

Question ID 31d2d7de

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 31d2d7de

Art scholars have noted that some colors seem to be more _____ viewers than others. For example, people tend to find paintings featuring blues and greens more appealing than paintings featuring yellows and oranges.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. confusing for
- B. attractive to
- C. corrected by
- D. similar to

ID: 31d2d7de Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best completes the text’s discussion of how viewers respond to colors. The text presents something art scholars have noted and gives the example of people tending to find paintings with blues and greens more appealing than those with yellows and oranges. This context conveys that certain colors are more "attractive to" viewers than other colors are.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates only that people tend to find some colors more appealing than others and gives no indication that certain colors are ever "confusing for," or puzzling to, viewers. Choice C is incorrect because the text discusses the relative appeal of certain colors in paintings but gives no indication that any colors would ever be "corrected by" viewers, or somehow fixed or improved by them. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make much sense to say that some colors are more "similar to" viewers than others, which would suggest that colors and viewers are alike to different degrees. Further, the text primarily emphasizes a difference, not a similarity, in how appealing paintings tend to be based on the colors they contain.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 668eb39a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 668eb39a

The works of Chicana artist Ester Hernandez are now _____ in museums both in the United States and abroad, but the murals she contributed to as a member of Las Mujeres Muralistas early in her artistic career were displayed in outdoor public spaces across San Francisco.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. invented
- B. adjusted
- C. featured
- D. recommended

ID: 668eb39a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ester Hernandez’s art. In this context, "featured" means shown prominently. The text focuses on where Hernandez’s works have been and continue to be displayed, explaining that her early works, which consisted of murals, could be viewed in outdoor spaces in San Francisco. The central contrast developed in the text is between where her early works could be viewed and where her works can be viewed now, which is in museums across the United States and around the world. The context therefore supports the idea that Hernandez’s works are now shown, or featured, in museums globally.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context "invented" would mean created something for the first time, which isn’t supported since the text doesn’t discuss where Hernandez creates her works or whether they’re original or innovative. Choice B is incorrect because "adjusted" in this context would mean adapted. Although the text mentions that many of Hernandez’s early works were outdoor murals and thus it may be reasonable to infer that Hernandez altered her approach to creating art so that her works could be displayed in indoor venues instead, the text makes no mention of how Hernandez’s works might have been adapted for such venues. The text focuses on where Hernandez’s works have been and continue to be displayed, not on how she or anyone else may have adapted, or adjusted, her works. Choice D is incorrect because "recommended" in this context would mean endorsed or put forth as a suggestion for something that is worth seeing. Although it may be reasonable to say that in choosing to display certain works, museum curators believe such works are worth seeing, the text doesn’t discuss the reasons why museums display Hernandez’s works. Instead, the text mainly develops a contrast between where Hernandez’s early works could once be viewed and where her work can be viewed now.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6e50e62f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6e50e62f

Ronyoung Kim creatively captures the Korean American immigrant experience in her novel *Clay Walls* by writing about a family from three _____ perspectives. The first section of the novel is from the mother Haesu’s perspective, the second is from the father Chun’s perspective, and the last is from the daughter Faye’s perspective.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word?

- A. distinct
- B. required
- C. unintended
- D. unknown

ID: 6e50e62f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ronyoung Kim’s novel *Clay Walls*. In this context, "distinct" means clearly separate and different. The text indicates that the novel consists of three sections and that each section is narrated from the perspective of a different character. This context supports the idea that Kim’s novel features three distinct perspectives.

Choice B is incorrect because describing the three perspectives in Kim’s novel as "required," or demanded as necessary to be done or provided, wouldn’t make sense in context. When writing a novel, a novelist is free to choose to narrate the story from any number of perspectives. There’s nothing in the text to indicate that providing three perspectives was demanded of Kim. Instead, the text focuses on identifying the three different perspectives featured in Kim’s novel. Choice C is incorrect because describing the three perspectives in Kim’s novel as "unintended," or not planned as a purpose or goal, wouldn’t make sense in context. Authors make deliberate choices about the perspectives they feature in their works, and the text indicates that Kim chose to incorporate three different perspectives in her novel. Choice D is incorrect because describing the three perspectives in Kim’s novel as "unknown," or not revealed, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text directly identifies the three perspectives that appear in her novel as those of Faye and her two parents, Haesu and Chun, which indicates that the novel’s perspectives are in fact known.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b7514fff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b7514fff

Ezra Pound’s poetry can be hard to ____: it is dense, experimental, and so full of references and allusions that many readers have a difficult time even identifying the poems’ subjects.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. comprehend
- B. dislike
- C. interrupt
- D. overlook

ID: b7514fff Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ezra Pound’s poetry. In this context, “comprehend” would mean to understand or grasp the meaning of something. The text describes Pound’s poetry as “dense” and “experimental,” with many references that readers may not understand. The text also states that many readers may not even be able to identify a poem’s subject. This context clearly suggests that readers struggle to understand Pound’s poetry as a result of its complexity and obscure references.

Choice B is incorrect. To say that Pound’s poetry is “hard to dislike” would suggest that people generally like it, but the text doesn’t focus on how likeable or enjoyable the poems are; rather, it focuses on how challenging many readers find it to understand them. Choice C is incorrect. To say that Pound’s poetry is “hard to interrupt” would mean that it is hard to stop or break into it while it’s being read or recited, but the text doesn’t discuss any such breaks; instead, the text focuses on the challenge of understanding the content of Pound’s poems. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, “overlook” would mean look past or fail to notice, so to say that Pound’s poetry is “hard to overlook” would mean that it is very likely to be noticed. The text focuses on the difficulty people have in understanding Pound’s poems when reading them, not how noticeable his poetry is in the first place.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e009271e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e009271e

The following text is from Darcie Little Badger’s 2021 novel *A Snake Falls to Earth*. Nina is looking at old family photographs.

Nina couldn’t stop looking at the sepia-toned photograph in an oak frame. Propped on the window ledge, it featured a portrait of Great-Great-Grandmother Rosita as a young woman.

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As used in the text, what does the word “featured” most nearly mean?

- A. Displayed
- B. Questioned
- C. Approved
- D. Ignored

ID: e009271e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "featured" most nearly means displayed. The text describes Nina’s fascination with a framed photograph. It then goes on to describe what the photograph showed, or displayed, which is a portrait of Nina’s great-great-grandmother Rosita as a young woman. Thus, the text indicates that the photograph displayed a portrait of Rosita.

Choice B is incorrect because the text identifies the person shown in the photograph as Nina’s great-great-grandmother; it gives no indication that the contents of the photograph were questioned, or asked about. Choice C is incorrect because approved means expressed a favorable opinion of, and there’s nothing to suggest that the photograph of Nina’s great-great-grandmother has received approval or been viewed favorably, only that Nina is unable to stop looking at it. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the photograph Nina is fascinated with ignored, or refused to take notice of, Nina’s great-great-grandmother Rosita. Rather, the text indicates that the photograph was a portrait of Rosita.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2cb3a3f4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2cb3a3f4

Kelp forests grow underwater along the eastern Pacific Coast. These underwater forests are important to fish and other marine animals. Ocean currents can be powerful and rough, making it difficult for animals to find safe places to hide from predators. The underwater forests slow down the currents. This creates a more _____ environment with calmer waters where animals can take shelter.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. tranquil
- B. dangerous
- C. imaginative
- D. surprising

ID: 2cb3a3f4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how kelp forests help marine animals. In this context, "tranquil" means free from disturbance, or calm. The text indicates that ocean currents are powerful and make it difficult for marine animals to hide from predators and that kelp forests slow currents down to create calmer areas. In other words, kelp forests create a more tranquil environment.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that kelp forests provide shelter for marine animals, meaning they create environments that are safer, not more "dangerous." Choice C is incorrect because the text discusses how kelp forests affect currents in the ocean, and it isn’t clear how an ocean environment could be "imaginative," or full of imagination. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that kelp forests create a calm and safe environment, and an environment that is "surprising" would be characterized by unexpected occurrences, not calmness.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a55138b1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a55138b1

Visual artist Gabriela Alemán states that the bold colors of comics, pop art, and Latinx culture have always fascinated her. This passion for the rich history and colors of her Latinx community translates into the _____ artworks she produces.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. vivid
- B. unknown
- C. definite
- D. reserved

ID: a55138b1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Vivid" can mean "colorful" or "bright-colored." This definition fits the context clues about Alemán's fascination with and passion for bold colors.

Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. Nothing in the text indicates that Alemán's artworks are "unknown."

Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. "Definite" means "certain" or "decided." It wouldn't make sense to describe artwork as "definite." Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. "Reserved" can either mean "slow to reveal emotions" or "booked." But the clues suggest that Alemán's artworks are boldly colorful—almost the opposite of "reserved."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a98f1eb3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a98f1eb3

Due to their often strange images, highly experimental syntax, and opaque subject matter, many of John Ashbery’s poems can be quite difficult to _____ and thus are the object of heated debate among scholars.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. delegate
- B. compose
- C. interpret
- D. renounce

ID: a98f1eb3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of John Ashbery’s poems. As used in this context, “interpret” would mean decipher the meaning of. The text indicates that Ashbery’s poems have many unusual features, that it’s difficult to tell what exactly the poems’ subject matter is, and that scholars strongly disagree about the poems. This context conveys the idea that it’s difficult to interpret Ashbery’s poems.

Choice A is incorrect because “delegate” means to assign someone as a representative of another person or to entrust something to someone else, neither of which would make sense in context. The text is focused only on the difficulty that readers have interpreting Ashbery’s poems due to their many unusual features; it doesn’t suggest anything about the poems being difficult to delegate. Choice B is incorrect because describing Ashbery’s poems as difficult to “compose,” or put together or produce, would make sense only if the text were about Ashbery’s experience of writing the poems. It could be true that it was difficult for Ashbery to compose his poems, but the text doesn’t address this; it instead discusses how readers interpret and engage with the poems. Choice D is incorrect because describing Ashbery’s poems as being difficult to “renounce,” or give up or refuse, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text focuses on the idea that features of Ashbery’s poems are odd or unclear and have caused heated scholarly debate. This context suggests that the poems are difficult to interpret, not that the poems are difficult to renounce.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d0bfb4fb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d0bfb4fb

The following text is adapted from Frances Hodgson Burnett’s 1905 novel *A Little Princess*. Sara is a young student at a school in London.

Sara not only could tell stories, but she adored telling them. When she sat or stood in the midst of a circle and began to invent wonderful things, her green eyes grew big and shining, her cheeks flushed, and, without knowing that she was doing it, she began to act and made what she told lovely or alarming by the raising or dropping of her voice.

As used in the text, what does the word “invent” most nearly mean?

- A. Mislead
- B. Disguise
- C. Create
- D. Discover

ID: d0bfb4fb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, "invent" most nearly means create or make up. The text begins by stating that Sara likes to tell stories and thoroughly enjoys telling them. The rest of the text describes how she looks and acts when she invents, or creates, "wonderful things" in her stories ("what she told").

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text suggests that Sara makes up "wonderful things," nothing suggests that she does so to mislead, or intentionally deceive, others; there is no reason to assume that Sara’s listeners don’t know that she’s creating the stories she shares. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Sara is disguising, or trying to cover up or conceal, "wonderful things" when she tells stories; rather, she is creating them and presenting them in ways that make them "lovely or alarming" for her listeners. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Sara is discovering, or unexpectedly finding, "wonderful things" in the stories she loves to tell; rather, that she is making things up as she tells the stories.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 24370e71

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 24370e71

Shoppers can help keep money cycling within a community by making purchases at small local businesses instead of large retailers. Some cities are _____ programs to encourage this behavior, establishing reward points and other incentives for shopping at small businesses.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. instituting
- B. occupying
- C. underestimating
- D. encountering

ID: 24370e71 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of programs that encourage money to cycle within a community. In this context, "instituting" means initiating. The text indicates that making purchases at small local businesses can help keep money cycling within a community. The text goes on to state that some cities are establishing incentives to promote small business shopping. This context supports the idea that some cities are instituting programs to encourage this consumer behavior.

Choice B is incorrect because saying that some cities are "occupying," or forcibly holding possession or control of, programs that encourage shoppers to make purchases at small local businesses wouldn’t make sense in context. The text doesn’t discuss who controls these programs but instead indicates that some cities are establishing incentives that encourage shoppers to make purchases at small local businesses. Furthermore, it wouldn’t make sense to say that a city is occupying a program. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that cities are "underestimating," or failing to understand the value of, programs that encourage consumers to shop at small local businesses. The text indicates that some cities are establishing incentives to encourage small business shopping, which suggests that these cities understand the value of such programs. Choice D is incorrect because saying that some cities are "encountering," or coming into contact with, programs that encourage consumers to shop at small local businesses wouldn’t make sense in context. The text indicates that some cities are already establishing incentives to encourage shoppers to make purchases at small businesses. This context suggests that the cities are instituting the programs, not that they are encountering them.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d615c9d9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d615c9d9

According to botanists, a viburnum plant experiencing insect damage may develop erineum—a discolored, felty growth—on its leaf blades. A _____ viburnum plant, on the other hand, will have leaves with smooth surfaces and uniformly green coloration.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. struggling
- B. beneficial
- C. simple
- D. healthy

ID: d615c9d9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of damage to viburnum plants. In this context, “healthy” would mean not distressed or diseased. The text states that insect damage may cause viburnum plants to be discolored and have abnormal growths. In the next sentence, the phrase “on the other hand” indicates a contrast with the description of plants suffering from damage. Thus, the context contrasts the appearance of healthy, undamaged plants with the appearance of damaged plants.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, “struggling” would mean working against difficulties. The text first describes viburnum plants experiencing damage by insects, and the phrase “on the other hand” then establishes a contrast with that description. It wouldn’t make sense to contrast struggling viburnum plants with those being damaged by insects, because in both cases the plants would be experiencing difficulties. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “beneficial” would mean producing good or helpful effects. The text doesn’t discuss how viburnum plants affect other things or suggest that the plants are helpful in some way; rather, it focuses on how viburnum plants are affected by certain conditions. Choice C is incorrect because in this context “simple” would mean plain or uncomplicated. The text doesn’t discuss whether certain viburnum plants are complicated or uncomplicated; rather, it focuses on how viburnum plants are affected by certain conditions.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 93bdf4e6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 93bdf4e6

The following text is from Jhumpa Lahiri’s 2003 novel *The Namesake*. Gogol, a child, is at a beach in Massachusetts with his father.

On the beach Gogol collects rocks, digs tunnels in the sand. He and his father wander barefoot, their pant legs rolled halfway up their calves.

©2003 by Jhumpa Lahiri

As used in the text, what does the word “collects” most nearly mean?

- A. Increases
- B. Makes
- C. Ignores
- D. Gathers

ID: 93bdf4e6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "collects" most nearly means gathers or accumulates. In the text, Gogol "collects" (or gathers) rocks and digs in the sand while strolling the beach with his father. Thus, "gathers" is the best answer.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "increases" would mean expands or inflates, which is not something a child could logically do to rocks. Rather, the text indicates that Gogol "collects" or gathers rocks while strolling the beach with his father. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "makes" would suggest that Gogol is creating or manufacturing rocks, which doesn't make sense. Rather, the text indicates that Gogol "collects" or gathers rocks while strolling the beach with his father. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "ignores" would mean disregards or avoids, but in the text Gogol "collects rocks," which indicates that he's engaging with the rocks, not ignoring them.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a114b769

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a114b769

In 1877, 85% of California’s railways were already controlled by the Southern Pacific Railroad. The company further solidified its _____ in rail access to the state’s Pacific coast when it completed the Sunset Route in 1883: running from Louisiana to Southern California, the route established the first transcontinental rail line across the southern United States.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. dominance
- B. creativity
- C. insignificance
- D. neutrality

ID: a114b769 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically and precisely completes the text’s discussion of the Southern Pacific Railroad. As used in this context, "dominance" means the state of being more successful than others. The text states that the Southern Pacific Railroad already controlled 85% of California’s railways in 1877, and that the Sunset Route it constructed in 1883 was the first transcontinental rail line across the southern United States. Therefore, the Southern Pacific Railroad would be more successful than other railroads in the area, and the construction of the Sunset Route would further solidify its dominance in rail access to California’s coast.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the construction of the Sunset Route must have required some creativity, or use of imagination, the word "creativity" would not also encompass the fact that the Southern Pacific Railroad already controlled 85% of California’s railways. The text is more focused on the railroad’s control of the field and overall success rather than its imaginative thought processes. Choice C is incorrect because if the Southern Pacific Railroad controlled the majority of California’s railways, it would not make sense to refer to its "insignificance," or the state of being unimportant. Rather, the opposite would be true. Choice D is incorrect because in context it would not make sense to refer to the Southern Pacific Railroad’s "neutrality," or absence of strong opinion on a matter, since no opinions are mentioned. Nor would "neutrality" in the sense of impartiality in a conflict be a logical or precise choice since no conflict is explicitly described. There might be an implied conflict between the Southern Pacific Railroad and other railroads doing business in California, but that is not a conflict in which the Southern Pacific Railroad would take an impartial position.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1906c351

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1906c351

Arturo A. Schomburg was dedicated to preserving books, art, and other materials from peoples of African descent around the world. To get these items, Schomburg _____ friends and colleagues, whom he asked to bring back rare and valuable objects from their international travels. Now, Schomburg’s collection is a valuable resource for scholars of Black history and culture.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. admired
- B. disagreed with
- C. warned
- D. depended on

ID: 1906c351 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Arturo A. Schomburg’s collection. In this context, the phrase “depended on” means relied on. The text explains that Schomburg, wanting to preserve “books, art, and other materials” created by peoples of African descent from around the world, built a large collection of these objects. The text also states that in order to obtain these items, Schomburg asked friends and colleagues who were traveling internationally to bring them back for him. This implies that he wouldn’t have been able to create his collection without help. Thus, the context supports the idea that Schomburg relied on, or depended on, friends and colleagues to build his collection.

Choice A is incorrect because “admired” means respected and approved of. Although it’s reasonable to expect that Schomburg respected his friends and colleagues, the text doesn’t discuss any such aspect of their relationships. The text focuses instead on what Schomburg asked his friends and colleagues to do to help build his collection. Choice B is incorrect because “disagreed with” means held an opposing belief, and nothing in the text suggests that Schomburg and his friends or colleagues held opposing views on any subject. In fact, the text strongly implies that Schomburg’s friends and colleagues supported him in his goal of preserving objects of importance for Black history and culture by bringing him such objects from around the world. Choice C is incorrect because “warned” means informed someone in advance about something dangerous, which wouldn’t make sense in this context. Nothing in the text suggests that Schomburg thought his friends and colleagues were in any danger, let alone that he warned them of danger.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 45b2acfd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 45b2acfd

The following text is from Booth Tarkington’s 1921 novel *Alice Adams*.

Mrs. Adams had always been fond of vases, she said, and every year her husband’s Christmas present to her was a vase of one sort or another—whatever the clerk showed him, marked at about twelve or fourteen dollars.

As used in the text, what does the word “marked” most nearly mean?

- A. Staged
- B. Priced
- C. Stained
- D. Watched

ID: 45b2acfd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text suggests that Mrs. Adam’s typical Christmas present from her husband was a vase that cost, or was "priced at," about twelve or fourteen dollars.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t the meaning of "marked" as used here. It wouldn’t make sense to say that a vase was "staged at twelve or fourteen dollars." Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t the meaning of "marked" as used here. It wouldn’t make sense to say that a vase was "stained at twelve or fourteen dollars." Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t the meaning of "marked" as used here. It wouldn’t make sense to say that a vase was "watched at twelve or fourteen dollars."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3d73e8cd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3d73e8cd

Archaeologists studying an ancient amphitheater in Switzerland believe that it dates back to the fourth century CE. Their discoveries of a coin made between 337 and 341 CE and era-appropriate building materials _____ evidence for this theory.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. dismiss
- B. provide
- C. regulate
- D. refuse

ID: 3d73e8cd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the archaeologists’ study of the ancient amphitheater in Switzerland. In this context, “provide” means make available or supply. The text states that the archaeologists believe that the amphitheater dates to the fourth century CE. The text goes on to say that the archaeologists discovered a coin made between 337 and 341 CE (that is, made during the fourth century CE) and building materials appropriate to the era in question. This context suggests that these discoveries provide evidence for the archaeologists’ theory about the dating of the amphitheater.

Choice A is incorrect because the archaeologists’ discoveries are presented as supplying evidence in favor of their theory about the dating of the amphitheater, not something that would “dismiss,” or reject serious consideration of, evidence for that theory. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the archaeologists’ discoveries would “regulate,” or govern or bring order to, evidence for the archaeologists’ theory about the dating of the amphitheater. The discoveries are presented as supplying evidence for the archaeologists’ theory, not as changing how evidence for the theory is controlled or ordered. Choice D is incorrect because the archaeologists’ discoveries are presented as supplying evidence in favor of their theory about the dating of the amphitheater, not something that would “refuse,” or be unwilling to accept, evidence for the archaeologists’ theory.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 20b8de5f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 20b8de5f

Cucurbits, a group of plants that includes squash and melons, relied on mastodons to spread their seeds in the Ice Age. When these animals died out, cucurbits faced extinction in turn, having lost their means of seed dispersal. Around this time, however, the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America began raising cucurbits as crops, thus _____ the plants’ survival.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. verifying
- B. multiplying
- C. comforting
- D. ensuring

ID: 20b8de5f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of cucurbits. In this context, “ensuring” means guaranteeing, or making sure of, the cucurbits’ survival. The text states that cucurbits faced extinction in the past because their means of seed dispersal disappeared, but the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America began farming cucurbits around that same time, so the crops were no longer threatened. Therefore, the context supports the idea that the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America helped with ensuring the cucurbits’ survival.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context verifying means making sure that something is accurate. In the text, the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America were ensuring the survival, not the accuracy of, the cucurbits. Choice B is incorrect. Although the cucurbit crops themselves were multiplying, or growing in number, as a result of the work of the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America, it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that the survival of the plants was multiplying. Choice C is incorrect because according to the text, in raising cucurbits as crops, the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America were attempting to help the plants grow and survive; they weren’t attempting to comfort, or free the plants from pain.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 07e9c428

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 07e9c428

Urban planning expert Francisco Lara-Valencia and colleagues have argued that managing environmental matters along the US-Mexico border _____ coordination between the two countries’ governments. Since ecosystems extend across the border, actions taken on one side can have environmental effects on the other side, making international cooperation essential.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. requires
- B. praises
- C. reports
- D. advises

ID: 07e9c428 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of environmental management along the US and Mexican border. In this context, "requires" means needs in order to perform a task. The text indicates that because ecosystems span the border, actions taken by the government on one side of the border can affect the environment in the nation on the other side of the border, which makes international cooperation crucial. In other words, because actions on one side of the US and Mexican border can affect the other side of the border, managing environmental matters along the border requires coordination between the two governments.

Choice B is incorrect because "praises" in this context would mean to express a favorable judgment, but the text doesn’t describe approval expressed by anyone, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that environmental management itself praises intergovernmental coordination. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "reports" would mean gives an account. Although coordination between the US and Mexican governments likely would involve some sort of reporting, the text doesn’t describe any such practice. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "advises" would mean recommends a course of action, and although governments can advise one another, it wouldn’t make sense to say that environmental management itself makes recommendations.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 428496a3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 428496a3

The following text is adapted from Ida B. Wells’s 1970 autobiography *A Crusade for Justice*. Mr. Watts is a reference to George Frederic Watts, an English painter.

[Manchester’s] art galleries are so arranged that the name of every picture is plainly seen and one has no need of a catalogue to pick out the name and the artist. This is a convenience to the general public, which other art galleries, which shall be nameless, might copy to advantage. To her treasure of art Manchester has added Mr. Watts’ latest picture, the Good Samaritan.

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As used in the text, what does the word “arranged” most nearly mean?

- A. Organized
- B. Ranked
- C. Scheduled
- D. Discussed

ID: 428496a3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "arranged" most nearly means "organized." The text states that a welcome feature of Manchester’s art galleries (as opposed to others) is that the titles of the paintings are easy to see and that a catalogue is therefore unneeded while visitors browse the art galleries. This suggests that the paintings are displayed in a systematic, or organized, way.

Choice B is incorrect. "Ranked" might mean either classified or placed in orderly rows. Neither of these meanings would necessarily imply that the names of the paintings are easy to see (even if the paintings are placed in rows, their labels might be obscured). Choice C is incorrect because it would not make sense in context to describe the paintings as "scheduled," or planned to take place at a certain time. Choice D is incorrect because if the paintings were "discussed," or talked about, this would have no bearing on whether the names of the paintings could be easily seen.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 664be0e7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 664be0e7

Physicist Joseph Weber performed _____ work in gravitational wave research in the 1960s and 1970s, conducting key experiments that scientists later used as the basis for their own investigations that led to the first verified detection of a gravitational wave in 2015.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. foundational
- B. supplementary
- C. repetitive
- D. ineffective

ID: 664be0e7 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of physicist Joseph Webster’s research on gravitational waves. In this context “foundational” means the basis on which something else develops. The text indicates that Webster’s experiments in the 1960s and 1970s were earlier than, and “key” to, the work of later scientists in the field; thus, Webster’s work was foundational to the later scientists’ experiments and the eventual detection of a gravitational wave in 2015.

Choice B is incorrect because the text does not suggest that Webster’s work was supplementary, or an additional element of an existing, larger project, but rather it was “the basis for” later experiments. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not assert that Webster’s work was repetitive, or involved doing something the same way many times. Rather, the text indicates that Webster’s work formed the basis for later investigations in the field of gravitational wave research. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not state that Webster’s work was ineffective, or failed to produce the desired outcome. Rather, the text strongly implies that Webster’s work was productive and extremely important to later work in the field of gravitational wave research.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a6019bb7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a6019bb7

A team of paleontologists has found a rich fossil deposit near Gulgong, Australia. The fossils are so well preserved that the team has been able to _____ detailed information about the life forms that left them behind, such as color patterns and how they interacted with other species.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. occupy
- B. hoard
- C. reserve
- D. obtain

ID: a6019bb7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the fossil deposit. In this context, "obtain" means gain or acquire. According to the text, a team of paleontologists has found fossils that are very well preserved. For this reason, the text suggests, the paleontologists have been able to gain detailed information from the fossils, such as the color patterns of the life forms that left them behind.

Choice A is incorrect because "occupy" means engage or inhabit, neither of which would make sense in context. It’s unclear what it would mean for detailed information revealed by fossils to be engaged or inhabited. Choice B is incorrect because the text gives no indication that the paleontologists wanted to "hoard," or collect and hide, the detailed information revealed by the well-preserved fossils. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that the paleontologists wanted to "reserve," or withhold, the detailed information revealed by the well-preserved fossils.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 271c76cb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 271c76cb

The general store was essential to daily life in the rural United States during the 1800s because it provided the supplies that the people living in nearby communities needed. Also, the store was a _____ of information. People socializing at the general store would share news and help spread it throughout their communities.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. source
- B. rival
- C. condition
- D. waste

ID: 271c76cb Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the role of the general store in US rural communities during the 1800s. In this context, "source" means a place where something originates or is obtained. The text states that people would share news while socializing at the general store. This context supports the idea that the store served as a source of information in rural communities.

Choice B is incorrect because "rival" would mean competitor or opponent. The text doesn’t indicate that the general store was a rival of anything. Instead, the text describes the general store as a place that enabled the sharing of information within rural communities. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "condition" would mean state, circumstance, or requirement. Although the text implies that visiting the store was helpful for acquiring information since people shared news there, it wouldn’t make sense to say that the general store was a condition of information. Choice D is incorrect because "waste" would mean something that is unused, discarded, or spent unnecessarily, which would not make sense in context. The text describes the general store as an essential part of daily life and a place for socializing and information sharing. The store was therefore a source, not a waste, of information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 7093b620

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7093b620

A brief book review cannot fully convey the _____ of Olga Tokarczuk’s novel *The Books of Jacob*, with its enormous cast of characters, its complicated, wandering plot, and its page numbers that count backward (beginning at 965 and ending at 1).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. accuracy
- B. inactivity
- C. complexity
- D. restraint

ID: 7093b620 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Olga Tokarczuk’s novel *The Books of Jacob*. As used in this context, “complexity” means having many complicated parts that when taken as a whole are difficult to follow or explain. The text indicates that *The Books of Jacob* has a large cast of characters, a complicated and wandering plot (that is, a plot that is difficult to follow), and reverse page numbering. Together, these features make up a novel that’s challenging to read and summarize. This context supports the idea that a brief book review can’t do justice to the novel’s complexity.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the word “accuracy,” or being free from error or falsehood, can sometimes be used to describe a novel, the text doesn’t discuss whether Tokarczuk’s novel has this quality. Instead, the text describes the novel as having a large cast of characters, a difficult-to-follow plot, and reverse page numbering. These features suggest complexity, not accuracy. Choice B is incorrect because “inactivity” means being in a state of idleness or doing nothing, neither of which would make sense in this context. The text describes Tokarczuk’s novel, and although it’s possible the novel could portray its characters as inactive, it wouldn’t make sense to describe the novel itself as such. Choice D is incorrect because in this context “restraint” would mean holding back or showing self-control, and the text doesn’t indicate that Tokarczuk’s novel has either of these qualities. In fact, the features of the novel that the text describes, such as a large cast of characters, a complicated and wandering plot, and reverse page numbering, suggest excess and complexity, not restraint.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 98c037d7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 98c037d7

Bioluminescent beetles called fireflies may seem to create flashes of light randomly, but each species of firefly actually has its own special series of repeated flashes and pauses. These unique _____ allow fireflies of the same species to find each other.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. quantities
- B. decorations
- C. patterns
- D. agreements

ID: 98c037d7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the flashes created by fireflies. In this context, “patterns” means distinct and predictable sequences. The text indicates that although the flashes that fireflies produce appear to occur randomly—that is, without any particular sequence or rhythm—each species actually produces its own special series of flashes and pauses. Indeed, these series of flashes are so unique that fireflies can use them to find other members of their species. Therefore, this context supports the idea that fireflies produce flashes in distinct and recognizable patterns.

Choice A is incorrect because “quantities” means certain amounts or numbers of something. Although the text discusses how different firefly species produce flashes and pauses in unique sequences that help other members of their species to find them, it doesn’t mention the number of flashes that are used in these sequences. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “decorations” would mean things that make an object more beautiful. Although it may be reasonable to say that firefly flashes are beautiful, the text focuses on the fact that fireflies use these unique sequences of flashes to find other members of their own species, not that the flashes make fireflies more beautiful. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, “agreements” would refer to deals that individuals have discussed and come to a consensus about. Since fireflies aren’t capable of making such agreements, it wouldn’t make sense to use this word to refer to the signals they send each other with their flashes.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 952ac979

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 952ac979

For painter Jacob Lawrence, being _____ was an important part of the artistic process. Because he paid close attention to all the details of his Harlem neighborhood, Lawrence’s artwork captured nuances in the beauty and vitality of the Black experience during the Harlem Renaissance and the Great Migration.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. skeptical
- B. observant
- C. critical
- D. confident

ID: 952ac979 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Jacob Lawrence’s artistic process. In this context, “observant” means watchful and perceptive. The text emphasizes that the “close attention” Lawrence paid to “all the details” of his neighborhood allowed him to reflect subtle elements of “the beauty and vitality of the Black experience” in his artwork. This context indicates that being observant of his surroundings was an important part of Lawrence’s work as an artist.

Choice A is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Lawrence was “skeptical,” or had an attitude of doubt in general or about particular things, let alone that skepticism was important to him as an artist. Rather than indicating that he was skeptical, the text focuses on how Lawrence paid careful attention to everything around him and reflected his observations in his artwork. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Lawrence was “critical,” which in this context would mean inclined to criticize harshly or unfairly. Rather than indicating that Lawrence found fault in things, the text suggests that he paid careful attention to everything around him and that his artwork reflects this careful attention. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Lawrence was “confident,” or self-assured. Rather than addressing how Lawrence felt about himself and how that feeling affected his artistic process, the text emphasizes the careful attention Lawrence paid to everything around him—attention that allowed him to capture subtle elements of a particular place and time in his artwork.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8659723f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8659723f

When marine biologist Brittany Williams played different ocean recordings to groups of oyster larvae, groups that heard sounds of a healthy oyster reef were the most _____. They were twice as likely as other groups to show signs of making a permanent home. This suggests that playing recordings of a healthy ocean reef may encourage oysters to create such a reef.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. responsive
- B. inactive
- C. liked
- D. distressed

ID: 8659723f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of oysters and ocean recordings. As used in this context, "responsive" means reacting positively. The text presents a finding and describes it as suggesting that healthy ocean sounds may encourage oyster larvae to establish a reef (a permanent home): groups of oyster larvae that heard recorded sounds of a healthy oyster reef were two times more likely to show signs of forming their own reef than groups that heard different ocean recordings were. This context conveys that the groups that heard healthy reef sounds had a more positive reaction than the other groups did—that is, they were the most responsive.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that hearing sounds of a healthy oyster reef caused some groups of oyster larvae to become "inactive," or to stop engaging in work or activity. Instead, the text conveys that the groups that heard those sounds were observed engaging in activity: they were two times more likely to create a reef (a permanent home) than groups that heard different ocean sounds were. Choice C is incorrect because describing the groups of oyster larvae that heard sounds of a healthy oyster reef as most "liked," or regarded with pleasure, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text focuses on the idea that a study found that healthy reef sounds may encourage groups of oyster larvae to form reefs (permanent homes), not on the idea that some of the groups in the study were liked more than others. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that hearing sounds of a healthy oyster reef caused some groups of oyster larvae to be "distressed," or to experience difficulty or begin to decline. Instead, the text indicates that the sounds increased the likelihood that groups of larvae would establish a reef (a permanent home), suggesting that the sounds had a positive effect on the larvae.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 9c934db7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9c934db7

The unique *subak* water management system used to irrigate the rice paddy fields of the Indonesian island of Bali has a rich cultural, philosophical, and historical significance dating back to the ninth century. The many elements of subak—terraces, canals, and water temples—are _____. they are joined together into a single cohesive unit.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. outmoded
- B. informal
- C. interconnected
- D. optional

ID: 9c934db7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Bali’s *subak* water management system. In this context, “interconnected” would mean joined or linked together. The text describes the various components of the subak system—“terraces, canals, and water temples”—and then states that they are “joined together into a single cohesive unit.” This context indicates that these elements are connected with one another in an integrated system.

Choice A is incorrect because “outmoded” would mean outdated or no longer in use. While the text does indicate that the subak system has “rich cultural, philosophical, and historical significance,” the text doesn’t suggest that the subak system is obsolete or not currently used. Choice B is incorrect because “informal” would suggest that the subak system lacks structure or organization. The text contradicts this by describing a complex system with specific components (“terraces, canals, and water temples”) that are “joined together into a single cohesive unit,” indicating formal organization rather than informality. Choice D is incorrect because “optional” would suggest that the various elements of the subak system are not necessary or required. The text indicates the opposite by stating that these elements are “joined together into a single cohesive unit,” suggesting that each component plays a necessary role in the functioning of the integrated system.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6cbe8464

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6cbe8464

In the 1970s, video cameras became increasingly affordable for ordinary consumers and gave Ulysses Jenkins and other artists capabilities that were previously unavailable except to television broadcasters. Jenkins recognized and took full advantage of this _____ access to powerful technology to create groundbreaking works of video art, such as *Mass of Images* (1978).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. newfound
- B. delicate
- C. inevitable
- D. habitual

ID: 6cbe8464 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ulysses Jenkins’s video art. As used in this context, “newfound” means recently discovered or established. The text indicates that in the 1970s, video cameras became cheaper and therefore more widely available than they had been in the past. The text goes on to say that this development provided Jenkins and other artists with capabilities that they previously didn’t have. As a result, Jenkins began producing groundbreaking works of video art. This context supports the idea that Jenkins took advantage of newfound access to video cameras.

Choice B is incorrect because “delicate” means fine in texture or structure or easily broken, neither of which would make sense in this context. The text doesn’t focus on describing what video art looks like or whether it’s breakable. Choice C is incorrect because “inevitable” means impossible to avoid, which wouldn’t make sense in this context. The text doesn’t discuss the likelihood of artists, or anyone else, gaining access to video cameras. Choice D is incorrect because “habitual” means doing something regularly or repeatedly. Although the text does suggest that Jenkins created multiple pieces of video art, its focus is on the fact that video cameras had only just become widely available to artists in the 1970s. Jenkins’s ability to take advantage of video cameras to make art was therefore newfound, not habitual, at the time.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 976df0a3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 976df0a3

In the early 1800s, the Cherokee scholar Sequoyah created the first script, or writing system, for an Indigenous language in the United States. Because it represented the sounds of spoken Cherokee so accurately, his script was easy to learn and thus quickly achieved _____ use: by 1830, over 90 percent of the Cherokee people could read and write it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. widespread
- B. careful
- C. unintended
- D. infrequent

ID: 976df0a3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the writing system created by Sequoyah. In this context, “widespread” means widely accepted or practiced. The text indicates that because Sequoyah’s script accurately represented the spoken sounds of the Cherokee language and was easy to learn, nearly all Cherokee people were able to read and write it soon after it was created. This context demonstrates that the script was widely used by the Cherokee people.

Choice B is incorrect. In this context, “careful” would mean exercised with care and attentive concern. Although the work of creating a writing system likely involved great care, the text indicates that the system was “easy to learn,” which conflicts with the idea that using this system requires a noteworthy amount of care. Choice C is incorrect because in this context “unintended” means not deliberate. The idea that using Sequoyah’s script was unintentional conflicts directly with the claim that it was easy to learn and used by “over 90% of the Cherokee people” by 1830. In fact, because one had to learn this system, it’s not clear how one could use it unintentionally. Choice D is incorrect because in this context “infrequent” means rare or not occurring often, which conflicts directly with the claim that “over 90% of the Cherokee people” were using Sequoyah’s script by 1830.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID cf9d94ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: cf9d94ec

One challenge of generating electricity from ocean waves is that wave power isn't ____: it varies in unpredictable ways that pose technological and planning problems for electricity generation.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. accidental
- B. confident
- C. expensive
- D. consistent

ID: cf9d94ec Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the challenge of generating electricity from ocean waves. In this context, "consistent" means steady or unchanging over time. The text introduces a challenge and then explains that wave power varies, or changes, unpredictably in ways that cause problems for electricity generation. This context conveys that the challenge being described is a lack of consistency.

Choice A is incorrect because the text introduces a challenge and then elaborates on it by emphasizing that the unpredictable nature of variations in ocean waves causes problems, which doesn’t indicate that wave power isn’t "accidental," or isn’t happening unintentionally. It wouldn’t make sense to describe waves—a natural occurrence—as happening intentionally. Choice B is incorrect because "confident" means having a feeling of self-assurance, and it wouldn’t make sense to describe wave power itself in terms of either having or lacking a sense of confidence. Choice C is incorrect because the text introduces a challenge and then elaborates on it by emphasizing that the unpredictable nature of variations in ocean waves causes problems, which doesn’t indicate that wave power isn’t "expensive," or isn’t costly. If anything, technological and planning problems might actually increase the expense of generating electricity from waves.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 285912e8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 285912e8

The following text is from Alice Kaplan’s 1993 memoir *French Lessons*.

When I started to talk on my own, I couldn’t be stopped. When I was in first grade, my sister’s friends could hardly stand to ride to school with me in the car. I was loud and unrelenting.

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As used in the text, what does the author most nearly mean by “I couldn’t be stopped”?

- A. She had a hard time sitting still.
- B. She often changed her mind.
- C. She was well liked as a child.
- D. She seemed to talk all the time.

ID: 285912e8 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, “I couldn’t be stopped” most nearly means the author seemed to talk all the time. The text establishes that the author is discussing her early speaking habits, stating, “When I started to talk on my own, I couldn’t be stopped.” The following sentences provide context that clarifies the significance of this statement: her sister’s friends “could hardly stand to ride to school” with the author because she “was loud and unrelenting.” This suggests that once the author began speaking, she talked all the time—to the point of annoying others.

Choice A is incorrect because although the phrase “I couldn’t be stopped” could potentially refer to physical movement, the context clearly establishes that the author is discussing her talking habits, not her inability to sit still. The text specifically mentions that she “was loud and unrelenting” and that her sister’s friends disliked riding in the car with her, suggesting that the issue was excessive talking, not physical restlessness. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the author was fickle or frequently changed her mind. In this context, the phrase “I couldn’t be stopped” refers to the author’s persistent talking, as signaled by her characterization as “loud and unrelenting.” Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the author was popular or well liked as a child. In fact, it suggests the opposite by stating that her sister’s friends “could hardly stand” to ride in the car with her. Because of her excessive talking, in other words, people found the author annoying as a child.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b7e3e3e3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b7e3e3e3

The following text is adapted from Lewis Carroll’s 1865 novel *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*.

“The second thing is to find my way into that lovely garden. I think that will be the best plan.” It sounded like an excellent plan, no doubt, and very neatly and simply arranged; the only difficulty was, that Alice had not the smallest idea how to set about it.

As used in the text, what does the word “simply” most nearly mean?

- A. Faintly
- B. Hastily
- C. Easily
- D. Foolishly

ID: b7e3e3e3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, “simply” most nearly means easily, or involving minimal difficulty or effort. The text first provides Alice’s reflections on her plan to gain access to a garden and then offers commentary on her plan by the novel’s narrator. The text indicates that a reason Alice likes her plan despite not being fully thought through is that she nonetheless believes it can be efficiently arranged. In other words, the text indicates that one of the supposed benefits of Alice’s plan is that it can be easily arranged.

Choice A is incorrect because the text describes how Alice’s plan can be arranged, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that it can be arranged “faintly,” or with little strength or not strongly. Instead, the text indicates that the plan can be arranged with little difficulty. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts “simply” can mean quickly, hastily, or hurriedly, the word “hastily” indicates that something is done too quickly. Although it may be true that Alice’s plan was made in haste, the text doesn’t focus on this aspect of her plan. Instead, the text focuses on the plan’s seemingly good qualities, saying that Alice thinks of it as “the best,” and the narrator refers to it as “excellent” and “neatly,” or efficiently, arranged. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts “simply” can mean foolishly, or lacking good sense, it doesn’t have this meaning in this context. Although the text says that Alice doesn’t know how to go about her plan, it begins by presenting her plan in a positive light: Alice describes her plan as “the best,” and the narrator refers to the plan as “excellent” and “neatly,” or efficiently, arranged.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b86fef4c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b86fef4c

The equipment from the Apollo Moon landings (1969–1972), such as radiation detectors and temperature probes, remains there to this day, but the data from these missions were mostly inaccessible until a recent data-transfer project made them _____. This project has allowed researcher Seiichi Nagihara to make use of the information in investigating temperature changes on the Moon.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. predictable
- B. complicated
- C. representative
- D. available

ID: b86fef4c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how a data-transfer project affected data from equipment from the Apollo Moon landings. In this context, "available" means accessible or able to be used. The text explains that the Apollo equipment is still on the Moon, but the data it collected "were mostly inaccessible" until a data-transfer project was undertaken. The text then states that this project allowed a researcher to use the information that has been collected. This context makes it clear that the project made previously inaccessible data available, or accessible.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that a project made data from the Apollo equipment on the Moon "predictable" would mean that the data could be known or declared in advance, and it’s not clear how that would be achieved, particularly with data that had been "mostly inaccessible" before the project. Rather than suggesting that the data-transfer project made the data predictable, the text conveys that it made the data available to be used as sources of information. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence indicates that data from the Apollo equipment on the Moon were "mostly inaccessible" until a recent data-transfer project did something to them, after which a researcher was able to make use of the data. This context conveys that the project made the data accessible and usable, not that it made them "complicated," or complex or difficult to understand. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "representative" would mean either standing as a symbol of something or serving as a typical example from a group, and the text gives no indication that data retrieved from the Apollo equipment on the Moon was merely an example or symbolic. Rather, the text focuses on the availability and usefulness of the data, indicating that a data-transfer project enabled a researcher to use data that had previously been "mostly inaccessible."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f7426ce7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f7426ce7

As Mexico’s first president from an Indigenous community, Benito Juarez became one of the most _____ figures in his country’s history: among the many significant accomplishments of his long tenure in office (1858–1872), Juarez consolidated the authority of the national government and advanced the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. unpredictable
- B. important
- C. secretive
- D. ordinary

ID: f7426ce7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Juarez. In this context, “important” means marked by significant work or consequence. The text indicates that Juarez, who was the first president of Mexico from an Indigenous community, became a certain kind of figure in Mexico’s history. It then supports that claim by describing some of the “many significant accomplishments” from Juarez’s long tenure in office. This context conveys that Juarez is a significant and consequential figure in Mexico’s history.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on Juarez’s role as the first president of Mexico from an Indigenous community and on his many major accomplishments during his lengthy time in office; nothing in the text suggests that Juarez was “unpredictable,” or tended to behave in ways that couldn’t be predicted. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Juarez was a particularly “secretive” figure, or that he tended to keep things private or hidden from others. Instead, the text focuses on things that are known about Juarez: that he was the first president of Mexico from an Indigenous community, that he had a lengthy tenure, and that his many major accomplishments included consolidating the national government’s authority and advancing Indigenous rights. Choice D is incorrect because the text focuses on the idea that Juarez, who was the first president of Mexico from an Indigenous community, had many major accomplishments during his lengthy time in office. Rather than suggesting that Juarez was an “ordinary,” or common and typical, figure in Mexico’s history, this context conveys that Juarez was instead a notable figure.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 86aa2f85

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 86aa2f85

The printing of Virginia Woolf’s novels featured a creative _____ between Woolf and her sister Vanessa Bell: a talented painter, Bell worked closely with Woolf to create original cover art for most of the novels.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. rebellion
- B. partnership
- C. discovery
- D. disagreement

ID: 86aa2f85 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the cover art of Virginia Woolf’s novels. In this context, “partnership” means collaboration or joint effort. The text states that Woolf’s sister Vanessa Bell was a talented painter and that Bell worked with Woolf to provide the cover art for most of Woolf’s novels. Thus, this context suggests that Woolf and Bell pursued a creative partnership in order to produce several of Woolf’s novels.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no indication that Woolf or Bell were undergoing a “rebellion,” or revolt, against anything in particular. Instead, the text focuses on how they worked together in some aspects of the production of Woolf’s novels. Choice C is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to indicate that Woolf or Bell made a “discovery,” or encountered anything new for the first time as they worked together. The text suggests that Woolf had already written her novels and that Bell then assisted Woolf with the cover art for many of them. Choice D is incorrect because the text implies that Woolf and Bell had a positive relationship. According to the text, the sisters “worked closely” together to produce the cover art for many of Woolf’s novels; the text doesn’t mention whether while working together, Woolf and Bell had a “disagreement,” or conflict.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 714501f2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 714501f2

As an architect in Los Angeles in the 1950s, Helen Liu Fong became known for avoiding _____ designs in her buildings. Instead of using standard shapes and colors, she typically explored innovative forms and daring hues.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. creative
- B. bold
- C. traditional
- D. understandable

ID: 714501f2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Helen Liu Fong’s architectural designs. In this context, “traditional” means conventional. The text states that rather than use “standard shapes and colors,” Fong pursued “innovative” and “daring” design choices in her work. Fong’s style is depicted as inventive, so it therefore makes sense in this context that she avoided mainstream, traditional designs in her buildings.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that Fong’s work is innovative and experimental. Thus, Fong’s design choices could reasonably be considered creative, or original. She likely would have pursued creative designs, not avoided them. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that Fong used “daring” hues in her designs. Thus, Fong likely would have pursued bold, or brave and vivid design choices; she wouldn’t have avoided them. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t address whether Fong’s designs are understandable, or reasonable or expected. The text focuses on certain characteristics of Fong’s designs, not on how people received or understood them.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 703442ab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 703442ab

The following text is from the 1913 story “The King’s Coin” by Emily Pauline Johnson, a Kanienkahagen (Mohawk) writer also known as Tekahionwake. Fox-Foot, a young Ojibwe man, is guiding a group of fur traders who are traveling by canoe and suspects that they are being followed.

At supper time, Fox-Foot would allow no fire to be built, no landing to be made, no trace of their passing to be left. They ate canned meat and marmalade, drank again of the stream and pushed on, until just at dusk they reached the edge of a long, still lake, with shores of granite and dense fir forest.

As used in the text, what does the word “trace” most nearly mean?

- A. Evidence
- B. Blemish
- C. Amount
- D. Sketch

ID: 703442ab Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because the text indicates that Fox-Foot doesn’t let the group build a fire or create a canoe landing when it’s time for supper. This context suggests that he doesn’t want anyone who might be following the group to see any sign of them or their activities. In other words, Fox-Foot doesn’t want there to be any trace, or evidence, of the group’s movements (“their passing”) through the area.

Choice B is incorrect because the text conveys that Fox-Foot doesn’t want the group to be detected, not that he doesn’t want their presence to create a blemish, or a spoiling flaw, in the area; human activity could disturb a natural environment, but the context emphasizes that Fox-Foot is instead focused on avoiding giving any sign of the group’s movements through a place (“their passing”) to anyone who might be following them. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses on Fox-Foot’s desire to avoid detection by those who might be following the group. This context conveys that Fox-Foot doesn’t want to create any signs or evidence of the group moving through a place (“their passing”), not that he doesn’t want to leave behind some quantity of their presence; indeed, it isn’t clear what an amount of a group’s movement would be. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the group has a sketch, or rough drawing, of their movements through that area (“their passing”) that might be left behind. Rather, the context emphasizes that Fox-Foot is focused on ensuring that the group doesn’t give any kind of indication of their presence, as he wants to avoid detection by anyone who might be following the group.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 20f710fd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 20f710fd

The following text is from Claude McKay’s 1922 poem “Morning Joy.” The speaker is looking out a window and observing a wold, or large area of land.

At night the wide and level stretch of wold,
Which at high noon had basked in quiet gold,
Far as the eye could see was ghostly white;
Dark was the night save for the snow’s weird light.

I drew the shades far down, crept into bed;
Hearing the cold wind moaning overhead
Through the sad pines, my soul, catching its pain,
Went sorrowing with it across the plain.

As used in the text, what does the word “drew” most nearly mean?

- A. Pulled
- B. Drained
- C. Inspired
- D. Sketched

ID: 20f710fd Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, “drew” most nearly means pulled. In the text, the speaker stands at a window, looking out on a landscape at night. The speaker then “drew the shades far down, crept into bed.” That is, the speaker pulled down, or lowered, the shades until they were completely shut before going to sleep.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts, “drew” can refer to draining or removing liquid, especially water, as when someone draws water from a well, in this context it refers to the speaker pulling down window shades for the night. Choice C is incorrect. In some contexts, “drew” can be used to describe how a person or thing inspires, or elicits, a response from someone, as when a performer draws applause from an audience. But in this context it refers to the speaker pulling down window shades for the night. Choice D is incorrect. Although “drew” has several meanings, including sketched, or illustrated with a pen or pencil, in this context it refers to the speaker pulling down window shades for the night.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e8e07d38

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e8e07d38

Botanist Al Kovaleski has pointed out that maple trees already thrive in a wide variety of climates and thus may _____ changes in climate better than some other tree species do. The alterations maples may undergo in response to a changing climate are likely to be relatively small and easily achieved.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. relocate from
- B. refer to
- C. originate from
- D. adapt to

ID: e8e07d38 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how maple trees may respond to changes in climate. As used in this context, "adapt to" means to adjust to new conditions. The text first notes that maple trees already thrive in a wide variety of climates and then goes on to say that alterations maples may undergo are likely to be relatively small and easily achieved. This context supports the idea that maple trees will more easily adjust or adapt to a changing climate.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text discusses how maple trees adjust to change, the trees do not "relocate from," or physically move from one place to another. Choice B is incorrect because "refer to" means to mention or allude to something, and the trees are not doing either of these actions. Choice C is incorrect because the text is discussing how maple trees may respond to changes in climate, not where they "originate from," or came from originally.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f8b8ca1c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f8b8ca1c

Novelist Leon Forrest admired William Faulkner’s writing style. Forrest’s novel *Divine Days* contains a long passage in tribute to Faulkner that is a perfect _____ of Faulkner’s style: anyone familiar with Faulkner’s writing would see the resemblance.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. forgetting
- B. rejection
- C. imitation
- D. opinion

ID: f8b8ca1c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of novelist Leon Forrest’s admiration of William Faulkner’s writing style. In this context, "imitation" means something that resembles or reproduces something else. The text states that Forrest admired Faulkner’s style and that anyone familiar with Faulkner’s style would be able to see the stylistic similarities between a particular passage in Forrest’s novel *Divine Days* and Faulkner’s writing, a fact that supports the idea that Forrest’s novel pays tribute to Faulkner by reproducing, or imitating, Faulkner’s style.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, a "forgetting" would mean an instance in which something is overlooked or not remembered. The text emphasizes Forrest’s admiration for Faulkner’s style and the fact that Forrest’s writing in some instances closely resembles Faulkner’s stylistically. It therefore wouldn’t make sense to say that in trying to pay tribute to Faulkner’s style, Forrest failed to remember it. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, a "rejection" would mean a dismissal of something as unworthy. The text emphasizes Forrest’s admiration for Faulkner’s writing style, stating that parts of Forrest’s writings indicate efforts to copy that style. It wouldn’t make sense therefore to suggest that Forrest had rejected or dismissed Faulkner’s style as unworthy. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, an "opinion" would mean a view or judgment. Although the text focuses on Forrest’s admiration of Faulkner, which suggests that Forrest had formed a positive judgment of Faulkner’s style, the word opinion wouldn’t make sense in this sentence: the sentence doesn’t say that the passage from Forrest’s novel expresses his view of Faulkner’s style; rather, it suggests that stylistically, the passage closely resembles, or imitates, Faulkner’s writing.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 35707b9c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 35707b9c

The following text is from Mark Oshiro’s 2018 novel *Anger Is a Gift*. In the novel, Moss and his friends are on a subway train in Northern California.

Lights from the outside world then filled the train car as it rose out of the ground and climbed the elevated track. As long as Moss had lived in West Oakland, he’d never tired of this specific view, so he pointed toward the windows. “Check it,” he said, and the Port of Oakland began to pass by them.

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As used in the text, what does the word “specific” most nearly mean?

- A. Imaginary
- B. Energetic
- C. Correct
- D. Particular

ID: 35707b9c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "specific" most nearly means particular. The text is referring to the particular view of the Port of Oakland as seen from a subway train as it rises from underground. This specific, or particular, view has always been special to Moss, a lifetime resident of West Oakland.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text itself is a work of fiction, the view is something Moss can point out to his companions on the train, so the view itself is presumably not imaginary. Choice B is incorrect. Although this view of the Port of Oakland is significant to Moss, nothing in the text describes the view as particularly energetic as opposed to calming, for example. Choice C is incorrect. The point of the text is that the view of the Port of Oakland from the subway train as it rises from underground is significant to Moss, not whether it is described as being correct, which the text does not address.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8c5bf745

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8c5bf745

Painter Alma W. Thomas was fascinated by the colors and shapes found in nature. The flowers and trees in the garden at her home in Washington, DC, _____ her work. For example, Thomas’s use of broken brushstrokes was inspired by the way that light would shine through the leaves of a tree in front of her house.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. restricted
- B. announced
- C. distracted
- D. influenced

ID: 8c5bf745 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of painter Alma W. Thomas’s work. In this context, "influenced" means to have had an effect on something’s development. The text indicates that there is a connection between Thomas’s work and the flowers and trees in her home’s garden, giving the example of Thomas’s brushstrokes being inspired by light shining through the leaves of a tree in front of her house. This context conveys that Thomas’s work was influenced by the flowers and trees in the garden.

Choice A is incorrect because the text conveys that Thomas drew inspiration for her work from the plants in her garden, which suggests that the flowers and trees contributed positively to her work, not that they "restricted," or limited, her work. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that flowers and trees in a garden could have "announced," or made known, a painter’s work. Choice C is incorrect because the text conveys that Thomas drew inspiration for her work from the plants in her garden, which suggests that the flowers and trees contributed positively to her work, not that they were a distraction. Further, it’s not clear how an artist’s work could itself be "distracted."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d876defb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d876defb

Predatory animals differ widely in how they _____ food for their young. Some leave dead prey nearby for their young to consume, some bring live prey to their young, and some feed their young directly from their own mouths.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. avoid
- B. guess
- C. provide
- D. describe

ID: d876defb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how predators feed their young. As used in this context, "provide" means supply or make something that’s needed available. The text indicates that some predators supply prey for their young by either leaving dead prey nearby or by bringing live prey to them. Other predators, the text states, feed their young directly from their own mouths. This context supports the idea that predatory animals have various ways to provide food for their young.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "avoid" would mean keep away from or refrain from, neither of which would make sense in context. Nothing in the text suggests that predators refrain from food for their young. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "guess" would mean speculate or suppose, and it’s unclear what it would mean for predators to speculate food for their young. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "describe" would mean explain, and it’s unclear what it would mean for predators to explain food for their young.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f63b9677

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f63b9677

British painter Peter Edwards has a _____ painting portraits of notable figures from a variety of different fields. These characteristic works include his esteemed portraits of poet Wendy Cope and soccer player and coach Ryan Griggs.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. complaint about
- B. reputation for
- C. question about
- D. requirement for

ID: f63b9677 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Peter Edwards as a portrait painter. In this context, having a "reputation for" something means that one is widely recognized for being associated with a particular activity. The text indicates that Edwards has created "characteristic works" including "esteemed portraits" of notable figures, suggesting he is known and respected for this type of painting. This choice clearly indicates that Edwards has established recognition or fame specifically in connection with painting portraits of well-known individuals.

Choice A is incorrect because the text presents Edwards’s portrait painting in a positive manner, describing his works as "esteemed." In this context, "complaint about" would mean dissatisfaction or grievance regarding the activity of painting portraits, which contradicts the positive characterization of Edwards’s work. Nothing in the text suggests that Edwards has expressed any dissatisfaction with or objection to painting portraits of notable figures. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Edwards has a "question about" painting portraits, which in this context would mean uncertainty or doubt regarding this activity. Instead, the text presents Edwards as someone who has already created multiple portrait works described as "characteristic" and "esteemed," suggesting established practice rather than uncertainty. The mention of specific examples of his portrait work further demonstrates that he is not questioning his portrait painting. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not suggest that Edwards has a "requirement for" painting portraits, which in this context would mean a mandatory obligation or necessary condition. Instead, the text indicates that portrait painting is something Edwards is known for doing well, not something he is obligated to do. The text describes his portrait work as "characteristic," suggesting it’s a defining feature of his artistic practice rather than an externally imposed requirement.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bd6a3af9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bd6a3af9

The following text is adapted from Sui Sin Far’s 1912 short story “Mrs. Spring Fragrance.” Mr. and Mrs. Spring Fragrance immigrated to the United States from China.

Mrs. Spring Fragrance was unaware that Mr. Spring Fragrance, tired with the day’s business, had thrown himself down on the bamboo settee on the veranda, and that although his eyes were engaged in scanning the pages of the *Chinese World*, his ears could not help receiving the words which were borne to him through the open window.

As used in the text, what does the word “receiving” most nearly mean?

- A. Denying
- B. Entering
- C. Carrying
- D. Hearing

ID: bd6a3af9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, “receiving” most nearly means hearing, or perceiving sound. The text describes Mr. Spring Fragrance as he reads a newspaper, focusing on his eyes and ears. While his eyes look at the newspaper, he is unwillingly distracted by words coming through a nearby open window (that is, “his ears could not help receiving the words”). The words are being perceived specifically by his ears and not his eyes, and ears are the organs of sense with which one hears, so therefore Mr. Spring Fragrance is hearing the words through the open window.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no indication in the text that Mr. Spring Fragrance is denying, or refusing the truth of, the words coming to him through the window. He is merely distracted by them. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that Mr. Spring Fragrance’s ears couldn’t help entering, or coming into, the words coming to him through the window. Instead, the text indicates that the opposite occurs: that is, when Mr. Spring Fragrance hears the words, they enter his ears, but his ears don’t enter the words. Choice C is incorrect because it doesn’t make sense in this context to think of Mr. Spring Fragrance as carrying the words coming to him through the window, even though the word “carry” can have a number of different meanings depending on context: for example, he is not lifting them, he is not supporting them, and he is not accepting blame for them (as one “carries the blame” for a mistake).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 23e27d8c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 23e27d8c

The following text is adapted from Mercedes de Acosta’s 1921 poem “Spring and You.”

Now, Love and April, and the gold of your
hair,
Are all mingled together
Like the blending of an exotic dream plant
With the fragrant perfume of a strange, frail
flower.

As used in the text, what does the word “mingled” most nearly mean?

- A. Identified
- B. Combined
- C. Remembered
- D. Celebrated

ID: 23e27d8c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, "mingled" most nearly means combined. In the text, the speaker refers to several concepts mingling together and then compares this to "the blending of" two other things (an exotic plant and the fragrance of a strange flower). This comparison conveys that the speaker views the concepts of love, April, and the gold of someone’s hair as being blended together, or combined.

Choice A is incorrect because "mingled" means combined, not identified. The speaker names several concepts (love, April, and the gold color of someone’s hair) and then moves to a comparison of their mingling together to "the blending of" a plant and the scent of a flower, conveying the idea that the speaker views the concepts as blended together, or combined. Choice C is incorrect. The text as a whole may refer to a memory, but the comparison of the mingling of several concepts (love, April, and the gold color of someone’s hair) to "the blending of" a plant and the scent of a flower conveys that the speaker views those concepts as actually blended together, or combined, and not simply remembered at the same time. Choice D is incorrect. The speaker refers to several concepts (love, April, and the gold color of someone’s hair) and then compares the mingling together of those concepts to "the blending of" a plant and the scent of a flower; rather than suggesting that the concepts are celebrated, this comparison conveys that the speaker views the concepts as blended together, or combined.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID daac3970

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: daac3970

In 2008 a complete set of ancient *pessoi* (glass game pieces) was uncovered from beneath a paving stone in modern-day Israel. Due to their small size, *pessoi* were easily misplaced, making a whole set a rare find. This has led some experts to suggest that the set may have been buried intentionally; however, without clear evidence, archaeologists are left to _____ what happened.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. speculate about
- B. dismiss
- C. expand on
- D. catalog

ID: daac3970 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Speculate" means "to form a theory or guess without any clear evidence." This makes sense because, due to the lack of "clear evidence," the archaeologists can only guess how the *pessoi* set might have come to be there.

Choice B is incorrect. "Dismiss" can mean "send away" or "treat as unworthy of consideration." The text implies that the archaeologists are trying to figure out the truth—they wouldn't "dismiss" what really happened. Choice C is incorrect. "Expand on" means "give more details about," but there aren't any details to give. Without any "clear evidence," the archaeologists can't give any more details. Choice D is incorrect. "Catalog" means "carefully record" or "make a list of." However, there's no "clear evidence," so there's no real information to "catalog."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f70bd8e9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f70bd8e9

The following text is from John Muir’s 1913 autobiography *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*. Muir describes being on a boat.

The water was so clear that it was almost invisible, and when we floated slowly out over the plants and fishes, we seemed to be miraculously sustained in the air while exploring a veritable fairyland.

As used in the text, what does the word “clear” most nearly mean?

- A. Simple
- B. Understandable
- C. Obvious
- D. Transparent

ID: f70bd8e9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "clear" most nearly means transparent, or see-through. Muir states that the water beneath the boat "was so clear that it was almost invisible," suggesting that those on the boat were able to see through the water and easily observe plants and fish below the surface.

Choice A is incorrect. In some contexts "clear" can mean "simple," or uncomplicated, but Muir is describing the water, and water isn’t typically described as either simple or complicated. Muir emphasizes the water’s transparency, not its simplicity. Choice B is incorrect. In some contexts "clear" can mean "understandable," or reasonable or easily comprehended, but Muir is describing the water, and it doesn’t make much sense to describe water as understandable. Muir emphasizes the water’s transparency, not how easily the water can be understood. Choice C is incorrect. Although "clear" can mean "obvious," or easily seen or understood, in some contexts, Muir’s description emphasizes that the water "was almost invisible" and that the boat seemed to be "sustained in the air," suggesting that the water was almost impossible to see, not that it was obvious.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 2c3b6550

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2c3b6550

US traffic signals didn’t always contain the familiar three lights (red, yellow, and green). Traffic lights only _____ red and green lights until the three-light traffic signal was developed in the 1920s.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. avoided
- B. featured
- C. appreciated
- D. disregarded

ID: 2c3b6550 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of traffic signals. The text indicates that while US traffic signals now have lights of three different colors (red, yellow, and green), before some point in the 1920s they had only red and green lights. This context conveys that before three-color signals were developed, traffic lights “featured,” or had as a characteristic, just two colors.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that traffic signals could have ever “avoided,” or stayed away from, certain colors of lights. The people who made the traffic signals might have chosen not to use certain colors, but signals themselves can’t make choices. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, “appreciated” would mean valued or recognized with gratitude, and it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that traffic signals could have ever valued or recognized anything. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, “disregarded” would mean ignored or treated as unworthy, and it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that traffic signals could have ever ignored something or had an opinion of something’s worth.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 96b6a8c4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 96b6a8c4

The following text is from Frances Hodgson Burnett’s 1911 novel *The Secret Garden*. Mary, a young girl, is outside trying her new jump rope.

The sun was shining and a little wind was blowing—not a rough wind, but one which came in delightful little gusts and brought a fresh scent of newly turned earth with it. She skipped round the fountain garden, and up one walk and down another.

As used in the text, what does the word “rough” most nearly mean?

- A. Harsh
- B. Scratchy
- C. Basic
- D. Vague

ID: 96b6a8c4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "rough" most nearly means harsh, or forceful and unpleasant. The text describes Mary’s surroundings as she plays: the sun is out and there’s "a little wind." To further illustrate the wind, the narrator contrasts the word "rough" with a description of the wind blowing in "delightful little gusts," suggesting that the wind is not unpleasant or harsh at all.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "rough" objects, or objects with irregular surfaces, can sometimes be scratchy, rough doesn’t mean scratchy in this context. The text explains that the wind is not rough but rather gentle, "delightful little gusts," which suggests that the use of "rough" here is referring to the degree of force of the wind. Choice C is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that the wind wasn’t "basic," or simple and uncomplicated. Instead, the text describes the wind as blowing not roughly or harshly but in "delightful little gusts." Choice D is incorrect because the word "vague" means not clearly expressed or seen. Nothing in the text indicates that the wind was barely noticeable to Mary as she played outside, but rather the text states that it was delightful.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d62f1bb8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d62f1bb8

Osage Nation citizen Randy Tinker-Smith produced and directed the ballet *Wahzhazhe*, which vividly chronicles Osage history and culture. Telling Osage stories through ballet is _____ choice because two of the foremost ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage: sisters Maria and Marjorie Tallchief.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. a suitable
- B. a determined
- C. an arbitrary
- D. an unpredictable

ID: d62f1bb8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Suitable” means “appropriate for a particular purpose.” Since the text indicates that two of the best ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage, we can infer that the author believes that ballet is a very suitable artform for telling Osage stories.

Choice B is incorrect. The text never suggests that Tinker-Smith’s choice was determined. That would imply that Tinker-Smith initially faced some kind of obstacle or opposition, and nothing like that is mentioned in the passage. Choice C is incorrect. The text implies the opposite of this. “Arbitrary” means “based on random choice or whim rather than reason.” But the text does give us a good reason behind the choice to tell Osage stories through ballet: two of the best ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage. Choice D is incorrect. The text never suggests that Tinker-Smith’s choice was “unpredictable.” Rather, the fact that two of the best ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage makes ballet especially appropriate for telling Osage stories.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 349bddc9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 349bddc9

Charles “Teenie” Harris was a photographer for the *Pittsburgh Courier* from 1936 to 1975. During his career he took over 70,000 photographs documenting everyday life in Pittsburgh’s Black communities. The Carnegie Museum of Art maintains thousands of his photographs, carefully _____ them so that audiences can continue to view them well into the future.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. replacing
- B. inventing
- C. preserving
- D. counting

ID: 349bddc9 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Preserving" means "maintaining" or "keeping in good condition," so preserving the photographs means that audiences should be able to view them for a long time.

Choice A is incorrect. "Replacing" means "putting something new in place of" the photographs. Replacing the photos will make it so that audiences can’t view them at all. Choice B is incorrect. "Inventing" means "creating a new idea, process, or thing." The museum can’t invent photographs that already exist. Choice D is incorrect. Counting the photographs will not help audiences view them well into the future.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 310d25f3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 310d25f3

Many ancient sculptures of people’s heads are missing their noses. This is because the nose is the most _____ part of a sculpture of a person’s head. It is delicate and sticks out from the rest of the sculpture, making it especially easy to break.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. recognizable
- B. fragile
- C. common
- D. sophisticated

ID: 310d25f3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of noses on ancient sculptures. In this context, "fragile" means weak or delicate. This matches the text’s description of noses on ancient sculptures, which are often missing from sculptures’ heads because they are "especially easy to break." Therefore, this context indicates that noses on ancient sculptures are the most fragile part of the sculptures’ heads.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "recognizable" would mean identifiable, and since the text indicates that noses are often missing from ancient statues, they therefore cannot be the most recognizable part of the statue. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that many ancient statues are missing noses, so noses wouldn’t be "common," or frequent, aspects of ancient statues; they would conversely be uncommon. Choice D is incorrect because the text only indicates that noses on ancient statues often stick out and end up missing from the heads, which doesn’t relate to the noses being "sophisticated," or knowledgeable or refined.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e2d1dfb7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e2d1dfb7

The following text is adapted from John Matheus’s 1925 short story “Fog.”

The fog extended its tentacles over city and river, gradually obliterating traces of familiar landscapes. At five-thirty the old Panhandle bridge, supported by massive sandstone pillars, stalwart, as when erected fifty years before to serve a generation now passed behind the portals of life, had become a spectral outline against the sky.

As used in the text, what does the word “supported” most nearly mean?

- A. Held up
- B. Encouraged
- C. Improved on
- D. Defended

ID: e2d1dfb7 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "supported" most nearly means held up or sustained physically. The sentence describes the physical structure of the Panhandle bridge, stating it was "supported by massive sandstone pillars." This clearly refers to the structural relationship between the bridge and its pillars—the pillars physically hold up the bridge and keep it standing. The text further emphasizes the physical nature of this support by describing the pillars as "stalwart" (strong and sturdy) and noting they've been performing this function for fifty years.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "supported" can mean "encouraged," the sandstone pillars and bridge described in the text are all inanimate objects that can't provide or receive encouragement. The text clearly describes a structural relationship between the elements of the bridge, not an emotional one. Choice C is incorrect. Although in some contexts "supported" has a meaning similar to "improved on," the text doesn't suggest that the sandstone pillars have enhanced or made the bridge better; rather, they simply provide the necessary physical foundation to keep the bridge standing. Thus, the sentence describes the structural elements of the bridge, not improvements made to it. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts "supported" can mean "defended," the text doesn't present a situation in which the sandstone pillars are defending the bridge from a threat. Instead, the description focuses on the physical structure of the bridge, in which the pillars hold the bridge up and ensure its stability.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 160b315e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 160b315e

The Appalachian Trail is a hiking path in the eastern United States. Much of the 2,000 mile trail passes through wilderness areas. In order to _____ those areas, the United States Congress passed the National Trails System Act in 1968, ensuring that the trail would not be sold or commercially developed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. borrow
- B. postpone
- C. protect
- D. decorate

ID: 160b315e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Protect" means "preserve" or "keep safe from." By ensuring that the wilderness areas along the Appalachian Trail can't be sold or developed, the National Trails System Act protects them.

Choice A is incorrect. "Borrow" means "to take something with intent to return it." The text doesn't say anything about taking and returning the wilderness that surrounds the Appalachian Trail. Choice B is incorrect. "Postpone" means "to put off until later." Nothing in the passage suggests that Congress wants to "postpone" the wilderness areas (and that doesn't make sense anyway—they can postpone doing something to the wilderness areas, but they can't postpone the areas themselves). Choice D is incorrect. "Decorate" means "to adorn" or "add extra items or pictures to make more attractive." No details in the text suggest that Congress wishes to make the trail fancier or more attractive.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 6275c8ad

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6275c8ad

According to statistician Nassim Nicholas Taleb, the best way to predict the amount of time a nonperishable entity (such as a building or a technology) will continue to exist is to examine how long it has survived so far. In this view, an item’s age is the strongest _____ how much longer it will last.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. uncertainty about
- B. indicator of
- C. motivation for
- D. criticism of

ID: 6275c8ad Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Indicator” means “something that shows or suggests,” which matches Taleb’s argument that an item’s age can suggest how much longer it will last.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage tells us that examining an item’s age is the best way to predict how much longer it will last. Therefore, according to Taleb’s theory, an item’s age should add more certainty about how much longer it will last. Choice C is incorrect. A “motivation” is “a reason for doing.” Items don’t have feelings and motivations, so it wouldn’t make sense to say that their age is a motivation for how much longer they will last. Choice D is incorrect. “Criticism” can mean “describing faults or problems” or “an analysis of an artistic work.” Neither of these definitions makes sense here. An item’s age can’t criticize how much longer it will last.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 47a0c001

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 47a0c001

Sueño de Familia is an exhibition of drawings, paintings, and ceramics that explores the artistic heritage of US-based artist Yolanda González. The exhibition _____ five generations, featuring works by González’s great-grandfather, grandmother, mother, and niece as well as González herself.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. borrows
- B. spans
- C. judges
- D. neglects

ID: 47a0c001 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the *Sueño de Familia* art exhibition. In this context, “spans” means extends across or covers. The text states that the exhibition explores González’s artistic heritage and features artwork by her great-grandfather, grandmother, mother, and niece. This context conveys the idea that the exhibition spans, or extends across, five generations of González’s family.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that the exhibition “borrows,” or acquires, five generations of González’s family. The text indicates that the exhibition features artwork by family members from five generations, not that the five generations themselves have been acquired for inclusion in the exhibition. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that the purpose of the exhibition is to highlight artwork, not to “judge,” or give an opinion on, five generations of the artist’s family. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that the exhibition “neglects,” or gives little attention to, five generations of González’s family. On the contrary, the text indicates that the exhibition is dedicated to exploring González’s artistic heritage and therefore designed to bring attention to her family members and their artwork.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a3e807b2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a3e807b2

It would be a mistake to _____ the exhibit that artist and curator Joe Baker, who is a member of the Lenape (Delaware) people, has organized at the Brooklyn Public Library. The exhibit, which includes Lenape beadwork from the 1850s as well as modern works that use traditional patterns, is essential viewing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. complicate
- B. amplify
- C. overlook
- D. assemble

ID: a3e807b2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of an exhibit at the Brooklyn Public Library. In this context, "overlook" means to ignore or to miss. The text states that artist and curator Joe Baker organized an exhibit that features Lenape beadwork in historical and modern works. The text describes the exhibit as "essential viewing," suggesting that it’s an important exhibit that people should make an effort to visit; this context conveys that it would be a mistake to overlook the exhibit.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "complicate" would mean to add difficulty, and there’s no reason to think the text would need to directly caution against complicating Baker’s exhibit; the text focuses on the idea that the exhibit is "essential viewing," not on the idea of a potential difficulty that could be raised. Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "amplify" means to increase, and there’s no reason to believe the text would indicate that it would be a mistake to increase an exhibit the text describes as "essential viewing." Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that it would be a mistake to "assemble," or put together, Baker’s exhibit: the text makes it clear that the exhibit has already been put together and, further, praises the exhibit as "essential viewing."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8aee3e2a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8aee3e2a

Studying how workload affects productivity, Maryam Kouchaki and colleagues found that people who chose to do relatively easy tasks first were less _____ compared to those who did hard tasks first. Finishing easy tasks gave participants a sense of accomplishment, but those who tackled hard tasks first actually became more skilled and productive workers over time.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. secretive
- B. efficient
- C. outgoing
- D. unsympathetic

ID: 8aee3e2a Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion about Kouchaki and colleagues’ research into how workload affects productivity. In context, “efficient” means effective or well organized. The text indicates that, according to Kouchaki and colleagues’ research, people who worked on hard tasks first were “more skilled and productive” than those who did easy tasks first. This context conveys the idea that despite their sense of accomplishment, the people who chose to do the easy tasks first were less efficient or productive than those who tackled hard tasks first.

Choice A is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that workers who do easy tasks first are less “secretive,” or uncommunicative or silent, than those who do hard tasks first. Rather, the text suggests that people are less skillful or efficient if they tackle easy tasks before the hard ones. Choice C is incorrect because “outgoing” means openly friendly, which wouldn’t make sense in this context. The text focuses on Kouchaki and colleagues’ research in which people who worked on hard tasks first were “more skilled and productive” than those who did easy tasks first and were therefore less efficient. Choice D is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that workers who do easy tasks first are less “unsympathetic,” or insensitive or unkind, than those who do hard tasks first. Rather, the text suggests that people are less skillful or efficient if they tackle easy tasks before the hard ones.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 55e16706

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 55e16706

Taking photographs in the mid-1800s was complicated and expensive, but this changed with the 1854 invention of the *carte de visite*, a small photo that cost little to make. *Carte de visite* photos helped to _____ photography: they made it easy and enjoyable for everyday people to have their pictures taken, and people at the time loved exchanging these small photos with friends and family.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. weaken
- B. praise
- C. popularize
- D. isolate

ID: 55e16706 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of *carte de visite* photos. To "popularize" a technology is to allow it to be used and appreciated widely. The text explains that unlike the photos produced by earlier forms of photographic technology, *carte de visite* photos were inexpensive and could easily be obtained by "everyday people," who enjoyed exchanging the images. Therefore, *carte de visite* photos helped popularize photography.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that instead of weakening the emerging technology of photography, *carte de visite* photos allowed it to be more widely accessed and enjoyed by people. Choice B is incorrect. The text establishes that large numbers of people enjoyed using *carte de visite* photos, so it can be inferred that these photos caused photography to be praised, or celebrated. However, it wouldn’t make sense to say that inanimate objects—in this case, photos—had praised photography; instead, *carte de visite* consumers themselves would have praised it. Choice D is incorrect because the text explains that rather than isolating photography, or limiting its availability, *carte de visite* technology made photography more widely accessible to people.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 36c805af

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 36c805af

Artist Marilyn Dingle’s intricate, coiled baskets are _____ sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Following a Gullah technique that originated in West Africa, Dingle skillfully winds a thin palm frond around a bunch of sweetgrass with the help of a “sewing bone” to create the basket’s signature look that no factory can reproduce.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indicated by
- B. handmade from
- C. represented by
- D. collected with

ID: 36c805af Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Marilyn Dingle’s baskets. In this context, to say that Dingle’s baskets are “handmade from” particular plants means that Dingle creates baskets herself using those plants but without using machines. The text says that Dingle “skillfully winds” parts of palmetto palm plants around sweetgrass plants to make baskets with an appearance that “no factory can reproduce.” This context suggests that Dingle’s baskets are handmade from sweetgrass and palmetto palm.

Choice A is incorrect because the text describes how Dingle uses sweetgrass and palmetto palm to create her baskets, not how her baskets are “indicated by,” or signified by, sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Choice C is incorrect. Although Dingle’s baskets are described as being made using sweetgrass and palm, there’s nothing in the text to suggest that the baskets are “represented by,” or exemplified or portrayed by, sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Instead, the focus of the text is on Dingle’s use of sweetgrass and palmetto palm and the impossibility of replicating the appearance of her baskets using machines. Choice D is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that Dingle’s baskets are “collected with,” or brought together in a group with, sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Instead, the text describes how Dingle uses those plants to make her baskets.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f489d4fd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f489d4fd

The following text is adapted from Lewis Carroll’s 1871 novel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*. Alice, a child, is talking to her cat.

“Do you hear the snow against the window-panes, Kitty? How nice and soft it sounds! Just as if someone was kissing the window all over outside.”

As used in the text, what does the word “soft” most nearly mean?

- A. Gentle
- B. Sensitive
- C. Shapeless
- D. Bland

ID: f489d4fd Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "soft" most nearly means gentle. The text portrays Alice speaking about the snow falling against the window, describing it as sounding "nice" and similar to someone "kissing the window." These details most strongly suggest that Alice thinks the sound made by the snow falling against the window is gentle.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "gentle" can mean sensitive, or caring about others’ feelings, that isn’t the meaning in this context; it doesn’t make sense to say that Alice thinks the sound of the snow cares about anything. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Alice thinks the sound of the snow is shapeless, or lacks a definite shape; she isn’t indicating how anything looks or feels but, rather, is describing how "nice" and gentle the snow sounds. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Alice thinks the sound of the snow is bland, or uninteresting; rather, she notices the sound and comments on how "nice" it is.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 5b885352

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5b885352

Bing Xie and her team have discovered that plains zebras make at least four types of vocalizations: “snorts,” “soft snorts,” “squeals,” and “quagga quagga” calls. The researchers used machine-learning algorithms to _____ recorded vocalizations according to type, finding that snorts vary across individual zebras, while squeals are more uniform across zebra populations.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. categorize
- B. extend
- C. collapse
- D. suppress

ID: 5b885352 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how Bing Xie and her team analyzed plains zebra vocalizations. In this context, “categorize” means to sort into groups based on shared characteristics. The text states that Xie and her team discovered that the vocalizations of plains zebras can be grouped into at least four distinct types: “snorts,” “soft snorts,” “squeals,” and “quagga quagga” calls. According to the text, the team also found that whereas snorts vary from zebra to zebra, squeals are more consistent across zebra populations. The text indicates that the researchers used machine-learning algorithms to arrive at these findings. This context supports the idea that the researchers used the algorithms to categorize recorded vocalizations.

Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “extend” would mean to make longer or greater in size. The text discusses the researchers’ use of machine-learning algorithms to study recorded zebra vocalizations and identify patterns among the different types of calls that the researchers had recorded, not to lengthen or increase the size of the recordings. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, “collapse” would mean to break down or combine into a smaller form. The text indicates that the researchers used machine-learning algorithms as part of a process that yielded findings about distinct types of zebra vocalizations, suggesting that the researchers used the algorithms to distinguish among vocalization types, not to combine them. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, “suppress” would mean to hold back or eliminate. The text indicates that the researchers used machine-learning algorithms as part of a process that yielded findings that zebra vocalizations can be classified into four distinct types, not that the researchers used the algorithms to hold back or eliminate the vocalizations themselves.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d437473e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d437473e

Cat and Plum Blossoms is an important work of *Nihonga*, or classical Japanese painting. Unlike Kuroda Seiki, who adopted traditional European methods such as painting with oil on canvas, Hishida Shunsō _____ traditional Japanese approaches. For instance, Hishida produced *Cat and Plum Blossoms* by applying color pigments to a silk scroll.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. distrusted
- B. embraced
- C. released
- D. overlooked

ID: d437473e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Hishida Shunsō’s painting *Cat and Plum Blossoms*. In this context, "embraced" means accepted or adopted readily. The text begins by identifying *Cat and Plum Blossoms* as an example of *Nihonga*, or classical (that is, traditional) Japanese painting. The text continues by drawing a contrast between Hishida’s work and Kuroda Seiki’s work, which differs from that of Hishida in its use of the traditional European method of using oil paints on canvas rather than using traditional Japanese approaches. The text then concludes with an example of one such traditional Japanese painting technique exemplified by Hishida’s *Cat and Plum Blossoms*—applications of color pigments to a silk scroll—to further develop the contrast between the two artists’ approaches. This context supports the idea that Hishida adopted, or embraced, traditional Japanese approaches.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context "distrusted" would mean that Hishida was skeptical of or lacked confidence in traditional Japanese approaches to painting. The text begins by stating that Hishida’s painting *Cat and Plum Blossoms* is an example of *Nihonga*, or traditional Japanese painting, and then cites Hishida’s application of color pigments to a silk scroll as an instance of a traditional Japanese painting technique. It therefore wouldn’t make sense to say that Hishida’s use of traditional Japanese painting techniques indicates his distrust, or skepticism, of them. Rather, it suggests that he embraced those techniques. Choice C is incorrect because saying that Hishida "released" traditional Japanese approaches to painting in this context would mean that he freed them from any restrictions. In using Hishida’s application of color pigments to a silk scroll in *Cat and Plum Blossoms* as an example of a traditional Japanese approach to painting found in *Nihonga*, the text strongly implies that Hishida followed these approaches, not that he removed them from any restrictions. Choice D is incorrect because in this context "overlooked" would mean ignored or failed to notice. The text establishes that Hishida’s painting *Cat and Plum Blossoms* is a notable work of *Nihonga*, or classical Japanese painting, that features the traditional technique of applying color pigments to a silk scroll. It wouldn’t make sense to say that Hishida’s use of a traditional Japanese approach to painting indicates that Hishida failed to notice those approaches.

Question ID fd648881

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fd648881

The following text is adapted from Karel Čapek’s 1920 play *R.U.R. (Rossum’s Universal Robots)*, translated by Paul Selver and Nigel Playfair in 1923. Fabry and Busman are telling Miss Glory why their company manufactures robots.

FABRY: One Robot can replace two and a half *workmen*. The human machine, Miss Glory, was terribly *imperfect*. It had to be removed sooner or later.

BUSMAN: It was too expensive.

FABRY: It was not *effective*. It no longer answers the requirements of *modern engineering*. Nature has no idea of keeping pace with *modern labor*.

As used in the text, what does the word “answers” most nearly mean?

- A. Explains
- B. Rebuts
- C. Defends
- D. Fulfills

ID: fd648881 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, “answers” most nearly means fulfills. In the text, Fabry and Busman claim that the robots manufactured by their company are more efficient than human workers, which they refer to as “the human machine.” Fabry observes that the human machine “no longer answers the requirements of *modern engineering*.” That is, human workers are incapable of meeting the rigorous needs of modern, industrialized workplaces.

Choice A is incorrect. Although in some contexts “answers” can mean explains, it doesn’t have that meaning in this context because the topic under discussion is human beings’ inability to perform labor efficiently, not their inability to engage in discussion or explanation. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts “answers” can mean rebuts, or proves a claim or argument to be false, it wouldn’t make sense to speak of proving requirements to be false; requirements might or might not be reasonable, but they can’t be verified as truthful or untruthful, as claims or accusations can. Choice C is incorrect. Although in some contexts, “answers” can mean defends against criticism, or justifies, it doesn’t have that meaning in this context because the opinion that Fabry expresses is that human workers can no longer fulfill the requirements of modern workplaces, not that they have ceased to justify those requirements or to defend them against criticism; indeed, there is no suggestion in the text that workers ever defended those requirements.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 69f62404

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 69f62404

The following text is adapted from Amy Lowell’s 1912 poem “Summer.”

It is summer, glorious, deep-toned summer,
The very crown of nature’s changing year
When all her surging life is at its full.
To me alone it is a time of pause,
A void and silent space between two worlds,
When inspiration lags, and feeling sleeps,
Gathering strength for efforts yet to come.

As used in the text, what does the phrase “a void” most nearly mean?

- A. A useless
- B. An empty
- C. A forgotten
- D. An incomplete

ID: 69f62404 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, a span of time is described as "a void" space, which most nearly means an empty or vacant one. In the text, the speaker describes summertime in counterintuitive terms: although nature’s "surging life is at its full" during the season, the speaker feels summer to be "a time of pause, / A void and silent space between two worlds." The speaker says further that during summer, "feeling sleeps / Gathering strength" for future efforts. Thus, the speaker regards summer as an empty stretch of time, to be followed by a period of greater activity.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text does present summer as a time of inactivity, it doesn’t characterize that inactivity as useless, or as having no purpose; in fact, the speaker regards summer as a time when "feeling" gathers "strength for efforts yet to come." Choice C is incorrect. Although the text characterizes summer as a time "when inspiration lags, and feeling sleeps," it doesn’t discuss the season’s relationship to the speaker’s memory or suggest that summer can easily be forgotten. Choice D is incorrect. In some contexts, "void" can mean devoid of, or lacking, a particular element, and such a lack could be conceived of as incompleteness. However, the text doesn’t portray summer as not being complete or whole; instead, it characterizes vacancy or inactivity as being an essential quality of the season, as experienced by the speaker.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 84cbf0a4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 84cbf0a4

A musician and member of the Quechua of Peru, Renata Flores Rivera was eager to promote the Quechua language in her music, but she was _____ speaking it. She met this challenge by asking her grandmother, a native speaker of Quechua, to help her pronounce words in her song lyrics and also by taking classes in the language.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. prepared for
- B. inexperienced with
- C. skilled in
- D. excited about

ID: 84cbf0a4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Renata Flores Rivera’s use of Quechua in her music. In this context, “inexperienced with” means not accustomed to. The text indicates that Flores Rivera wanted to promote the Quechua language in her music and overcame a challenge by seeking help with pronunciation from her grandmother and by taking language classes. This context conveys the idea that Flores Rivera was not sufficiently familiar with Quechua to use it in her music without help. Thus, she was inexperienced with speaking the language, which she addressed by seeking help.

Choice A is incorrect because describing Flores Rivera as “prepared for”—or ready for—speaking Quechua wouldn’t make sense in context. The text indicates that speaking Quechua presented a challenge, but if she were ready to speak the language, then there would be no challenge. Choice C is incorrect because describing Flores Rivera as “skilled in”—meaning good at or capable of—speaking Quechua wouldn’t make sense in context. The text indicates that speaking Quechua presented a challenge, but if she were capable of speaking the language, then there would be no challenge. Choice D is incorrect. Flores Rivera was likely “excited about”—or thrilled or delighted with—speaking Quechua, but this wouldn’t make sense in context. The text indicates that speaking Quechua presented a challenge, but if she were delighted with speaking the language, then there would be no challenge.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 13571712

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 13571712

Manul cats are small, shy felines. They live mostly alone in out-of-the-way parts of Asia, such as on Mount Everest. These cats have been difficult to research because their habitats are so _____ large populations of humans.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. full of
- B. drawn to
- C. responsible for
- D. distant from

ID: 13571712 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of manul cats. The text states that manul cats live in "out-of-the-way parts of Asia" (citing the famously remote Mount Everest as an example) and indicates that it is difficult to research the cats because of the location of their habitats. By emphasizing that the habitats are remote in relation to humans, the text conveys that being "distant from," or far from, large groups of humans makes manul cats challenging to study.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that the habitats of manul cats are "full of large populations of humans" would indicate that the cats cohabitate with many humans, which would directly contradict the text’s claim that the cats live in "out-of-the-way" areas. Choice B is incorrect because the missing words describe an aspect of manul cats’ habitats, or the areas where they live, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that areas could be "drawn to," or attracted by, large groups of humans. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "responsible for" would mean either having an obligation to care for something or being the cause of something, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that the habitats of manul cats (the areas where the cats live) would need to care for humans or that the habitats somehow created large human populations.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b80e3ccb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b80e3ccb

The following text is adapted from Elizabeth von Arnim’s 1922 novel *The Enchanted April*. Mrs. Wilkins and her friend Rose are traveling in Italy.

“I’m going to have one of these gorgeous oranges,” said Mrs. Wilkins, staying where she was and reaching across to a black bowl piled with them. “Rose, how can you resist them. Look—have this one. Do have this beauty—” And she held out a big one.

As used in the text, what does the phrase “reaching across to” most nearly mean?

- A. Joining with
- B. Gaining on
- C. Stretching toward
- D. Arriving at

ID: b80e3ccb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text "reaching across to" most nearly means stretching toward. The text begins with Mrs. Wilkins stating that she wants to have one of the oranges that she’s admiring. The text then indicates that Mrs. Wilkins, staying where she is, holds out a big orange to her friend. This context suggests that when the text describes Mrs. Wilkins as reaching across to the bowl of oranges, it means that she is stretching toward the bowl.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never suggests that Mrs. Wilkins is joining with, or becoming attached to, the bowl of oranges. Rather, the text indicates that she is stretching toward the bowl so she can pick out oranges for herself and her friend Rose to eat. Choice B is incorrect because the text never suggests that Mrs. Wilkins is gaining on, or overtaking in a competition or race, the bowl of oranges. The text suggests instead that the bowl is sitting still on a surface and that Mrs. Wilkins is extending her arm toward the bowl so she can pick out oranges for herself and her friend Rose to eat. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that Mrs. Wilkins is arriving at the bowl of oranges. In fact, the text states that Mrs. Wilkins stays where she is when reaching across to the bowl, meaning that she remains at a distance from it.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3c2bd81e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3c2bd81e

The following text is adapted from Mohsin Hamid’s 2017 novel *Exit West*. Saeed lives with his mother and father. On cloudless nights after a daytime rain, Saeed’s father would sometimes bring out the telescope, and the family would sip green tea on their balcony, enjoying a breeze, and take turns to look up at objects whose light, often, had been emitted before any of these three viewers had been born—light from other centuries, only now reaching Earth.

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As used in the text, what does the word “reaching” most nearly mean?

- A. Arriving at
- B. Consulting with
- C. Running to
- D. Clinging to

ID: 3c2bd81e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The word "reaching" in this text means "to arrive" at Earth. Before, the light had been traveling across space; now, it had arrived at Earth.

Choice B is incorrect. "Consulting with" means "seeking advice or information from someone." Light is not alive, so it can't consult with Earth. Choice C is incorrect. It's confusing to say that starlight is "only now running to Earth," both because light doesn't literally "run" and because the text is describing the moment the light touches Earth, not the period of time when it's traveling to Earth. Choice D is incorrect. This might be tempting, as "clinging to" has a connotation of "sticking to." It wouldn't make sense to say that the light was "only now" clinging to Earth.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID da34362d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: da34362d

The following text is adapted from George Eliot’s 1871–72 novel *Middlemarch*.

[Mr. Brooke] had travelled in his younger years, and was held in this part of the country to have contracted a too rambling habit of mind. Mr. Brooke’s conclusions were as difficult to predict as the weather.

As used in the text, what does the word “contracted” most nearly mean?

- A. Restricted
- B. Described
- C. Developed
- D. Settled

ID: da34362d Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, “contracted” most nearly means developed. The text explains that Mr. Brooke has a “too rambling habit of mind,” which the text likens to a disease, saying he is thought to have contracted it. To contract a disease means to acquire or develop a disease. In other words, the text indicates that Mr. Brooke is believed to have acquired, or developed, the habit of mind described in the text.

Choice A is incorrect. Although “contracted” can mean limited or restricted in some contexts, here Mr. Brooke is said to draw unpredictable conclusions, suggesting that he exhibits this “too rambling habit of mind,” not that it has been somehow limited or restricted. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text describes Mr. Brooke’s habit of mind, nothing suggests that those are his descriptions or, indeed, that he described his habit of mind at all. Choice D is incorrect because settled means calmed or mitigated, but here Mr. Brooke is said to draw unpredictable conclusions, suggesting that he exhibits this “too rambling habit of mind,” not that it has been somehow calmed or mitigated.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 398cfe6b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 398cfe6b

In the 1960s, Sam Gilliam, a Black painter from the southern United States, became the first artist to drape painted canvases into flowing shapes. He later explored a different style, _____ quilt-like paintings inspired by the patchwork quilting tradition of Black communities in the South.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. predicting
- B. refusing
- C. hiding
- D. creating

ID: 398cfe6b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Sam Gilliam’s artworks. As used in this context, “creating” means producing or bringing something into existence. The text indicates that Gilliam is an artist who made draped canvases and, later, quilt-like paintings. This context supports the idea that Gilliam explored different styles in his art by creating special types of paintings.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that Gilliam actually explored and pursued the creation of quilt-like paintings; he wasn’t just “predicting,” or declaring in advance, the existence of these paintings. Choice B is incorrect because in this context “refusing” would mean rejecting, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that Gilliam rejected his quilt-like paintings. Instead, the text indicates that he was exploring and pursuing a new art style in these paintings. Choice C is incorrect because in this context “hiding” would mean concealing from view, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that Gilliam attempted to conceal his quilt-like paintings. Instead, the text indicates that he was exploring and pursuing a new art style in these paintings.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 800ff224

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 800ff224

In the 1990s, conservationists began planting more than 500,000 native trees in the habitat of the Azores bullfinch to boost the bird’s numbers. This approach was apparently ____: the Azores bullfinch’s population size increased from as few as 100 birds at the end of the 1980s to around 1,300 in 2023.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. amusing
- B. costly
- C. successful
- D. disastrous

ID: 800ff224 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the conservationists’ efforts to increase Azores bullfinch’s numbers. In this context, "successful" means accomplishing a goal or purpose. According to the text, conservationists planted more than 500,000 native trees in an Azores bullfinch habitat in order to boost the bird’s population size. The text then indicates that the population size did indeed grow as a result of the planted trees. Thus, in this context, the conservationists’ approach of planting native trees was successful because it achieved the goal of increasing the bird’s population size.

Choice A is incorrect because the text gives no indication that the conservationists’ approach of planting native trees to increase Azores bullfinch’s numbers was "amusing," or comical or entertaining. Instead, the approach was seriously undertaken and ultimately accomplished. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t address how much it cost to achieve the goal of planting native trees to increase Azores bullfinch’s numbers. The text indicates that the approach was beneficial and successful rather than "costly," or expensive or harmful. Choice D is incorrect. According to the text, the conservationists’ approach of planting native trees to increase Azores bullfinch’s numbers was beneficial and successful rather than "disastrous," or damaging or unsuccessful.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bcf095a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bcf095a5

The following text is adapted from Charles Chesnutt’s 1899 story “The Wife of His Youth.” Mr. Ryder is hosting a formal gathering where he will propose marriage to the woman he has been courting.

[A] younger and less cautious man would long since have spoken. But he had made up his mind, and had only to determine the time when he would ask her to be his wife. He decided to give a ball in her honor, and at some time during the evening of the ball to offer her his heart and hand.

As used in the text, what does the word “determine” most nearly mean?

- A. Choose
- B. Influence
- C. Demonstrate
- D. Measure

ID: bcf095a5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "determine" most nearly means choose or decide. The text indicates that Mr. Ryder "had made up his mind" to ask a woman to marry him but had not yet "spoken"—that is, he had not yet asked her. The text also indicates that Mr. Ryder "decided" to throw a party for the woman and ask her during it. This context conveys that after making up his mind to propose, what Mr. Ryder had to do was determine, or choose, the time to do it.

Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "determine" doesn't mean influence, or affect or control. The text isn't indicating that Mr. Ryder is controlling time itself; such a thing isn't possible. Rather, the text conveys that after making up his mind to ask a woman to marry him, Mr. Ryder had to make another decision about his own actions by selecting a time to propose. Choice C is incorrect. The text focuses on Mr. Ryder’s plan to ask a woman to marry him and his decision about when to ask her. This context conveys that after making up his mind to propose, Mr. Ryder had to choose the time, not that he had to demonstrate, or show, the time; it’s not clear what it would mean to demonstrate a time. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "determine" doesn't mean measure, or control with careful restraint. The text isn't indicating that Mr. Ryder is carefully controlling time itself; such a thing isn't possible. Rather, the text conveys that after making up his mind to ask a woman to marry him, Mr. Ryder had to make another decision about his own actions by selecting a time to propose; it’s Mr. Ryder’s decision that is measured, not the time he eventually chooses.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8358f2ca

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8358f2ca

Investigating whether shared false visual memories—specific but inaccurate and widely held recollections of images such as product logos—are caused by people’s previous _____ incorrect renditions of the images, researchers Deepasri Prasad and Wilma Bainbridge found that, in fact, such memories are often not explained by familiarity with erroneous versions of the images.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. compliance with
- B. exposure to
- C. criteria for
- D. forfeiture of

ID: 8358f2ca Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Exposure to" means "having contact with." It makes sense that Prasad and Bainbridge were investigating whether seeing false versions of images was a cause of false visual memories. Notice how "exposure to incorrect renditions" matches the idea of "familiarity with erroneous versions," which appears later in the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect. "Compliance with" means "going along with a command or directive." False versions of images can’t give commands or directives, so this doesn’t apply. Choice C is incorrect. "Criteria" means "standards by which to judge something." It’s not clear how people would come to have standards for the wrong version of an image in the first place, let alone how those standards would cause them to falsely remember the correct version. In other words, this choice would result in a confusing, unclear sentence. Choice D is incorrect. "Forfeiture of" means "a giving up of something." It wouldn’t make sense to say that false memories of an image might be caused by giving up the wrong version of the image.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c2ad04ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c2ad04ec

Archaeologist Erika Karuzas works with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana to preserve culturally significant sites. In 2015 they decided that creating a new national trail connecting many of these sites would _____ their preservation efforts, because the US government provides some protections to national trails that aren't given to other areas.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. inspire
- B. ignore
- C. promote
- D. reduce

ID: c2ad04ec Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the preservation efforts undertaken by Erika Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana. In this context, "promote" means play a part in the success or growth of something or someone. The text indicates that Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes work to preserve culturally important sites. It goes on to say that their decision to create a national trail connecting the sites was motivated by the fact that such a trail would receive protections from the US government that the sites wouldn't otherwise receive. Thus, such a decision would promote the preservation efforts.

Choice A is incorrect because "inspire" means motivate or influence, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text establishes that Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana work to preserve culturally significant sites and that their decision to create a new national trail occurred as a result of a desire to add protections to the sites that they wouldn't otherwise receive. Thus, creating the trail wouldn't inspire the efforts to preserve the sites; instead, it would promote the efforts. Choice B is incorrect because "ignore" means overlook, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana work to preserve culturally significant sites and that they decided to create a national trail connecting the sites because such a trail would receive protections from the US government that the sites wouldn't otherwise receive. Thus, the creation of the trail would promote, not ignore, the preservation efforts. Choice D is incorrect because "reduce" means decrease or restrict, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana work to preserve culturally significant sites and that they decided to create a national trail connecting the sites because such a trail would receive protections from the US government that the sites wouldn't otherwise receive. The decision would therefore promote, not reduce, the preservation efforts.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8c3404d8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8c3404d8

Ancient Inca inhabiting the Andes Mountains used terraces, rows of flattened land with built-in irrigation systems, to grow crops at different altitudes. This method of farming proved to be highly _____, as evidenced by the great number and variety of crops grown at that time.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. chaotic
- B. uniform
- C. effective
- D. burdensome

ID: 8c3404d8 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the ancient Inca farming method. In this context, “effective” means successful in producing a desired result. The text describes how the Inca used terraces with built-in irrigation systems to grow crops at different altitudes and then indicates that this farming method produced positive results “as evidenced by the great number and variety of crops grown at that time.” The context clearly suggests that the terraced farming approach was highly productive, or effective.

Choice A is incorrect because to describe the Inca farming method as “chaotic” contradicts the text’s description of a systematic approach using deliberately constructed terraces with built-in irrigation systems. Moreover, the “great number and variety of crops” yielded by this method seems unlikely to result from a disorganized, or chaotic, approach. Choice B is incorrect because “uniform” means consistent or the same throughout. It does not make sense in this context to describe a farming method as highly uniform if it produced a “great number and variety of crops.” Moreover, the text indicates that Inca terrace farming was specifically designed to accommodate different crops at different altitudes, highlighting the diversity rather than uniformity of this approach. Choice D is incorrect because the success of the method, “as evidenced by the great number and variety of crops grown,” does not support the claim that the Inca farming method was “burdensome,” or difficult to implement or maintain. In fact, the context clearly emphasizes the advantages, rather than the burdens, of Inca terrace farming.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 44173e83

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 44173e83

The National Heritage Fellowship was created to publicly _____ exceptional folk and traditional artists in the United States. In 2015, the fellowship was given to the circus aerialist (mid-air acrobat) Dolly Jacobs to celebrate her lifetime contributions to the arts.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. startle
- B. recognize
- C. familiarize
- D. convey

ID: 44173e83 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the purpose of the National Heritage Fellowship. In this context, "recognize" means acknowledge or honor someone officially for their achievements. The text states that the fellowship was created for "exceptional folk and traditional artists." It then provides an example of one recipient of the fellowship, circus aerialist Dolly Jacobs, who was given the fellowship "to celebrate her lifetime contributions to the arts." The fact that the fellowship is given to celebrate exceptional artists for their achievements therefore suggests that its purpose is to publicly honor, or recognize, them.

Choice A is incorrect because "startle" would mean alarm or surprise, and there’s nothing in the text to suggest that Jacobs and other artists who received the National Heritage Fellowship didn’t expect to receive it or were alarmed by it. It therefore wouldn’t make sense to say the fellowship was created to publicly alarm or surprise exceptional artists. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "familiarize" would mean make known or familiar, but the text gives no indication that Jacobs or other recipients of the National Heritage Fellowship were unknown or unfamiliar before receiving the fellowship or that the fellowship was intended to make them familiar to the public. In fact, the text describes recipients as "exceptional" and notes that Jacobs received the award "to celebrate her lifetime contributions to the arts," both of which suggest that Jacobs and other recipients were already well known in the arts world. Choice D is incorrect because "convey" would mean either transport or communicate something, neither of which would be logical in this context. The fellowship doesn’t transport artists, and though the process of awarding the fellowship might communicate something about the artists to the general public, it would be illogical to state that the fellowship communicates the artists themselves. Rather, the fellowship honors artists for their contributions.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b62e1994

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b62e1994

Sumerian civilization (which lasted from around 3300 to 2000 BCE) _____ many concepts that persist into present-day civilizations: for example, the first description of the seven-day week appears in the Sumerian *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. transformed
- B. introduced
- C. inherited
- D. overlooked

ID: b62e1994 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the contributions of the Sumerian civilization. In this context, “introduced” means brought into practice or use. The text states that the first reference to a seven-day week appears in the Sumerian *Epic of Gilgamesh*. The text presents this information about the seven-day week as an example of a concept introduced by the Sumerian civilization that persists into present-day civilizations.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the Sumerian civilization “transformed,” or changed the nature of, concepts that persist into present-day civilizations. Instead, the text’s presentation of a Sumerian literary work that contains the first description of the seven-day week is an example of the phenomenon described in the first half of the sentence, suggesting that the Sumerians invented many concepts that still persist. Choice C is incorrect because the information that a Sumerian literary work includes the first description of the seven-day week suggests that Sumerian civilization may have originated the seven-day week and other concepts that persist into present-day civilizations, not that it “inherited” the concepts, or received them from an ancestral figure or culture. Choice D is incorrect because the information that Sumerian civilization produced the first description of the seven-day week is presented as an example of the phenomenon described in the first half of the sentence, suggesting that Sumerian civilization originated this and other concepts that still persist, not that the Sumerians “overlooked,” or failed to notice or consider, such concepts.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 81eb66a8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 81eb66a8

The following text is from Yann Martel's 2001 novel *Life of Pi*. The narrator's family owned a zoo when he was a child.

It was a huge zoo, spread over numberless acres, big enough to require a train to explore it, though it seemed to get smaller as I grew older, train included.

©2001 by Yann Martel

As used in the text, what does the word “spread” most nearly mean?

- A. Hidden
- B. Discussed
- C. Extended
- D. Coated

ID: 81eb66a8 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, “spread” most nearly means extended. The text states that the zoo is “huge,” that it covers “numberless acres,” and that it is large enough that a train is needed to explore it. Thus, the text’s emphasis on the zoo’s size suggests that the zoo extended, or stretched, over a large area of land.

Choice A is incorrect because if the zoo covers “numberless acres,” then it could not reasonably be described as hidden, or concealed from view. Choice B is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to suggest that the zoo was discussed, or talked about. Rather, the text focuses on the zoo’s large size. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts “spread” can mean coated, it doesn’t have that meaning in this context because to coat something means to apply a thin layer of a liquid substance, such as oil or paint, to a surface. Therefore, it would not be accurate to say that the zoo coated the acres on which it sits.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 99b8cec9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 99b8cec9

The following text is from Nella Larsen’s 1928 novel *Quicksand*.

The trees in their spring beauty sent through her restive mind a sharp thrill of pleasure. Seductive, charming, and beckoning as cities were, they had not this easy unhuman loveliness.

As used in the text, what does the word “beckoning” most nearly mean?

- A. Demanding
- B. Signaling
- C. Inviting
- D. Shifting

ID: 99b8cec9 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, “beckoning” most nearly means “inviting,” or attractive. The text portrays a woman who is looking at “trees in their spring beauty.” She compares them to cities, which have their own pleasures even if they do not have the “easy unhuman loveliness” of trees: she thinks of cities as “seductive” and “charming,” both adjectives that signify something that is enticing, or attractive. Therefore, cities that are seductive and charming would also be described as inviting people closer to them.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no indication in this context that cities are “demanding,” or requiring effort. Choice B is incorrect. Though “signaling,” or communicating something, might be considered a key feature of the act of “beckoning,” in the context here, “beckoning” suggests that cities have attractive qualities that naturally draw people to them. Such attractive qualities are not described by the word “signaling” alone. Therefore, “signaling” is an incorrect answer because it is insufficiently precise. Choice D is incorrect because there is no reason to think in this context that the cities are “shifting,” or changing shape.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a21688ad

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a21688ad

The following text is from Anita Desai’s 2011 novella *Translator Translated*. While working on her translation of a novel written in Odia (a language of India) into English, the narrator looks out her window at night to clear her mind.

I tried to distract myself with these sights of the ordinary world, but in my mind it was the lines I had been translating and the lines that I had been writing that remained in the forefront. I longed for sleep to obliterate them but it eluded me. Perhaps everything would be normal again once I had sent off the manuscript, I thought, and looked forward to completing the work.

©2011 by Anita Desai

As used in the text, what does the word “completing” most nearly mean?

- A. Destroying
- B. Finishing
- C. Advertising
- D. Rejecting

ID: a21688ad Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, "completing" most nearly means finishing. In the text, the narrator conveys that the task of translating a novel has been an all-consuming one and that she hopes things will "be normal again" once she has "sent off the manuscript." In other words, the narrator is looking forward to finishing her work on the manuscript and returning to other things.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "completing" doesn’t mean destroying, or ruining. The narrator addresses her desire to send off the manuscript she’s focused on and her hope that things will be "normal again" once she does, conveying that she is looking forward to finishing the work, not to ruining it. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "completing" doesn’t mean advertising, or publicly promoting. The narrator addresses her complete focus on the translation and her hope that things will be "normal again" once she has "sent off the manuscript," conveying that she is looking forward to finishing the task, not to promoting the resulting manuscript. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "completing" doesn’t mean rejecting, or refusing or repelling. The narrator makes it clear that she is absorbed in working on the translation and plans to send off the manuscript, suggesting that instead of refusing to do the work, she is continuing to do it (even if she looks forward to things being "normal again" when she’s done).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 66ae3a78

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 66ae3a78

Dance choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar aims to give people the opportunity to be _____ her creative process. For example, live performances of her dance *HairStories*, which debuted in 2001, featured videos of people across the United States talking about their hair and audience members sharing pictures of their interesting hairstyles.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. nervous about
- B. completed by
- C. delayed by
- D. involved in

ID: 66ae3a78 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Involved in” means “playing an active role in.” This fits the context clues describing how Zollar includes the audience in her shows by incorporating their stories and pictures.

Choice A is incorrect. “Nervous” means “worried or anxious about.” Nothing in the text suggests that people would be nervous about Zollar’s creative process. Choice B is incorrect. “Completed by” means “made whole by.” It doesn’t make sense to say that Zollar’s shows would make her audience complete. Choice C is incorrect. “Delayed by” means “made late by.” Nothing in the text suggests that people would be delayed by Zollar’s creative process.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 99a1623f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 99a1623f

Biologist Jane Edgeloe and colleagues have located what is believed to be the largest individual plant in the world in the Shark Bay area of Australia. The plant is a type of seagrass called *Posidonia australis*, and it _____ approximately 200 square kilometers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. acknowledges
- B. produces
- C. spans
- D. advances

ID: 99a1623f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Spans” means “extends over a distance of” or “encompasses.” Since we’re talking about the world’s largest plant, it makes sense to say that it “spans” about 200 square kilometers.

Choice A is incorrect. “Acknowledges” means “recognizes” or “admits the truth of.” Either way, it doesn’t make sense here: a plant can’t “acknowledge” a distance. Choice B is incorrect. “Produces” can mean “makes,” “causes,” or “presents.” But none of those definitions make sense here: a plant can’t make, cause, or present a distance. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. “Advances” means “moves forward” or “progresses.” But the plant isn’t necessarily moving forward. Rather, the text suggests that it already covers a distance of 200 square kilometers.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID fa50b5e4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fa50b5e4

The spacecraft OSIRIS-REx briefly made contact with the asteroid 101955 Bennu in 2020. NASA scientist Daniella DellaGiustina reports that despite facing the unexpected obstacle of a surface mostly covered in boulders, OSIRIS-REx successfully _____ a sample of the surface, gathering pieces of it to bring back to Earth.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. attached
- B. collected
- C. followed
- D. replaced

ID: fa50b5e4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft’s contact with the asteroid 101955 Bennu. In this context, “collected” means acquired and took away. The text indicates that although the boulders on the asteroid’s surface caused some unforeseen problems, OSIRIS-REx was able to gather a sample to return to Earth. This context suggests that OSIRIS-REx successfully collected a sample of 101955 Bennu.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context “attached” means connected or affixed. The text indicates that OSIRIS-REx gathered pieces of 101955 Bennu to bring to Earth; it doesn’t suggest that the spacecraft attached anything to the asteroid. Choice C is incorrect because in this context “followed” means tracked or traveled behind and the text discusses OSIRIS-REx’s brief encounter with 101955 Bennu during which the spacecraft gathered a sample to bring to Earth. The text doesn’t suggest that the spacecraft tracked the sample, and it’s not clear what it would mean for the spacecraft to travel behind the sample it collected. Choice D is incorrect because in this context “replaced” means put back or returned. The text indicates that OSIRIS-REx gathered pieces of 101955 Bennu to bring to Earth but doesn’t suggest that anything was returned to the asteroid.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID be508c23

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: be508c23

The fashion resale market, in which consumers purchase secondhand clothing from stores and online sellers, generated nearly \$30 billion globally in 2019. Expecting to see continued growth, some analysts _____ that revenues will more than double by 2028.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. produced
- B. denied
- C. worried
- D. predicted

ID: be508c23 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the fashion resale market’s continued growth. As used in this context, “predicted” means forecast, or indicated that something would happen in the future. The text indicates that the fashion resale market made a lot of money in 2019 and that some analysts expected the market to continue to grow. This context suggests that the analysts believed that the fashion resale market was going to make more money than it had already made, with the analysts indicating that revenues would more than double by 2028.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that some analysts “produced,” or manufactured or brought about, the increase in future revenues of the fashion resale market. The analysts themselves couldn’t have brought about the future revenue growth, since, as the text suggests, they were merely in the position of drawing conclusions about future fashion resale market revenue based on 2019 revenue. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that some analysts expected the fashion resale market to continue to grow in the future, not that they “denied,” or rejected, this notion. Nothing in the text supports the idea that these analysts thought the revenues wouldn’t grow. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that some analysts expected the fashion resale market to continue to grow in the future, not that they “worried,” or felt concerned, that revenue would significantly increase by 2028. Nothing in the text suggests that the analysts felt concerned about the increase; rather, the text suggests that the increase would represent a favorable outcome, since it would mean that the fashion resale market grew to generate even more revenue.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 40ea8e51

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 40ea8e51

Since the Hubble Space Telescope was launched into space in 1990, astronauts have needed to complete regular missions to repair the telescope and keep it working smoothly. Researchers hope that robots will soon be able to make these repairs. Employing robots instead of humans to make repairs will be helpful, as _____ astronauts to maintain the telescope can be expensive.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. straightening
- B. forgetting about
- C. relying on
- D. reducing

ID: 40ea8e51 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of repairing the Hubble Space Telescope. In this context, “relying on” means depending on. The text states that astronauts have regularly had to go on missions to repair the Hubble Space Telescope but that robots might soon be able to make the repairs, which would be helpful because involving astronauts in the process is expensive. It is most reasonable to assume that it is the need to send astronauts on missions that is expensive; thus, the context suggests that employing robots for repairs will be helpful because depending on repeatedly sending humans to space is costly.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, “straightening” would mean physically aligning or removing curves and bends. It’s not clear how astronauts would be physically straightened to maintain the telescope or why that would be expensive. Choice B is incorrect because the text suggests that it is the ongoing involvement of astronauts—the need to send them to space regularly—that is expensive. Nothing in the text indicates that astronauts have been forgotten about or that forgetting about them would be expensive. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, “reducing” would most likely mean lowering in status, and nothing in the text suggests that astronauts are diminished in any way by repairing the telescope (indeed, they have regularly done repairs for years). Further, it isn’t clear how a decrease in status would be expensive.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e17d5972

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e17d5972

On the basis of extensive calculations and models, astronomers in the 1990s predicted that the collision of two neutron stars or a neutron star and a black hole could release a massive burst of gamma rays in an event called a kilonova. This _____ was confirmed with observations in 2017.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. theory
- B. evidence
- C. constant
- D. experiment

ID: e17d5972 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of a prediction about a kilonova. In this context, a "theory" is an explanation that is considered scientifically acceptable. The text states that astronomers predicted in the 1990s that a collision between a black hole and a neutron star or between two neutron stars could release a massive gamma ray burst called a kilonova, explaining that they determined this possibility based on their extensive work with existing data and simulations ("calculations and models"). In other words, the prediction was a theory—a well-supported explanation—that, as the text indicates, was later confirmed with observations in 2017.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017, and a prediction of an event isn’t "evidence," or proof, of that event’s existence, even when the prediction is based on extensive study. Further, there would be no need for later confirmation of something that was already recognized as evidence. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, a "constant" is a situation or factor that doesn’t change. The text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017, and there is no reason to describe the prediction as a constant because the text doesn’t suggest that the prediction was completely unchanged over time—it addresses only the making of the prediction and its later confirmation. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017; although a prediction might be informed by an "experiment," or a controlled test, a prediction is an idea rather than a test.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID df18bfe4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: df18bfe4

Whether Carmen Lomas Garza is creating small paintings and illustrations or large public artworks—such as *Baile*, a copper cutout of traditional Mexican dance in the San Francisco International Airport—she is _____ direct experience, drawing from memories of her childhood in Texas or details of her current surroundings in California.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. complimented by
- B. uncertain about
- C. unbothered by
- D. inspired by

ID: df18bfe4 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Carmen Lomas Garza’s artistic process. In this context, "inspired by" means influenced by or motivated by. The text refers to how, regardless of the scale of the work, Garza uses her memories of Texas and details from California to create her art. If Garza is basing her work on her direct experiences, then they play a part in her artistic process. This context thus suggests that Garza’s art is inspired by the experiences of her childhood in Texas and her current life in California.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make logical sense to indicate that Garza is "complimented by"—or praised by—something inanimate such as direct experience. Choice B is incorrect because describing Garza as "uncertain about"—or unsure or doubtful of—direct experience would suggest that she had misgivings about it. If Garza were unsure of her experiences, that would suggest that she couldn’t recall them, and Garza wouldn’t be able to represent direct experience in her art if she were uncertain of the memories or details. Choice C is incorrect because describing Garza as "unbothered by"—or uninterested in—her experience would imply the opposite of what the text suggests about Garza’s artistic process. The text indicates that Garza’s art comes from memories of her childhood in Texas and details of her surroundings in California.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID a847c8ad

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a847c8ad

Nigerian American author Teju Cole’s _____ his two passions—photography and the written word—culminates in his 2017 book, *Blind Spot*, which evocatively combines his original photographs from his travels with his poetic prose.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indifference to
- B. enthusiasm for
- C. concern about
- D. surprise at

ID: a847c8ad Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Cole’s book *Blind Spot*. In this context, “enthusiasm for” means excitement about. The text explains that *Blind Spot* consists of original photographs as well as poetic prose—two elements that correspond to Cole’s passions, identified in the text, for photography and the written word. This context suggests that Cole’s excitement about photography and writing led him to create a book that successfully combines the two mediums.

Choice A is incorrect because describing Cole as feeling “indifference to” his two passions wouldn’t make sense in context. If Cole is indifferent to his passions, that would mean he doesn’t care about photography or writing—in which case they wouldn’t be his passions at all. Choice C is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that Cole feels “concern about,” or uneasiness about, his passions. The text’s use of the word “culminates” indicates that *Blind Spot* represents a triumphant climax of Cole’s passions, not a work that results from his sense of discomfort with photography and writing. Choice D is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that Cole feels “surprise at,” or astonished by, his passions. The text indicates that Cole’s feeling about his passions “culminates” in a book that “evocatively” combines photographs and writing, suggesting that Cole has a long-standing and skillful relationship to his passions, not that he is startled by them.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID bcb55885

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bcb55885

The following text is adapted from Mary Seacole’s 1857 autobiography *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands*.

That journey across the Isthmus [of Panama], insignificant in distance as it was, was by no means an easy one. It seemed as if nature had determined to throw every conceivable obstacle in the way of those who should seek to join the two great oceans of the world.

As used in the text, what does the word “conceivable” most nearly mean?

- A. Obvious
- B. Imaginable
- C. Straightforward
- D. Uninterrupted

ID: bcb55885 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, "conceivable" most nearly means capable of being thought of or imagined. The text describes a journey that, despite being "insignificant in distance," was "by no means an easy one" because of the variety of obstacles that "nature had determined to throw...in the way." To emphasize the difficulty of the journey, the author portrays nature as actively scheming to present travelers with every obstacle that can be thought of—i.e., every imaginable obstacle.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "conceivable" does not mean obvious, or evident. Instead, by referring to "every conceivable obstacle," the text suggests a wide variety of challenges by evoking all the potential difficulties nature could present, not just those that the travelers might reasonably expect or foresee. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "conceivable" does not mean straightforward, or easy to negotiate. The text is not indicating that the obstacles were simple to respond to and overcome. Rather, the text suggests that a wide range of obstacles made the journey difficult. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "conceivable" does not mean uninterrupted. Although the text suggests that the obstacles were frequent and numerous, it does not emphasize the obstacles’ continuity; instead, the text conveys their unexpected variety and range.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b312184b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b312184b

Scientists previously thought that all electric eels belong to a single species, but a team of researchers led by zoologist C. David de Santana proved this idea wrong by _____ that there are in fact three distinct species of electric eels.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. pretending
- B. complaining
- C. requiring
- D. demonstrating

ID: b312184b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Demonstrating” means “showing,” and the text describes how de Santana disproved a previous belief in only one species of electric eel by showing that three electric eel species actually exist.

Choice A is incorrect. Pretending that there are three species of electric eel might be a fun game for marine biologists, but it wouldn’t prove the existence of more than one species. Choice B is incorrect. Complaining won’t prove anything about eels, so de Santana could not have proved wrong the idea of only one species of electric eel by complaining about it. Choice C is incorrect. “Requiring” means “needing.” It wouldn’t make sense to say that de Santana “needed” there to be three distinct species of electric eel.

Question Difficulty: Easy