While the text mentions that this bakery claims to have created the recipe in the 1860s

(making it the earliest claim), the text explicitly states that there's no definitive evidence supporting any of the claims about the cake's origins over the others. The text presents all claims as equally lacking in definitive supporting evidence.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID faef2687

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

ID: faef2687

Even with the widespread adoption of personal computers, many authors still choose to write and revise their novels by hand and only then transcribe the final version on a computer. It may be tempting to speculate about how a novel written this way would be affected if it had been exclusively typed instead, but each novel is a unique entity resulting from a specific set of circumstances. Therefore, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. in order to increase their efficiency, authors who currently write their novels largely by hand should instead work only on a computer.

B. authors who do most of their drafting and revising by hand likely have more success than those who work entirely on a computer.

C. novels written by hand take less time to produce, on average, than novels written on a computer do.

D. there is no way to reasonably evaluate how a work would be different if it had been written by other means.

ID: faef2687 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents the conclusion that most logically follows from the text's discussion of the means authors use to write and revise their novels. After stating that many authors still choose to draft novels by hand even though computers are now widely used, the text acknowledges the speculation that the opposite choice—using only a computer—would have had an effect on such novels. However, the text then points out that every novel is the singular result of a combination of the particular conditions surrounding its creation. This suggests that it isn't possible to determine the effect of any single condition (such as the means of writing) on its own; thus, there would be no way to reasonably evaluate how a novel would have turned out differently if it had been written by other means.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that it's more efficient to write a novel on a computer than to write it by hand; it doesn't address efficiency at all. Therefore, it isn't logical to conclude that authors who currently choose to write novels largely by hand should instead work only on a computer to increase their efficiency. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest anything about how successful authors are, regardless of the means by which they choose to write; therefore, it isn't logical to conclude that authors who write largely by hand are likely to be more successful than those who work only on a computer. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the time it takes to produce a novel, regardless of the means by which it's written; therefore, it isn't logical to conclude that novels written by hand take less time on average to produce than those written on a computer do.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b33b2974

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

ID: b33b2974

In the South Pacific, New Caledonian crows use two different kinds of stick tools. One tool is complex. The crows shape a stick from a rare plant into a hook. The other tool is basic. The crows find a stick without a hook on the ground. The hooked tool is harder to get but is much better than the basic tool at removing prey from holes. When studying New Caledonian crows, ecologist Barbara Klump found that they hold the hooked tools in their claws when not using them, or they carefully put them in a safe place. The crows don't do the same with the basic tools. This suggests to Klump that the _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. hooked stick tools are more valuable to the crows than the stick tools without hooks.

B. hooked stick tools are easier for most of the crows to hold than the stick tools without hooks.

C. crows prefer to share their hooked stick tools but don't share the stick tools without hooks.

D. crows realize that both kinds of stick tools are less effective than their claws are at removing prey from holes.

ID: b33b2974 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the two types of stick tools used by New Caledonian crows. The text indicates that the more effective type of tool has a hook that the crows make themselves, while the other type of tool is simply a stick without a hook that the crows find and don't shape in any way. According to the text, Klump found that the crows keep hooked tools—but not the tools without hooks—in their grasp or in safe places when they aren't using the tools. If the hooked tools are more effective than the tools without hooks are and the crows are more protective of the hooked tools than they are of the tools without hooks, it's reasonable to conclude that the hooked tools are more valuable to the crows than the tools without hooks are.

Choice B is incorrect because the text gives no indication of how easy it is for the crows to hold either the hooked tools or the tools without hooks. The text does state that crows hold the hooked tools and not the tools without hooks when the tools aren't in use. However, the text also indicates that the hooked tools require work from the crows to make and are more useful for helping the crows catch prey than the tools without hooks are. This context suggests that the crows hold the hooked tools because they're more valuable to the crows than the tools without hooks are, not because the hooked tools are easier to hold. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the crows sharing tools. Additionally, the text indicates that when the crows aren't using the hooked tools, they either grasp the tools or store them safely, which suggests that the crows try to maintain possession of the hooked tools, not that crows prefer to share those tools. Choice D is incorrect because the text says nothing about the crows using their claws to remove prey from holes, so there's no evidence that the crows perceive the stick tools to be less effective than their claws are.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bfda904b

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

ID: bfda904b

When the Vinland Map, a map of the world purported to date to the mid-1400s, surfaced in 1957, some scholars believed it demonstrated that European knowledge of the eastern coast of present-day North America predated Christopher Columbus's 1492 arrival. In 2021, a team including conservators Marie-France Lemay and Paula Zyats and materials scientist Anikó Bezur performed an extensive analysis of the map and the ink used. They found that the ink contains titanium dioxide, a compound that was first introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. Therefore, the team concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. mid-1400s Europeans could not have known about the eastern coast of present-day North America.

B. the Vinland Map could not have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.

C. mapmakers must have used titanium compounds in their ink in the 1400s.

D. there isn't enough information to determine when the ink was created.

ID: bfda904b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur's 2021 analysis of the Vinland Map. The text indicates that while some scholars have believed that the map was drawn in the mid-1400s, the 2021 analysis showed the presence of the compound titanium dioxide in the ink used to draw the map. The text goes on to say that titanium dioxide wasn't used to manufacture ink until the early 1900s, which means that ink containing this compound couldn't have been available to mapmakers in the 1400s. Since mapmakers in the mid-1400s couldn't have used ink with titanium dioxide, it follows that the Vinland Map couldn't have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.

Choice A is incorrect because the 2021 finding that the ink used to draw the Vinland Map wasn't available until the early 1900s doesn't imply that Europeans in the mid-1400s couldn't have known about the eastern coast of North America. While this finding suggests that the map couldn't have been created in the mid-1400s, it doesn't preclude the possibility that Europeans nevertheless had knowledge—and perhaps even drew other maps that are no longer in existence or are yet to be discovered by researchers—of the eastern coast of present-day North America as early as the mid-1400s. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text that suggests that the 2021 discovery of the presence of titanium dioxide in the ink used to draw the Vinland Map caused Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur to question or reach a new conclusion about when mapmakers began using ink containing titanium compounds. Instead, the text indicates that titanium dioxide wasn't used in ink before the early 1900s. This knowledge led the team to conclude that the map, which was drawn with ink containing titanium dioxide, couldn't have been created in the mid-1400s. Choice D is incorrect because although the text doesn't indicate that Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur established an exact date for the creation of the ink that was used to draw the Vinland Map, the text does say that titanium dioxide was introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. This fact provides enough information to determine that the ink that was used to draw the

map was created no earlier than the early 1900s. This finding, in turn, led the team to conclude that the Vinland Map couldn't have been drawn in the mid-1400s.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 229d8c02

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

ID: 229d8c02

Violins made by Antonio Stradivari and other craftspeople in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries in Cremona, Italy, produce a sound that is considered superior to that of modern stringed instruments. Some experts have claimed that the type of wood used to create Cremonese violins is responsible for their prized sound, but modern and Cremonese violins are made of the same kinds of wood: maple and spruce. New analysis, however, has revealed unique indications that the wood in the older violins was chemically treated by the makers, leading researchers to suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. Cremonese violins probably were not considered superior to other instruments at the time they were made.

B. the sound quality of Cremonese violins results in part from a method the craftspeople used to alter the wood.

C. if modern violins were made of a wood other than maple or spruce, they likely would sound as good as Cremonese violins.

D. the current process of making violins is the same process that was used centuries ago by Cremonese craftspeople.

ID: 229d8c02 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the sound quality of Cremonese and modern violins. The text states that violins made in Cremona in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries sound superior to modern violins. It then indicates that some experts attribute the difference to different woods being used to make these violins, but both Cremonese and modern violins are made of the same woods (maple and spruce); thus this cannot account for the difference. The text then says that recent analysis suggests the wood in Cremonese violins was chemically treated by the craftspeople who made them, thereby providing an alternate explanation for the sound differences: the chemical alteration that is present in the Cremonese violins but absent from the modern ones.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not discuss how the sound quality of Cremonese violins compares with the sound quality of other instruments made during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. Instead it focuses on how the sound of the Cremonese violins compares with that of modern violins. Choice C is incorrect. The text states that there are differences in sound quality between the Cremonese and modern violins, and that both types of violin are made with maple or spruce. Thus the type of wood alone does not determine a violin's sound quality. Furthermore, even if the type of wood alone could account for differences in sound quality, the text makes no mention of other woods, so there is no basis to judge how modern violins would sound if they were made using woods besides maple and spruce. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that there is evidence that Cremonese craftspeople chemically treated the wood used in Cremonese violins. This evidence is attributed to "new analysis," which strongly suggests that this process was unknown to modern violin makers before that analysis. If the chemical treatment was unknown until recently, the manufacturing process for modern violins must differ with respect to the previously unknown practice of chemically treating the wood.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5d381ed9

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

ID: 5d381ed9

Marine archaeologists have found much of the wooden hull of a sixteenth-century ship in a flooded quarry in southeast England. When it is exposed to air and water, wood rots quickly unless it is protected by sediment that shields it from oxygen. Therefore, the discovered ship was likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. covered by a protective sediment layer in the quarry.

B. one of several other ships buried in the same quarry.

C. a confirmation of previous theories about the type of wood that was used in sixteenth-century ships.

D. first constructed much earlier than previously thought.

ID: 5d381ed9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the discovered ship. The text states that much of the ship's wooden hull was found in a quarry. The text also states that wood rots quickly unless it is protected by sediment, which shields the wood from exposure to oxygen. It is therefore reasonable to infer that the surviving portion of the ship's hull was covered by an oxygen-shielding layer of sediment.

Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests other ships have been or are likely to be found in the same quarry. The fact that much of this ship's wood survived for centuries in the quarry does raise the possibility that there might be other preserved ships, but the text provides no support for such a conclusion. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not address the type of wood used in sixteenth-century ships or any theories pertaining to wood choice in ships. Choice D is incorrect because the text states only that the ship is from the sixteenth century, with no other dates offered for its construction, and thus there is no basis to consider alternative ages for the ship. Additionally, even if the ship was constructed earlier, it is not logically connected to the text's discussion of how it was preserved.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9990f191

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

ID: 9990f191

A heliograph is a semaphore device used for sending optical communications—usually in the form of Morse code—by reflecting flashes of sunlight off a mirror. Heliographs were used for rapid communication across expansive distances for military, surveying, and forestry purposes during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but they were largely effective only during the daytime, and the range of the device depended on factors such as the opacity of the air and line of sight. Therefore, heliographs were eventually replaced by technology that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. worked on similar principles but was easier to produce and maintain.

B. was not so constrained by environmental circumstances.

C. could be used for more than military, surveying, or forestry purposes.

D. enabled communication that didn't require knowledge of Morse code.

ID: 9990f191 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The passage explains that heliographs "were largely effective only during the daytime" and that "the range of the device depended on factors such as the opacity of the air and line of sight." These constraints would have greatly limited the use of the heliograph, so we can infer that this would have been a reason to replace it with new technology.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage doesn't discuss the production and maintenance of heliographs, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention any "other purposes" that a heliograph wouldn't work for, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice D is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention knowledge of Morse code as a particular problem with the use of heliographs, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ee7bb403

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

ID: ee7bb403

In dialects of English spoken in Scotland, the “r” sound is strongly emphasized when it appears at the end of syllables (as in “car”) or before other consonant sounds (as in “bird”). English dialects of the Upland South, a region stretching from Oklahoma to western Virginia, place similar emphasis on “r” at the ends of syllables and before other consonant sounds. Historical records show that the Upland South was colonized largely by people whose ancestors came from Scotland. Thus, linguists have concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the English dialects spoken in the Upland South acquired their emphasis on the “r” sound from dialects spoken in Scotland.

B. emphasis on the “r” sound will eventually spread from English dialects spoken in the Upland South to dialects spoken elsewhere.

C. the English dialects spoken in Scotland were influenced by dialects spoken in the Upland South.

D. people from Scotland abandoned their emphasis on the “r” sound after relocating to the Upland South.

ID: ee7bb403 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of English dialects spoken in Scotland and the Upland South. The text indicates that these dialects share a feature: putting emphasis on the "r" sound when it appears in certain positions in words. The text goes on to state that records indicate the Upland South was colonized largely by people of Scottish ancestry. It is reasonable to assume that the English dialects spoken by these colonizers were influenced by the English dialects spoken by their ancestors in Scotland. It follows, then, that the emphasis on the "r" sound in the dialects in Scotland carried over into the Upland South dialects as they developed—that is, that the Upland South dialects likely acquired it from dialects spoken in Scotland.

Choice B is incorrect because the text suggests that Scottish ancestry explains the origin of the emphasis on the "r" sound in English dialects spoken in the Upland South, since that linguistic feature is also found in dialects spoken in Scotland; the text doesn’t address any other dialects or suggest that the feature will spread elsewhere. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that many Upland South colonizers were the descendants of Scottish people, suggesting that the English dialects spoken by these colonizers had been influenced by the English dialects spoken by the colonizers’ ancestors in Scotland and had acquired their emphasis on the "r" sound from those ancestors’ dialects—not the other way around. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that the emphasis on the "r" sound is part of English dialects spoken in the Upland South today, which almost certainly wouldn’t be the case if people from Scotland, who were the main colonizers of the Upland South, had eliminated that linguistic feature from their dialects.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7f08849f

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

ID: 7f08849f

The Cretaceous pterosaur *Tupandactylus navigans* is known for having an anomalously oversized head crest. Until an almost complete fossil skeleton was found in Brazil, paleontologists had been able to study only skull specimens from *T. navigans*, though it was presumed that, like other pterosaurs, the species's primary form of locomotion was powered flight. Examining the fuller skeleton in 2016, Victor Beccari and his team determined that *T. navigans* had long hind legs, short wings, and an unusually long neck—characteristics that, combined with the creature's large-crested head, would have made sustained flight difficult and walking upright relatively comfortable. Based on these findings the team suggests that *T. navigans* likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. flew for longer distances than did other pterosaur species that had oversized head crests.

B. had longer wings than other pterosaur species considered to have been comfortable walking.

C. had a smaller head than researchers expected based on the earlier *T. navigans* skull specimens.

D. flew for shorter distances and spent more time walking than researchers previously thought.

ID: 7f08849f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Cretaceous pterosaur *Tupandactylus navigans*. The text first describes what paleontologists initially speculated to be true of *T. navigans* based on observing only fossilized skulls of the pterosaur rather than complete skeletons—namely, that *T. navigans* had an oversized head crest and that, like other pterosaurs, its main mode of movement must have been flight. The text goes on to describe what researcher Victor Beccari and his team concluded based on studying a nearly complete fossilized skeleton of *T. navigans*, which provided additional information that fossilized skulls alone could not. Beccari and colleagues determined that *T. navigans* had long hind legs, short wings, and an unusually long neck, in addition to the oversized head crest previously observed by paleontologists. Taken together, these characteristics would have made sustained flight difficult and upright walking comfortable, which would make *T. navigans* different from other pterosaurs that moved mainly through flight. Thus, Beccari and colleagues suggest that previously held speculations of paleontologists are inaccurate: that instead of moving mainly through powered flight, *T. navigans* likely flew for shorter distances and spent more time walking than researchers previously thought.

Choice A is incorrect because Beccari and his team determined, based on their examination of a nearly complete skeleton, that *T. navigans* would have found "sustained flight difficult," which would differentiate it from most other pterosaurs that moved mainly through flight. Therefore, Beccari's team would not suggest that *T. navigans* flew for longer distances than did other pterosaur species with large head crests. Choice B is incorrect because the fossilized skeleton studied by Beccari and colleagues was notable for its short wings, and because no indication in the text is made that other pterosaurs were thought by paleontologists to be comfortable walking. Therefore, Beccari's team would not suggest that *T. navigans* had longer wings than other pterosaur species considered to have been comfortable walking. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that Beccari and his team

agree with the paleontologists mentioned earlier in the text that *T. navigans* had a large-crested head. Therefore, Beccari's team would not suggest that *T. navigans* had a smaller head than researchers previously expected.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 82be6aa9

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

ID: 82be6aa9

In their book *Smart Pricing*, Jagmohan Raju and Z. John Zhang consider musicians' use of the nontraditional "pay as you wish" pricing model. This model generally offers listeners the choice to pay more or less than a suggested price for a song or album—or even to pay nothing at all. As the authors note, that's the option most listeners chose for an album by the band Harvey Danger. Only about 1% opted to pay for the album, resulting in earnings below the band's expectations. But the authors also discuss musician Jane Siberry, who saw significant earnings from her "pay as you wish" online music store as a result of many listeners choosing to pay more than the store's suggested prices. Hence, the "pay as you wish" model may _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. prove financially successful for some musicians but disappointing for others.

B. hold greater financial appeal for bands than for individual musicians.

C. cause most musicians who use the model to lower the suggested prices of their songs and albums over time.

D. more strongly reflect differences in certain musicians' popularity than traditional pricing models do.

ID: 82be6aa9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. In one example, musicians made less money than expected by using the "pay as you wish" model. In the other example, a musician made more money than expected. This suggests that some musicians may have more success than others using the "pay as you wish" model.

Choice B is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. In the examples provided, the individual musician was more successful with the "pay as you wish" model than the band was. Choice C is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The passage provides no instances in which musicians changed the suggested prices of their songs or albums, nor does it mention this as a possibility. Choice D is incorrect. This inference isn't supported. The text never discusses the differences in popularity of different musicians, so there is no basis to make this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7d7c78d0

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

ID: 7d7c78d0

Pablo Picasso famously subverted the norms of traditional painting: in his cubist paintings he refused to let his expression be constrained, fragmenting objects and figures to present multiple perspectives simultaneously. Though less widely known, Picasso—who once lamented that writers of his time had "limited themselves to moving around words somewhat while respecting the syntax"—also wrote poetry that defied conventional grammar, semantic relationships, and text structure. Thus, the paintings and poems are linked in that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the poems present many of the same subjects as the paintings but with different thematic approaches.

B. the poems are intended to be understood as explanations of the artistic inclinations reflected in the paintings.

C. both types of work are characterized by the simultaneous representation of multiple points of view that Picasso is known for.

D. both exhibit Picasso's prioritization of creative expression over the standard rules of the art forms.

ID: 7d7c78d0 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the link between Picasso's cubist paintings and his poetry. The text states that Picasso subverted, or intentionally went against, the norms of traditional painting; rather than following conventional rules about how paintings should look, he fragmented objects and figures to present multiple perspectives at the same time. The text explains that similarly, Picasso wrote poetry that defied conventions of grammar, semantics, and structure. Because Picasso subverted the conventions of both painting and written language in favor of unconstrained expression, it is reasonable to conclude that his paintings and poems are linked by their demonstration of his prioritization of creative expression over the standard rules of the art forms.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't give any information about the subjects or themes of either Picasso's paintings or his poems; it indicates only that Picasso didn't adhere to the norms of either art form. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text explains that the forms of Picasso's paintings and his poems demonstrate his inclination to not be constrained by convention, it doesn't discuss any of the ideas expressed in his poems; there's no indication that Picasso intended his poems to be understood as explanations of anything reflected in his paintings. Choice C is incorrect. The text mentions the simultaneous representation of multiple points of view as a characteristic of Picasso's cubist paintings but doesn't indicate that his poems had the same characteristic; the text doesn't address perspective in Picasso's poems at all.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 407cad2c

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

ID: 407cad2c

Some businesses believe that when employees are interrupted while doing their work, they experience a decrease in energy and productivity. However, a team led by Harshad Puranik, who studies management, has found that interruptions by colleagues can have a social component that increases employees' sense of belonging, resulting in greater job satisfaction that benefits employees and employers. Therefore, businesses should recognize that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the interpersonal benefits of some interruptions in the workplace may offset the perceived negative effects.

B. in order to maximize productivity, employers should be willing to interrupt employees frequently throughout the day.

C. most employees avoid interrupting colleagues because they don't appreciate being interrupted themselves.

D. in order to cultivate an ideal workplace environment, interruptions of work should be discouraged.

ID: 407cad2c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of potential benefits of interruptions in the workplace. The text indicates that a common belief in business is that interruptions to working employees decrease energy and productivity levels. However, the text goes on to explain that a research team led by Harshad Puranik has found that there could be a social benefit to these interruptions. Since the team found that workplace interruptions can increase employees' sense of belonging and job satisfaction, it follows that the interpersonal benefits of some interruptions can offset the perceived negative effects.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text presents research findings that suggest some workplace interruptions can have a positive effect on employee job satisfaction, no further information is presented to suggest at what frequency these interruptions are ideal. Furthermore, the text doesn't tie workplace interruptions to increased productivity, but rather links it to social benefits such as sense of belonging. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't address employees' motives for choosing not to interrupt their colleagues. The text presents research findings that suggest that there are some positive interpersonal effects of workplace interruptions that can increase employee job satisfaction. Choice D is incorrect because asking businesses to discourage workplace interruptions doesn't follow from the team's research about the benefits of workplace interruptions, nor does the text describe an ideal work environment. Instead, the text presents research suggesting that there may be positive aspects to workplace interruptions that haven't previously been considered.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1d1b4f7c

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

ID: 1d1b4f7c

It's common for jazz musicians and fans to refer to certain songs as having "swing," indicating that the songs provoke a strong feeling, like the impulse to tap one's foot or dance. The exact acoustic properties that give a song swing, however, have long been thought to be undefinable. To investigate swing, a team led by physicist Corentin Nelias delayed the downbeats and synchronized the offbeats in jazz piano solos and asked jazz musicians to compare the intensity of swing in each modified piece with the intensity of swing in the original piece. They found that participants were more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. synchronized offbeats tend to give a song swing regardless of whether downbeats are delayed.

B. the acoustic properties that give a song swing are not easy for jazz musicians to manipulate.

C. jazz songs that feature the piano are more likely to have swing than are jazz songs that do not feature the piano.

D. the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.

ID: 1d1b4f7c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The passage tells us that participants were "more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing." Because the modified songs had been changed by altering the timing of the downbeats and offbeats, this suggests that the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the passage mentions that the researchers "synchronized the offbeats" in the modified songs, they also "delayed the downbeats" in those songs. Because we can't disentangle whether it was the synchronized offbeats, the delayed downbeats, or the combination of both that increased the song's swing, we don't have enough information to make this inference. Choice B is incorrect. The passage doesn't mention whether or not it's difficult for a jazz musician to give a song swing, so there's no basis for this inference. Choice C is incorrect. The passage doesn't compare jazz songs that feature piano to those that don't, so there's no basis for this inference.

Question Difficulty: Medium