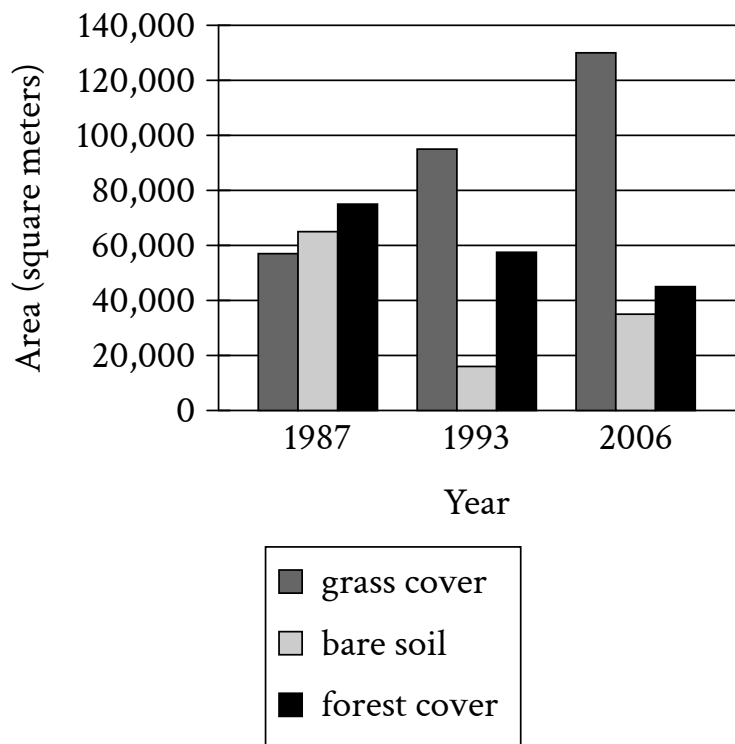


Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Command of Evidence	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8f800d45

Characteristics of the Banks of the Provo River Downstream of the Jordanelle Dam



The Jordanelle Dam was built on the Provo River in Utah in 1992. Earth scientist Adriana E. Martinez and colleagues tracked changes to the environment on the banks of the river downstream of the dam, including how much grass and forest cover were present. They concluded that the dam changed the flow of the river in ways that benefited grass plants but didn't benefit trees.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion?

- A. The lowest amount of grass cover was approximately 58,000 square meters, and the highest amount of forest cover was approximately 75,000 square meters.
- B. There was more grass cover than forest cover in 1987, and this difference increased dramatically in 1993 and again in 2006.
- C. There was less grass cover than bare soil in 1987 but more grass cover than bare soil in 1993 and 2006, whereas there was more forest cover than bare soil in all three years.
- D. Grass cover increased from 1987 to 1993 and from 1993 to 2006, whereas forest cover decreased in those periods.

ID: 8f800d45 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion that the Jordanelle Dam led to changes that benefited grass plants but not trees. The graph shows characteristics of the banks of the Provo River downstream of the Jordanelle Dam in three different years—1987, 1993, and 2006. Specifically, the graph shows the amount of grass cover, bare soil, and forest cover in those years. The text indicates that the Jordanelle Dam was built in 1992, meaning that the data from the graph for 1987 reflect conditions before the dam was built, whereas the data for 1993 and 2006 reflect conditions after the dam was built. The data show that grass cover increased substantially from 1987 to 1993 and again from 1993 to 2006. The data also show that forest cover declined over those periods. Together, these data support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion that the dam was beneficial for grass plants but not for trees—grass cover increased significantly after the dam was built, while forest cover declined.

Choice A is incorrect. Although it is true that, in the graph, the lowest value for grass cover is approximately 58,000 square meters and the highest value for forest cover is approximately 75,000 square meters, both values are from 1987, before the Jordanelle Dam was built in 1992. Therefore, this information alone cannot support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion about changes in grass and tree cover following the construction of the dam. Choice B is incorrect because it presents an inaccurate description of data from the graph. The graph shows that there was more forest cover than grass cover in 1987, not that there was more grass cover than forest cover that year. Choice C is incorrect because, while it accurately reflects data from the graph when it compares grass cover and forest cover to bare soil, these data alone cannot support Martinez and colleagues' conclusion that the dam led to changes that benefited grass plants but not trees. An increase in grass cover relative to bare soil following the construction of the dam might indicate that the dam benefited grass plants, but the fact that there was more forest cover than bare soil in all three years doesn't indicate that the dam failed to benefit trees.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 69da7a04

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

ID: 69da7a04

A researcher conducted an experiment inspired by studies suggesting that people may benefit from feeling frightened in certain circumstances, such as when watching scary movies or visiting haunted attractions. The researcher recruited several participants and had them walk through a local haunted house attraction. Immediately after exiting the attraction, each participant completed a survey about their experience. Based on the survey responses, the researcher claims that feeling frightened in controlled situations can boost a person’s mood and confidence.

Which quotation from a participant would best illustrate the researcher’s claim?

- A. “After I came out of the haunted house, I felt very accomplished and less stressed.”
- B. “My friends kept laughing as we were walking through the haunted house.”
- C. “The haunted house was scary at first, but I knew everyone was just acting, so I felt less scared after a few minutes.”
- D. “The sense of relief I felt at the end of the haunted house was similar to the feelings I have when I finish a scary movie.”

ID: 69da7a04 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice illustrates both “feeling frightened in controlled situations” (the haunted house) and the benefit of a boosted mood (“less stressed”) and confidence (“very accomplished”).

Choice B is incorrect. This choice isn’t the best illustration of the claim. While laughing may indicate a good mood, this choice provides no evidence of “feeling frightened” or boosted confidence. Another choice provides better evidence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice isn’t the best illustration of the claim. This choice demonstrates “feeling frightened” in a controlled environment, but it doesn’t provide strong evidence of boosted mood or confidence. Another choice provides better evidence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn’t the best illustration of the claim. While a “sense of relief” could be interpreted as a boosted mood, this choice doesn’t provide direct evidence of “feeling frightened” or of increased confidence. This choice simply suggests that haunted houses and scary movies have a similar effect. Another choice provides better evidence for the researcher’s claim.

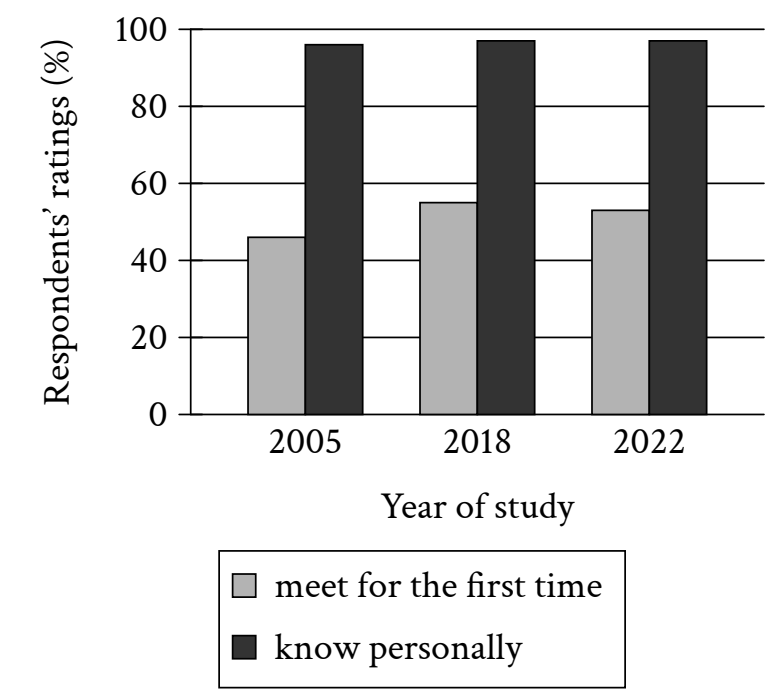
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ccdb7858

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

ID: ccdb7858

Percent of UK Survey Respondents
Who Trust People At Least Somewhat



Social scientists distinguish two different categories of social trust: bonding trust and bridging trust. Bonding trust refers to trust within already existing relationships (e.g., within a family), whereas bridging trust refers to trust between different groups, often involving interactions beyond one’s immediate social circle (e.g., meeting someone at a networking event). In order to evaluate these two aspects of social trust in the United Kingdom, researchers asked participants in 2005, 2018, and 2022 to rate the level of trust they felt for people they know personally and for people they are meeting for the first time. After analyzing the data from the survey responses, the researchers concluded that the level of bonding trust in the UK _____

- Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?
- A. remained largely consistent from 2005 to 2022, whereas the level of bridging trust showed more variability from 2005 to 2022.
 - B. consistently grew from 2005 to 2022, whereas the level of bridging trust largely declined from 2005 to 2022.
 - C. was the same in 2018 as it was in 2022 but remained lower than the level of bridging trust in 2018 and 2022.
 - D. declined from 2005 to 2022 but remained higher than the level of bridging trust from 2005 to 2018.

ID: ccdb7858 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement about the level of bonding trust in the UK. The text defines bonding trust as trust within already existing relationships and bridging trust as trust between different groups, often involving interactions beyond one's immediate social circle, giving as an example meeting someone at a networking event, a type of event where people would typically make new acquaintances. The graph presents the percentage of UK survey respondents who indicated that they trust people at least somewhat in two categories—people they know personally (bonding trust) and people they are meeting for the first time (bridging trust)—in 2005, 2018, and 2022. According to the graph, the percentage representing bonding trust remained fairly consistent over the period, at approximately 96% in 2005, 97% in 2018, and 97% in 2022. By contrast, the percentage representing bridging trust showed more variability, rising from approximately 46% in 2005 to approximately 55% in 2018 before falling to approximately 53% in 2022.

Choice B is incorrect because the graph shows that the percentage representing bonding trust didn't consistently grow from 2005 to 2022; rather, it remained largely consistent at approximately 96%, 97%, and 97% in 2005, 2018, and 2022, respectively. Moreover, the graph shows that the percentage representing bridging trust didn't largely decline from 2005 to 2022; rather, it rose from approximately 46% in 2005 to approximately 55% in 2018 before falling slightly to approximately 53% in 2022. Choice C is incorrect. While the graph indicates that the percentage representing bonding trust was approximately the same in 2018 and 2022 (approximately 97%), the graph also shows that bonding trust was substantially higher than, not lower than, bridging trust in both 2018 (approximately 55%) and 2022 (approximately 53%). Choice D is incorrect. While the graph does indicate that bonding trust remained higher than bridging trust from 2005 to 2018, the claim that bonding trust declined from 2005 to 2022 isn't supported by the graph. The graph shows that the percentage representing bonding trust rose slightly from approximately 96% in 2005 to approximately 97% in both 2018 and 2022.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ea195c54

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

ID: ea195c54

Roasted green chiles are a popular ingredient in Southwestern cuisine, but the traditional roasting method of burning propane is not environmentally friendly. To see if solar power could provide a better alternative, engineer Kenneth Armijo and his team roasted batches of green chiles using between 38 and 42 heliostats, which are devices that concentrate sunlight. The team was successful in reaching the same roasting temperature used in traditional propane roasting, but they found that propane yielded faster results. While the fastest solar-roasted green chiles took six minutes, batches using propane took only four. Armijo hypothesizes that they can reduce the roasting time for solar-roasted green chiles by using more heliostats.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Armijo’s hypothesis?

- A. The temperature inside the roasting drum is distributed more evenly when roasting green chiles with solar power than with propane.
- B. Attempts to roast green chiles using 50 heliostats yields results in fewer than six minutes.
- C. Green chile connoisseurs prefer the flavor of solar-roasted green chiles over the flavor of propane-roasted green chiles.
- D. The skins of solar-roasted green chiles are easier to peel than the skins of propane-roasted green chiles.

ID: ea195c54 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Armijo believes that using more heliostats will speed up the roasting process, and this finding shows that with 50 heliostats—more than the number of heliostats already used—the roasting time is indeed reduced.

Choice A is incorrect. The evenness of temperature in the roasting drum doesn’t tell us about the speed of the roasting process, which is what Armijo’s hypothesis is concerned with. Choice C is incorrect. Armijo’s hypothesis is focused on the speed of the roasting process, not the flavor of the resulting roasted chiles. Choice D is incorrect. Though Armijo’s hypothesis mentions a benefit of solar-roasting green chiles (easier peeling), it doesn’t address the speed of the roasting process.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d994e5c5

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

ID: d994e5c5

Incorporated and Unincorporated Self-Employment Rates in Four Occupational Fields, 2015

Occupational field	Incorporated self-employment rate	Unincorporated self-employment rate
Construction and resource extraction	4.4%	14.8%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	2.7%	6.2%
Management, business, and financial services	8.9%	9.7%
Sales and related	5.8%	7.8%

Self-employed workers—individuals who are not employees of other individuals or businesses but instead earn their income as business owners, independent contractors, or freelance workers—make up an important part of the US labor force. In order to receive legal and tax benefits enjoyed by corporations, self-employed individuals may choose to incorporate their business. A 2015 survey of incorporated and unincorporated self-employment rates in four occupational fields showed that the highest incorporated self-employment rate occurred among people working in _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A. sales and related occupations.
- B. installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.
- C. construction and resource extraction occupations.
- D. management, business, and financial services occupations.

ID: d994e5c5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text. The text discusses self-employed workers in the US, and the table shows the US incorporated and unincorporated self-employment rates in four occupational fields in 2015. According to the table, the incorporated self-employment rate was 8.9% for the management, business, and financial services occupational field, which is higher than the incorporated self-employment rate shown for any other occupational field.

Choice A is incorrect because according to the table, the incorporated self-employment rate was 5.8% for the sales and related occupational field, which is lower than the 8.9% for the management, business, and financial services occupational field. Choice B is incorrect because according to the table, the incorporated self-employment rate was 2.7% for the installation, maintenance, and repair occupational field, which is lower than the 8.9% for the management, business, and financial services occupational field. Choice C is incorrect because according to the table, the incorporated self-employment rate was 4.4% for the construction and

resource extraction occupational field, which is lower than the 8.9% for the management, business, and financial services occupational field.

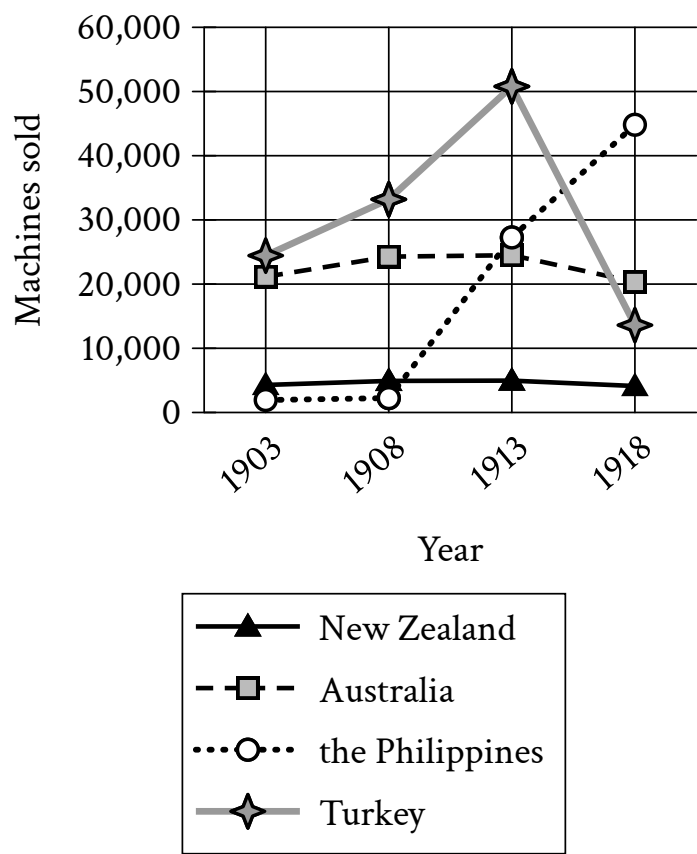
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5631c4cf

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

ID: 5631c4cf

Singer Sewing Machine Sales
in Four Countries, 1903–1918



By the early 1900s, the Singer Corporation, a US sewing machine manufacturer founded in 1851, began to see rapidly increasing sales abroad, particularly in Russia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. These markets were responsible for the bulk of Singer’s overseas sales, but demand for the company’s machines in other countries also grew significantly in the early twentieth century. For instance, sales of their sewing machines in _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the example?

- A. the Philippines increased dramatically from 1908 to 1918.
- B. New Zealand were largely consistent from 1903 to 1918.
- C. Australia increased steadily from 1903 to 1918.
- D. Turkey declined substantially from 1913 to 1918.

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the example. According to the graph, fewer than 10,000 sewing machines were sold in the Philippines in both 1903 and 1908, but nearly 30,000 were sold in 1913 and around 45,000 were sold in 1918. This increase illustrates the statement in the text that demand for Singer sewing machines grew significantly in the early twentieth century in overseas countries other than Russia, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

Choice B is incorrect because consistent sales of Singer sewing machines in New Zealand from 1903 to 1918 do not indicate that demand for the product increased but rather that demand remained relatively the same. Choice C is incorrect because it does not accurately describe the data in the graph. Although sales in Australia did increase somewhat between 1903 and 1908, there was very little change between 1908 and 1913, and then sales declined between 1913 and 1918. The data for Australia, then, do not show a steady increase from 1903 to 1918. Choice D is incorrect because declining sales of Singer sewing machines in Turkey from 1913 to 1918 do not point to an increase in demand for the product but rather to a decline in demand.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e2f13089

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

ID: e2f13089

Many trees produce growth rings as they age, with each ring in a tree’s trunk representing one year in the tree’s life. This often makes it fairly easy to determine how old a tree was when it was cut down. To do so, you look at the tree stump and count the dark rings you see. But a researcher claims that this method often can’t be used to identify the age of olive trees.

Which detail, if true, would most directly support the researcher’s claim?

- A. The oldest olive tree in the world is likely over 1,100 years old.
- B. Narrow growth rings can suggest that an olive tree experienced harsh conditions.
- C. Many olive trees have growth rings that are difficult to see.
- D. Olive trees thrive in areas with hot, dry summers.

ID: e2f13089 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a detail that, if true, would most directly support the researcher’s claim about the difficulty of determining olive tree age by ring counting. The text explains that for many trees, counting the dark rings visible in a tree stump is a reliable method for determining the tree’s age. However, if olive trees have growth rings that are difficult to see, it would be hard to count the individual rings. Therefore, the ring-counting method would be challenging or impossible to use for olive trees. This directly supports the researcher’s claim that the ring-counting method often can’t be used for olive trees because it identifies a specific characteristic of olive trees that could render this approach impracticable.

Choice A is incorrect because the probable age of the oldest olive tree doesn’t explain why counting rings wouldn’t work for determining olive tree age. The older age of some olive trees might make counting more tedious but doesn’t pose an insurmountable obstacle to adopting the method. The researcher’s claim is about the feasibility of the ring-counting method for olive trees, not about the potential impracticability of employing this method for particularly long-lived trees. Choice B is incorrect because the fact that narrow growth rings might indicate harsh growing conditions has no direct bearing on the claim that counting rings often can’t be used to determine olive tree age. It is possible that growth rings that are too narrowly spaced might be difficult to count, but the researcher’s claim relates to the inapplicability of the ring-counting method to olive trees in general rather than to olive trees that have experienced harsh conditions. Moreover, as long as they are visible, even narrow growth rings might permit the ring-counting method to be used to determine tree age. Choice D is incorrect because the ideal climate conditions for olive trees don’t explain why counting rings wouldn’t work as a method for determining their age. While growing conditions might affect ring formation patterns, the simple fact that olive trees thrive in hot, dry environments doesn’t directly address why the conventional method of counting rings would be ineffective for determining their age.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 80d9b5a8

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

ID: 80d9b5a8

“The Bet” is an 1889 short story by Anton Chekhov. In the story, a banker is described as being very upset about something: _____

Which quotation from “The Bet” most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “Then the banker cautiously broke the seals off the door and put the key in the keyhole.”
- B. “It struck three o’clock, the banker listened; everyone was asleep in the house and nothing could be heard outside but the rustling of the chilled trees.”
- C. “The banker, spoilt and frivolous, with millions beyond his reckoning, was delighted at the bet.”
- D. “When [the banker] got home he lay on his bed, but his tears and emotion kept him for hours from sleeping.”

ID: 80d9b5a8 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from "The Bet" to illustrate the claim that the banker was very upset about something. The quotation indicates that the banker shed tears, which suggests that he was likely unhappy about something, and that his emotions were so strong that they kept him from sleeping for hours. These details suggest that the banker was very upset.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation mainly describes the banker cautiously unlocking a door; it doesn’t suggest that he was particularly upset about anything. Choice B is incorrect because this quotation doesn’t mention whether the banker was experiencing any particularly strong negative feelings; instead, the quotation focuses on the quietness of the setting. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation states that the banker was feeling "delighted," not that he was upset.

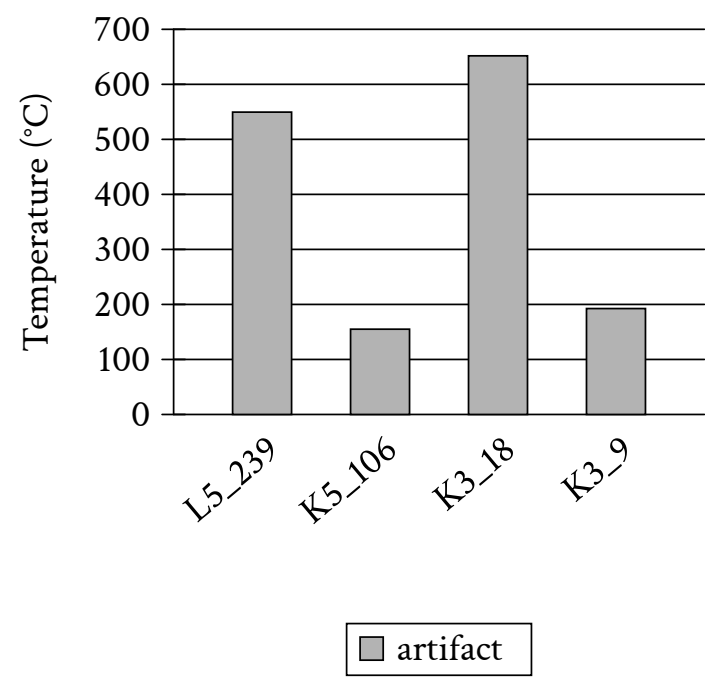
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9dd2eb63

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

ID: 9dd2eb63

Estimated Temperatures to which
Evron Quarry Artifacts Were Exposed



Flint artifacts dating to 800,000 to 1,000,000 years ago have been recovered from the Evron Quarry in Israel. Likely created by the hominin *Homo erectus*, the artifacts have no visual features suggesting that they were exposed to fire, leading some scholars to conclude that these hominins had not acquired control of fire. But Zane Stepka and colleagues recently used a new method to determine whether these artifacts had been exposed to temperatures above 400°C (the typical temperature campfires reach) and concluded that the hominins who inhabited the site may have had control of fire.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support the team’s conclusion?

- A. Artifacts K5_106 and K3_9 were exposed to temperatures above 400°C.
- B. Artifacts L5_239 and K3_18 were exposed to temperatures of approximately 550°C and 650°C, respectively.
- C. All of the artifacts were exposed to temperatures above 100°C.
- D. Artifact K3_9 was exposed to a higher temperature than was artifact K5_106.

ID: 9dd2eb63 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Campfires typically reach over 400°C, so human artifacts that were exposed to temperatures higher than this may indicate some human control over fire.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. Neither artifact K3_9 nor K5_106 was exposed to temperatures above even 200°C. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. Campfires typically reach over 400°C, so exposure to temperatures of 100°C wouldn't demonstrate exposure to fire. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't support the claim. Both artifacts K3_9 and K5_106 were exposed to temperatures of less than 200°C. Since campfires typically reach over 400°C, this wouldn't demonstrate exposure to fire.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 48d9c4a6

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

ID: 48d9c4a6

In addition to her technical skill and daring feats, American stunt pilot Bessie Coleman was also known for dazzling the crowds that came to watch her air shows in the 1920s with her exuberant personality. During her career, she was careful and purposeful about how she crafted her public persona. An aviation researcher has claimed that Coleman intentionally defied social norms of the time by how she chose to present herself to the public.

Which quotation from an article about Coleman would most directly support the aviation researcher’s claim?

- A. “For her air shows, Coleman frequently used the Curtiss JN-4, or ‘Jenny,’ which at that time was one of the most well-known types of planes.”
- B. “While Coleman was beloved by spectators for her charisma, she had a more complicated relationship with her managers and staff, who at times found her behavior too impulsive and demanding.”
- C. “Coleman once considered leaving her career as a stunt pilot to focus her efforts on giving speeches, which she felt would better support her public image.”
- D. “Although female pilots were typically expected to wear traditional but impractical attire that included dresses or skirts, photographs of Coleman show her wearing pants and leather jackets.”

ID: 48d9c4a6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice supports the claim of Coleman’s intentional defiance of social norms: female pilots were expected to wear skirts, but Coleman wore pants and leather jackets instead.

Choice A is incorrect. Coleman flew a well-known, common plane, which would not have defied social norms among pilots. Choice B is incorrect. Her complicated relationship with managers and staff would not have been a component of Coleman’s public persona. This choice also fails to mention any “social norms of the time.” Choice C is incorrect. While this quotation suggests that Coleman was careful and purposeful about her public image, it doesn’t directly mention anything about “social norms of the time.”

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3339d898

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

ID: 3339d898

Hedda Gabler is an 1890 play by Henrik Ibsen. As a woman in the Victorian era, Hedda, the play’s central character, is unable to freely determine her own future. Instead, she seeks to influence another person’s fate, as is evident when she says to another character, _____

Which quotation from a translation of *Hedda Gabler* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “Then what in heaven’s name would you have me do with myself?”
- B. “I want for once in my life to have power to mould a human destiny.”
- C. “Then I, poor creature, have no sort of power over you?”
- D. “Faithful to your principles, now and for ever! Ah, that is how a man should be!”

ID: 3339d898 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim in the text that Hedda seeks to influence another character’s fate. In the quotation, Hedda says that she wants “to have power to mould a human destiny,” or shape a person’s fate, just as the text indicates. Additionally, the phrase “for once in my life” suggests that Hedda feels that she has never been able to shape anyone’s life, including her own, supporting the text’s assertion that she “is unable to freely determine her own future.”

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation shows Hedda being uncertain about what to do with her own life, not wanting to influence another person’s fate. Choice C is incorrect because while this quotation shows Hedda’s interest in finding out whether she has any power over another character, it doesn’t clearly show that she wants to influence that person’s fate. In this quotation, Hedda seems to have inferred or concluded (“then”) that she doesn’t have any influence over the person to whom she’s speaking, and she’s asking that person to confirm her lack of influence. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation expresses Hedda’s belief that a man should be true to his principles, not her desire to influence another person’s fate.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 98694066

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

ID: 98694066

Many scientists have believed that giraffes are solitary creatures, preferring to spend their time alone instead of with others. But observations of giraffes and their behavior in recent years has suggested that these animals may be more social than we once thought. For example, scientists Zoe Muller and Stephen Harris claim that giraffes may even help each other care for one another’s newborns.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Muller and Harris’s conclusion?

- A. Female giraffes have been observed feeding young giraffes that aren’t their direct offspring.
- B. Confrontations between a younger and an older male giraffe are frequently observed.
- C. Some female giraffes have been observed sniffing and licking their newborn offspring.
- D. Giraffes are able to make sounds but are rarely observed communicating with others.

ID: 98694066 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. If female giraffes feed nonoffspring young, that’s direct evidence that "giraffes may even help each other care for one another’s newborns."

Choice B is incorrect. Confrontations between males doesn’t tell us anything about whether giraffes help each other care for newborns. Choice C is incorrect. While this option does mention newborn offspring, it only discusses a mother’s behavior toward her own child, not another giraffe’s child. Choice D is incorrect. Whether or not giraffes are observed communicating with each other doesn’t tell us anything about whether they help each other care for newborns.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID aeb61577

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

ID: aeb61577

“Aunt Sue’s Stories” is a 1926 poem by Langston Hughes. In the poem, the speaker indicates that the stories Aunt Sue tells are based on Aunt Sue’s personal experiences, saying that _____

Which choice most effectively uses a quotation from “Aunt Sue’s Stories” to illustrate the claim?

- A. dark shadows “cross and recross / Aunt Sue’s stories.”
- B. a listening child “knows that Aunt Sue / Never got her stories out of any book at all, / But that they came / Right out of her own life.”
- C. the stories are told during “Summer nights on the front porch.”
- D. the people in the stories “Mingle themselves softly / In the flow of old Aunt Sue’s voice, / Mingle themselves softly.”

ID: aeb61577 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the speaker of the poem’s claim that the stories Aunt Sue tells are based on Aunt Sue’s personal experiences. In the quotation, the speaker conveys the listening child’s point of view that Aunt Sue’s stories originate from her personal experiences and are not taken from books or other external sources. The listening child explicitly contrasts two possible sources for Aunt Sue’s stories: a book (whose potentially fictitious stories are implied to be written by someone else) or “her own life.” By having the child confidently assert that Aunt Sue “never got her stories out of any book at all,” the speaker indicates that Aunt Sue’s stories are instead informed by her lived experiences.

Choice A is incorrect because it describes an element or image that recurs within Aunt Sue’s stories rather than indicating that these stories have a real-life basis. The reference to dark shadows that “cross and recross” the stories functions as imagery on a literal, visual level and may also evoke figurative darkness, but this detail by itself doesn’t suggest that the stories are based on Aunt Sue’s personal experiences. Choice C is incorrect because it identifies the setting of Aunt Sue’s storytelling rather than describing the real-life basis of the stories themselves. The quotation states that Aunt Sue tells her stories on “summer nights on the front porch,” which establishes when and where the storytelling occurs; however, no information is provided about the origins of the stories that Aunt Sue tells within this setting. Choice D is incorrect because it describes the movement or circulation of characters in the stories as Aunt Sue speaks rather than establishing that these stories have a real-life basis. The quotation primarily evokes the sounds of Aunt Sue’s voice and the seemingly easy “flow” of this voice in her storytelling. Although the characters who “mingle...in the flow of old Aunt Sue’s voice” are to some extent created or animated by her voice, no information is provided about the characters themselves or their relationship to Aunt Sue’s actual experiences.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0c4b689f

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

ID: 0c4b689f

“John of God, the Water-Carrier” is a 1913 short story by María Cristina Mena. In the story, the narrator presents John as being a hard worker who is fully dedicated to his job as water carrier, or *aguador*: _____

Which quotation from “John of God, the Water-Carrier” most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “Very happy, he would jog home, the heavy silver pieces in his leather pockets making a discreet and dulcet ‘trink-trak’ between his jugs and his body.”
- B. “He learned that the city *aguador* may not blow his whistle to halt the traffic while he gravely crosses the street, but must wait for the passing of many vehicles, some with horses and some outlandishly without.”
- C. “From early morn to the fall of the afternoon he would go from fountain to fountain and from portal to portal, his lean body so accustomed to bending that he never thought of straightening it, his head bowed as if in prayer.”
- D. “When his first jugs had worn out—the sweet-scented, porous red clay becomes perforated in time—he had buried them to their necks in the corner where he slept, and they were now his treasury.”

ID: 0c4b689f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim in the text that John is hard-working and dedicated to his job. In the quotation, John is portrayed as spending “early morn to the fall of the afternoon” working hard as a water carrier. John is also described as “so accustomed to bending” while doing his work “that he never thought of straightening” his body, instead remaining deeply focused on his work. These details portray John as a dedicated worker.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation portrays John as happy about heading home after being paid. It doesn’t showcase John being hard at work. Choice B is incorrect because this quotation doesn’t pertain to John’s commitment to his work; it describes difficulties the traffic in the city causes John in the performance of his work. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation doesn’t pertain to John’s commitment to his work; it discusses what John does with his worn-out water jugs.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2d697fbb

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

ID: 2d697fbb

A museum curator is writing a biographical statement about Trinidadian-born Chinese dancer, choreographer, and teacher Dai Ailian for a new exhibit on Chinese dance. The curator claims that some of the pieces Dai created shortly after arriving in mainland China in 1941, such as the solo dance *Yao Drum*, reflect a desire to represent the dances of local communities Dai visited during her travels through China.

Which quotation from a work by a dance historian would be the most effective evidence for the curator to include in support of this claim?

- A. "There is no sound or music accompanying Dai's movements in *Yao Drum*, aside from the sounds of drumsticks beating against a drum and against each other."
- B. "Unlike some of the works Dai created in the early 1940s, *Yao Drum* does not feature a narrative structure, humorous elements, or references to real-life events."
- C. "*Yao Drum* was inspired by a ceremonial dance Dai witnessed during her time performing field research among the Yao people in the province of Guizhou in 1941 or 1942."
- D. "*Yao Drum* is notable for its intense physicality, with Dai performing sharp jumps, swift turns, and dramatic sweeps of her legs through the air as she moves in circles on the stage."

ID: 2d697fbb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice clearly states that *Yao Drum* was inspired by a ceremonial dance of the Yao people. This directly supports the curator's claim that some of Dai's pieces "represent the dances of local communities" she visited.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice discusses the sound and music in *Yao Drum*, but it doesn't connect these elements to "the dances of local communities," which is the focus of the claim. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't mention the dances of local communities, but instead discusses how *Yao Drum* is different from some of Dai's earlier works. Choice D is incorrect. This choice describes the choreography of *Yao Drum*, but it doesn't connect these elements to "the dances of local communities," which is the focus of the claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 470257ac

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

ID: 470257ac

Among the most visited art museums in the world, the Galleria dell’Accademia in Florence had approximately 1.7 million visitors in 2019. The Galleria dell’Accademia also offers virtual tours that art lovers can view online for free. Although there were initial concerns that people who viewed the virtual tours would then consider an in-person visit unnecessary, museum administrators claim that their surveys of in-person visitors show that those concerns were unjustified.

Which statement, if true, would most directly support the administrators’ claim?

- A. Many surveyed visitors to the Galleria dell’Accademia indicated that the virtual tours convinced them to plan an in-person visit.
- B. Most surveyed visitors to the Galleria dell’Accademia indicated that they were unaware of the virtual tours before their first in-person visit.
- C. Most surveyed visitors to the Galleria dell’Accademia indicated that they lived somewhere other than Florence.
- D. Many surveyed visitors to the Galleria dell’Accademia indicated that they would likely view the virtual tours in order to reminisce about their in-person visit.

ID: 470257ac Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the museum administrators’ claim that concerns about virtual tours replacing in-person visits were unjustified. The text explains that after the Galleria dell’Accademia began offering online tours, there were concerns that if people viewed these virtual tours, they would consider an in-person visit to be unnecessary. The finding that many visitors who were surveyed indicated that the virtual tours actually convinced them to plan an in-person visit directly contradicts these concerns. Rather than deterring in-person visits, virtual tours actively encouraged them, providing strong support for the administrators’ claim that the initial concerns were unfounded.

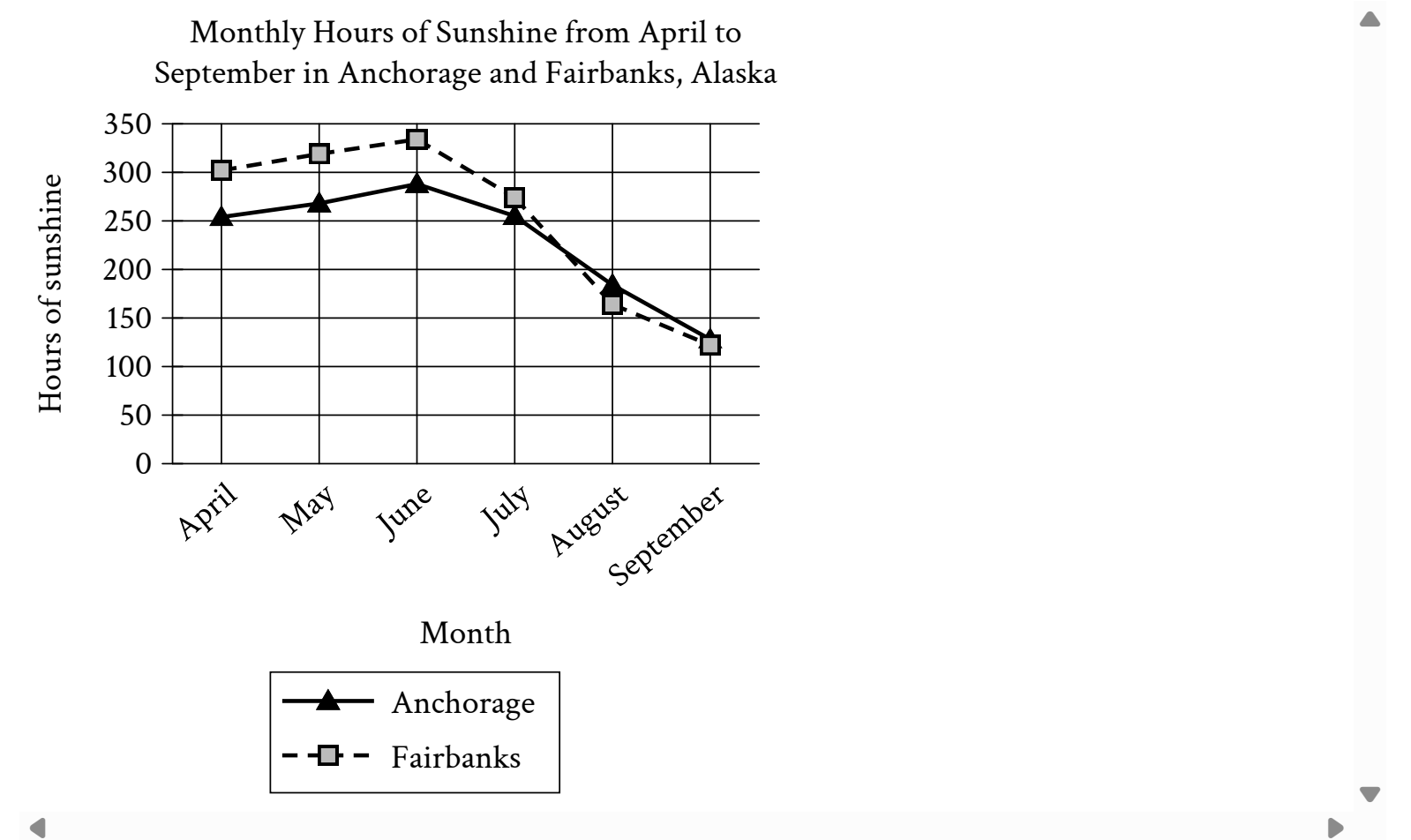
Choice B is incorrect. The finding that most surveyed visitors were unaware of the virtual tours before their first in-person visit wouldn’t directly address whether virtual tours affect decisions about in-person visits. This finding would only indicate that these particular visitors didn’t have the opportunity to be influenced by virtual tours when making their decision to visit. Choice C is incorrect because the geographic location of visitors wouldn’t address the impact of virtual tours on people’s decisions to visit the museum in person. Whether visitors live in Florence or elsewhere would suggest nothing about whether virtual tours influenced their choice. This information is irrelevant to the administrators’ claim about the relationship between virtual tours and in-person visits. Choice D is incorrect because visitors’ intentions to view virtual tours after their in-person visit wouldn’t address the initial concerns that virtual tours might make in-person visits seem unnecessary. This finding indicates that some visitors plan to use virtual tours as a way to remember their visit, but it provides no information about whether virtual tours influenced their decision to visit in person in the first place, which is what the administrators’ claim addresses.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 660d3a40

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

ID: 660d3a40



A student is researching monthly hours of sunshine in different cities in Alaska. When comparing trends in Anchorage and Fairbanks, the student concludes that the two cities show a similar pattern in the monthly hours of sunshine from April to September.

- Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the student’s conclusion?
- A. The monthly hours of sunshine in both Anchorage and Fairbanks hold steady in June and July before beginning to decline in August.
 - B. The monthly hours of sunshine in both Anchorage and Fairbanks increase from April to June and then decrease from June to September.
 - C. Anchorage and Fairbanks both have less than 200 monthly hours of sunshine from April to September.
 - D. Anchorage and Fairbanks both have more than 300 monthly hours of sunshine from April to June and less than 200 hours from July to September.

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes data from the graph that support the student's conclusion about weather patterns in Anchorage and Fairbanks. According to the graph, the amount of sunshine increases in both cities from April to June: in Anchorage, the number of monthly hours increases from about 250 to just under 300, and in Fairbanks the number of monthly hours increases from about 300 to just under 350. Also according to the graph, the amount of sunshine decreases in both cities from June to September: in Anchorage the number of monthly hours decreases from just under 300 to about 125, and in Fairbanks the number of monthly hours decreases from just under 350 to about 125. Thus, the monthly hours of sunshine in both cities follow a similar pattern, increasing from April to June and then decreasing from June to September.

Choice A is incorrect because, according to the graph, the monthly hours of sunshine in both Anchorage and Fairbanks decrease from June to July. They don't hold steady. In June there are slightly less than 300 hours of sunshine in Anchorage and slightly less than 350 hours in Fairbanks. Then, in July there are approximately 250 hours of sunshine in both cities. Choice C is incorrect because the graph shows that Anchorage and Fairbanks have less than 200 monthly hours of sunshine only in August and September. For the rest of the months represented in the graph, both cities have more than 200 monthly hours of sunshine. Choice D is incorrect because, according to the graph, Anchorage doesn't have more than 300 monthly hours of sunshine from April to June. In addition, both cities have more than 200 hours of sunshine in July, although the amount of sunshine does decrease to less than 200 monthly hours in August and September.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID be1698f6

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

ID: be1698f6

“Looking Back on Girlhood” is an 1892 short story by Sarah Orne Jewett. In the story, the narrator explains that she prefers her hometown to other places she has visited: _____

Which quotation from “Looking Back on Girlhood” most effectively illustrates this claim?

- A. “There is always something fresh, something to be traced or discovered, something particularly to be remembered.”
- B. “Two large rivers join just below the village at the head of tide-water, and these, with the great inflow from the sea, make a magnificent stream, bordered by lovely green fields that slope gently to long lines of willows at the water’s edge.”
- C. “I have had a good deal of journeying in my life, and taken great delight in it, but I have never taken greater delight than in my rides and drives and tramps and voyages within the borders of my native town.”
- D. “There is never-ending pleasure in making one’s self familiar with such a region.”

ID: be1698f6 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the narrator prefers her hometown to other places she has visited. In the quotation, the narrator compares how she feels about places she has traveled to how she feels about the town she’s from. The narrator states that although the many journeys she has made in her lifetime have brought her much pleasure, she has gained the most enjoyment from her experiences inside the borders of her hometown.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn’t express that the narrator likes her hometown better than other places she has visited; instead, the quotation describes something unspecified in positive terms, saying it continues to offer new things to explore and remember. Choice B is incorrect. Although the quotation praises a landscape surrounding a village, it doesn’t specify that this village is the narrator’s hometown, nor does it express a preference for this village over other places the narrator has visited. Choice D is incorrect. Although the quotation describes enjoyment from getting to know a region, it doesn’t compare the narrator’s feelings for this region with her feelings for her hometown.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4895cafd

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

ID: 4895cafd

“Often Rebuked, Yet Always Back Returning” is an 1846 poem by Emily Brontë. The poem conveys the speaker’s determination to experience the countryside around her: _____

Which quotation from the poem most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “Often rebuked, yet always back returning / To those first feelings that were born with me, / And leaving busy chase of wealth and learning / For idle dreams of things which cannot be.”
- B. “I’ll walk, but not in old heroic traces, / And not in paths of high morality, / And not among the half-distinguished faces, / The clouded forms of long-past history.”
- C. “I’ll walk where my own nature would be leading: / It vexes me to choose another guide: / Where the grey flocks in ferny glens are feeding; / Where the wild wind blows on the mountain side.”
- D. “To-day, I will seek not the shadowy region; / Its unsustaining vastness waxes drear; / And visions rising, legion after legion, / Bring the unreal world too strangely near.”

ID: 4895cafd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents the quotation that best illustrates the claim that the speaker is determined to experience the countryside around her. In the quotation, the speaker makes it clear that she plans to walk somewhere based on her own wishes (“where my own nature would be leading”) rather than follow anything else (“another guide”), and that she’ll walk “in ferny glens” alongside the mountain.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation suggests that the speaker wants to avoid pursuing money and education (“busy chase of wealth and learning”) and instead return to some earlier interests (her “first feelings”); the quotation doesn’t address her determination to experience the countryside. Choice B is incorrect because the speaker is describing the circumstances under which she won’t walk, which doesn’t address her determination to experience the countryside. Choice D is incorrect because rather than conveying her determination to experience the countryside, the speaker is explaining a particular thing she won’t do (“seek not the shadowy region”).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 744118ee

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

ID: 744118ee

Maximum Height of Maple Trees When Fully Grown

Tree type	Maximum height (feet)	Native to North America
Sugar maple	75	yes
Silver maple	70	yes
Red maple	60	yes
Japanese maple	25	no
Norway maple	50	no

For a school project, a forestry student needs to recommend a maple tree that is native to North America and won't grow more than 60 feet in height. Based on the characteristics of five common maple trees, she has decided to select a _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A. silver maple.
- B. sugar maple.
- C. red maple.
- D. Norway maple.

ID: 744118ee Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement about the forestry student's project. The table shows five types of maple trees, each tree's maximum height, and whether each tree is native to North America. The text indicates that the student needs to recommend a maple tree that's native to North America and won't reach a height greater than 60 feet. The red maple is the only tree listed in the table that meets these criteria: its maximum height is 60 feet—meaning that it won't grow higher than 60 feet—and it's native to North America.

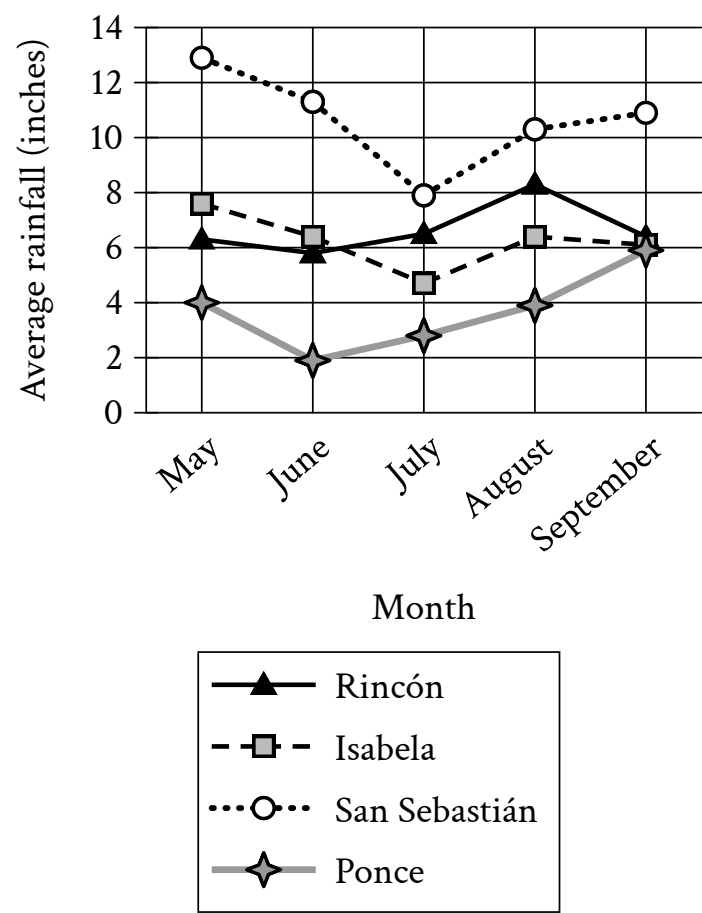
Choice A is incorrect because the text states that the student needs to recommend a tree that's native to North America and won't grow higher than 60 feet, but the table shows that the maximum height of the silver maple is 70 feet. Choice B is incorrect because the text states that the student needs to recommend a tree that's native to North America and won't grow higher than 60 feet, but the table shows that the maximum height of the sugar maple is 75 feet. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that the student needs to recommend a tree that's native to North America and won't grow higher than 60 feet, but the table shows that the Norway maple isn't native to North America.

Question ID 1ae9cecf

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

ID: 1ae9cecf

Average Monthly Rainfall in
Select Puerto Rican Cities
from 1981 to 2010



A student is presenting average monthly rainfall totals in various Puerto Rican cities for a science class. During the presentation, the student notes that in September _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

A. Rincón’s average rainfall is greater than that of Isabela, San Sebastián, and Ponce.

B. Rincón and Ponce have an average rainfall of about 5 inches, and Isabela and San Sebastián have an average rainfall of about 10 inches.

C. Rincón, Ponce, and Isabela each have an average rainfall below 8 inches, but San Sebastián’s average rainfall that month is greater than 8 inches.

D. Rincón has a similar average rainfall to Isabela, and Ponce has a similar average rainfall to San Sebastián.

ID: 1ae9cecf Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement about average rainfall in September in select Puerto Rican cities. The graph shows that between 1981 and 2010 Rincón, Ponce, and Isabela all had an average rainfall during the month of September of about 6 inches, and San Sebastián had an average rainfall of nearly 11 inches. Describing the average September rainfall of Rincón, Ponce, and Isabela as below 8 inches and the average September rainfall of San Sebastián as greater than 8 inches therefore offers an accurate description of the data in the graph and most effectively completes the statement.

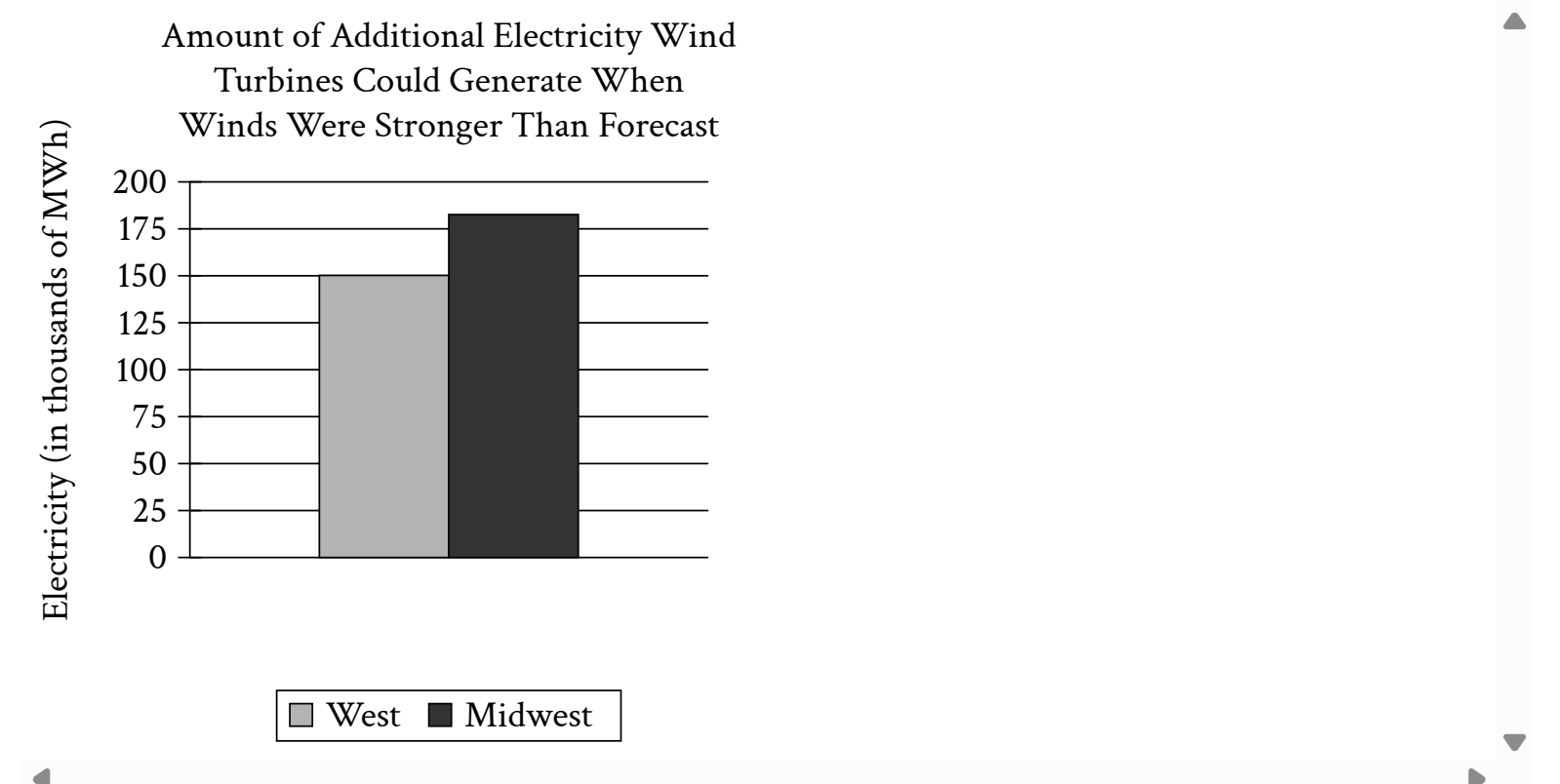
Choice A is incorrect because it offers an inaccurate interpretation of the data in the graph. The graph shows that in September, Rincón, Isabela, and Ponce all have an average rainfall of about 6 inches, and San Sebastián has an average rainfall of nearly 11 inches. Therefore, Rincón's average rainfall is the same as, not greater than, that of Isabela and Ponce, and it is below, not greater than, that of San Sebastián. Choice B is incorrect because it inaccurately describes the data in the graph. In September, Rincón and Ponce have an average rainfall of about 6 inches, not 5 inches; Isabela has an average rainfall of about 6 inches, not 10 inches; and San Sebastián has an average rainfall of nearly 11 inches, not 10 inches. Choice D is incorrect because although the graph shows a similar average rainfall (about 6 inches) for Rincón and Isabela in September, it doesn't show that Ponce has a similar average rainfall to San Sebastián during this month. In September, Ponce's average rainfall is about 6 inches, whereas San Sebastián's average rainfall is nearly 11 inches.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5955744f

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

ID: 5955744f



Electric companies that use wind turbines rely on weather forecasts to predict the maximum amount of power, in megawatt-hours (MWh), they can generate using wind so that they can determine how much they'll need to generate from other sources. When winds are stronger than they were forecast to be, however, the predicted maximum amount of electricity wind turbines could generate will be too low. For example, the graph shows that for the West region, the winds were _____

- Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the example?
- A. strong enough to generate about 150 thousand more MWh of electricity from wind turbines.
 - B. so weak that the electricity from wind turbines was about 175 thousand MWh less than predicted.
 - C. so weak that the electricity from wind turbines was about 150 thousand MWh less than predicted.
 - D. strong enough to generate about 175 thousand more MWh of electricity from wind turbines.

ID: 5955744f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The claim is that when winds are stronger than forecasted, wind turbines can generate more energy than predicted. The supporting graph shows the additional amount (above the predicted amount) that the turbines generated under those conditions, with the West generating about 150 thousand additional MWh.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't complete the example. The graph shows the additional amount of electricity that the wind turbines generated. The West bar is greater than 0, so the West generated more than the predicted amount. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't complete the example. The graph shows the additional amount of electricity that the wind turbines generated. The West bar is greater than 0, so the West generated more than the predicted amount. Choice D is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The graph shows us that the West (the bar on the left) generated about 150 thousand additional MWh.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5b0e2a5c

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

ID: 5b0e2a5c

Male túngara frogs make complex calls to attract mates, but their calls also attract frog-biting midges, insects that feed on the frogs’ blood. Researchers Ximena Bernal and Priyanka de Silva wondered if the calls alone are sufficient for midges to locate the frogs or if midges use carbon dioxide emitted by frogs as an additional cue to their prey’s whereabouts, like mosquitoes do. In an experiment, the researchers placed two midge traps in a túngara frog breeding area. One trap played recordings of túngara frog calls and the other released carbon dioxide along with playing the calls. Bernal and de Silva concluded that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to frog-biting midges.

Which finding from the experiment, if true, would most directly support Bernal and de Silva’s conclusion?

- A. Only a small number of midges were found in the traps, though the majority were found in the trap that played calls and released carbon dioxide.
- B. Midges entered the trap that released carbon dioxide and played calls only during or immediately after periods of carbon dioxide release.
- C. More midges were found in the trap that only played calls than in the trap that played calls and released carbon dioxide.
- D. The trap that released carbon dioxide and played calls attracted few midges when carbon dioxide concentrations were low but attracted many midges when carbon dioxide concentrations were high.

ID: 5b0e2a5c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the researchers’ conclusion that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to frog-biting midges regarding the location of male túngara frogs. The text begins by stating that the mating call of the male túngara frogs also attracts frog-biting midges, which prey on the frogs’ blood. Researchers Bernal and de Silva were curious if the mating calls were sufficient signals for the midges to locate the frogs or if midges also used carbon dioxide emitted by the frogs to locate their prey. The text then details the procedure the researchers used to investigate their question and summarizes their conclusion—that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to the midges. Thus, if more midges were found in the researchers’ trap that only played calls than in the trap that played calls and released carbon dioxide, it follows that the frog calls seem sufficient without the carbon dioxide cue. This finding supports the researchers’ conclusion that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to frog-biting midges.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that the majority of frog-biting midges were found in the traps that both played the mating call and released carbon dioxide would present evidence that directly refutes the researchers’ conclusion—that carbon dioxide does not serve as an additional cue to the frog-biting midges regarding the location of túngara frogs. Choice B is incorrect because if the midges entered the trap that played calls and released carbon dioxide only during or immediately after carbon dioxide was released, that would suggest that the midges used the carbon dioxide as a way to locate their prey, a finding that would contradict the researchers’ conclusion that carbon dioxide was not an additional cue to the midges. Choice D is incorrect

because a trap attracting larger numbers of midges with high carbon dioxide concentrations than a trap with low carbon dioxide concentrations suggests that carbon dioxide might serve as an additional cue to the midges as to the location on the frogs, a finding contrary to the researchers' conclusion.

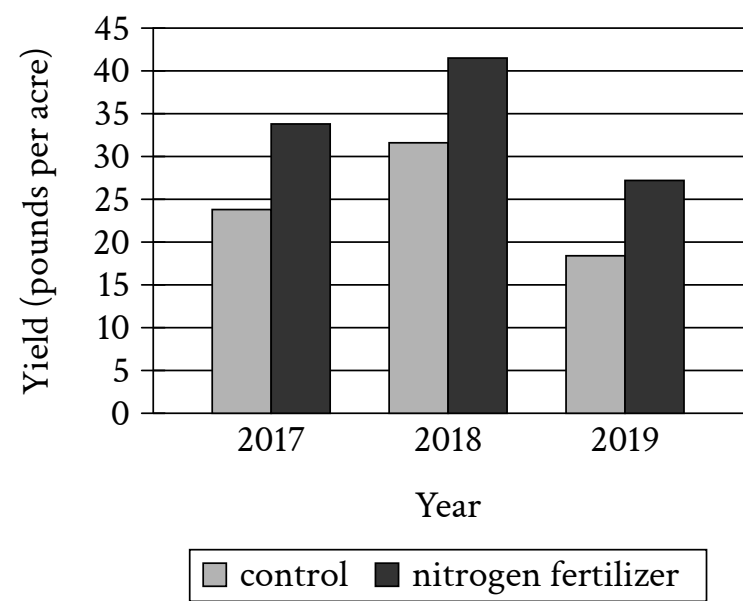
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5e0b79cd

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

ID: 5e0b79cd

Cantaloupe Yield



To test the effects of a nitrogen fertilizer on cantaloupe production, researchers grew cantaloupe plants and harvested their fruit over three years. In each year, half the plants were grown using a nitrogen fertilizer, and the other half were grown using a control fertilizer that contained no nitrogen. The researchers concluded that the nitrogen fertilizer increases cantaloupe yield.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support the researchers' conclusion?

- A. In every year of the experiment, plants treated with the nitrogen fertilizer had a yield of at least 30 pounds per acre.
- B. In every year of the experiment, plants treated with the nitrogen fertilizer had a greater yield than did plants treated with the control fertilizer.
- C. The 2018 yield for plants treated with the control fertilizer was greater than was the 2019 yield for plants treated with the nitrogen fertilizer.
- D. The yield for plants treated with the nitrogen fertilizer increased from 2017 to 2018.

ID: 5e0b79cd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion that using nitrogen fertilizer increases cantaloupe production. The bar graph shows the cantaloupe yield for plants grown with nitrogen fertilizer and

for those grown with a control fertilizer (without nitrogen) for three consecutive years (2017–2019). For each year in the graph, the yield for the nitrogen group is greater than the yield for the control group. In pounds per acre, the value in 2017 for the nitrogen-group yield is greater than 30 while the control-group yield is less than 25; in 2018 the nitrogen-group yield is greater than 40 while the control-group yield is less than 35; and in 2019 the nitrogen-group yield is greater than 25 while the control-group yield is less than 20. Thus, these data from the graph strongly support the conclusion that using nitrogen fertilizer increases cantaloupe yield.

Choice A is incorrect because the bar graph shows that in 2019 the nitrogen group had a yield below 30 pounds per acre. Choice C is incorrect. Although this choice accurately describes data in the bar graph—in 2018, the control-group yield is greater than 30 pounds per acre, and in 2019 the nitrogen-group yield is less than 30 pounds per acre—a claim that the control-group yield exceeds that of the nitrogen group strongly conflicts with the researchers’ conclusion that nitrogen fertilizer produces larger yields. Choice D is incorrect. Although it is true that the bar graph shows a higher yield for the nitrogen group in 2018 than in 2017, without the control to compare against, it is impossible to know whether the increase is due to the fertilizer and not, for example, more favorable weather in 2018 than in 2017.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 21294ef3

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

ID: 21294ef3

Results of Footprint Analysis for Two Sets of Theropod Tracks

Tracks	Estimated footprint length (centimeters)	Average stride length (meters)	Estimated mean speed (meters per second)
La Torre 6A	32.8	5.23	6.5–10.3
La Torre 6B	28.9	5.57	8.8–12.4

The table shows data from paleontologist Angélica Torices and colleagues’ 2021 study of two sets of dinosaur tracks preserved in a fossilized lake bed in Spain. The tracks, referred to as La Torre 6A and La Torre 6B, were left by two individual theropods (dinosaurs that walked on two legs). The team’s findings suggest that of the two theropods, the one that left the La Torre 6B tracks had a higher maximum mean speed, _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the claim?

- A. a longer footprint, and a longer average stride.
- B. a longer footprint, and a shorter average stride.
- C. a shorter footprint, and a longer average stride.
- D. a shorter footprint, and a shorter average stride.

ID: 21294ef3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the claim about the tracks left by two therapods. The table indicates that the set of tracks labeled La Torre 6A has an estimated footprint length of 32.8 centimeters, an average stride length of 5.23 meters, and an estimated mean speed of 6.5–10.3 meters per second. For the set of tracks labeled La Torre 6B, on the other hand, the estimated footprint length is 28.9 centimeters, the average stride length is 5.57 meters, and the estimated mean speed is 8.8–12.4 meters per second. Therefore, the therapod that left the La Torre 6B tracks had a shorter footprint and a longer average stride than the one that left the La Torre 6A tracks.

Choice A is incorrect. While it is true that of the two therapods, the one that left the La Torre 6B tracks had a longer average stride, it didn’t have a longer footprint: the table shows that its estimated footprint length is 28.9 centimeters, while La Torre 6A’s estimated footprint length is 32.8 centimeters. Choice B is incorrect because the table shows that of the two therapods, the one that left the La Torre 6B tracks had a footprint length estimated at 28.9 centimeters, which is shorter than the 32.8 centimeters

estimated for the other set of tracks. Moreover, the therapod that left the La Torre 6B tracks had a longer average stride, not shorter: 5.57 meters, compared with 5.23 meters for the other set of tracks. Choice D is incorrect. While it is true that of the two therapods, the one that left the La Torre 6B tracks had a shorter footprint, it didn't have a shorter average stride: the table shows that its average stride length is 5.57 meters, while La Torre 6A's average stride length is 5.23 meters.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 566b69dc

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

ID: 566b69dc

Average Temperatures in July in Four Locations in the Navajo Nation

Location	Average highest temperature (Fahrenheit)	Average lowest temperature (Fahrenheit)
Teec Nos Pos	94°	65°
Cameron	99°	65°
Ramah	83°	50°
Tuba City	83°	50°

The Navajo Nation has the largest land area of any tribal nation in the United States: over 27,000 square miles in the Southwest. Because this area is so huge and its communities are located at various elevations, the people of the Navajo Nation can experience different climate conditions depending on where they live. For example, in July, _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. the lowest temperature for both Cameron and Teec Nos Pos was 65°.
- B. Tuba City’s average highest temperature was 94°, while Teec Nos Pos’s was 93°.
- C. Ramah’s average highest temperature was 83°, while Cameron’s was 99°.
- D. the lowest temperature for both Ramah and Tuba City was 50°.

ID: 566b69dc Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement, providing an example of how the people of the Navajo Nation can experience different climate conditions depending on where they live. The table shows the average highest temperatures and average lowest temperatures in four locations in the Navajo Nation in July. According to the table, Ramah’s average highest temperature for July was 83°, whereas Cameron’s average highest temperature was much higher, at 99°. This difference illustrates the statement that the people of the Navajo Nation can experience different climate conditions depending on where they live.

Choice A is incorrect because it states that Cameron and Teec Nos Pos had the same average lowest temperature (65°) for July, which suggests a similarity in climate conditions in those locations rather than a difference. Choice B is incorrect because it misrepresents the data from the table, which shows that the average highest temperature in July for Tuba City was 83°, not 94°, and for Teec Nos Pos it was 94°, not 93°. Even if the cited data accurately reflected the data in the table, the similarity between the two values for average highest temperature would suggest that people in the two locations likely experience similar climate conditions, not different climate conditions. Choice D is incorrect because it states that Ramah and Tuba City had the same

average lowest temperature (50°) for July, which suggests a similarity in climate conditions in those locations rather than a difference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 53c6199a

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

ID: 53c6199a

American fashion designer Patrick Kelly was known for his love of colorful buttons. Many of his signature dresses feature bold assortments of buttons throughout the garment. In a paper, a fashion design student claims that Kelly’s use of buttons as decoration was inspired by his childhood observations of the styles and actions of the women in his family.

Which quotation from a work by a historian would be the most effective evidence for the student to include in support of this claim?

- A. “Although some of the assortments of buttons appear to be mismatched pieces scattered randomly throughout Kelly’s dresses, his most famous designs feature carefully crafted patterns of matching buttons.”
- B. “Many of Kelly’s contemporaries were inspired by his designs to incorporate buttons, as well as zippers and snaps, as decorative items in their work.”
- C. “Kelly’s grandmother, who would repair clothing when he was a child, frequently added mismatched buttons to the clothes to draw attention away from any flaws in the garments.”
- D. “Kelly was destined to be a designer from a young age: he learned how to sew clothing from his aunt Bertha, and his love of drawing was developed by his mother.”

ID: 53c6199a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This quotation draws a direct connection between the use of buttons and Kelly’s stylish female relatives.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice mentions Kelly’s use of buttons, but it doesn’t connect that design choice to the influence of women in Kelly’s family. Choice B is incorrect. This choice discusses how other designers were inspired by Kelly, which doesn’t provide evidence that Kelly was inspired by his family. Choice D is incorrect. While this choice does refer to fashionable women in Kelly’s family, it doesn’t connect their influence to Kelly’s use of buttons.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 33a95e0e

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

ID: 33a95e0e

Annual Car Production in the United States, 1910–1925

Year	Number of cars produced	Number of companies producing cars
1910	123,990	320
1915	548,139	224
1920	1,651,625	197
1925	3,185,881	80

A student is using the table as part of a social studies class presentation on the US auto industry in the early twentieth century. The student notes that, according to the table, from 1910 to 1925 _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. the number of cars produced increased but the number of companies producing cars decreased.
- B. both the number of cars produced and the number of companies producing cars remained unchanged.
- C. the number of cars produced decreased but the number of companies producing cars remained unchanged.
- D. both the number of cars produced and the number of companies producing cars increased.

ID: 33a95e0e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement about the US auto industry in the early twentieth century. The table shows the number of cars produced annually and number of companies producing cars in the United States between 1910 and 1925 in increments of five years. According to the table, the number of cars produced consistently increased from one increment to the next, going from 123,990 cars in 1910 to 3,185,881 cars in 1925. At the same time, the table shows that the number of companies producing cars consistently decreased, going from 320 companies in 1910 to only 80 companies in 1925. Thus, the table shows that the number of cars produced increased from 1910 to 1925, even as the number of companies producing cars decreased.

Choice B is incorrect. The table shows that the number of cars produced in the US increased, going from 123,990 in 1910 to 3,185,881 in 1925, instead of remaining unchanged, and the table also shows that the number of companies producing cars decreased from 320 to 80 instead of remaining unchanged. Choice C is incorrect because the table indicates that the number of cars produced consistently increased from 1910 to 1925, going from 123,990 cars to 3,185,881 cars, instead of decreasing; moreover, the table shows that the number of companies producing cars from 1910 to 1925 declined from 320 to 80 instead of

remaining unchanged. Choice D is incorrect because the table indicates that the number of companies producing cars consistently decreased from 1910 to 1925, going from 320 companies to only 80 companies.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f67ea672

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

ID: f67ea672

Researchers Narelle Haworth and Amy Schramm studied bicycling behavior in Queensland, Australia. Haworth and Schramm asked adult bike riders questions about their level of experience, reasons for riding a bike, and route preferences. The researchers claim that experienced riders who mainly bike to work tend to prefer routes that reduce their travel time.

Which survey response from a bike rider in Queensland would best support the underlined claim?

- A. "I have a bike, but I don't ride it very often. When the weather is nice, I sometimes use my bike to go into town to do some shopping."
- B. "I just got a new bike, and I'm looking forward to going on rides with my friends soon."
- C. "I bike to my job every day. There's a nice bike path that goes through a park, but I use the bike lane on the main road because it's faster."
- D. "I usually bike to work, but I'm taking the bus now because my bike has a broken part that needs to be fixed."

ID: f67ea672 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a response that best supports the underlined claim that experienced riders who mainly bike to work tend to prefer routes that reduce their travel time. The bike rider responds that they bike to work every day and that they use the bike lane because it is faster; thus, it is reasonable to assume that they are an experienced rider who prefers routes that reduce their travel time to work.

Choice A is incorrect because this response does not address the claim. The claim is about experienced riders preferring to take routes that reduce their travel time on the way to work; however, this response is from an inexperienced rider who is discussing biking for personal reasons. Choice B is incorrect because this response is not related to the underlined claim. The response from this rider does not establish the level of experience they have with riding, nor does it state that the rider uses a bike to get to work. Choice D is incorrect. Although this response is from an experienced rider who mainly bikes to work, the response also mentions that the rider's bike is broken, which is not related to any route preference.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 37e8dcc7

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

ID: 37e8dcc7

Annual Spending by International Tourists in Four Countries (in billions of US dollars)

Country	2016	2017	2018
South Korea	\$21.0	\$17.2	\$23.1
Japan	\$33.5	\$37.0	\$45.3
Thailand	\$48.5	\$57.1	\$61.4
Malaysia	\$19.7	\$20.3	\$21.8

One measure of international tourism is how much money visitors from abroad spend in a country. A student writing a report about tourism in several Asian countries notes that among the countries in the table, most had annual increases in international tourism revenue in 2017 and 2018, but that trend wasn’t universal. For example, _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

- A. in each year shown, the revenue from tourism by residents of those countries was greater than the revenue from international tourism.
- B. Japan’s international tourism revenue was higher in 2016 than it was in 2018.
- C. South Korea’s annual international tourism revenue decreased from 2016 to 2017.
- D. in each year shown, Thailand had higher international tourism income than any of the other countries.

ID: 37e8dcc7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text, providing an example that illustrates that the annual increases in international tourism revenue in 2017 and 2018 weren’t universal. The table shows the annual spending by international tourists (which indicates annual international tourism revenue) in 2016–2018 in four Asian countries. According to the table, annual spending by international tourists in South Korea was \$21.0 billion in 2016 and then decreased to \$17.2 billion in 2017. This decrease shows that not all of the countries included in the table saw increases in annual international tourism revenue in 2017.

Choice A is incorrect because the table doesn’t provide any data regarding revenue from tourism by residents of those countries. Even if that data were provided, it wouldn’t be relevant to the claim that the trend of annual increases in international tourism revenue in 2017 and 2018 was not universal. Choice B is incorrect because the data in the table do not support the statement that

Japan’s international tourism revenue was higher in 2016 than it was in 2018: the table indicates that Japan’s annual international tourism revenue was \$33.5 billion in 2016, which is less than Japan’s annual international tourism revenue of \$45.3 billion in 2018. Choice D is incorrect. Although the table does indicate that Thailand’s revenue from international tourism was higher than that of the other three Asian countries in 2016, 2017, and 2018, this information has no direct bearing on the text’s claim that not all the Asian countries represented in the table saw an increase in revenue from international tourism.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ca470ed9

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

ID: ca470ed9

Fish whose DNA has been modified to include genetic material from other species are known as transgenic. Some transgenic fish have genes from jellyfish that result in fluorescence (that is, they glow in the dark). Although these fish were initially engineered for research purposes in the 1990s, they were sold as pets in the 2000s and can now be found in the wild in creeks in Brazil. A student in a biology seminar who is writing a paper on these fish asserts that their escape from Brazilian fish farms into the wild may have significant negative long-term ecological effects.

Which quotation from a researcher would best support the student’s assertion?

- A. “In one site in the wild where transgenic fish were observed, females outnumbered males, while in another the numbers of females and males were equivalent.”
- B. “Though some presence of transgenic fish in the wild has been recorded, there are insufficient studies of the impact of those fish on the ecosystems into which they are introduced.”
- C. “The ecosystems into which transgenic fish are known to have been introduced may represent a subset of the ecosystems into which the fish have actually been introduced.”
- D. “Through interbreeding, transgenic fish might introduce the trait of fluorescence into wild fish populations, making those populations more vulnerable to predators.”

ID: ca470ed9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because this quotation would best support the student’s assertion that the escape of transgenic fish from Brazilian fish farms into the wild may have significant negative long-term ecological effects. The text explains that transgenic fish have DNA that includes genetic material from other species, that some transgenic fish have genes from jellyfish that make them glow in the dark, and that glow-in-the-dark transgenic fish can now be found in the wild in Brazilian creeks. The quotation indicates why the escape of these fish may have negative long-term ecological effects: glow-in-the-dark transgenic fish might introduce fluorescence into wild fish populations by breeding with wild fish, causing wild fish to glow in the dark and thereby allowing predators to prey on them much more easily.

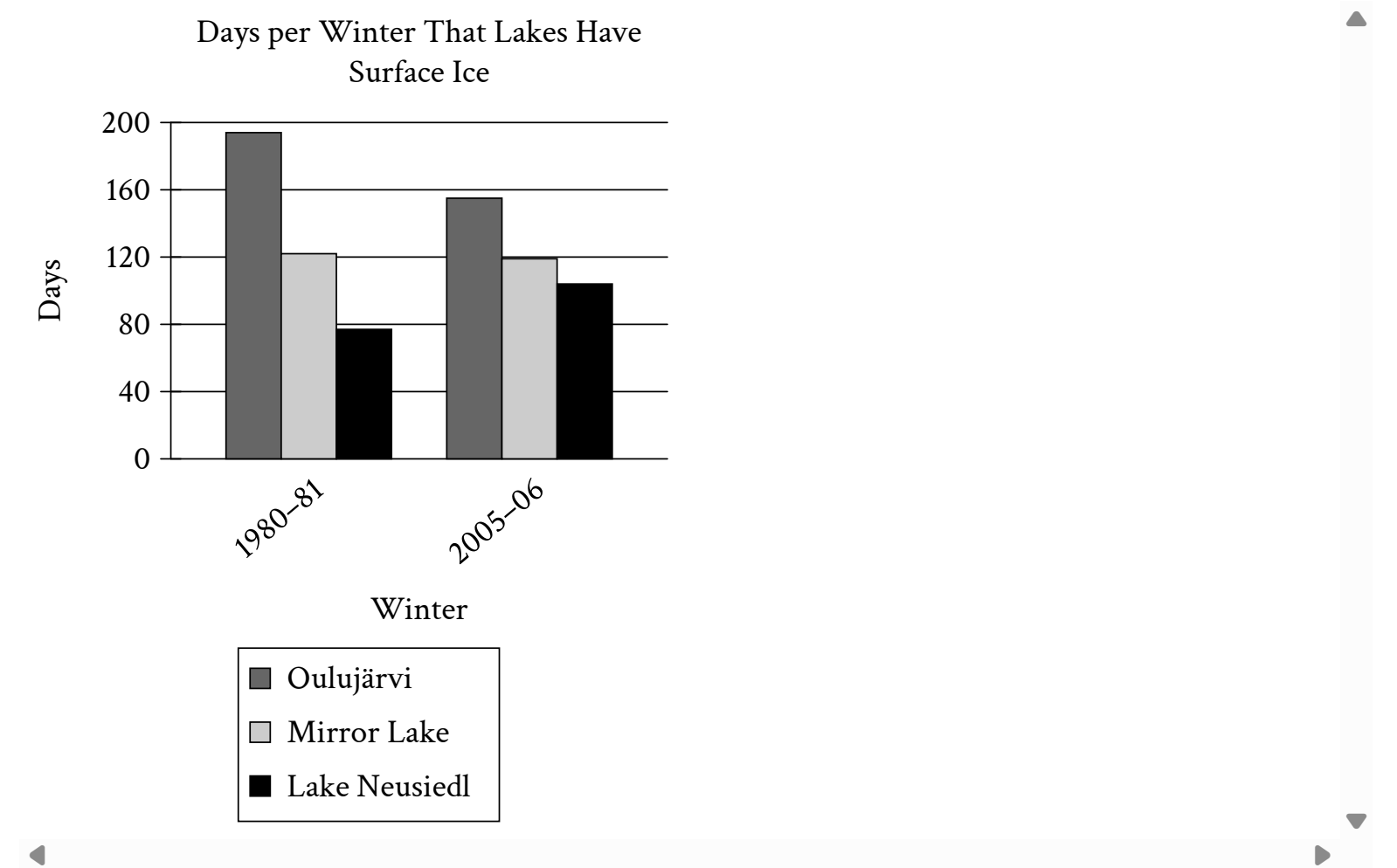
Choice A is incorrect because this quotation doesn’t mention any negative effects of the introduction of fluorescent transgenic fish into the wild. The quotation merely compares the ratio of females to males at two sites in the wild where transgenic fish have been observed. Choice B is incorrect because this quotation doesn’t support the idea that the escape of fluorescent transgenic fish from Brazilian fish farms may have significant negative long-term ecological effects. Rather, the quotation suggests that more research is needed to understand the effects. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation supports the idea that transgenic fish may be present in more ecosystems than has been observed; it doesn’t address whether the presence of fluorescent transgenic fish affects these ecosystems.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 257ae53e

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

ID: 257ae53e



It is common for freshwater lakes near or above a latitude of 45° north of the equator, like Lake Mjøsa in Norway, to accumulate surface ice in winter. The amount and duration of ice depends on many factors, including local weather conditions as well as the lake’s depth, volume, and surface area, but a climate researcher claims that some lakes in these latitudes have seen a decline in the duration of ice between the early 1980s and the mid-2000s. She cites as a typical example _____

- Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the researcher’s example?
- A. both Lake Neusiedl and Oulujärvi, which had fewer than 195 days of ice in the winter of 1980–81.
 - B. Lake Neusiedl, which had more days of ice in the winter of 2005–06 than it did in the winter of 1980–81.
 - C. Oulujärvi, which had fewer days of ice in the winter of 2005–06 than it did in the winter of 1980–81.
 - D. both Lake Neusiedl and Oulujärvi, which had more than 105 days of ice in the winter of 2005–06.

ID: 257ae53e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to exemplify the researcher's claim—namely, that the duration of ice on some lakes has declined between the early 1980s and the mid-2000s. According to the graph, Oulujärvi had surface ice for nearly 200 days in the winter of 1980–81 but only about 160 days of ice in the more recent winter of 2005–06, evidence of a clear decline in the duration of surface ice between these time periods.

Choice A is incorrect because it focuses on only one period of time (the early 1980s). Thus, the data it cites don't support the researcher's claim, which compares the duration of surface ice across two specific periods of time (the early 1980s and the mid-2000s). Choice B is incorrect because although it accurately describes data from the graph, it contradicts the researcher's claim about declining surface ice duration. It describes an increase, not a decline, in the duration of surface ice on Lake Neusiedl between the early 1980s and the mid-2000s (from about 80 days in 1980–81 to about 100 days in 2005–06). Therefore, the example of Lake Neusiedl wouldn't logically support the claim that some lakes have seen a decline in the duration of surface ice. Choice D is incorrect because it provides information that doesn't support the researcher's claim about declining ice duration. The graph could indicate that both Lake Neusiedl and Oulujärvi had more than 105 days of ice in the winter of 2005–06, but on its own, this information doesn't demonstrate a decline in ice duration between the early 1980s and the mid-2000s.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f142520c

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

ID: f142520c

Treasure Island is an 1883 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. When the narrator was a child, his father ran a hotel. A mysterious sailor came to stay at the hotel. The narrator was frightened of the sailor, as can be seen when the narrator says, _____

Which quotation from *Treasure Island* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "I remember [the sailor] as if it were yesterday, as he came plodding to the inn door, his sea-chest following behind him in a hand-barrow."
- B. "[The sailor] was a very silent man by custom. All day he hung round the cove or upon the cliffs with a brass telescope."
- C. "All the time he lived with us [the sailor] made no change whatever in his dress but to buy some stockings from a hawker. One of the [corners] of his hat having fallen down, he let it hang from that day forth, though it was a great annoyance when it blew."
- D. "How [the sailor] haunted my dreams, I need scarcely tell you. On stormy nights, when the wind shook the four corners of the house and the surf roared along the cove and up the cliffs, I would see him in a thousand forms, and with a thousand diabolical expressions."

ID: f142520c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the narrator was frightened of the sailor. The quotation describes the sailor haunting the narrator’s dreams, appearing in "a thousand forms" with "a thousand diabolical expressions." This vivid imagery conveys the intense psychological fear the narrator experienced when thinking about the sailor. Furthermore, the quotation evokes the narrator’s terror and dread by describing a stormy night setting with wind shaking the house and a roaring surf.

Choice A is incorrect because this quotation does not provide any details to suggest that the narrator was afraid of the sailor. It simply describes the narrator’s memory of the sailor arriving at the inn with his sea chest. Choice B is incorrect because this quotation does not effectively illustrate the claim that the narrator was frightened of the sailor. The quotation provides several details about the sailor, including that it was his custom to remain silent. However, the quotation does not relate these details to the narrator’s experience of being frightened of the sailor. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation focuses on aspects of the sailor’s appearance and dress. There is no connection made in the quotation between these physical details and the narrator’s sense of being frightened of the sailor.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8e91c8fb

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

ID: 8e91c8fb

Happy House is a 1920 novel by Jane Abbott. The narrator presents a young woman as being unimpressed with the house she is visiting: _____

Which quotation from *Happy House* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "Her first feeling was of disappointment; in the square lines of the house there was little claim to beauty."
- B. "Someone had opened one of the blinds so here there was more light."
- C. "The door, built squarely in the middle of the house, opened almost directly upon a stone-flagged path that led in a straight line to the road."
- D. "She tip-toed through the hall and opened the door on the right."

ID: 8e91c8fb Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses a quotation from *Happy House* to illustrate the claim that the young woman is unimpressed with the house she is visiting. In the quotation, it says the young woman's "first feeling was of disappointment" and that "there was little claim to beauty" when referring to the house. This disappointment and the overall lack of beauty in the house suggest that the young woman isn't impressed by the house she is visiting.

Choice B is incorrect because the quotation doesn't describe what the young woman thinks about the house. Instead, it indicates that there is more light because window blinds have been opened. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation describes a door and a path outside of the house but doesn't include anything to indicate the young woman's feelings about the house. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation states what the young woman did in the house ("tip-toed through the hall" and "opened the door"), but it doesn't show what she thinks about it.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1cbce24f

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

ID: 1cbce24f

Average Prices Received by US Growers for Citrus Fruits,
2020–2021 (dollars per box)

Fruit	June 2020	June 2021	July 2020	July 2021
Grapefruits	\$13.80	\$23.72	\$16.13	\$22.98
Oranges	\$16.15	\$11.09	\$15.53	\$13.79
Lemons	\$19.50	\$28.94	\$21.01	\$31.78

An employee of a citrus grower in the United States is analyzing the prices of several varieties of fruit over the course of a growing season. The employee wishes to know how much a grower could have expected to receive on average for a box of lemons in July 2021. Consulting the table, the employee finds that this amount is _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. \$31.78.
- B. \$23.72.
- C. \$22.98.
- D. \$28.94.

ID: 1cbce24f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text’s discussion of how much a grower could have expected to receive on average for a box of lemons in July 2021. The table lists the average prices received by US citrus growers in dollars per box for grapefruits, oranges, and lemons in June 2020, June 2021, July 2020, and July 2021. According to the table, the average price of a box of lemons in July 2021 was \$31.78.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the employee of a citrus grower wishes to know the average price for a box of lemons in July 2021. According to the table, \$23.72 was the average price for a box of grapefruits in June 2021, not for a box of lemons in July 2021. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that the employee of a citrus grower wishes to know the average price for a box of lemons in July 2021. According to the table, \$22.98 was the average price for a box of grapefruits in July 2021, not for a box of lemons in July 2021. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that the employee of a citrus grower wishes to know the average price for a box of lemons in July 2021. According to the table, \$28.94 was the average price for a box of lemons in June 2021, not in July 2021.

Question ID 8dc30901

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

ID: 8dc30901

Effect of Neighboring Species on Pollinator Visits to Target Species

Neighboring species	Target species	Effect value
Virginia spring beauty	star chickweed	0.4853
Himalayan balsam	marsh woundwort	0.7905
common dandelion	cat’s ear	−0.6254

Researchers Carolina Laura Morales and Anna Traveset gathered data about flowering plants growing alongside each other in various locations. In each case, the researchers identified one plant as a “target species” and a nearby plant as a “neighboring species.” The researchers then calculated a positive or negative value to show how the neighboring species affected pollinator visits to the target species. One example of a neighboring species with a negative effect value is the _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

- A. Himalayan balsam.
- B. common dandelion.
- C. star chickweed.
- D. Virginia spring beauty.

ID: 8dc30901 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example of a neighboring species that has a negative effect value. The table lists neighboring species, target species, and effect values. The table shows that only one neighboring species, the common dandelion, has a negative effect value (−0.6254).

Choice A is incorrect because the table shows that the neighboring species Himalayan balsam has a positive effect value, 0.7905, so it isn’t an example of a neighboring species with a negative effect value. Choice C is incorrect because the table shows that star chickweed is a target species, so it isn’t an example of a neighboring species with a negative effect value. Choice D is incorrect because the table shows that the neighboring species Virginia spring beauty has a positive effect value, 0.4853, so it isn’t an example of a neighboring species with a negative effect value.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 06838086

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

ID: 06838086

Puerto Rico is an island in the Caribbean Sea. Indigenous people there started raising guinea pigs about 1,700 years ago. Guinea pigs had originally been domesticated much earlier in both Colombia and Peru. So were guinea pigs brought to Puerto Rico from Colombia or from Peru? Ancient Caribbean trade routes connected Puerto Rico with Colombia but not with Peru. Therefore, guinea pigs in Puerto Rico probably came from Colombia and descended from Colombian guinea pigs.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the underlined claim?

- A. Ancient guinea pigs in Puerto Rico were genetically less similar to ancient guinea pigs in Colombia than to ancient guinea pigs in Peru.
- B. Guinea pigs are common in ancient Puerto Rican art, especially in pottery.
- C. Modern breeds of guinea pigs don't look like images of guinea pigs in ancient art from Puerto Rico, Colombia, and Peru.
- D. The guinea pig population of ancient Colombia was much larger than the guinea pig population of ancient Peru.

ID: 06838086 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly weaken the underlined claim that guinea pigs in Puerto Rico probably came from Colombia and descended from Colombian guinea pigs. The text makes this claim based on the fact that ancient trade routes connected Puerto Rico with Colombia but not with Peru. However, if it's true that ancient guinea pigs in Puerto Rico were genetically less similar to ancient guinea pigs in Colombia than to ancient guinea pigs in Peru, this would suggest that the Puerto Rican guinea pigs didn't descend from Colombian guinea pigs. Instead, Puerto Rican guinea pigs' greater genetic similarity to Peruvian guinea pigs implies that ancient guinea pigs in Puerto Rico were likely brought to the island from Peru, despite the lack of direct ancient trade routes between the two regions.

Choice B is incorrect. While a finding about how common guinea pig imagery is in ancient Puerto Rican art would indicate the cultural significance of guinea pigs, it wouldn't be relevant to a claim about the geographical origin or descent of the guinea pig population on the island. The guinea pigs depicted in the artwork could have descended from guinea pigs in either Colombia or Peru; therefore, the finding would neither weaken nor strengthen the claim that guinea pigs in Puerto Rico probably came from Colombia and descended from Colombian guinea pigs. Choice C is incorrect because the finding that modern breeds of guinea pigs don't look like images of guinea pigs in ancient art from Puerto Rico, Colombia, and Peru wouldn't address the ancestral relationships between ancient guinea pig populations in these three regions. Therefore, the finding would neither weaken nor strengthen the claim that guinea pigs in Puerto Rico probably came from Colombia and descended from Colombian guinea pigs. Choice D is incorrect because a finding about the population sizes of guinea pigs in ancient Colombia and ancient Peru wouldn't be relevant to a claim about which population the Puerto Rican guinea pigs likely descended from. The smaller guinea pig population of Peru could still have been the source for the Puerto Rican guinea pig population.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0221572c

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

ID: 0221572c

“To You” is an 1856 poem by Walt Whitman. In the poem, Whitman suggests that readers, whom he addresses directly, have not fully understood themselves, writing, _____

Which quotation from “To You” most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “You have not known what you are, you have slumber’d upon yourself / all your life, / Your eyelids have been the same as closed most of the time.”
- B. “These immense meadows, these interminable rivers, you are immense / and interminable as they.”
- C. “I should have made my way straight to you long ago, / I should have blabb’d nothing but you, I should have chanted nothing / but you.”
- D. “I will leave all and come and make the hymns of you, / None has understood you, but I understand you.”

ID: 0221572c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents the quotation that most directly illustrates the claim that Whitman’s poem suggests that its readers haven’t fully understood themselves. This quotation makes that point directly by saying to readers, “You have not known what you are.” The quotation goes on to reinforce this point using a metaphor of sleep, saying that readers have “slumber’d” and that their “eyelids have been the same as closed most of the time.”

Choice B is incorrect because this quotation doesn’t suggest that readers haven’t fully understood themselves but instead characterizes readers as “immense” and “interminable.” Although immense and interminable things can be difficult to understand, this quotation doesn’t make that point. Choice C is incorrect because this quotation doesn’t suggest that readers haven’t fully understood themselves but instead conveys the speaker’s regret over not having celebrated readers sooner. In fact, this quotation says nothing at all about readers themselves—it’s focused solely on the speaker’s feelings about readers. Choice D is incorrect because this quotation doesn’t suggest that readers haven’t fully understood themselves; instead, this quotation makes the point that the speaker has understood readers and is determined to create “hymns” about them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2cd63837

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

ID: 2cd63837

Mean Ratings for Patients after 21 Days

Measure	Mean rating for participants aware of taking a placebo	Mean rating for participants in the control group
Global improvement	5.0	3.9
Symptom severity reduction	92.00	46.00
Quality of life improvement	11.4	5.4

To test whether a medication is effective, scientists compare outcomes for patients taking it and patients taking a placebo (a medically inactive substance). Patients normally aren’t told they’re receiving a placebo, but a research team conducted a study to see if there might be a medical benefit to telling them. The team used various measures to evaluate participants, with higher ratings indicating greater well-being in each measure. Compared to the mean ratings after 21 days for participants in the control group, the mean ratings for participants who were aware of taking a placebo _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. ranged from 5.0 to 92.00, indicating that well-being varied widely from participant to participant.
- B. were lower for two measures, with the rating for only one measure indicating greater well-being for these participants.
- C. ranged from 3.9 to 46.00, with no rating indicating greater well-being in any measure for these participants.
- D. were higher for all three measures, indicating greater overall well-being for these participants.

ID: 2cd63837 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement comparing the mean ratings for two different groups of participants in a study. The text explains that a research team evaluated the study's participants using various measures in order to learn whether there might be a medical benefit to telling patients they're receiving a placebo. The table shows the team's mean ratings for participants after 21 days for three of the measures: global improvement, symptom severity reduction, and quality of life improvement. According to the table, the mean ratings were higher for all three measures for participants aware of taking a placebo than for participants in the control group. Given that higher ratings indicate greater well-being, as the text states, the mean ratings in the table indicate greater overall well-being for participants aware of taking a placebo than for participants in the control group.

Choice A is incorrect because the table doesn't include data about individual participants; rather, it presents means, or mathematical averages, of ratings. For this reason, no conclusions can be drawn from data in the table about the extent to which well-being may have varied from participant to participant. Choice B is incorrect because according to the table, the mean ratings for participants aware of taking a placebo were higher for all three measures than for participants in the control group, not lower for two of the measures. Choice C is incorrect because it cites data from the table related to participants in the control group, not to participants aware of taking a placebo. Additionally, the mean ratings in the table for participants aware of taking a placebo are higher for all three measures than for participants in the control group. Given that higher ratings indicate greater well-being, as the text states, the ratings in the table for participants aware of taking a placebo indicate greater well-being for these participants in all three measures.

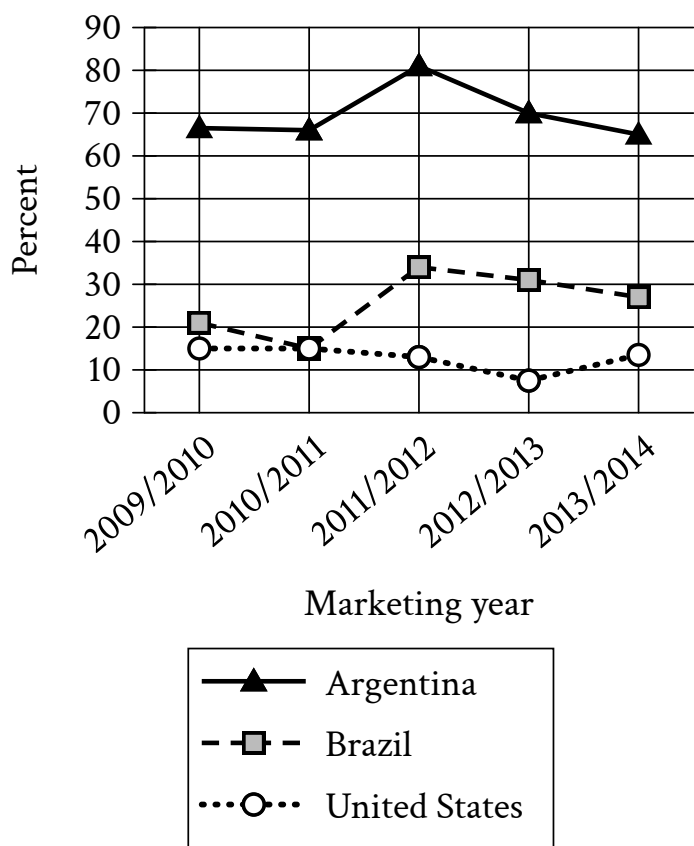
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID edad9457

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

ID: edad9457

Percentage of Maize Exported
by Three Countries for Marketing
Years 2009/2010–2013/2014



Argentina, Brazil, and the United States are among the world’s leading producers of maize (corn), and each country exports a certain percentage of maize each marketing year, which runs from March to February in Argentina and Brazil and from September to August in the United States. A student is researching those percentages and finds that for the marketing year 2012/2013, the percentage of maize exported by _____

- Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?
- A. Brazil increased from the previous marketing year but remained lower than the percentage exported by the United States.
 - B. Brazil exceeded the percentage exported by Argentina for the first time.
 - C. Argentina decreased from the previous marketing year but remained the highest among the three countries.
 - D. the United States reached its highest point during the five marketing years.

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text's discussion of the percentages of maize exported in the marketing year 2012/2013. The graph presents percentages of maize exported by Argentina, Brazil, and the United States in marketing years 2009/2010 to 2013/2014 and indicates that for the marketing year 2012/2013, the percentage of maize exported by Argentina decreased to about 70 percent from about 80 percent in the previous marketing year. The graph also shows that the percentage of maize exported by Argentina remained highest among the three countries in the marketing year 2012/2013, surpassing the percentage exported by Brazil (about 31 percent) and by the United States (about 8 percent).

Choice A is incorrect because for the marketing year 2012/2013, the graph indicates that the percentage of maize exported by Brazil didn't increase from the previous year; rather, it decreased from about 34 percent to about 31 percent. Moreover, the graph shows that the percentage of maize exported by Brazil remained higher, not lower, than the percentage exported by the United States in the marketing year 2012/2013. Choice B is incorrect because the graph indicates that the percentage of maize exported by Brazil never exceeded the percentage exported by Argentina for any of the marketing years represented. Choice D is incorrect because the graph indicates that the percentage of maize exported by the United States reached its lowest point, not its highest, during the five marketing years in 2012/2013, with the United States exporting only about 8 percent of its maize in that marketing year.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 84d22dbd

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

ID: 84d22dbd

Partial List of Candidate Species for De-extinction

Common name	Scientific name	Became extinct
Huia	<i>Heteralocha acutirostris</i>	1907
Caribbean monk seal	<i>Monachus tropicalis</i>	1952
Passenger pigeon	<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	1914
Saber-toothed cat	<i>Smilodon</i>	11,000 years before present
Woolly mammoth	<i>Mammuthus primigenius</i>	6,400 years before present

The passage of time is among the many obstacles faced by scientists who are pursuing de-extinction efforts—that is, efforts to use breeding or a mixture of cloning and genetic engineering to bring back extinct species. Specifically, researchers are concerned that the longer a species has been extinct, the less likely it is that a suitable habitat still exists for that species. Among candidate species for de-extinction, this problem would be especially concerning for the _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A. passenger pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*), which became extinct only a few years after the huia (*Heteralocha acutirostris*).
- B. saber-toothed cat (*Smilodon*), which became extinct 11,000 years ago.
- C. woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*), which became extinct several thousand years before the saber-toothed cat (*Smilodon*).
- D. Caribbean monk seal (*Monachus tropicalis*), which became extinct in 1952.

ID: 84d22dbd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it uses data from the table to complete the statement regarding a species for which the problem of finding a suitable habitat would be especially concerning. For each candidate species, the table lists its common name, scientific name, and when the species became extinct. The text explains that scientists pursuing de-extinction for the candidate species also consider the length of time that has passed since the species’ extinction, noting that the longer the animal has been extinct, the less likely it is that a suitable habitat would exist for the species today. The possibility of not having a suitable habitat would be especially concerning for the candidate species for which the most time has passed since its extinction. According to the table this species would be the saber-toothed cat, which became extinct 11,000 years before present.

Choice A is incorrect because it compares the time since the extinction of the passenger pigeon to the time since the extinction of the huia instead of citing the species listed in the table that has been extinct the longest (the saber-toothed cat). The text indicates that the longer a species has been extinct, the lower the chances are that a suitable habitat exists for it today. Neither the table nor the text supports the claim that the passenger pigeon is especially vulnerable to this problem. Choice C is incorrect because the text states that the longer a species has been extinct, the less likely it is that there would be a suitable habitat available for the species today. So, the problem would be especially concerning for the saber-toothed cat, which became extinct several thousand years before the woolly mammoth did—not the other way around. Choice D is incorrect because the text states that the longer a species has been extinct, the lower the chances are that a suitable habitat would be available for that species today. According to the table, the Caribbean monk seal became extinct in 1952, which is the most recent extinction listed for a candidate species in the table.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID be321091

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

ID: be321091

Olms are salamanders that live in underwater caves. Scientists once thought that olms stay in their caves all their lives. However, Raoul Manenti and team claim that olms regularly come to the surface to perform important activities such as finding food.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the underlined claim?

- A. Researchers determine that olms don't breed often.
- B. Researchers confirm that olms live in only a few cave systems.
- C. Researchers discover that earthworms from surface soils are a major part of olms' diet.
- D. Researchers learn that olms' brains differ from other salamanders' brains.

ID: be321091 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most strongly support Manenti and team's claim that olms regularly come to the surface to find food. The text explains that scientists previously believed olms remained in their underwater caves throughout their lives, but Manenti's team claims that olms actually surface regularly to perform important activities like finding food. Since earthworms from surface soils would not be present in underwater caves, the finding that such earthworms constitute a major part of olms' diet would provide compelling evidence that olms regularly leave their underwater cave environment to obtain food from the surface, thus supporting the underlined claim.

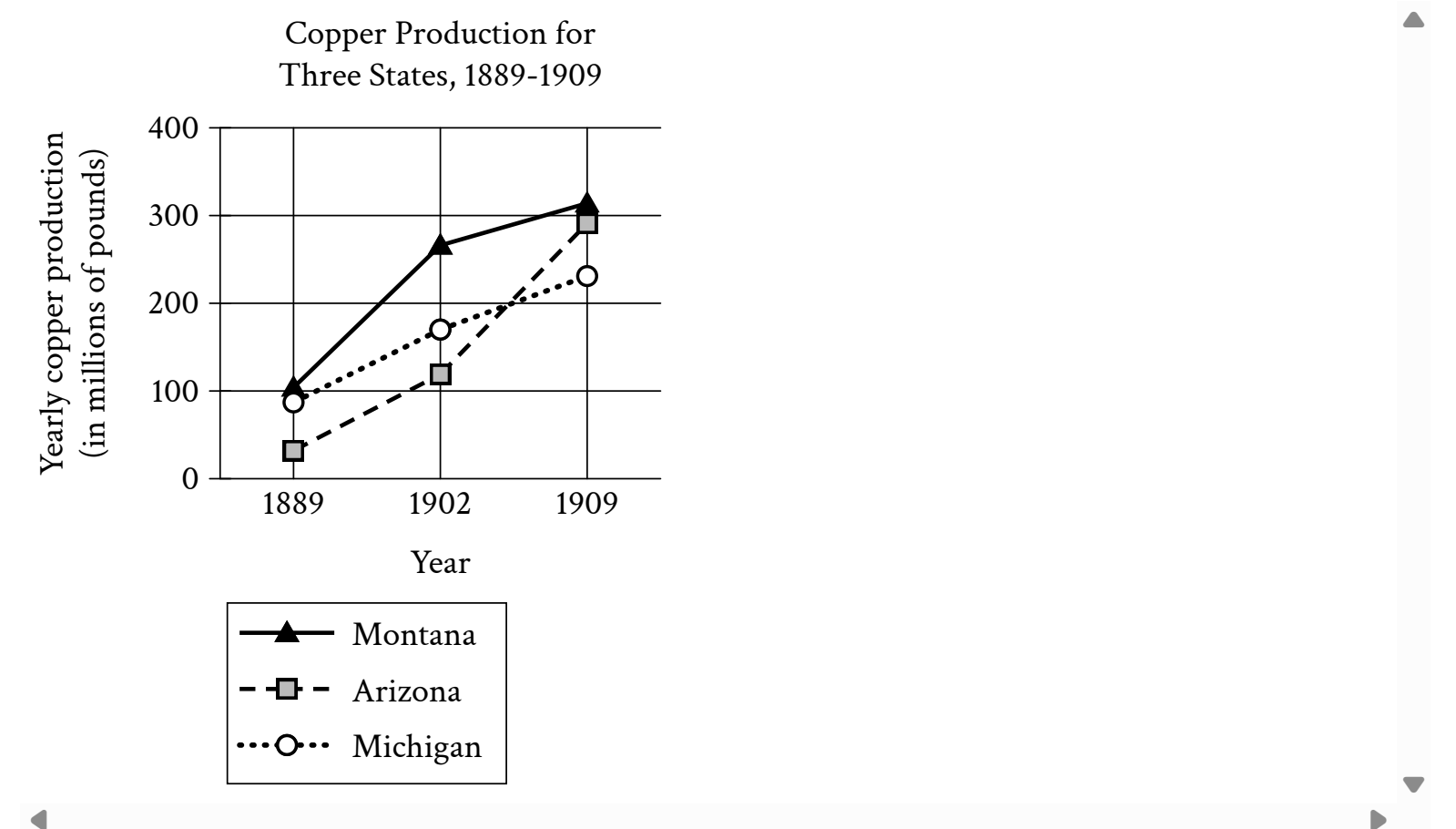
Choice A is incorrect because information about olms' breeding frequency wouldn't support the claim about their leaving their underwater habitats to obtain food. While breeding patterns might be relevant to understanding olm behavior in general, this finding doesn't address whether olms surface to find food, which is the specific behavior that the underlined claim addresses. Choice B is incorrect because learning that olms live in only a few cave systems wouldn't support the claim about their regular visits to the surface. This finding would provide information about the geographic distribution of olm habitats but wouldn't address whether olms leave these caves to find food or perform other activities on the surface. Choice D is incorrect because the differences between olms' brains and other salamanders' brains have no clear connection to olms' movement beyond their underwater habitats or to their feeding habits. A finding about the uniqueness of olms' brains wouldn't address whether olms leave their caves to find food or support Manenti and team's claim about olms' motivation for coming to the surface.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID cfa5bc37

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

ID: cfa5bc37



Copper had been mined in the US for thousands of years, but large-scale commercial mining of copper took off starting in the late 1800s. This was due to several factors. Technological advancements in the mining industry led to improvements in the production of copper. This helped the country keep up with the growing number of people wanting to buy copper starting in the 1890s. At the same time, the growth of the railroad system made the transportation of copper in large batches much easier. Several states saw rapid growth in the production of this resource, for example: _____

Which choice most effectively uses the data in the graph to complete the example?

- A. The rise in copper production in Michigan slowed from 1902 to 1909.
- B. Montana and Arizona produced more copper than Michigan did in 1909.
- C. Fewer than 100 million pounds of copper were produced in Arizona in 1889.
- D. Copper production rose significantly from 1889 to 1909 for Arizona, Michigan, and Montana.

ID: cfa5bc37 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text asks us to provide examples of several states that saw rapid growth in copper production from the 1890s onward. The graph depicts Arizona, Michigan, and Montana all experiencing such rapid growth during this time period.

Choice A is incorrect. The claim is about states experiencing rapid growth in copper production. This statement only discusses one state and does not provide evidence of rapid growth—in fact, it discusses a slow-down of growth. Choice B is incorrect. The claim is about states experiencing rapid growth in copper production, and this statement provides a comparison of production rates between states, rather than an example of rapid growth. Choice C is incorrect. The claim is about several states experiencing rapid growth in copper production. This statement only discusses one state and does not provide evidence of growth in copper production.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8bb71543

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

ID: 8bb71543

Some residents in a neighborhood in Atlanta recently founded a community garden inside a local park. The residents agreed to volunteer to take care of the garden together. Students at a local high school surveyed some of the volunteers as part of a project to understand the impact of the new garden. The students concluded that the new garden benefited the community overall by fostering connections and relationships between the volunteers and other residents of the neighborhood who weren't volunteering at the garden.

Which quotation from a survey respondent would best illustrate the students' conclusion?

- A. "Our first challenge was deciding what plants would be most suitable to the climate and soil here in Atlanta. We needed plants that could survive the hot and humid summers."
- B. "We're lucky to have a few expert gardeners living in the neighborhood. Some volunteers and I have gone to them a few times with questions, and they've been eager to help us and to learn more about the project."
- C. "I love getting the opportunity to be outside and around nature, especially on days when the weather is nice."
- D. "My favorite thing about the garden is the feeling of pride I get when I walk by each day. As I see the plants growing, I feel good knowing I had a small part in creating this beautiful space in the neighborhood."

ID: 8bb71543 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice shows how volunteers have been interacting with nonvolunteer neighbors and benefiting from their gardening expertise: proof of the connections enabled by the garden.

Choice A is incorrect. This volunteer describes the challenges of developing the garden, which isn't connected to the conclusion about the garden fostering connections between volunteers and neighbors. Choice C is incorrect. While the volunteer expresses enthusiasm for the garden, they don't mention any interactions with other people, which is what the students need to show for their conclusion. Choice D is incorrect. The respondent enjoys and takes pride in the garden, but they don't mention interacting with neighbors or other volunteers.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 556ce21a

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

ID: 556ce21a

Number and Origin of Clamshell Tools Found at Different Depths below the Surface in Neanderthal Cave

Depth of tools found below surface in cave (meters)	Clamshells that Neanderthals collected from the beach	Clamshells that Neanderthals harvested from the seafloor
2–3	7	0
3–4	99	33
4–5	2	0
5–6	18	7
6–7	1	0

Two kinds of clamshell tools used by Neanderthals were dug up in a cave on the western coast of Italy. Archaeologist Paola Villa and her colleagues studied the tools and determined that Neanderthals either collected clams that had washed onto the beach or harvested clams from the seafloor and then sharpened the shells to make tools. The highest number of tools made from clamshells that were collected from the beach was found at a depth of _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A. 5–6 meters below the surface.
- B. 4–5 meters below the surface.
- C. 3–4 meters below the surface.
- D. 6–7 meters below the surface.

ID: 556ce21a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement about the depth at which the highest number of tools made from clamshells that Neanderthals collected from the beach was found. The table presents the depths at which Neanderthal clamshell tools were found, and, for each depth, the number of those tools made from clamshells that washed up on the beach and the number made from clamshells harvested from the seafloor. The table indicates that the highest number made from clamshells collected from the beach was 99 and that these tools were found at a depth of 3–4 meters.

Choice A is incorrect because the table indicates that 18 tools made from clamshells collected from the beach were found at a depth of 5–6 meters, which is fewer than the 99 tools found at a depth of 3–4 meters. Choice B is incorrect because the table

indicates that 2 tools made from clamshells collected from the beach were found at a depth of 4–5 meters, which is fewer than the 99 tools found at a depth of 3–4 meters. Choice D is incorrect because the table indicates that 1 tool made from clamshells collected from the beach was found at a depth of 6–7 meters, which is fewer than the 99 tools found at a depth of 3–4 meters.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 36266004

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

ID: 36266004

Water flowing around an obstruction creates vortices (patterns of swirls) of varying size; by detecting the vortices, fish can determine the size and position of the obstruction. Testing by Yuzo R. Yanagisuru, Otar Akanyeti, and James C. Liao using models of three head shapes—narrow (low ratio of width to length), intermediate, and wide (high ratio of width to length)—showed that for medium-sized vortices, fish with wide heads would be least able to distinguish between vortices and general turbulence in the water. A second research team has therefore hypothesized that in low-visibility conditions, wider-headed fish will be less likely than narrower-headed fish to detect obstructions.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the second research team’s hypothesis?

- A. A study using obstructions that created medium-sized vortices in low-visibility conditions found that the bristlemouth (*Chaetostoma yurubiense*), which has a relatively wide head, bumped into more than half of the obstructions.
- B. A study using obstructions that created medium-sized vortices in low-visibility conditions found that some specimens of dusky smooth-hound (*Mustelus canis*), which has a relatively narrow head, bumped into the obstructions more often than other specimens of the same fish did.
- C. A study using obstructions that created medium-sized vortices in low-visibility conditions found that the wider-headed bristlemouth (*Chaetostoma yurubiense*) bumped into obstructions more often than the narrower-headed dusky smooth-hound (*Mustelus canis*) did.
- D. A study using obstructions that created medium-sized vortices in low-visibility conditions found that the narrower-headed dusky smooth-hound (*Mustelus canis*) bumped into the obstructions just as often as the wider-headed bristlemouth (*Chaetostoma yurubiense*) did.

ID: 36266004 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most directly support the second research team’s hypothesis about how a fish’s head shape affects the fish’s ability to detect obstructions. The text explains that fish detect obstructions using water vortices and that testing by Yanagisuru, Akanyeti, and Liao showed that fish with wide heads struggle to distinguish medium-sized vortices from general turbulence in the water. Based on this finding, a second research team hypothesized that in low-visibility conditions, wider-headed fish would be less effective at detecting obstructions than narrower-headed fish. The finding that wider-headed bristlemouth fish bumped into obstructions more often than narrower-headed dusky smooth-hound fish did under the specified conditions (low visibility with medium-sized vortices) would directly support the second team’s hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect because it would provide only partial support for the second research team’s hypothesis. While this finding shows that wide-headed bristlemouth fish bumped into many obstructions, it provides no comparison with narrow-headed fish. The hypothesis specifically predicts a difference in detection ability between fish with wider heads and those with narrower heads,

so supporting evidence would need to include data from both head types to allow for this comparison. Choice B is incorrect because it would not support the second research team’s hypothesis comparing obstruction detection between fish with wide heads and those with narrow heads. Instead, it examines variation within a single narrow-headed species, which would not address the hypothesis about differences between fish with wider and narrower head shapes. Choice D is incorrect because this finding would contradict rather than support the second research team’s hypothesis. The hypothesis predicts that wider-headed fish will be less likely to detect obstructions than narrower-headed fish in low-visibility conditions, which would result in wider-headed fish bumping into obstructions more frequently. A finding showing equal bumping rates between fish with the two head shapes would indicate no relationship between head width and detection ability, directly contradicting the hypothesis.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4b3a7394

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

ID: 4b3a7394

Estimated Impacts of Invasive Predator Species on Threatened Birds, Mammals, and Reptiles

Invasive predator species	Estimated impact on threatened birds	Estimated impact on threatened mammals	Estimated impact on threatened reptiles
Mongoose	0.66	0.75	0.44
Dogs	0.67	0.57	0.44
Cats	0.74	0.61	0.52

How harmful are invasive predators to threatened species? To find out, researchers assigned values from 0.25 to 1.00 to various harms caused by invasive predators. The researchers then used these values to estimate the extent to which several invasive predator species have harmfully impacted threatened birds, mammals, and reptiles. In the table, higher numbers represent greater impacts. The estimated impact of invasive mongooses on threatened mammals is _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the example?

- A. 0.35.
- B. 0.61.
- C. 0.75.
- D. 0.52.

ID: 4b3a7394 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it effectively uses data from the table to complete the example of the estimated impact of invasive mongooses on threatened mammals. The table shows the values for the estimated harmful impact of three invasive predator species (mongooses, dogs, and cats) on threatened birds, mammals, and reptiles. The text states that the values are on a scale from 0.25 (less impact) to 1.00 (greater impact). The table shows that the value for the estimated impact of invasive mongooses on threatened mammals is 0.75.

Choice A is incorrect because the table shows that the value for the estimated impact of mongooses on threatened mammals is 0.75, not 0.35. The value 0.35 is not assigned to any of the categories in the table. Choice B is incorrect because the table shows that 0.61 is the value for the estimated impact of cats, not mongooses, on threatened mammals. Choice D is incorrect because the table shows that 0.52 is the value for the estimated impact of cats on threatened reptiles, not of mongooses on threatened mammals.

Question ID 35a55dc4

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

ID: 35a55dc4

Survey Results for Two Online Account Sign-in Methods

Sign-in method	Percent of participants in the UK who chose method	Percent of participants in Japan who chose method	Percent of participants in India who chose method
Biometrics (for example, a face scan)	33	29	22
Onetime passcodes	16	8	25

A survey listed methods for signing into online accounts. Participants in different countries were asked to choose the sign-in method they view as most secure. The table presents data for two of the methods. According to the table, onetime passcodes were viewed as most secure by _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A. 33 percent of survey participants in the UK.
- B. 22 percent of survey participants in India.
- C. 8 percent of survey participants in Japan.
- D. 16 percent of survey participants in India.

ID: 35a55dc4 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text about survey results for online account sign-in methods. According to the table, 8 percent of participants in Japan viewed onetime passcodes as the most secure sign-in method. This is the only choice that correctly represents data in the table.

Choice A is incorrect because according to the table, 33 percent of participants in the UK viewed biometrics, not onetime passcodes, as the most secure sign-in method; onetime passcodes were viewed as the most secure method by 16 percent of these participants. Choice B is incorrect because according to the table, 22 percent of participants in India viewed biometrics, not onetime passcodes, as the most secure sign-in method; onetime passcodes were viewed as the most secure method by 25 percent of these participants. Choice D is incorrect because according to the table, the country in which 16 percent of participants viewed onetime passcodes as the most secure sign-in method was the UK, not India; of participants in India, 25 percent viewed such passcodes as the most secure method.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 47627c25

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

ID: 47627c25

External shopping cues are a type of marketing that uses obvious messaging—a display featuring a new product, for example, or a “buy one, get one free” offer—to entice consumers to make spontaneous purchases. In a study, data scientist Sam K. Hui and colleagues found that this effect can also be achieved with a less obvious cue: rearranging a store’s layout. The researchers explain that trying to find items in new locations causes shoppers to move through more of the store, exposing them to more products and increasing the likelihood that they’ll buy an item they hadn’t planned on purchasing.

- Which response from a survey given to shoppers who made a purchase at a retail store best supports the researchers’ explanation?
- A. “I needed to buy some cleaning supplies, but they weren’t in their regular place. While I was looking for them, I saw this interesting notebook and decided to buy it, too.”
 - B. “I didn’t buy everything on my shopping list today. I couldn’t find a couple of the items in the store, even though I looked all over for them.”
 - C. “The store sent me a coupon for a new brand of soup, so I came here to find out what kinds of soup that brand offers. I decided to buy a few cans because I had the coupon.”
 - D. “This store is larger than one that’s closer to where I live, and it carries more products. I came here to buy some things that the other store doesn’t always have.”

ID: 47627c25 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best supports the researchers’ explanation of the results of rearranging a store’s layout. According to the text, Sam K. Hui and colleagues found that rearranging a store’s layout can encourage customers to make spontaneous purchases. The text states that the researchers explain that a change in layout causes shoppers to hunt for items’ new locations, which exposes the shoppers to more products and increases the likelihood that they’ll make an unplanned purchase. This quotation from a surveyed shopper indicates that the shopper spontaneously purchased a notebook while looking for cleaning supplies that weren’t in their usual place. The quotation therefore supports the researchers’ explanation that rearranging a store’s layout can lead shoppers to make unanticipated purchases.

Choice B is incorrect because it doesn’t support the researchers’ explanation that rearranging a store’s layout can lead shoppers to make unanticipated purchases. Instead of attributing an unplanned purchase to a change in layout, the quotation notes that the shopper searched for but couldn’t find some items, and as a result the shopper purchased less, not more, than what was anticipated. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation attributes what was purchased to coupons that the shopper received, not to a new store layout. Thus, the quotation doesn’t support the researchers’ explanation that rearranging a store’s layout can lead shoppers to make unanticipated purchases. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation attributes what was purchased to the size and stock of the store, not to a new store layout. The shopper simply purchased products that the shopper wanted in a

particular store because other stores didn't carry those products, so the quotation doesn't support the researchers' explanation that rearranging a store's layout can lead shoppers to make spontaneous purchases.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 45c10aa9

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

ID: 45c10aa9

Just Patty is a 1911 novel by Jean Webster. Patty and her friends have just been informed that they will no longer be roommates while at school. Patty talks to Mrs. Trent, the head of the school, about the situation. The narrator presents Patty as trying hard to convince Mrs. Trent to allow the group to continue sharing a room: _____

Which quotation from *Just Patty* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. "[Mrs. Trent's] lips twitched. It was a fact, deplored by her assistants, that her sense of humour frequently ran away with her sense of justice."
- B. "[Mrs. Trent] nodded dismissal, and the three of them found themselves in the hall again. They looked at one another for a moment of blank silence."
- C. "Patty's eyes suddenly brightened. She seized [her friends] by [the] elbow and shoved them into the empty schoolroom."
- D. "Patty did use all the diplomacy at her command. Having dwelt touchingly upon their long friendship, and their sorrow at being separated, she passed lightly to the matter of their new roommates."

ID: 45c10aa9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because the quotation directly illustrates Patty trying hard to convince Mrs. Trent to allow the group to continue sharing a room. The phrase "Patty did use all the diplomacy at her command" explicitly shows her making a determined effort to be persuasive. The quotation further details Patty's specific tactics: she "dwelt touchingly upon their long friendship, and their sorrow at being separated." These details illustrate the claim by suggesting that Patty carefully crafted and delivered an emotional appeal to Mrs. Trent about the effects of changing the group's rooming situation.

Choice A is incorrect because although the quotation describes a reaction by Mrs. Trent, it does not reveal anything about the events or conversation that might have prompted this reaction. Instead of depicting Patty's efforts to be persuasive during such a conversation, the quotation focuses on Mrs. Trent's character traits; specifically, it describes the relationship between her "sense of humour" and her "sense of justice." While the latter trait may be relevant to Patty's situation, the quotation doesn't show the extent of her efforts to convince Mrs. Trent to reconsider the change in rooming arrangements. Choice B is incorrect because this quotation describes the reaction of a group of three students immediately after an encounter with Mrs. Trent. It shows the outcome of an implied conversation but does not provide any evidence about the topic or nature of the conversation itself, and therefore does not illustrate Patty's efforts during a conversation to convince Mrs. Trent to change her mind about the rooming situation. Choice C is incorrect because although this quotation suggests that Patty can be assertive (she abruptly grabbed her friends and "shoved them into the empty schoolroom"), it doesn't show Patty asserting herself by trying to convince Mrs. Trent to reconsider the proposed rooming arrangements. The quotation doesn't allude to Mrs. Trent or to Patty's desire to continue sharing a room with a group of friends.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3083a02b

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

ID: 3083a02b

Hip-hop pedagogy is a form of teaching that’s gaining popularity across school subjects. It involves incorporating hip-hop and rap music into lessons as well as using hip-hop elements when teaching other subject matters. For example, Quan Neloms’s students look for college-level vocabulary and historical events in rap songs. Researchers claim that in addition to developing students’ social justice awareness, hip-hop pedagogy encourages student success by raising students’ interest and engagement.

Which finding, if true, would most strongly support the underlined claim?

- A. Students tend to be more enthusiastic about rap music than they are about hip-hop music.
- B. Students who are highly interested in social justice issues typically don’t sign up for courses that incorporate hip-hop and rap music.
- C. Educators report that they enjoy teaching courses that involve hip-hop and rap music more than teaching courses that don’t.
- D. Courses that incorporate hip-hop and rap music are among the courses with the highest enrollment and attendance rates.

ID: 3083a02b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Enrollment and attendance are logical ways to measure whether students are interested and engaged. High enrollment and attendance suggests a high level of interest and engagement.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t support the claim. Students’ preferences between hip-hop and rap aren’t relevant to the claim, which is focused on whether or not students like classes that use hip-hop pedagogy (which includes the educational use of both hip-hop and rap). Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t support the claim. While the first part of the sentence discusses social justice, the underlined claim focuses on student success, which is unrelated. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn’t support the claim. This tells us about teacher enjoyment, which isn’t relevant to a claim about student interest and engagement.

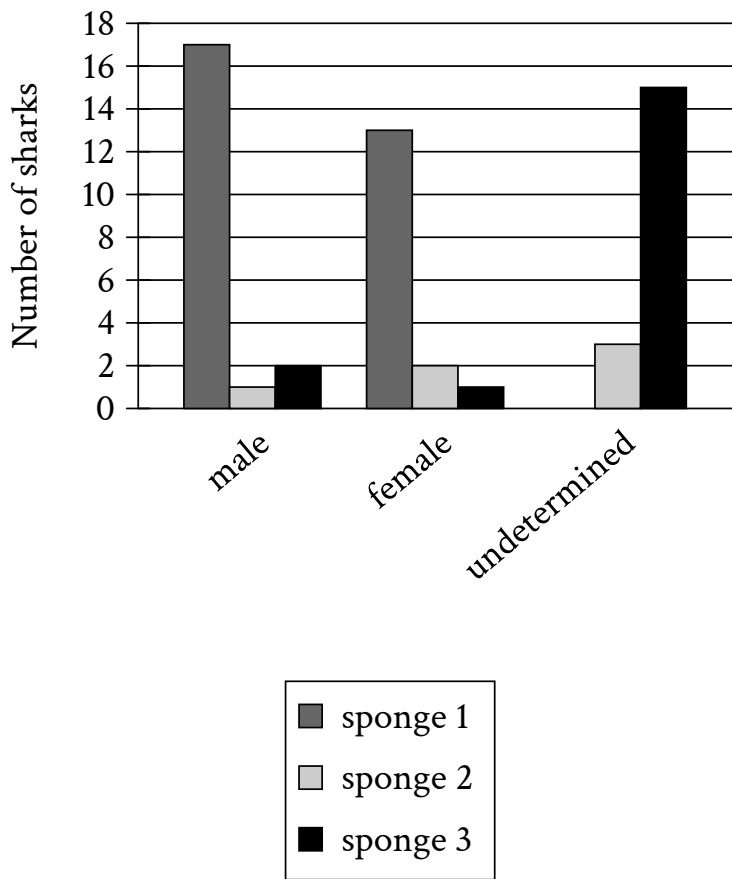
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5467fbdb

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

ID: 5467fbdb

Banded Sand Catsharks Found in Three Sponges



Researcher Helen O’Neill and her team were studying sponges in the family Irciniidae when they discovered that three of the sponges were functioning as microhabitats for banded sand catsharks (*Atelomycterus fasciatus*). Additionally, the team found that male and female *A. fasciatus* share the same sponge (the same microhabitat), a behavior not found among Port Jackson sharks (*Heterodontus portusjacksoni*), another seabed-dwelling species.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the underlined claim?

- A. Each of the three sponges was inhabited by at least one male *A. fasciatus* and at least one undetermined *A. fasciatus*.
- B. Sponge 1 was inhabited by 17 male *A. fasciatus*.
- C. Each of the three sponges was inhabited by at least one male *A. fasciatus* and at least one female *A. fasciatus*.
- D. Sponge 1 was inhabited by 13 female *A. fasciatus*.

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately describes data from the graph that support the claim that the team found that male and female *Atelomycterus fasciatus* (banded sand catsharks) share the same sponge. The graph presents the number of male, female, and undetermined banded sand catsharks found in each of three sponges—sponge 1, sponge 2, and sponge 3. The graph shows that approximately 17 male sharks and 13 female sharks were found in sponge 1, approximately 1 male shark and 2 female sharks were found in sponge 2, and approximately 2 male sharks and 1 female shark were found in sponge 3. Thus, the graph shows that male and female sharks were found sharing the same sponges.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows that one of the sponges (sponge 1) was *not* inhabited by any undetermined banded sand catsharks. Additionally, this choice doesn't give any information about female sharks, so it can't support the claim that male and female sharks are actually found in the same sponge. Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't give any information about female sharks. The graph does show that approximately 17 male banded sand catsharks inhabited sponge 1, but that information alone can't support the claim that male and female sharks are found in the same sponge. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't give any information about male banded sand catsharks. The graph does show that approximately 13 female banded sand catsharks inhabited sponge 1, but that information alone can't support the claim that male and female sharks are found in the same sponge.

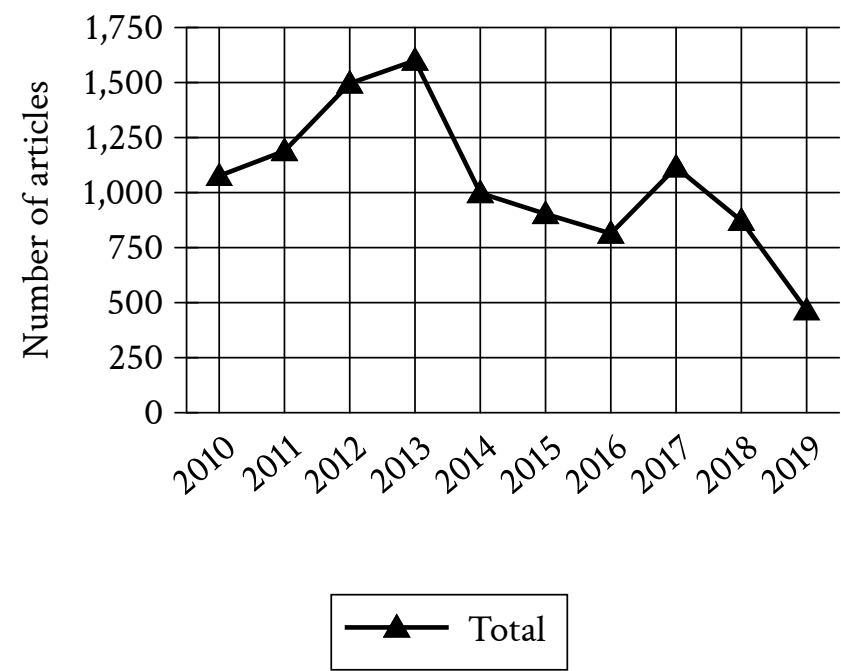
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 13fba9dc

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

ID: 13fba9dc

Investigative Articles
Published in the Albuquerque Journal
from 2010 to 2019



Investigative journalists research and report about fraud, corruption, public hazards, and more. The graph shows the number of investigative articles published in the *Albuquerque Journal* newspaper from 2010 to 2019. According to an analyst, although the number of investigative articles published in this newspaper has varied significantly over the period shown, the number overall has fallen since 2010.

- Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to justify the underlined claim?
- A. The newspaper published approximately 1,000 investigative articles in 2010 and approximately 500 in 2019.
 - B. The smallest annual number of investigative articles published in the newspaper during the period shown is approximately 1,600 in 2013.
 - C. The greatest annual number of investigative articles published in the newspaper during the period shown is approximately 1,000 in 2017.
 - D. The newspaper published approximately 1,000 investigative articles in 2010 and approximately 1,600 in 2013.

ID: 13fba9dc Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. By comparing the number of investigative articles in 2010 to the number in 2019, we can see that the number has fallen overall.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The 1,600 articles published in 2013 was the largest annual number of investigative articles published during the period. Also, notice that the claim focuses on an overall change, while this choice just focuses on one year. We can't determine an overall increase or decrease by looking at just one year. Choice C is incorrect. The 1,000 articles published in 2017 wasn't the largest number published during the period. Also, notice that the claim focuses on an overall change, while this choice just focuses on one year. We can't determine an overall increase or decrease by looking at just one year. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't justify the claim. The claim is about a decrease in articles published between 2010 and 2019. This data shows an increase in articles published over a different period (2010-2013).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0619adde

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

ID: 0619adde

Nucleobase Concentrations from Murchison Meteorite and Soil Samples in Parts per Billion

Nucleobase	Murchison meteorite sample 1	Murchison meteorite sample 2	Murchison soil sample
Isoguanine	0.5	0.04	not detected
Purine	0.2	0.02	not detected
Xanthine	39	3	1
Adenine	15	1	40
Hypoxanthine	24	1	2

Employing high-performance liquid chromatography—a process that uses pressurized water to separate material into its component molecules—astrochemist Yashiro Oba and colleagues analyzed two samples of the Murchison meteorite that landed in Australia as well as soil from the landing zone of the meteorite to determine the concentrations of various organic molecules. By comparing the relative concentrations of types of molecules known as nucleobases in the Murchison meteorite with those in the soil, the team concluded that there is evidence that the nucleobases in the Murchison meteorite formed in space and are not the result of contamination on Earth.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the team’s conclusion?

- A. Isoguanine and purine were detected in both meteorite samples but not in the soil sample.
- B. Adenine and xanthine were detected in both of the meteorite samples and in the soil sample.
- C. Hypoxanthine and purine were detected in both the Murchison meteorite sample 2 and in the soil sample.
- D. Isoguanine and hypoxanthine were detected in the Murchison meteorite sample 1 but not in sample 2.

ID: 0619adde Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The researchers concluded that the meteorite’s nucleobases weren’t the result of soil contamination. Presence of nucleobases in the meteorite and not in soil provides evidence that those nucleobases likely didn’t come from the soil.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn’t justify the conclusion. The researchers concluded that the meteorite’s nucleobases weren’t the result of soil contamination. If the nucleobases are present in both the soil and meteorite, then it’s possible that these nucleobases came from the soil. Choice C is incorrect. This choice misreads the table. Purine was not detected in the soil

sample. Choice D is incorrect. This choice misreads the table. Both isoguanine and hypoxanthine were detected in both Murchison meteorite samples.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a6b86a08

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

ID: a6b86a08

“Lines Written in Early Spring” is a 1798 poem by William Wordsworth. In the poem, the speaker describes having contradictory feelings while experiencing the sights and sounds of a spring day: _____

Which quotation from “Lines Written in Early Spring” most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “Through primrose-tufts, in that sweet bower, / The periwinkle trail’d its wreathes; / And ’tis my faith that every flower / Enjoys the air it breathes.”
- B. “The budding twigs spread out their fan, / To catch the breezy air; / And I must think, do all I can, / That there was pleasure there.”
- C. “The birds around me hopp’d and play’d: / Their thoughts I cannot measure, / But the least motion which they made, / It seem’d a thrill of pleasure.”
- D. “I heard a thousand blended notes, / While in a grove I [sat] reclined, / In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts / Bring sad thoughts to the mind.”

ID: a6b86a08 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the speaker has contradictory feelings while experiencing the sights and sounds of spring. This quotation indicates that the speaker is reclined in a grove listening to a thousand sounds. Even though the speaker is in a "sweet mood" and thinking "pleasant thoughts," those pleasant thoughts also bring to mind "sad thoughts." In other words, these lines illustrate the claim that the speaker is having contradictory thoughts while immersed in the sights and sounds of spring.

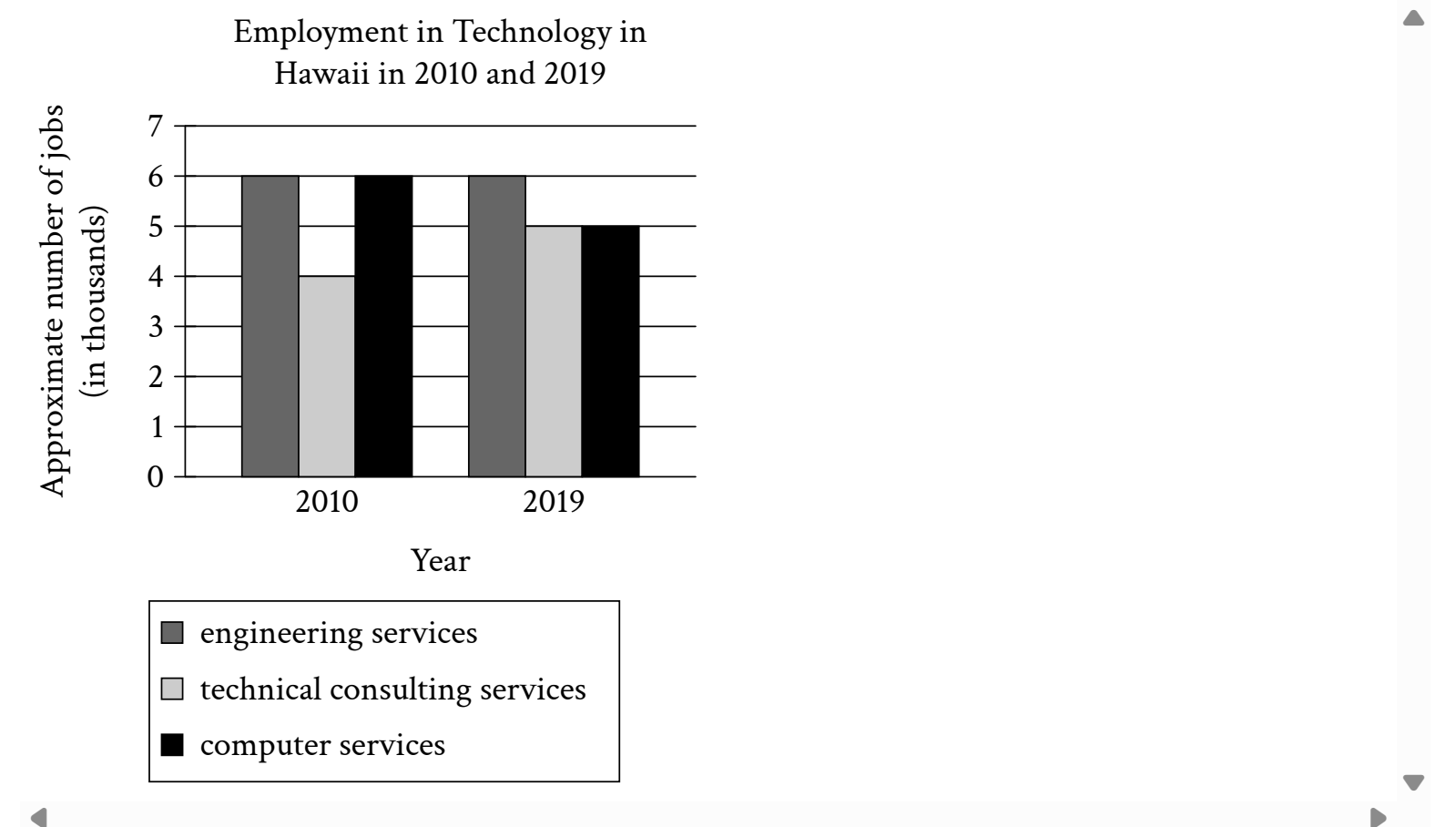
Choice A is incorrect. Although this quotation refers to several flowers (primroses and periwinkles) and indicates that the speaker is in a "bower," or shady spot among the trees—details which suggest that the speaker is experiencing the sights of spring—it doesn’t suggest that the speaker is having contradictory feelings, only that the speaker believes that the flowers are experiencing enjoyment. Choice B is incorrect. Although this quotation focuses on the sights of spring—namely, new leaves on nearby trees appear to be opening up ("The budding twigs spread out their fan") to feel the breeze—the quotation doesn’t suggest that the speaker feels conflicted about this: the statement "And I must think, do all I can" suggests the speaker’s determination to attribute feelings of pleasure to the trees, not that the speaker is experiencing contradictory feelings. Choice C is incorrect. Although this quotation indicates that the speaker isn’t certain what the birds are thinking ("Their thoughts I cannot measure"), there’s nothing to suggest that the speaker is experiencing contradictory feelings. Rather, the quotation suggests that although the speaker is uncertain about the birds’ feelings, the speaker believes that the birds’ movements likely suggest their pleasure.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9fb3f7ed

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

ID: 9fb3f7ed



A student in Hawaii is interested in pursuing a career in technology and decides to do some research on local trends. The student notices that the number of jobs in computer services in 2010 was _____

- Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?
- A. higher than the number of jobs in technical consulting services, and in 2019 was about the same as the number of jobs in engineering services.
 - B. about the same as the number of jobs in engineering services, and in 2019 was about the same as the number of jobs in technical consulting services.
 - C. lower than the number of jobs in engineering services, but in 2019 was higher than the number of jobs in engineering services.
 - D. about the same as the number of jobs in technical consulting services, but in 2019 was lower than the number of jobs in technical consulting services.

ID: 9fb3f7ed Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it uses data from the graph to effectively complete the statement regarding what the student notices about the number of jobs in computer services in 2010. The graph shows that in 2010, the number of computer services jobs was approximately 6,000, which is the same approximate number of jobs in engineering services. Additionally, the graph shows that in 2019, the number of jobs in technical consulting services and the number of jobs in computer services were about the same, at approximately 5,000.

Choice A is incorrect. While the graph shows that in 2010 the number of computer services jobs (about 6,000) was higher than the number of technical consulting services jobs (about 4,000), in 2019 the number of computer services jobs (about 5,000) was not about the same as the number of engineering services jobs (about 6,000). Choice C is incorrect because according to the graph, the number of jobs in computer services was lower than the number of jobs in engineering services in 2019, not 2010. Additionally, the graph shows that in 2019, the number of computer services jobs (about 5,000) was not higher than the number of jobs in engineering services (about 6,000). Choice D is incorrect because the graph shows that the number of computer services jobs was about the same as the number of technical consulting services jobs in 2019, not 2010. This also means the number of computer services jobs could not have been lower than the technical consulting services jobs in 2019 if they were about the same.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0e9c8786

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

ID: 0e9c8786

“We Are Marching” is a 1921 poem by Carrie Law Morgan Figgs. In the poem, the speaker predicts future success: _____

Which quotation from “We Are Marching” most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “Can’t you hear the sound of feet?”
- B. “You who are out just get in line.”
- C. “We have answered duty’s call.”
- D. “We shall never know defeat.”

ID: 0e9c8786 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the speaker in the poem "We Are Marching" predicts future success. To say that someone will "never know" an experience—like defeat, or being unsuccessful—is to indicate that they will never personally have that experience. Thus, when the speaker says that the marching group "shall never know defeat," the speaker is predicting that the group will experience only success in the future.

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation presents a question about an activity already taking place (marching), not a statement about future success. The speaker is asking if the sound of marching feet is being heard. Choice B is incorrect because the quotation directs an immediate action instead of making a prediction about the future. The speaker is telling people to "get in line," or to join the march that’s already happening. Choice C is incorrect because the quotation describes a past action instead of making a prediction about the future. The speaker is stating that those in the march have "answered duty’s call"—that is, that they have acted out of a sense of duty.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 55936f09

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

ID: 55936f09

Biologists have generally believed that the diet of jaguars consists mostly of land-based mammals, but researchers studying a population of jaguars living in the Brazilian Pantanal, a tropical wetland, claim that jaguars can survive on a diet of more fish and aquatic reptiles than mammals.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers’ claim?

- A. Aquatic reptile and fish remains were detected more often than were mammal remains in an analysis of jaguar waste matter found in the area.
- B. Exceptionally high numbers of yacare caiman, an aquatic reptile, were found living in the area.
- C. Aquatic prey like the reptiles and fish in the area provide a source of omega-3 fatty acids that aren’t often found in land mammals.
- D. When jaguars in the area preyed on mammals, they tended to prefer semiaquatic ones like capybaras.

ID: 55936f09 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support the researchers’ claim about the diets of jaguars in the Brazilian Pantanal. The text notes that jaguars generally eat land-based mammals, but researchers claim that jaguars in the Pantanal can survive on a diet that includes more fish and aquatic reptiles than mammals. Finding that the remains of aquatic reptiles and fish appear more often in these jaguars’ waste than the remains of mammals do would support the researchers’ claim, since it would suggest that fish and aquatic reptiles are a more significant part of the jaguars’ diet than mammals are.

Choice B is incorrect because finding that a particular aquatic reptile exists in high numbers in the area would not support the researchers’ claim about the jaguars’ diet. The mere presence of many aquatic reptiles nearby does not mean that the jaguars eat those reptiles, let alone survive on more aquatic reptiles and fish than mammals. Choice C is incorrect. Although finding that aquatic reptiles and fish can provide nutrients that land mammals typically do not provide could help explain why some animals eat those reptiles and fish, it would not indicate whether the jaguars in particular eat those reptiles and fish and thus would not support the researchers’ claim. Choice D is incorrect because finding that when preying on mammals, jaguars prefer semiaquatic mammals, such as capybaras, would be irrelevant to the researchers’ claim that the jaguars can survive on a diet of more fish and aquatic reptiles than mammals. The type of mammals the jaguars tend to eat does not indicate anything about whether fish and aquatic reptiles are part of the jaguars’ diet.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID cae94e36

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

ID: cae94e36

Sandra Cisneros’s 1984 novella *The House on Mango Street* made a lasting impact on US literature. Its depiction of Mexican American culture inspired later authors to examine their own heritage within their fictional works. Also influential was the book’s portrayal of the main character, Esperanza, during a pivotal year of her youth. This insightful depiction of a preteen girl encouraged authors who, like Cisneros herself, are Latina to use fictional works to examine experiences from their own youth.

Which statement, if true, would most strongly support the claim in the underlined sentence?

- A. In interviews, a number of Latina authors say that *The House on Mango Street* inspired them to write about their own adolescence in their novels.
- B. In published writings, several prominent authors who are not Latina say that reading *The House on Mango Street* influenced their approach to writing fiction.
- C. *The House on Mango Street* has sold over six million copies and is one of the most commonly read books among high school and university students in the US.
- D. Since 1984, new novels about young Latina characters by Latina authors have often been compared to *The House on Mango Street*.

ID: cae94e36 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would most strongly support the claim in the underlined sentence. The text begins by explaining that the portrayal of Mexican American culture in Sandra Cisneros’s *The House on Mango Street* inspired later authors to explore their own heritage. Noting that Cisneros’s novella was also influential for its depiction of a formative year in a female character’s youth, the text then claims that this depiction inspired other Latina authors to use fiction to explore their own experiences of youth. Since this claim addresses how Cisneros encouraged Latina authors specifically to portray their youthful experiences, it would be directly supported by such authors stating that her novella influenced them to write about their own adolescence, or the transitional period between childhood and adulthood.

Choice B is incorrect. The text states that with its portrayal of Mexican American culture, *The House on Mango Street* inspired later authors to explore their own heritage, and since this statement isn’t limited to only Latina authors, it can be inferred that authors who aren’t Latina were also likely influenced by the novella. But because the claim in the underlined sentence concerns the novella’s influence on Latina authors specifically, the finding that the book also influenced authors who weren’t Latina would fail to provide support for the claim. Choice C is incorrect because the finding that *The House on Mango Street* has sold millions of copies and is widely read among students in the US doesn’t relate directly to the text’s claim that the novella has influenced Latina authors specifically. Choice D is incorrect. While comparisons of new novels about young Latina characters by Latina authors to Cisneros’s *The House on Mango Street* would likely be founded on similarities between those novels and Cisneros’s novella, such similarities wouldn’t necessarily be evidence of the novella’s influence; such similarities might arise if Cisneros and

younger Latina authors alike depicted certain basic cultural and historical features of their communities. Testimony from younger Latina authors about how *The House on Mango Street* had inspired them would be far more persuasive evidence of the novella's influence.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5297819f

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

ID: 5297819f

“The Yellow Wallpaper” is an 1892 short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. In the story, the narrator expresses mixed feelings about her surroundings: _____

Which quotation from “The Yellow Wallpaper” most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “This wallpaper has a kind of sub-pattern in a different shade, a particularly irritating one, for you can only see it in certain lights, and not clearly then.”
- B. “By moonlight—the moon shines in all night when there is a moon—I wouldn’t know it was the same paper.”
- C. “I’m really getting quite fond of the big room, all but that horrid [wall]paper.”
- D. “The color is repellant, almost revolting; a smouldering, unclean yellow, strangely faded by the slow-turning sunlight.”

ID: 5297819f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively illustrates the claim that the narrator of "The Yellow Wallpaper" has mixed feelings about her surroundings. She says she is "really getting quite fond of the big room," a positive sentiment, but also describes the room’s wallpaper as "horrid," a negative sentiment. Since some of her feelings about her surroundings are positive and others are negative, they are best described as mixed.

Choice A is incorrect because though the narrator describes the room’s wallpaper as "irritating," a negative sentiment, she does not mention a positive sentiment. Thus, the quotation does not effectively illustrate the claim that the narrator has mixed feelings about her surroundings. Choice B is incorrect because it describes how the appearance of the room’s wallpaper changes at night but does not mention the narrator’s feelings about her surroundings. Choice D is incorrect because though the narrator describes the room’s wallpaper as "repellant," a negative sentiment, she does not mention a positive sentiment. Thus, the quotation does not effectively illustrate the claim that the narrator has mixed feelings about her surroundings.

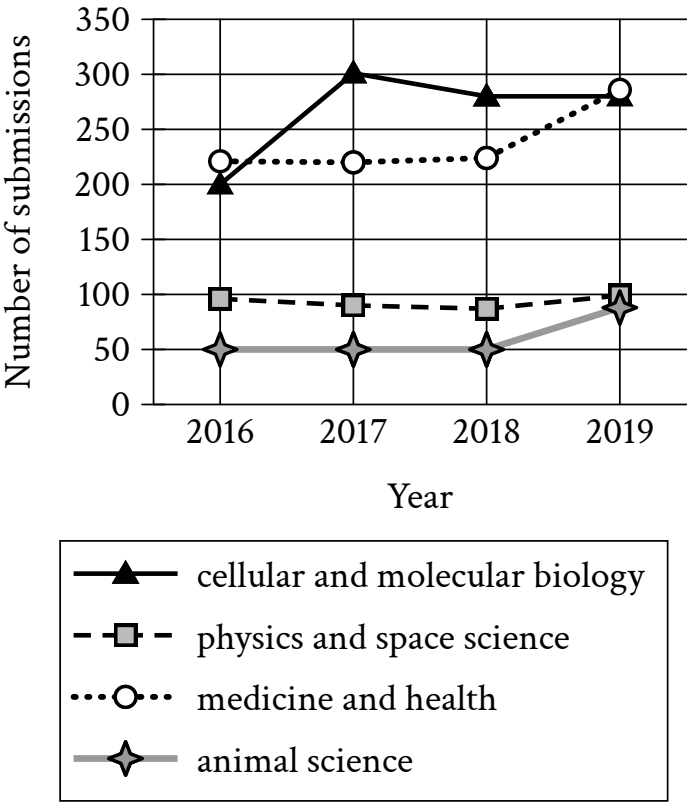
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 97c60747

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

ID: 97c60747

Total Science Research Submissions
by Topic, 2016–2019



A student is researching the trends in the topics submitted to a national science fair for high school students. The graph shows the number of submissions by topic that were made each year. Based on the data in the graph, the student claims that there were more medicine and health research topics submitted in 2019 than in any other year.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to support the underlined claim?

- A. In 2016, the number of cellular and molecular biology topic submissions was the same as the number of animal science topic submissions.
- B. In 2019, there were more physics and space science topic submissions than there were medicine and health topic submissions.
- C. The lowest number of animal science topic submissions in a year was approximately 95 in 2016.
- D. The highest number of medicine and health topic submissions during the period shown is approximately 285 in 2019.

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it effectively uses data from the graph to support the underlined claim that more medicine and health topics were submitted to a national science fair in 2019 than in any of the other years shown. This choice indicates that the approximately 285 medicine and health topics submitted in 2019 are more than the number of medicine and health submissions in any other year shown—a description that is supported by information in the graph, which shows that medicine and health topic submissions were below 250 in 2016, 2017, and 2018, but above 250 (approximately 285 submissions) in 2019.

Choice A is incorrect because it doesn't support the underlined claim or accurately reflect the information in the graph. This choice refers to 2016 and discusses cellular and molecular biology and animal science, whereas the underlined claim refers to 2019 and discusses medicine and health. Moreover, the claim that in 2016 there were equal numbers of submissions in the cellular and molecular biology category and in the animal science category is contradicted by the graph, which shows approximately 200 submissions and 50 submissions, respectively, for those categories in 2016. Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't accurately reflect the information in the graph. This choice claims that in 2019 there were more physics and space submissions than there were medicine and health submissions, but the graph shows that there were approximately 100 space and science submissions that year and approximately 285 medicine and health submissions. Choice C is incorrect because it doesn't accurately reflect the information in the graph or support the underlined claim about medicine and health research topics. This choice claims that there were approximately 95 submissions for the animal science category in 2016, but the graph shows that the number was closer to 50 in 2016.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 63371fdf

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

ID: 63371fdf

Dated Ages of Lunar Samples from Select Missions			
Mission name	Year	Landing site	Approximate age of lunar samples (billions of years)
Apollo 11	1969	Mare Tranquillitatis	3.6
Apollo 15	1971	Mare Imbrium	3.3
Apollo 17	1972	Mare Serenitatis	3.8
Chang’e 5	2020	Oceanus Procellarum	2.0

The Apollo program missions were spaceflights to the moon led by the United States during the 1960s and 1970s during which astronauts collected some samples of the moon’s surface. More recently, China launched the Chang’e 5 mission, which returned additional lunar surface samples. Researchers have analyzed and dated each of the samples, concluding that the lunar samples collected during the Chang’e 5 mission are significant because _____

- Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the claim?
- A. they are much younger than the samples brought back from any of the Apollo missions.
 - B. they were collected from the same landing site as the Apollo 11 mission.
 - C. they are closest in age to the samples brought back by the Apollo 17 mission.
 - D. they helped confirm the predicted ages of the lunar samples from the Apollo missions.

ID: 63371fdf Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it effectively uses data from the table to complete the claim about the significance of the Chang’e 5 lunar samples. The table shows the approximate ages of lunar samples from four different missions: three Apollo missions and the Chang’e 5 mission. The Chang’e 5 samples are said to be approximately 2 billion years old, while the Apollo samples are each said to be more than 3 billion years old. In other words, based on the data in the table, the Chang’e 5 samples are much younger than those from the Apollo missions.

Choice B is incorrect because the table shows that the Chang’e 5 samples were taken from a landing site at Oceanus Procellarum, which none of the Apollo missions are shown to have visited. Choice C is incorrect because the table shows the Apollo 17 samples as approximately 3.8 billion years old, the Apollo 15 samples as approximately 3.3 billion years old, and the Chang’e 5 samples as approximately 2 billion years old, and therefore, the Chang’e samples are closer in age to the Apollo 15 samples than

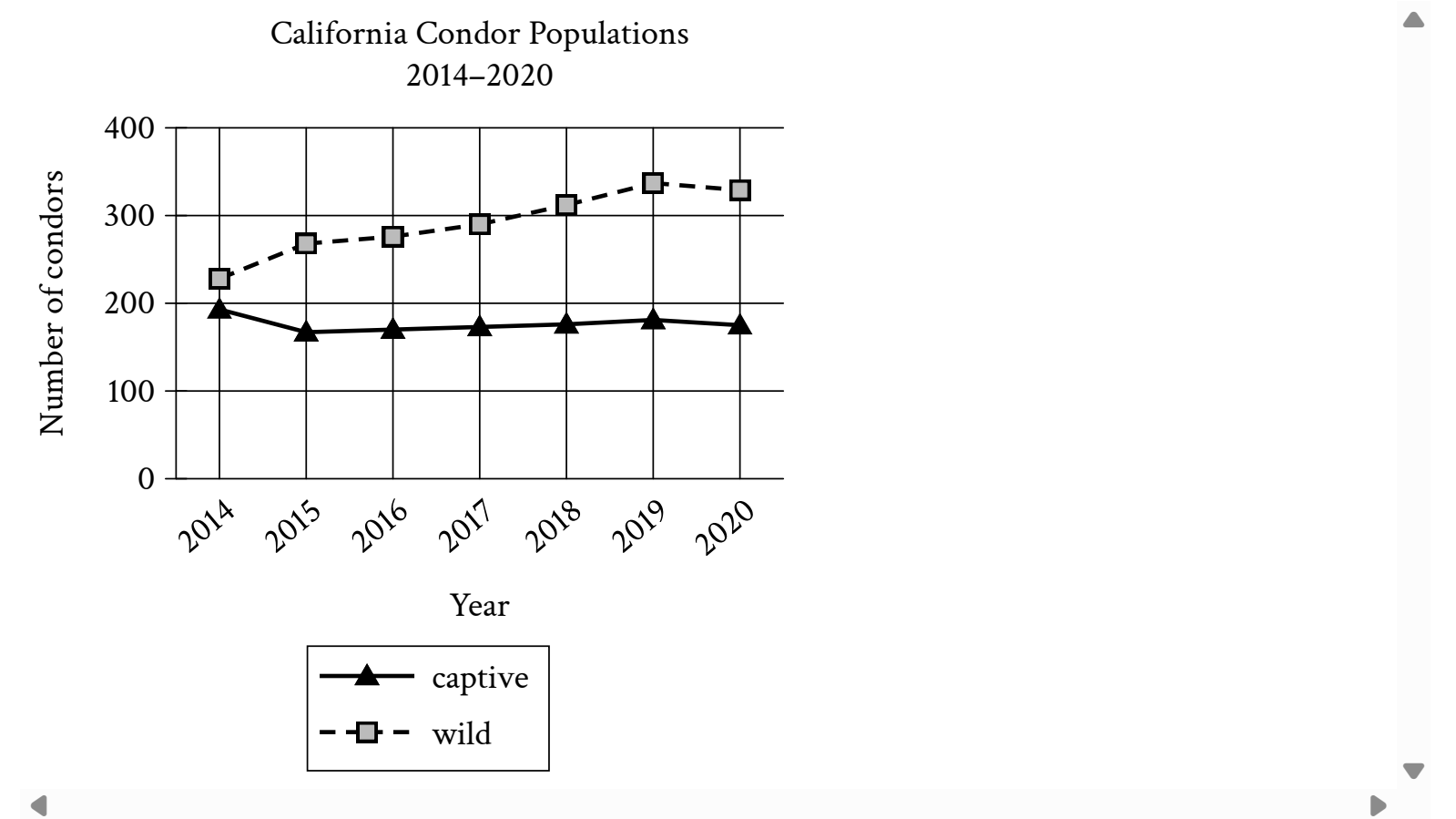
they are to the Apollo 17 samples. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text or table suggests that the Chang'e 5 samples were used to confirm the ages of the Apollo samples.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d55bf0b3

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

ID: d55bf0b3



The California Condor Recovery Program is working to protect this large, rare American vulture from extinction. The program captured 27 wild condors in 1987 in order to protect and breed them. Captive birds have been reintroduced into the wild since 1992. Although the California condor is still a rare species, many biologists claim that the program has been reasonably successful.

- Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the biologists’ claim?
- A. The number of captive California condors steadily decreased between 2014 and 2020.
 - B. The numbers of California condors living both in captivity and in the wild decreased only slightly from 2019 to 2020.
 - C. The difference between the number of captive and wild California condors remained relatively steady between 2014 and 2017.
 - D. The number of wild California condors increased overall from 2014 to 2020 and exceeded the number of those living in captivity.

ID: d55bf0b3 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes data from the graph that support the biologists' claim. The text accompanying the graph describes the efforts of the California Condor Recovery Program, which is working to protect the condor from extinction. The program captured some condors in 1987 in order to breed them and has been reintroducing captive birds into the wild since 1992. Many biologists claim the program has been a success, as the text explains, and it is reasonable to infer that an indication of the program's success would be an increase in the wild condor population compared to the captive condor population. The graph shows the wild and captive condor populations in California between 2014 and 2020. In 2014 there were slightly more than 200 wild condors in California, but by 2020 there were more than 300. Meanwhile, over the same period the captive condor population remained under 200. Thus, the biologists' claim about the program's success is supported by data from the graph showing that the number of wild California condors increased overall from 2014 to 2020 and exceeded the number of those living in captivity.

Choice A is incorrect because it does not accurately describe data from the graph. The number of captive California condors did not steadily decrease between 2014 and 2020: rather, it increased slightly during some years and decreased slightly during others, generally remaining at slightly less than 200. Choice B is incorrect. Even though the graph does show a slight decrease in both the captive and wild condor populations from 2019 to 2020, such a decrease during a particular year would not demonstrate the program's success. Choice C is incorrect because it does not accurately describe data from the graph. The difference between the number of captive and wild California condors did not remain relatively steady between 2014 and 2017. While the number of captive condors remained roughly the same during that period, the number of wild condors increased, so the difference between the number of captive and wild condors increased as well.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c10e049f

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

ID: c10e049f

Scientists have long believed that giraffes are mostly silent and communicate only visually with one another. But biologist Angela Stöger and her team analyzed hundreds of hours of recordings of giraffes in three European zoos and found that giraffes make a very low-pitched humming sound. The researchers claim that the giraffes use these sounds to communicate when it’s not possible for them to signal one another visually.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Stöger and her team’s claim?

- A. Giraffes have an excellent sense of vision and can see in color.
- B. The giraffes only produced the humming sounds at night when they couldn’t see one another.
- C. Wild giraffes have never been recorded making humming sounds.
- D. Researchers observed other animals in European zoos humming.

ID: c10e049f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support Stöger and her team’s claim that giraffes use humming to communicate when they cannot signal to one another visually. The text indicates that scientists have long thought that giraffes produce little sound and exclusively rely on visual signals to communicate with one another. The text goes on to say, however, that Stöger and her team have recorded giraffes in three European zoos making a low-pitched humming sound, which the team claims the giraffes use to communicate when they cannot see each other. If the giraffes produced these sounds when visual communication was impossible and never produced them otherwise, that would support Stöger and her team’s claim about the circumstance in which giraffes make the sound.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that giraffes have excellent vision and can see in color would have no bearing on Stöger and her team’s claim that giraffes produce a low-pitched humming noise to communicate when they cannot communicate visually. As presented in the text, Stöger and her team’s claim is restricted to circumstances in which giraffes cannot signal one another visually; if the giraffes are unable to signal visually, their sense of vision is irrelevant to their communication. Choice C is incorrect because finding that wild giraffes have never been recorded making humming noises would not support Stöger and her team’s claim about the function of the humming noise that the researchers recorded from the giraffes in European zoos. The text provides no information about whether researchers have even attempted to record low-pitched humming in wild giraffes, so nothing can be concluded about the implications of the lack of such recordings. Choice D is incorrect because finding that other animals in European zoos had been observed humming would not support Stöger and her team’s claim, since it would not indicate anything about why giraffes produce humming sounds. Different species could produce similar sounds for different purposes, so scientists could not conclude anything about the function of giraffe humming from a finding that some other animals in zoos also hum.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7d716ca9

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

ID: 7d716ca9

Many music streaming services also function as social media platforms: by giving users the option to follow friends and share curated playlists or information about their listening history, these platforms allow people to convey their music preferences and listening activities directly to their social networks. In a 2023 study, researcher Michael James Walsh interviewed frequent users of a popular music streaming platform to investigate how its social media dimensions shape their listening habits. Walsh found that these dimensions tended to make study participants feel more mindful of how their listening activities may be perceived, which in turn influenced how they managed those activities.

Which quotation from a music streaming platform user would best illustrate Walsh’s finding?

- A. “When I create playlists or choose songs to listen to, I often pick songs that I think the friends who are following me might be interested in listening to, rather than what I might actually prefer listening to in that moment.”
- B. “Because the predictions the platform makes about what new songs I might like depend on my past listening habits, at times its recommendations can feel overly repetitive and unvarying.”
- C. “The social aspects of music streaming make it really easy to create a sense of a shared listening experience with my friends, even if we aren’t in the same room.”
- D. “Listening to music through a streaming platform feels a lot more passive, since I don’t need to make any deliberate choices about what music I’m going to consume, like I do when buying digital downloads or records and CDs.”

ID: 7d716ca9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it directly reflects both aspects of Walsh’s finding about the social media dimensions of music streaming platforms: that they make their users more mindful of how their listening activities may be perceived and that self-awareness then influences how users manage those activities. The quotation illustrates this by showing that the user considers the music preferences of their followers when selecting music (“songs that I think the friends who are following me might be interested in”), even if those choices differ from their own preferences (“rather than what I might actually prefer listening to in that moment”). This supports both aspects of Walsh’s finding: users have increased social awareness and deliberately change their listening habits based on that awareness.

Choice B is incorrect because it focuses on how the platform’s algorithmic recommendation system influences user choice, not on how the imagined opinions of other users might influence that choice. The quotation highlights a user’s concern about repetitive music recommendations based on their past listening behavior. It does not suggest that the user is adjusting their listening habits based on how they think others may perceive what they listen to. Choice C is incorrect because it focuses on the social connection that can be created by music streaming rather than illustrating how social awareness affects users’ management of their listening activities. While this quotation addresses the social dimensions of streaming platforms, it describes how these features create shared experiences rather than demonstrating how concern about others’ perceptions

influences users' listening choices. Choice D is incorrect because it compares streaming platforms to traditional music purchasing methods. This comparison doesn't address the social media dimensions of streaming platforms or how awareness of others' perceptions of music selections influences what users choose to listen to.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 033e1708

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

ID: 033e1708

Ochre sea stars live in tidal pools along the shoreline of the Pacific Ocean. At night, they move to higher shore levels in search of prey. But scientists Corey Garza and Carlos Robles noticed that ochre sea stars stayed at lower levels at night after heavy rains. Garza and Robles hypothesized that a layer of fresh water formed by rainfall was a barrier to the sea stars. To test their hypothesis, the scientists did an experiment. They placed some sea stars in a climbable tank of seawater and other sea stars in a similar tank of seawater with a layer of fresh water on top. Then, the scientists watched the sea stars’ behavior at night.

Which finding from the experiment, if true, would most directly support Garza and Robles’s hypothesis?

- A. None of the sea stars climbed to the tops of the tanks, but sea stars in the tank with only seawater moved around the bottom of the tank more than sea stars in the other tank did.
- B. Sea stars in the tank with only seawater climbed to the top of the tank, but sea stars in the other tank stopped climbing just below the layer of fresh water.
- C. Both groups of sea stars climbed to the tops of the tanks, but sea stars in the tank with only seawater climbed more slowly than sea stars in the other tank did.
- D. Sea stars in the tank with only seawater mostly stayed near the bottom of the tank, but sea stars in the other tank climbed into the layer of fresh water.

ID: 033e1708 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would support Garza and Robles’s hypothesis that a layer of fresh water forms a barrier to ochre sea stars. The text explains that the sea stars tend to move to higher shore levels at night in search of prey, but after a heavy rain, the sea stars stay at lower shore levels. Garza and Robles hypothesize that rainfall results in a layer of fresh water that the sea stars don’t cross. To determine whether fresh water forms a barrier to sea stars, Garza and Robles observed how sea stars behaved in a tank of only seawater and in a tank of seawater with a layer of fresh water on top. If the sea stars climbed to the top of the tank with only seawater but stopped climbing just below the layer of fresh water in the other tank, that would suggest that fresh water does indeed serve as a barrier to the sea stars, thereby supporting Garza and Robles’s hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect because finding that sea stars in the tank with only seawater moved around the bottom of the tank more than sea stars in the other tank did but that none of the stars in either tank climbed to the top would be irrelevant to Garza and Robles’s hypothesis. Such a finding would reveal nothing about whether fresh water serves as a barrier to sea stars. Choice C is incorrect because finding that sea stars climbed to the top of both tanks would weaken, not support, Garza and Robles’s hypothesis, since it would indicate that the layer of fresh water wasn’t a barrier to the sea stars. Choice D is incorrect because finding that sea stars in the tank with only seawater mostly stayed near the bottom of the tank but sea stars in the other tank

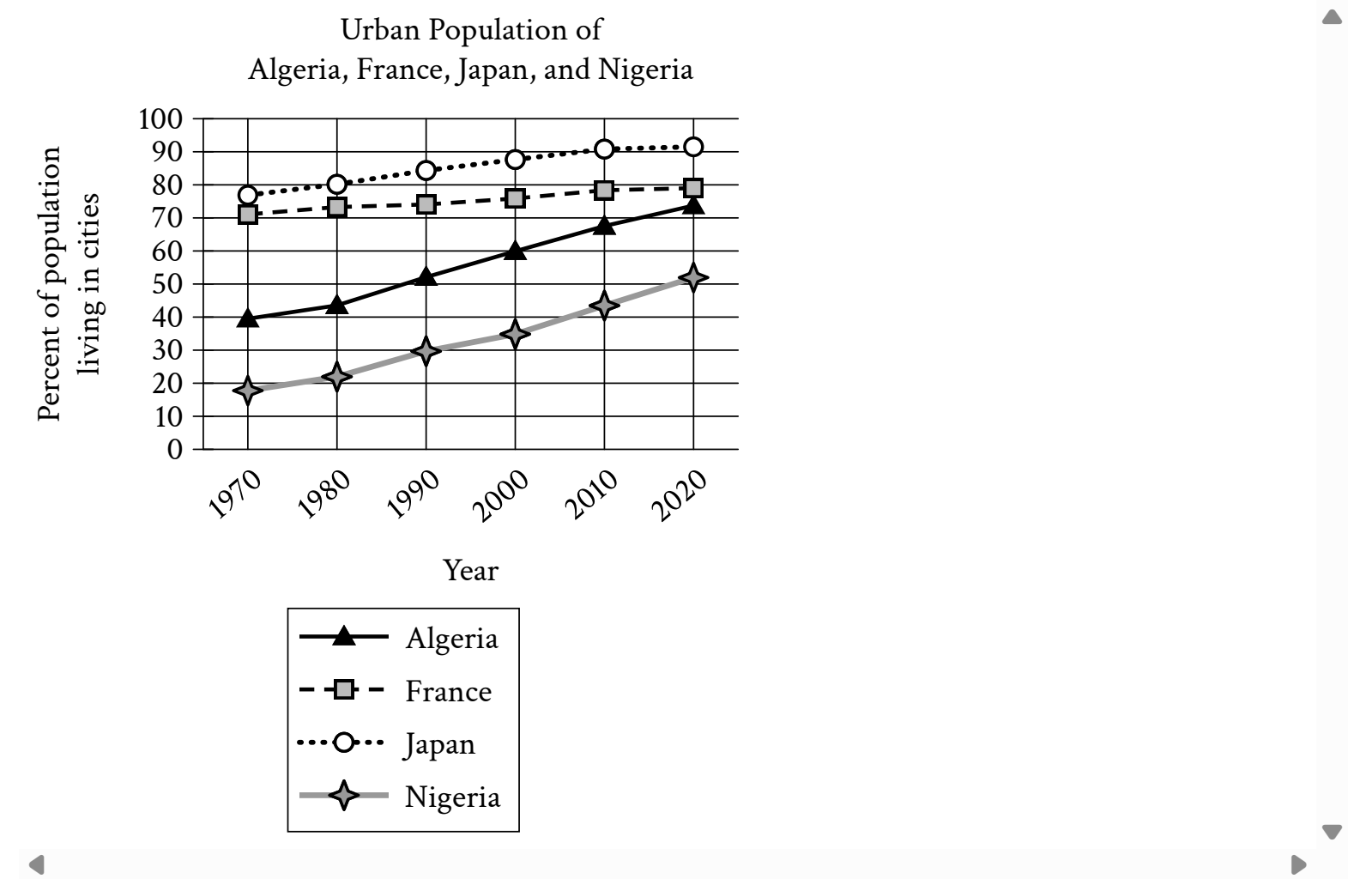
climbed into the layer of fresh water wouldn't support Garza and Robles's hypothesis. Instead, such a finding would suggest that the layer of fresh water wasn't a barrier to the sea stars, thereby weakening Garza and Robles's hypothesis.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1f555668

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

ID: 1f555668



The share of the world’s population living in cities has increased dramatically since 1970, but this change has not been uniform. France and Japan, for example, were already heavily urbanized in 1970, with 70% or more of the population living in cities. The main contributors to the world’s urbanization since 1970 have been countries like Algeria, whose population went from _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the assertion?

- A. around 50% urban in 1970 to around 90% urban in 2020.
- B. less than 40% urban in 1970 to around 90% urban in 2020.
- C. less than 20% urban in 1970 to more than 50% urban in 2020.
- D. around 40% urban in 1970 to more than 70% urban in 2020.

ID: 1f555668 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice effectively uses data from the graph to complete the example. The line representing the percent of Algeria's population living in cities is the black triangle line. According to the graph, it started at 40% in 1970 and reached 70% in 2020.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The line representing the percent of Algeria's population living in cities is the black triangle line. According to the graph, it started at 40% in 1970 and reached 70% in 2020. Choice B is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The line representing the percent of Algeria's population living in cities is the black triangle line. According to the graph, it started at 40% in 1970 and reached 70% in 2020. Choice C is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The line representing the percent of Algeria's population living in cities is the black triangle line. According to the graph, it started at 40% in 1970 and reached 70% in 2020.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2064c428

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

ID: 2064c428

“Mrs. Spring Fragrance” is a 1912 short story by Sui Sin Far. In the story, Mrs. Spring Fragrance, a Chinese immigrant living in Seattle, is traveling in California. In letters to her husband and friend, she demonstrates her concern for what’s happening at her home in Seattle while she is away: _____

Which quotation from Mrs. Spring Fragrance’s letters most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A. “My honorable cousin is preparing for the Fifth Moon Festival, and wishes me to compound for the occasion some American ‘fudge,’ for which delectable sweet, made by my clumsy hands, you have sometimes shown a slight prejudice.”
- B. “Next week I accompany Ah Oi to the beauteous town of San José. There will we be met by the son of the Illustrious Teacher.”
- C. “Forget not to care for the cat, the birds, and the flowers. Do not eat too quickly nor fan too vigorously now that the weather is warming.”
- D. “I am enjoying a most agreeable visit, and American friends, as also our own, strive benevolently for the accomplishment of my pleasure.”

ID: 2064c428 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a quotation that illustrates the claim that Mrs. Spring Fragrance demonstrates concern for what’s happening at home while she’s in California. By giving reminders to “care for the cat, the birds, and the flowers,” “not eat too quickly,” and avoid engaging in strenuous activity in the heat, Mrs. Spring Fragrance shows that she’s thinking about what’s happening at home and wants to ensure everything is taken care of.

Choice A is incorrect because the quotation, while it does suggest that Mrs. Spring Fragrance has made fudge at home before, is focused on preparations for an upcoming festival, not on concerns for anything happening at home while Mrs. Spring Fragrance is away. Choice B is incorrect because the quotation has to do with an upcoming event during Mrs. Spring Fragrance’s trip—visiting San José and meeting someone new—rather than her concern for what’s happening at home. Choice D is incorrect because the quotation is focused on how Mrs. Spring Fragrance feels about her trip and the friends she’s seeing, not on her concern for what’s happening at home.

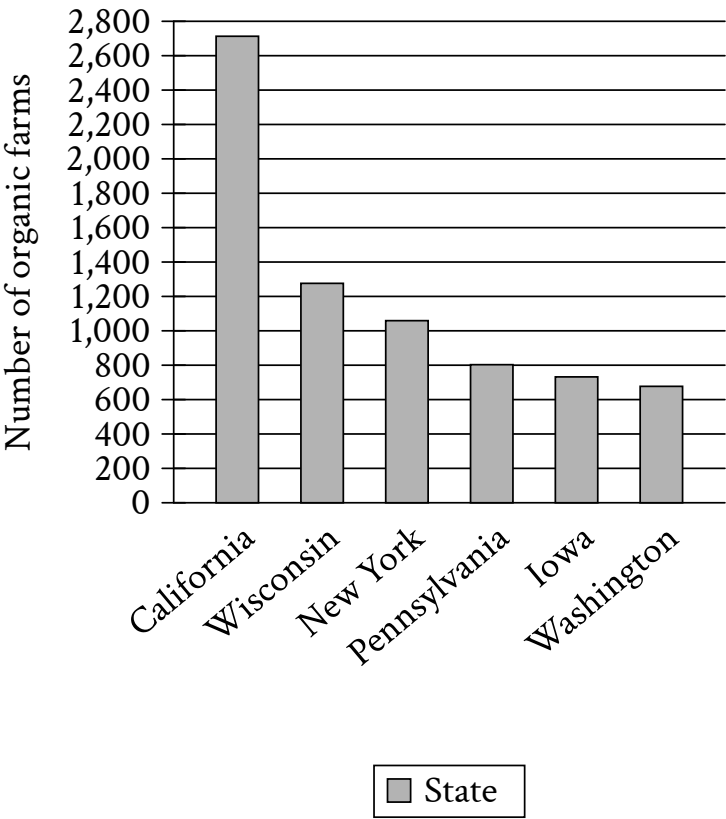
Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 01ebad05

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

ID: 01ebad05

US States with the Greatest Number of Organic Farms in 2016



Organic farming is a method of growing food that tries to reduce environmental harm by using natural forms of pest control and avoiding fertilizers made with synthetic materials. Organic farms are still a small fraction of the total farms in the United States, but they have been becoming more popular. According to the US Department of Agriculture, in 2016 California had between 2,600 and 2,800 organic farms and _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?

- A. Washington had between 600 and 800 organic farms.
- B. New York had fewer than 800 organic farms.
- C. Wisconsin and Iowa each had between 1,200 and 1,400 organic farms.
- D. Pennsylvania had more than 1,200 organic farms.

ID: 01ebad05 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it uses data from the graph to accurately complete the text. The graph shows the number of organic farms located in each of six US states in 2016: between 2,600 and 2,800 in California; between 1,200 and 1,400 in Wisconsin; between 1,000 and 1,200 in New York; approximately 800 in Pennsylvania; and between 600 and 800 in both Iowa and Washington. The last sentence of the text provides information about the number of organic farms in 2016, first describing the number in California. The best completion of the sentence is the choice that accurately describes the number of organic farms in 2016 in another state, which the assertion that Washington had between 600 and 800 organic farms provides.

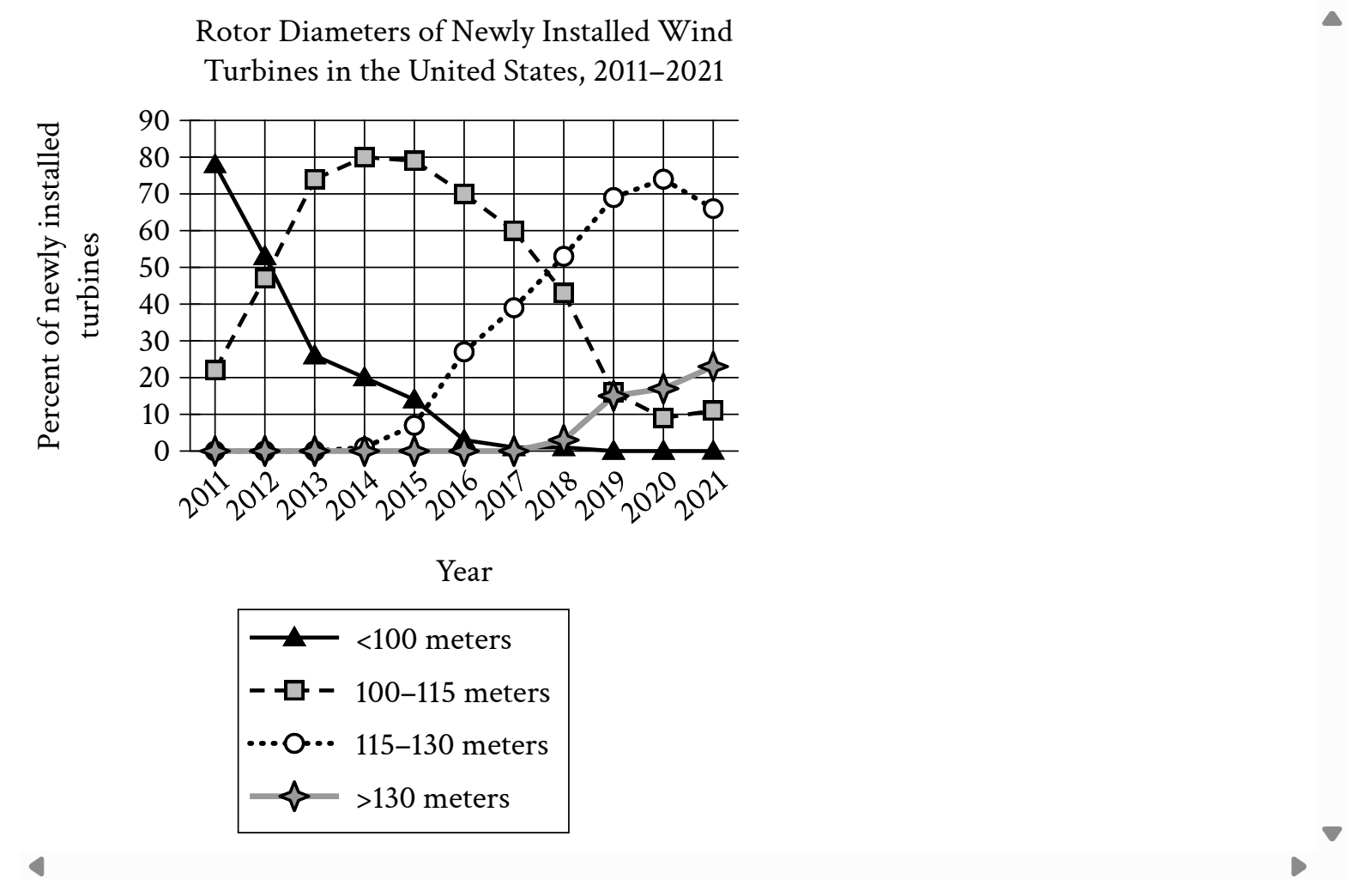
Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't accurately reflect the data from the graph. The graph indicates that there were between 1,000 and 1,200 organic farms in New York, not fewer than 800 organic farms. Choice C is incorrect because it doesn't accurately reflect the data from the graph. While the graph indicates that there were between 1,200 and 1,400 organic farms in Wisconsin in 2016, there were only between 600 and 800 in Iowa. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn't accurately reflect the data from the graph. The graph indicates that in 2016 there were approximately 800 organic farms in Pennsylvania, not more than 1,200.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 04d69f6f

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

ID: 04d69f6f



All other things being equal, the larger a wind turbine’s rotor diameter (the diameter of the imaginary circle swept by the turbine’s rotating blades), the greater amount of energy the turbine can generate. In a research paper on wind power, a student claims that in the United States, the amount of energy generated per newly installed turbine increased substantially between 2011 and 2021.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support the student’s claim?

- A. No turbines installed in 2011 had rotor diameters greater than 115 meters, whereas the majority of turbines installed in 2021 had rotor diameters greater than 130 meters.
- B. Most turbines installed in 2011 had rotor diameters of less than 100 meters, whereas most turbines installed in 2021 had rotor diameters of at least 115 meters.
- C. In 2011, nearly 80% of turbines installed had rotor diameters of less than 100 meters, whereas only a little more than 20% of turbines installed that year had rotor diameters of 100–115 meters.

D. The percentage of newly installed turbines with rotor diameters greater than 130 meters increased every year between 2011 and 2021.

ID: 04d69f6f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text tells us that turbines with larger rotor diameters produce more energy, so if rotor diameters have generally gotten larger between 2011 and 2021, then turbines created in 2021 should produce more energy than those created in 2011.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. In 2021, only about 25% of turbines installed in 2021 had rotor diameters greater than 130 meters. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't justify the claim. The claim is about increasing energy output from 2011 to 2021, but this choice only discusses 2011, so it can't show evidence of change over time. Choice D is incorrect. This choice misreads the graph. The percentage of newly installed turbines with rotor diameters greater than 130 meters didn't show any visible increase until 2018.

Question Difficulty: Medium