

Question ID 3a203189

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID a95dc146

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 64f41ce4

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 58a42665

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID bf0520d0

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID dc3d5510

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 37dd1c8f

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 10c9a0e3

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

ID: 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.

Question ID 5aa0f950

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

ID: 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.

Question ID a98a3255

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 9226b546

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID da5a97e5

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 80a4ce6f

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

ID: 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.

Question ID a57355d8

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 47af9636

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 3ede7f00

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID aa1179e1

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 8436e393

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID bc7f0958

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID a809e1bf

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 2128c88c

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 3b774f00

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

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.

# Question ID fc8c2a8c

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

ID: fc8c2a8c

The Nacional tree is a rare variety of cacao. Nacionales 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 Nacionales because \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. early twentieth-century scientists did not know why so many Nacionales 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.

# Question ID 4a2e52d3

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

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.

# Question ID 48381ebb

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 316bff1f

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 5d1e3490

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID faef2687

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID b33b2974

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID bfda904b

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 229d8c02

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 5d381ed9

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 9990f191

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

ID: 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.

Question ID ee7bb403

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

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.

Question ID 7f08849f

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 82be6aa9

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 7d7c78d0

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

ID: 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.

Question ID 407cad2c

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

ID: 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.

# Question ID 1d1b4f7c

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

ID: 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.