

Question ID 8f7afae9

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: 8f7afae9

Set in a world where science fiction tropes exist as everyday realities, Charles Yu’s 2010 novel *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe* traces a time traveler’s quest to find his father. Because the journey at the novel’s center is so _____, with the protagonist ricocheting chaotically across time, the reader often wonders whether the pair will ever be reunited.

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

- A. haphazard
- B. premeditated
- C. inspirational
- D. fruitless

ID: 8f7afae9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Yu’s novel. In this context, “haphazard” means marked by a lack of plan or order. The text indicates that the quest featured in the novel, which involves the protagonist bouncing across time, is chaotic and causes the reader to often wonder what will happen. This context suggests that the protagonist’s journey seems to be marked by a lack of order.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the journey featured in Yu’s novel involves a character “ricocheting chaotically,” or bouncing in a disordered way, across time and causes the reader to often wonder what will happen. It wouldn’t make sense to say that a chaotic journey seems “premeditated,” or characterized by forethought and planning. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t give any indication that readers regard the journey in Yu’s novel as “inspirational,” or as causing extraordinarily creative or brilliant thoughts or actions; instead, the text focuses on the idea that the protagonist’s journey is chaotic, or disordered, and doesn’t give readers a clear sense of what will happen. Choice D is incorrect. Rather than suggesting that the journey featured in Yu’s novel is “fruitless,” or has an unsuccessful outcome, the text focuses on the idea that while reading about the protagonist’s chaotic movements across time, readers are often unsure of what will happen—that is, they don’t know whether the protagonist will be successful in finding his father.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID a9cd4b1c

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: a9cd4b1c

While recent scholarship has undermined claims that the works of twelfth-century Islamic philosopher Ibn Rushd were _____ other Muslim philosophers of his time, it is indisputable that his location in the Muslim-ruled area of what is now Spain meant that his works were primarily available thousands of miles west of the era’s center of Islamic thought.

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

- A. controversial among
- B. antagonistic toward
- C. imitated by
- D. inconsequential to

ID: a9cd4b1c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the twelfth-century Islamic philosopher Ibn Rushd. As used in this context, "inconsequential to" means not significant to. According to the text, Ibn Rushd’s works were primarily available in Spain, where he lived, far from central areas of the Muslim world, a fact that could support the conclusion that his influence on Muslim contemporaries was limited. The text implies, however, that recent scholarship has shown that his works still had an impact on other Muslim philosophers of his time. This context supports the idea that his works weren’t inconsequential to Islamic thought in this period.

Choice A is incorrect because the issue under consideration in the text is whether other Muslim philosophers of Ibn Rushd’s time had access to his works, not whether his works were "controversial among," or causing dispute among, other philosophers. Choice B is incorrect. The text implies that other Muslim philosophers of Ibn Rushd’s era were aware of his works, not that they were "antagonistic toward," or hostile toward, them. There is no suggestion that Ibn Rushd’s writings elicited hostility from his contemporaries. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "imitated by" would mean followed as a model by. Although the text implies that Ibn Rushd’s works were at least somewhat available in regions that were at the center of Islamic thought during the period, it doesn’t specifically address in what ways his works influenced contemporary Muslim philosophers. Thus, the text doesn’t support the idea that other philosophers modeled their own works after Ibn Rushd’s works.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 1903629b

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: 1903629b

In *Nature Poem* (2017), Kumeyaay poet Tommy Pico portrays his _____ the natural world by honoring the centrality of nature within his tribe’s traditional beliefs while simultaneously expressing his distaste for being in wilderness settings himself.

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

- A. responsiveness to
- B. ambivalence toward
- C. renunciation of
- D. mastery over

ID: 1903629b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s description of how Pico feels about the natural world. In this context, to say that Pico portrays his “ambivalence toward” nature would mean that he portrays his mixed feelings about nature. The text explains that Pico “honors the centrality of nature” and also makes it clear that he doesn’t enjoy being in nature. This context suggests that Pico feels ambivalence toward nature.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that Pico portrays his “responsiveness to” nature would mean that he portrays himself as quick to react to nature, which isn’t supported by the text. Instead, the text focuses on Pico’s mixed feelings toward nature, describing him as both honoring nature’s role in his tribe’s beliefs and expressing his personal dislike for being in nature. Choice C is incorrect because saying that Pico portrays his “renunciation of” nature would mean that he portrays himself as rejecting nature, which isn’t supported by the text. The text conveys that Pico demonstrates both positive and negative responses toward nature, not that he’s giving it up completely. Choice D is incorrect because saying that Pico portrays his “mastery over” nature would mean that he portrays himself as having control over nature, which isn’t supported by the text. The text focuses on Pico’s mixed feelings about nature; nothing in the text suggests that Pico feels mastery over nature.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f8685972

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: f8685972

Players of online games are largely aware that the games collect their data, and they’re often willing to trade some privacy for a fun experience. But the games are often quite _____ about what data they collect and why. Because of this, data-privacy advocates are seeking to expand online players’ knowledge of data collection practices and improve their ability to navigate privacy-setting features in games.

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

- A. opaque
- B. abrasive
- C. ambivalent
- D. outspoken

ID: f8685972 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how online games disclose information about their data collection practices. In this context, “opaque” means that games deliberately avoid sharing clear information about data collection. The text indicates that data-privacy advocates are working to “expand online players’ knowledge of data collection practices” and improve players’ ability to navigate privacy settings. The fact that advocates are working to expand players’ knowledge about data collection and privacy settings implies that players currently lack clear information about these aspects of the games. This context therefore supports the idea that online games are often quite unclear, or opaque, about what data they collect and why.

Choice B is incorrect because describing online games as being “abrasive,” or harsh and irritating, about their data collection practices wouldn’t make sense in context. The text focuses on the clarity of the information about data collection that games share with players, not on the tone or manner in which this information is communicated. Choice C is incorrect because describing the games as “ambivalent,” or having mixed feelings, about their data collection practices wouldn’t make sense in context. The text isn’t discussing the game companies’ attitudes toward their own practices; it’s discussing the extent to which information about those practices is communicated to players. Choice D is incorrect because describing online games as “outspoken,” or frank and forthright, about their data collection practices would contradict the text. If the games were forthright about data collection, data-privacy advocates wouldn’t need to work to expand players’ awareness of this aspect of gaming. Instead, the text emphasizes the challenge of obtaining clear information about data collection in online games.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 13fc1248

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: 13fc1248

Economist Marco Castillo and colleagues showed that nuisance costs—the time and effort people must spend to make donations—reduce charitable giving. Charities can mitigate this effect by compensating donors for nuisance costs, but those costs, though variable, are largely _____ donation size, so charities that compensate donors will likely favor attracting a few large donors over many small donors.

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

- A. supplemental to
- B. predictive of
- C. independent of
- D. subsumed in

ID: 13fc1248 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. We’re told that charities that pay donors back for nuisance costs will attract a few large donors instead of many small donors. This suggests that nuisance costs are not linked to donation size.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. If nuisance costs are supplemental to (meaning in addition to) donation size, that wouldn’t result in charities that compensate donors for those costs attracting a few large donors over many small donors. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. If nuisance costs can predict donation size, that wouldn’t necessarily result in charities that compensate donors for those costs attracting a few large donors over many small donors. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. If nuisance costs are subsumed in (meaning included in) donation size, that wouldn’t result in charities that compensate donors for those costs attracting a few large donors over many small donors.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3be2be08

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: 3be2be08

While scholars believe many Mesoamerican cities influenced each other, direct evidence of such influence is difficult to ascertain. However, recent excavations in a sector of Tikal (Guatemala) unearthed a citadel that shows _____ Teotihuacán (Mexico) architecture—including a near replica of a famed Teotihuacán temple—providing tangible evidence of outside influence in portions of Tikal.

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

- A. refinements of
- B. precursors of
- C. commonalities with
- D. animosities toward

ID: 3be2be08 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of architectural influences among Mesoamerican cities. In this context, “commonalities with” means similarities to or shared attributes with. The text indicates that a recently discovered citadel in Tikal includes a close imitation of a famous temple in Teotihuacán (another Mesoamerican city) and other evidence of Teotihuacán influence, which suggests that the citadel possesses features that resemble architectural features found in Teotihuacán. This context thus indicates that the Tikal citadel shows commonalities with Teotihuacán architecture.

Choice A is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text that suggests that the Tikal citadel shows “refinements of,” or improvements on, Teotihuacán architecture. Although the text suggests that the architecture of Teotihuacán influenced the architecture of the Tikal citadel, and although it’s possible that later architectural designs could make improvements on earlier designs, the text doesn’t discuss whether, in imitating Teotihuacán architecture, the Tikal citadel’s builders improved on it. Choice B is incorrect because describing the citadel in Tikal as showing “precursors of” Teotihuacán architecture—or features that preceded and foreshadowed those of Teotihuacán architecture—would imply the opposite of what the text suggests about the relationship between the architecture found in Tikal and Teotihuacán. The text claims that the discovery of similarities between the Tikal citadel and the architecture of Teotihuacán, including a replica of a temple in Teotihuacán, provides evidence of outside influences on Tikal architecture. If the Tikal citadel was influenced by Teotihuacán architecture, then the Teotihuacán architecture must predate the citadel, not the other way around. In this context, therefore, it wouldn’t make sense to say that the Tikal citadel shows precursors of Teotihuacán architecture. Choice D is incorrect because the text discusses how the citadel in Tikal indicates the influence of Teotihuacán architecture, which implies that the makers of the Tikal citadel likely admired aspects of Teotihuacán architecture enough to imitate it. Thus, there’s no reason to think that the Tikal citadel provides evidence of the Tikal people’s “animosities toward,” or feelings of strong dislike or hostility toward, Teotihuacán architecture.

Question ID 0c46aa9f

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: 0c46aa9f

Researcher Haesung Jung led a 2020 study showing that individual acts of kindness can _____ prosocial behavior across a larger group. Jung and her team found that bystanders who witness a helpful act become more likely to offer help to someone else, and in doing so, can inspire still others to act.

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

- A. require
- B. remember
- C. foster
- D. discourage

ID: 0c46aa9f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Jung and her team’s study of acts of kindness. In this context, “foster” means encourage or promote the development of. The text indicates that Jung and her team found that seeing a helpful (or prosocial) act makes a bystander more likely to help someone else, which can in turn inspire additional people to help others. That is, the team showed that single acts of kindness can foster additional prosocial acts across a group.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Jung and her team found that single acts of kindness “require,” or depend on or make obligatory, broader prosocial (or helpful) behavior across a group. There’s no suggestion in the text that individual acts of kindness can only occur if other prosocial acts have already occurred, and the text indicates only that an act of kindness *can* inspire additional helpful acts, not that it necessarily will do so. Choice B is incorrect because the text focuses on a possible direct effect of individual acts of kindness, or single helpful actions, and it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that actions can “remember,” or hold a memory of, something. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that Jung and her team found that single acts of kindness can “discourage,” or hinder, prosocial (or helpful) behavior across a group. On the contrary, the text states that Jung and her team found that seeing a helpful act makes a bystander *more* likely to help someone else, which can in turn inspire even more people to help others.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7df6d120

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: 7df6d120

Whether the reign of a French monarch such as Hugh Capet or Henry I was historically consequential or relatively uneventful, its trajectory was shaped by questions of legitimacy and therefore cannot be understood without a corollary understanding of the factors that allowed the monarch to _____ his right to hold the throne.

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

- A. disengage
- B. annotate
- C. buttress
- D. reciprocate

ID: 7df6d120 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the legitimacy of the reigns of French monarchs such as Hugh Capet and Henry I. As used in this context, “buttress” means to strengthen or defend. The text indicates that regardless of whether a French monarch’s reign was significant or uneventful, each monarch faced questions about his right to the throne. The text goes on to say that in order to understand the path of a French monarch’s reign, it’s important to understand what contributed to the monarch’s ability to “hold the throne.” This context suggests that French monarchs such as Hugh Capet and Henry I had to buttress, or defend, their right to be monarch.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to discuss factors that enabled a monarch to “disengage,” or withdraw his right to the French throne. The text focuses on an examination of people who reigned as French monarchs, not on people who didn’t choose to rule. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to discuss factors that enabled a monarch to “annotate,” or add notes to or explain, his right to the French throne. Nothing in the text suggests that the monarchs were writing notes about their right to the throne; instead, faced with questions about the legitimacy of their reign, the monarchs defended their right. Choice D is incorrect. Saying that a monarch who is faced with questions about the legitimacy of his reign was able to “reciprocate” his right to the French throne would mean that he either returned his right to the throne or that he responded in kind to the challenge. Neither of these meanings would make sense in context because the text focuses on people who did reign as French monarchs and defended their right to do so.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4336a617

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: 4336a617

Among stock-market investors, the practice of diversification, or distributing investment funds across many different companies in many different industries, is regarded as _____ since it protects investors from major losses if the value of one particular company or industry sector falls.

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

- A. contentious
- B. prudent
- C. unworkable
- D. optimistic

ID: 4336a617 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how stock-market investors regard diversification. In this context, “prudent” means showing sensible judgment. The text defines diversification as the practice of spreading investment funds across many different companies and industries and explains that this practice “protects investors from major losses” when a particular company or sector loses value. This context supports the idea that diversification is regarded as prudent—that is, as a sensible strategy because of the financial protection it provides.

Choice A is incorrect because describing diversification as “contentious,” or likely to cause disagreement, would contradict the text, which presents diversification as a practice valued by investors for its protective benefits, not as one that prompts dispute. Choice C is incorrect because describing diversification as “unworkable,” or unable to function effectively, would contradict the text, which indicates that diversification successfully protects investors from major losses. Choice D is incorrect because describing diversification as “optimistic,” or expressing confidence in a positive outcome, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text presents diversification as a defensive strategy designed to limit losses, not as one expressing confidence about future gains.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 660e7502

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: 660e7502

In a study of residential mobility in Washington, DC, LaTanya Brown-Robertson et al. found that increases in household spending power (via tax credits) had mixed effects on mobility decisions, possibly because residential location choices are not fully reducible to economic factors but are also _____ noneconomic factors such as access to strong local social networks.

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

- A. transposed with
- B. mediated by
- C. decoupled from
- D. antecedent to

ID: 660e7502 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of residential mobility decisions. In this context, "mediated by" means influenced or affected by something. The text establishes that increasing household spending power (an economic factor) produced "mixed effects" on mobility decisions. The text then explains that residential choices are "not fully reducible to economic factors," which means that these decisions don’t simply rely on how much money is available to spend on a residential move but on other factors as well. According to the text, noneconomic considerations, such as access to social networks, also play a significant role. Thus, "mediated by" accurately captures this relationship where noneconomic factors influence what might otherwise be purely economic decisions.

Choice A is incorrect because "transposed with" would suggest that economic and noneconomic factors are being switched or interchanged when making residential mobility decisions, which wouldn’t make logical sense in this context. The text indicates that these factors coexist and jointly influence such decisions. Choice C is incorrect. The phrase "decoupled from" means separated or disconnected from, which would suggest that economic factors are completely separate from noneconomic factors. This would contradict the text’s main point that residential mobility decisions involve multiple factors being considered simultaneously rather than in isolation. Choice D is incorrect because "antecedent to," which means something prior or earlier, would indicate that noneconomic factors come before economic ones in time or sequence. The text doesn’t establish this chronological relationship. Instead, the text indicates that economic factors (household spending power) and noneconomic factors (access to social networks) simultaneously influence residential mobility decisions.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 20bae589

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: 20bae589

Rejecting the premise that the literary magazine *Ebony and Topaz* (1927) should present a unified vision of Black American identity, editor Charles S. Johnson fostered his contributors’ diverse perspectives by promoting their authorial autonomy. Johnson’s self-effacement diverged from the editorial stances of W.E.B. Du Bois and Alain Locke, whose decisions for their publications were more _____.

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

- A. proficient
- B. dogmatic
- C. ambiguous
- D. unpretentious

ID: 20bae589 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. A person who is "dogmatic" believes strongly that their principles and opinions are true. Because Du Bois and Locke are implied to have one "unified vision" of Black American identity that they prioritize over the "diverse perspectives" of different writers, they can be described as dogmatic.

Choice A is incorrect. "Proficient" means "skilled." Du Bois and Locke are contrasted with Johnson, but nothing in the text suggests that Johnson was not skilled at making editorial decisions. Based on the text, the three editors just have different styles; they’re not necessarily more or less skilled. Choice C is incorrect. "Ambiguous" means "unclear" or "open to multiple interpretations." However, it’s actually Johnson who encouraged multiple interpretations ("diverse perspectives"). Since Du Bois and Locke are said to "diverge" from Johnson, we can assume that the views they published were not ambiguous, but instead clear and firm (a "unified vision"). Choice D is incorrect. "Unpretentious" means "not trying to impress others with greater skill or importance than is actually possessed." Du Bois and Locke are contrasted with Johnson, but nothing in the text suggests that Johnson is pretentious (trying to impress others).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4c3cda87

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: 4c3cda87

Science fiction has long served as a _____ real-world technological advancements. Indeed, from Jules Verne’s 1865 novel *From the Earth to the Moon* inspiring developments in aerospace engineering to the television show *Star Trek* sparking the design of the ancestor of today’s smartphones, these narratives have spurred many actual innovations.

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

- A. constraint to
- B. sponsor of
- C. catalyst of
- D. diversion from

ID: 4c3cda87 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of science fiction’s relationship to real-world technological advancements. In this context, “catalyst of” means something that prompts the development of. The text indicates that science fiction narratives have “spurred many actual innovations,” giving as examples Verne’s *From the Earth to the Moon* “inspiring” aerospace engineering developments and *Star Trek* “sparking” the design of early analogues of smartphones. Thus, this context supports the idea that science fiction has prompted the development of, or served as a catalyst of, real-world technological advancements.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that science fiction has served as a “constraint to,” or limitation on, real-world technological advancements would contradict the text, which indicates that science fiction has inspired technological innovation rather than inhibited it. Choice B is incorrect because describing science fiction as a “sponsor of,” or an entity who takes on responsibility for, real-world technological advancements wouldn’t make sense in context. A sponsor provides material support for an undertaking, often by providing funds for the undertaking or by overseeing its management, but the text describes science fiction as inspiring or sparking ideas for innovation, not as financially backing technological development or taking direct responsibility for overseeing it. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, a “diversion from” would mean either a distraction from or a deviation from, which contradicts the text’s examples of science fiction inspiring real-world technological advancements. It therefore wouldn’t make sense to say that science fiction has distracted people from such advancements or that the innovations science fiction depicts deviate from actual innovations.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e4fa7055

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: e4fa7055

In 2016, Gabriela González and team announced that a chirping sound captured by Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory antennas was direct evidence of gravitational waves, which skeptics had argued would be too faint for detection. Detailed statistical analysis helped preclude claims of the event’s _____, confirming the signal at a confidence level of over 99%.

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

- A. inconspicuousness
- B. discretion
- C. ambiguity
- D. probability

ID: e4fa7055 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Gabriela González and team’s detection of gravitational waves. In this context, "ambiguity" means uncertainty or doubtfulness. The text explains that although skeptics had thought that direct evidence of gravitational waves would be too faint to be detected, researchers led by González claimed that a chirping sound captured by Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory antennas nevertheless provided such evidence. The text goes on to say that detailed statistical analysis confirmed the observation of gravitational waves with a high degree of confidence—that is, with near certainty—a finding that helped to preclude, or rule out, any claims that the signal’s attribution to gravitational waves might be ambiguous or doubtful.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "inconspicuousness" would mean the quality of being unnoticeable or difficult to detect. Although the text indicates that skeptics had doubted whether gravitational waves could be observed directly because of their presumed faintness (which suggests that gravitational waves were expected to be difficult to detect), the blank portion of the text isn’t referring to the possibility that gravitational waves are unnoticeable or undetectable. Instead, the focus of the last sentence is González’s team’s observation of a chirping sound that they attributed to gravitational waves, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that through statistical analysis, they ruled out the possibility that the sound they observed was undetectable. Rather, the skeptical view presented in the text suggests that there could be some ambiguity about the source of the chirping, but statistical analysis virtually eliminated this uncertainty. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "discretion" would mean good judgment, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that an event, such as the detection of gravitational waves, would show judgment, much less that the event’s capacity to exercise good judgment would be precluded by statistical analysis confirming its attribution. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "probability" would mean likelihood, and the text states that statistical analysis, which confirmed the signal with a high degree of confidence, suggests the likelihood that the chirping sound was produced by gravitational waves, not that the analysis helped to preclude this likelihood.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 257a71c4

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: 257a71c4

K.D. Leka and colleagues found that the Sun’s corona provides an advance indication of solar flares—intense eruptions of electromagnetic radiation that emanate from active regions in the Sun’s photosphere and can interfere with telecommunications on Earth. Preceding a flare, the corona temporarily exhibits increased brightness above the region where the flare is _____.

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

- A. antecedent
- B. impending
- C. innocuous
- D. perpetual

ID: 257a71c4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of advance indications of solar flares. In this context the word "impending" means imminent or approaching. The text mentions a study by Leka and colleagues that found that the Sun’s corona provides an advance indication of solar flares. The text then points out why such an advance indication would be useful—solar flares can interfere with communications on Earth—and concludes by describing the characteristic of the corona that gives warning of a solar flare. The text indicates that this characteristic—increased brightness in a particular region of the corona—comes before the appearance of the flare. Therefore, in context, the best answer would indicate that the flare is approaching, or impending.

Choice A is incorrect. The best answer would be one that indicates that the increased brightness of the Sun’s corona precedes the appearance of the flare. But if the flare were "antecedent," or previous, then the flare would instead precede the appearance of the increased brightness of the corona, a statement that is logically inconsistent. Choice C is incorrect. The word "innocuous," or harmless, does not logically complete the text; since solar flares can interfere with communications on Earth, they cannot reasonably be described as innocuous. Choice D is incorrect. If the solar flares have an advance indication of their appearance, then there must therefore be a time before the appearance of the flares when they do not exist. But the word "perpetual," or never-ending, would in context indicate that the flare exists at the same time as the advance indication provided by the Sun’s corona, which would not make logical sense.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7e1a0d46

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: 7e1a0d46

Before the Mariner 2 mission completed a successful flyby of Venus in 1962, astronomers’ ideas about the planet were little more than _____. Venus’s atmosphere is so thick that Earth-based observations had yielded very little information about the planet.

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

- A. summations
- B. conjectures
- C. conclusions
- D. exemplifications

ID: 7e1a0d46 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of pre-Mariner 2 ideas about Venus. In this context, “conjectures” means guesses or inferences formed without sufficient evidence. The text indicates that before the successful 1962 flyby, Earth-based observations of Venus had produced “very little information” because of the planet’s thick atmosphere. The limited scope of astronomers’ earlier knowledge of Venus is also emphasized by the text’s description of their ideas as being “little more than” something before the flyby. This context conveys that before Mariner 2 flew close to Venus, astronomers lacked the evidence needed for their ideas about the planet to be much more than conjectures, or guesses.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, “summations” would be final conclusions reached by putting all information together. Because the text emphasizes that very *little* information about Venus was available before the 1962 flyby, it wouldn’t make sense to describe astronomers’ pre-Mariner 2 ideas about Venus as summations; the text suggests that astronomers didn’t have enough information to draw solid conclusions about Venus. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, “conclusions” would be reasoned final judgments or outcomes. Because the text emphasizes that very *little* information about Venus was available before the 1962 flyby, it wouldn’t make sense to describe astronomers’ pre-Mariner 2 ideas about Venus as conclusions; the text suggests that astronomers didn’t have what they would have needed to make informed judgments about Venus. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to describe astronomers’ pre-Mariner 2 ideas about Venus as “exemplifications,” or examples that illustrate something; people’s ideas about a subject are the ideas themselves, not illustrations. Further, the text emphasizes that the astronomers had little information before 1962, suggesting they didn’t have much to work with to form examples.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 282645dd

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: 282645dd

Recent measurements of the mass of the *W* boson (a subatomic particle) were notable not only for the mere fact that the particle’s mass differed from expectations but for the _____ of that difference: the measured mass of the *W* boson was seven standard deviations higher than predicted by the standard model of particle physics.

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

- A. cause
- B. existence
- C. implication
- D. scale

ID: 282645dd Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the *W* boson. In this context, "scale" means size or extent. The text indicates that recent measurements of the *W* boson were remarkable because they revealed the subatomic particle’s mass to be much greater ("seven standard deviations higher") than had been expected based on a standard model. This context conveys not only that the measurements differed from predictions but also that the extent of the difference was very large.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that there was a very large difference between the predicted mass and the actual measured mass of the subatomic particle, it doesn’t explain the cause of, or reason behind, that difference. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that the measurements of the subatomic particle were notable because they differed from expectations and also because a difference existed between the measurements and what had been predicted; the text would be repeating the idea that there was a difference instead of adding to that idea. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t convey any implications of, or consequences of or conclusions drawn from, the fact that the mass of the subatomic particle differed from expectations; the context indicates only that the actual measured mass was much higher than the predicted mass.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b346694a

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: b346694a

The work of Kiowa painter T.C. Cannon derives its power in part from the tension among his _____ influences: classic European portraiture, with its realistic treatment of faces; the American pop art movement, with its vivid colors; and flatstyle, the intertribal painting style that rejects the effect of depth typically achieved through shading and perspective.

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

- A. complementary
- B. unknown
- C. disparate
- D. interchangeable

ID: b346694a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the artistic styles that have influenced Cannon’s work. As used in this context, “disparate” means distinct or dissimilar. The text indicates that a tension exists among the styles that have influenced Cannon’s work and goes on to describe how those styles differ: classic European portraiture favors realism, American pop art uses vivid colors, and intertribal flatstyle rejects the use of shading and perspective to achieve depth. This context suggests that the styles that have influenced Cannon’s work are disparate.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that there is a tension among the influences on Cannon’s artwork, so it wouldn’t make sense to say that the influences are “complementary,” or that they complete one another or make up for one another’s deficiencies. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to characterize Cannon’s influences as “unknown,” or not familiar; it’s clear that the influences are known because the text goes on to list them. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that there is a tension among the influences on Cannon’s work, not that they are “interchangeable,” or capable of being used in one another’s place.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3a2cad84

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: 3a2cad84

One popular theory of the origin of the Moon, the “big whack,” posits that a protoplanet called Theia collided with Earth, flinging debris into orbit that eventually coalesced into the Moon. Until recently, Theia was _____, but researcher Qian Yuan and colleagues now claim to have identified pieces of the protoplanet in the lowermost section of Earth’s mantle.

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

- A. desultory
- B. spurious
- C. veritable
- D. notional

ID: 3a2cad84 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Theia and the origin of the Moon. In this context, "notional" means theoretical or only an idea. The text indicates that although something was once true of Theia, the protoplanet one theory holds collided with Earth and created debris that became the Moon, researchers now claim to have identified pieces of it deep in Earth’s mantle. In other words, having direct evidence of Theia is a new development. This context suggests that before evidence was found, Theia was only theoretical—that is, that it was notional.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Theia, a protoplanet, was "desultory," which in this context would mean moving away from the matter at hand; indeed, the text focuses on the "big whack" theory of the origin of the Moon and indicates that Theia is a central part of that theory. Choice B is incorrect because the text makes the point that something was true of Theia until recently and suggests that this has changed now that researchers believe they have found pieces of the protoplanet deep in Earth’s mantle. It wouldn’t make sense to say that Theia was actually "spurious," or false, until researchers found direct evidence of the protoplanet. (Although Theia’s existence might not have been certain, it would not have been false simply because there was no evidence of it.) Choice C is incorrect because the text makes the point that something was true of Theia until recently and suggests that this has changed now that researchers believe they have found pieces of the protoplanet deep in Earth’s mantle. It wouldn’t make sense to say that Theia was "veritable," or real, before researchers found direct evidence of its existence: the evidence would instead confirm that Theia was real.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 6eabd93d

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: 6eabd93d

Economist Jingting Fan argues that the effects of international trade may display spatial variation at sub-national levels. For instance, imported goods may reduce expenses for a country’s average consumer, but for consumers living far from ports, high intranational transport costs could _____ the price advantages associated with imports.

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

- A. nullify
- B. denigrate
- C. underestimate
- D. misconstrue

ID: 6eabd93d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it logically completes the text’s discussion of imported goods and consumer prices. In this context, "nullify" most nearly means negate or undermine. The text indicates that importing goods to a country can reduce consumer prices in that country, then cautions that the costs of transporting goods within the country is also a factor. These transportation costs likely raise the prices that must be paid by people who live far from the ports of entry. Therefore, the intranational transportation costs could nullify the price advantages to consumers of importing goods.

Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "denigrate" would most nearly mean disparage or deny the importance of. Since transportation costs would not be capable of denying the importance of price advantages, it would not make sense to state that intranational transportation costs denigrate the price advantages of importing goods. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "underestimate" would most nearly mean predict a lower value for, or to undervalue, someone or something. Though transportation costs might be undervalued, they cannot themselves undervalue something else, so it would not make sense to state that intranational transportation costs underestimate the price advantages of importing goods. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "misconstrue" would most nearly mean misunderstand. Since transport costs are not capable of understanding, it would not make sense to claim that intranational transportation costs misconstrue the price advantages of importing goods.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 439191e9

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: 439191e9

For her 2021 art installation *Anthem*, Wu Tsang joined forces with singer and composer Beverly Glenn-Copeland to produce a piece that critics found truly _____. they praised Tsang for creatively transforming a museum rotunda into a dynamic exhibit by projecting filmed images of Glenn-Copeland onto a massive 84-foot curtain and filling the space with the sounds of his and other voices singing.

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

- A. restrained
- B. inventive
- C. inexplicable
- D. mystifying

ID: 439191e9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the art installation *Anthem*. In this context, “inventive” means characterized by invention and creativity. The text explains that critics’ responses to the installation involved praise for Tsang’s creative transformation of a space into a dynamic exhibit with huge images and lots of sound. This context conveys that the critics found the piece particularly creative.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that critics praised the installation for being dynamic and including huge images and lots of sound, and it wouldn’t make sense to describe such an exhibit as “restrained,” or limited and not extravagant or showy. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that critics found the installation “inexplicable,” or incapable of being explained or interpreted, since the critics were able to explain their praise for the installation’s transformation of a space with huge images and lots of sound. Choice D is incorrect because the text focuses on the idea that critics praised Tsang for creatively transforming a space into a dynamic exhibit, not that they found the installation “mystifying,” or bewildering and hard to understand. Nothing in the text suggests that the critics couldn’t understand the piece.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 42e42474

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: 42e42474

To demonstrate that the integrity of underground metal pipes can be assessed without unearthing the pipes, engineer Aroba Saleem and colleagues _____ the tendency of some metals’ internal magnetic fields to alter under stress: the team showed that such alterations can be measured from a distance and can reveal concentrations of stress in the pipes.

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

- A. hypothesized
- B. discounted
- C. redefined
- D. exploited

ID: 42e42474 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of using magnetism to detect stress in buried metal pipes. In this context, "exploited" means made productive use of. The text indicates that the magnetic fields of some metals change under stress and that Saleem and colleagues showed that it is possible to measure those changes from a distance, thereby demonstrating that the integrity of underground metal pipes can be evaluated without having to unearth them. This context thus indicates that Saleem and colleagues made productive use of, or exploited, this tendency of the metals’ magnetic fields.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "hypothesized" would mean made a tentative assumption to be evaluated in a study or experiment. Although Saleem and colleagues may have had one or more hypotheses for these experiments, the text presents the information about the tendency of some metals’ magnetic fields to change under stress as a known fact that the researchers made productive use of, not as a hypothesis to be evaluated. The text after the colon indicates that the researchers were not evaluating whether such changes occur but whether those changes can be measured at a distance. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "discounted" would mean downplayed or ignored, but the text does not suggest that Saleem and colleagues minimized or ignored the tendency of the magnetic fields of some metals to change under stress. Rather, the text indicates that this tendency is the basis for Saleem and colleagues’ method of assessing the pipes’ integrity. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text indicates that Saleem and colleagues "redefined," or reevaluated or reformulated, the tendency of some metals’ magnetic fields to change under stress. Instead, the text indicates that the researchers made use of that tendency to demonstrate that it is possible to evaluate the integrity of underground pipes without unearthing them.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3bf49ffc

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: 3bf49ffc

Containing over 160 billion base pairs of DNA resulting from polyploidy (whole genome duplication) and accumulation of noncoding DNA without significant deletion, the genome of *Tmesipteris oblangolata* (New Caledonian fork fern) is the largest known among eukaryotes—and, given the high biological costs of extremely large genomes, is unlikely to be _____.

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

- A. protracted
- B. superseded
- C. curtailed
- D. obviated

ID: 3bf49ffc Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the fork fern’s enormous genome. In this context, "superseded" means surpassed or exceeded by something else. The text establishes that this plant has "the largest known" genome among eukaryotes and mentions "the high biological costs of extremely large genomes," suggesting there are natural constraints that make it biologically disadvantageous to maintain such massive genetic material. This context supports the idea that it’s unlikely another organism will evolve an even larger genome that would replace this plant’s record—that is, its status as having the largest genome is unlikely to be superseded.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "protracted" would mean drawn out over time or space, and the text focuses on the record size of the New Caledonian fork fern’s genome and the fact that extremely large genomes carry "high biological costs." This information suggests that the biological upper limit for genome size may have been reached and that the New Caledonian fork fern’s genome is therefore unlikely to be surpassed, or superseded, not that it’s unlikely to be protracted. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "curtailed" would mean cut short or reduced, and the text focuses on the record size of the New Caledonian fork fern’s genome and the fact that extremely large genomes carry "high biological costs." This information suggests that the biological upper limit for genome size may have been reached and that the New Caledonian fork fern’s genome is therefore unlikely to be surpassed, or superseded, not that it’s unlikely to be curtailed. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "obviated" would mean made unnecessary or redundant, and the text focuses on the record size of the New Caledonian fork fern’s genome and the fact that extremely large genomes carry "high biological costs." This information suggests that the biological upper limit for genome size may have been reached and that the New Caledonian fork fern’s genome is therefore unlikely to be surpassed, or superseded, not that it’s unlikely to be obviated.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9ffe9ddc

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: 9ffe9ddc

To entice study participants, psychology researchers commonly offer a gift card or other compensation. However, this practice may undercut the applicability of the study’s results: people who join a study in response to _____ may differ in important ways from a representative sample of the population of interest.

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

- A. a propensity
- B. an inducement
- C. a paradigm
- D. an appeasement

ID: 9ffe9ddc Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how compensation in psychology studies may affect the applicability of results. In this context, “an inducement” means a reward offered to encourage a person to take a particular action. The text indicates that psychology researchers commonly offer rewards such as gift cards to encourage people to participate in their studies, potentially rendering the participant pool unrepresentative of the target population. This context supports the idea that participants are joining studies in response to an inducement.

Choice A is incorrect. While participants might join a study in response to “a propensity,” or a natural inclination, to do so, the text isn’t focused on participants’ predispositions. Rather, the text is concerned with the external rewards that researchers offer to attract participants. Choice C is incorrect because saying that participants join studies in response to “a paradigm,” or a typical model or framework, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text doesn’t address any such framework. Instead, it focuses on tangible rewards that researchers offer to attract study participants. Choice D is incorrect because saying that participants join a study in response to “an appeasement,” or a concession made to pacify a person, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text describes researchers offering gift cards and other forms of compensation to attract willing study participants, not to address anyone’s grievance or dissatisfaction.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9a66fab6

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: 9a66fab6

The following text is from the 1989 novel *The Ancient Child* by Kiowa writer N. Scott Momaday. The main character has achieved tremendous commercial success as a painter.

More and more often he was asked to compromise his art or himself in one way or another, and more often than not he did so, for he was inclined to be passive and naïve; it was difficult for him to say no. Those who exhibited his work, who praised and purchased it, and who demanded its proliferation began to determine it.

©1989 by N. Scott Momaday

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

- A. Conclude
- B. Dictate
- C. Evaluate
- D. Select

ID: 9a66fab6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text "determine" most nearly means "dictate." The text describes the relationship between the main character and those who exhibit, praise, and purchase his artwork. The text states that the main character is often asked to change his art or himself based on outside influences, and he usually acquiesces. Because the main character admits that those who support his work often shape it based on their demands, it follows that those outside influences dictate, or guide or dominate, the direction his work takes.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that outside influences "conclude," or end, the main character's work. The text states that many supporters of the main character's art "demand its proliferation," not its conclusion. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that outside influences are "evaluating," or judging the main character's work. According to the text, the main character's art has already achieved great commercial success, with many people exhibiting, purchasing, and praising his work. Thus, outsiders have already supported the main character's work and are not questioning or evaluating its success or worth. They are instead influencing its initial direction. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that outside influences "select," or choose the main character's work. According to the text, the main character's art has already achieved great commercial success, with many people exhibiting, purchasing, and praising his work. Thus, outsiders have already supported the main character's work and are not selecting it. They are instead influencing its initial direction.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 70e0e025

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: 70e0e025

The güiro, a musical instrument traditionally made from a dried and hollowed gourd, is thought to have originated with the Taíno people of Puerto Rico. Players use a wooden stick to scrape along ridges cut into the side of the gourd, creating sounds that are highly _____. The sounds produced by güiros can differ based on the distance between the ridges, the types of strokes the player uses, and the thickness of the gourd.

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

- A. overlooked
- B. powerful
- C. routine
- D. variable

ID: 70e0e025 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the sounds made by güiros. In this context, “variable” means able to change. The text begins by explaining that güiros are instruments made out of hollowed gourds with ridges cut into their sides and that players scrape the ridges with wooden sticks to produce sounds. The text goes on to say that güiros’ sounds can change depending on gourd thickness, the distance between ridges, and the types of strokes the player uses, thus supporting the idea that the sounds created by these instruments are variable.

Choice A is incorrect because “overlooked” means not being seen or noticed, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that the sounds produced by güiros are overlooked or not noticed. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “powerful” would mean having a great ability to produce an effect. While it’s possible that the sounds produced by güiros have a strong effect on listeners, the text doesn’t discuss this aspect of their sounds. Choice C is incorrect because “routine” means usual and unvarying, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that the sounds produced by güiros are unvarying. In fact, the text describes how the sounds produced by güiros can differ based on several factors.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID cb4361d5

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: cb4361d5

A casual description of Scherezade García’s 2019 mural *Blame It on the Bean: The Power of Coffee* can make the work seem _____—a painting that is housed in a coffee shop and that depicts three women drinking coffee may not sound particularly ambitious—but in fact the work is a complex, dynamic meditation on gender and the legacy of colonialism that demands serious attention.

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

- A. unassuming
- B. shrewd
- C. incongruous
- D. pretentious

ID: cb4361d5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Scherezade García’s mural *Blame It on the Bean: The Power of Coffee*. In this context, “unassuming” means ordinary or unremarkable. The text draws a contrast between a “casual description” of the mural’s ordinary location (a coffee shop) and subject matter (three women drinking coffee)—details that would make it seem relatively unambitious—and a characterization of the painting as a “dynamic meditation” on gender and colonialism deserving of “serious attention.” This context suggests that the mural has significant depth and complexity, but a superficial description of it might make the mural seem ordinary and unremarkable—that is, unassuming.

Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “shrewd” would mean clever or astute, and there’s nothing in the text to suggest that a casual yet misleading description that only mentions the apparent simplicity of the mural’s location and subject matter would make the mural seem particularly clever or astute. Though it’s possible that the text’s assertion that the mural is a “complex, dynamic meditation” demanding “serious attention” might convey the idea that it’s a particularly clever or astute—that is, shrewd—artwork, the text wouldn’t suggest that a casual description that fails to account for the work’s complexity would likewise characterize the work as shrewd. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, “incongruous” would mean unsuitable for its surroundings or internally inconsistent. The “casual description” presented in the text indicates that the painting is housed in a coffee shop and depicts women drinking coffee, which would imply that the mural may in fact be well suited to its surroundings, not that it’s ill suited to its location. Moreover, none of the details mentioned in this description would suggest that the painting contains internal inconsistencies of any kind. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, “pretentious” would mean expressive of exaggerated importance, which wouldn’t fit the contrast established in the text between a “casual description” of the painting and the work’s deeper themes. Though the text argues that the painting is worthy of “serious attention,” which would suggest its importance, the text doesn’t suggest that the casual description would by contrast imply that the painting’s importance is exaggerated. Rather, by merely mentioning the mural’s relatively ordinary location and subject matter without reference to this

complexity, the casual description conveys that the painting is more unassuming and understated than it actually is, not that it expresses an exaggerated self-importance.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 95368fa3

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: 95368fa3

Critics have asserted that fine art and fashion rarely _____ in a world where artists create timeless works for exhibition and designers periodically produce new styles for the public to buy. Luiseño/Shoshone-Bannock beadwork artist and designer Jamie Okuma challenges this view: her work can be seen in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and purchased through her online boutique.

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

- A. prevail
- B. succumb
- C. diverge
- D. intersect

ID: 95368fa3 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion about the relationship between fine art and fashion. As used in this context, “intersect” means to connect or overlap. The text indicates that Jamie Okuma challenges the position held by critics because her work can be seen at an art museum and can be bought by the public from her online boutique. The text also presents the critics’ view as being influenced by a perception that fine artists create works that are “timeless” and meant for exhibition, whereas fashion designers periodically produce new styles that are meant for purchase. This context suggests that the critics believe that fine art and fashion tend not to overlap—in other words, that they rarely intersect.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that critics contend that fine art and fashion rarely “prevail,” or prove to be triumphant or widespread. The text indicates that Okuma is an example of an artist who demonstrates that it’s possible to make fine art that is also available to the public as fashion. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that fine art and fashion rarely “succumb,” or surrender. The text establishes that unlike what critics believe, Okuma creates works that are in art museums and available for the public to purchase, suggesting that critics believe fine art and fashion rarely overlap, not that they rarely succumb. Choice C is incorrect because saying that critics believe that fine art and fashion rarely “diverge,” or disagree or move in different directions, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text presents Okuma’s work as both fine art and fashion, thereby undermining what the critics assert. This suggests that the critics believe that fine art and fashion rarely intersect rather than that the two rarely diverge.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 73f942b3

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: 73f942b3

Text corpora such as the Bank of English are enormous collections of electronically stored texts that can be used for empirical testing of hypotheses regarding the frequency of typical word usage. If one has a _____ that the word “get” has a high incidence in English, for example, an analysis of a corpus can support that hypothesis by showing that “get” is the fifth most commonly used verb.

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

- A. recognition
- B. scheme
- C. supposition
- D. synopsis

ID: 73f942b3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of testing hypotheses regarding usage by means of text corpora. In this context, "supposition" refers to an assumption or hypothesis that is not yet proven. The text explains that text corpora can be used for "empirical testing of hypotheses regarding the frequency of typical word usage" and then provides a specific example of using corpus analysis to support a claim about the word "get." The word "supposition" precisely conveys this idea of an assumption or hypothesis about word frequency that can then be tested against empirical data.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that someone has a "recognition" that the word "get" has a high incidence in English. Recognition implies acknowledging something already established as true or valid, but the text indicates that corpus analysis is needed to support the claim about "get," suggesting its high frequency wasn’t already established or previously known. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that someone has a "scheme" that the word "get" has a high incidence in English. A scheme is a plan or systematic arrangement, but the context indicates what’s needed is a preliminary hypothesis that can be tested with corpus data, not a plan related to word frequency. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that someone has a "synopsis" that the word "get" has a high incidence in English. A synopsis is a summary or outline, but the text is discussing an initial hypothesis about word frequency that requires testing, not a condensed statement of existing information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8713e5fd

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: 8713e5fd

The work of molecular biophysicist Enrique M. De La Cruz is known for _____ traditional boundaries between academic disciplines. The university laboratory that De La Cruz runs includes engineers, biologists, chemists, and physicists, and the research the lab produces makes use of insights and techniques from all those fields.

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

- A. epitomizing
- B. transcending
- C. anticipating
- D. reinforcing

ID: 8713e5fd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Based on the text, we’re looking for a word that means something similar to "mak[ing] use of insights and techniques from all those fields." "Transcending" means "going beyond," so "transcending traditional boundaries" would mean crossing into all those various fields of research, which is exactly the meaning we want.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t a logical word choice. Based on the text, we’re looking for a word that means something similar to "mak[ing] use of insights and techniques from all those fields." To "epitomize" means to "be a perfect example of," so "epitomizing traditional boundaries" would mean the opposite of what we want: keeping the fields of research separate. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t a logical word choice. Based on the text, we’re looking for a word that means something similar to "mak[ing] use of insights and techniques from all those fields." "Anticipating" means "expecting" or "waiting for," and would result in a confusing sentence with an unclear meaning. Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t a logical word choice. Based on the text, we’re looking for a word that means something similar to "mak[ing] use of insights and techniques from all those fields." "Reinforcing traditional boundaries" would mean the opposite: keeping the fields of research separate.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 11b906e0

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: 11b906e0

Close analysis of the painting *Girl with a Flute*, long attributed to the seventeenth-century Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer, has revealed subtle deviations from the artist’s signature techniques. These variations suggest that the work may be that of a student under Vermeer’s tutelage—potentially _____ our understanding of Vermeer as a solitary artist.

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

- A. negating
- B. prefiguring
- C. entrenching
- D. substantiating

ID: 11b906e0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Negating" means "reversing" or "making invalid." Proving that Vermeer worked with students would reverse the view of him as a solitary artist.

Choice B is incorrect. "Prefiguring" means "being an early indicator of." There already existed views of Vermeer as a solitary painter, so a new painting would not be an early indicator of those views. Rather, a painting proving that Vermeer had a student would contradict those earlier views. Choice C is incorrect. "Entrenching" means "solidifying." A painting proving that Vermeer had a student would not solidify views of him as solitary, but would rather contradict those views. Choice D is incorrect. "Substantiating" means "supporting with proof." A painting proving that Vermeer had a student would not support views of him as solitary, but would rather contradict those views.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5c9eb4c2

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: 5c9eb4c2

The artisans of the Igoun Eronmwon guild in Benin City, Nigeria, typically _____ the bronze- and brass-casting techniques that have been passed down through their families since the thirteenth century, but they don't strictly observe every tradition; for example, guild members now use air-conditioning motors instead of handheld bellows to help heat their forges.

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

- A. experiment with
- B. adhere to
- C. improve on
- D. grapple with

ID: 5c9eb4c2 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of bronze- and brass-casting techniques used by the Igoun Eronmwon guild. In this context "adhere to" would mean to act in accordance with. The text states that although members of the Igoun Eronmwon guild typically do something with techniques that have been passed down since the thirteenth century, they "don't strictly observe every tradition." By establishing a contrast with not always following traditions, the context suggests that guild members do typically adhere to traditional techniques.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context "experiment with" would mean to do something new with. Although using motors rather than manual bellows is presented as a new approach, the text establishes a contrast between what the guild members typically do with techniques that have been passed down over centuries and the idea that the members "don't strictly observe every tradition." The phrase "experiment with" wouldn't support the contrast because regularly trying new things with the techniques would be an example of not strictly following all traditions. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "improve on" would mean to make better. Although using motors rather than manual bellows might be an improved approach, the text establishes a contrast between what the guild members typically do with techniques that have been passed down over centuries and the idea that the members "don't strictly observe every tradition." The phrase "improve on" wouldn't support the contrast because regularly making changes to the techniques would be an example of not strictly following all traditions. Choice D is incorrect because in this context "grapple with" would mean to try hard to solve a difficult problem. Although bronze- and brass-casting are likely challenging tasks, nothing in the text suggests that the guild members have any particular difficulties with the techniques passed down since the thirteenth century.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 824e2d0a

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: 824e2d0a

Proposals to raise the age at which retirees begin receiving government transfers of funds are generally discussed in terms of the effects on transfer recipients, but Andria Smythe has argued that delaying such transfers could _____ wealth creation among working adults by lengthening the period in which they are providing financial support to their nonworking parents.

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

- A. stymie
- B. compound
- C. disparage
- D. outstrip

ID: 824e2d0a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the consequences of raising the age at which retirees begin receiving government funds. The text indicates that raising the age for these funds is usually discussed in terms of effects on fund recipients but that Andria Smythe is instead considering the effects on working family members who care for retirees. Smythe notes that raising the age for the funds would increase the length of time retirees are dependent on financial assistance from working family members. This is suggested to have an effect on wealth creation for those workers, and most logically, that effect would be disadvantageous. Thus, "stymie," which means to prevent or greatly hinder, is the most logical choice in context.

Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "compound" would most nearly mean multiply or greatly enhance. The text indicates that raising the age at which retirees are eligible for government funds will increase the amount of time retirees are dependent on working family members for financial support. This would likely have a negative rather than a positive effect on wealth creation. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "disparage" would most nearly mean criticize or defame. Nothing in the text suggests that raising the age at which retirees are eligible for government funds would defame wealth creation among working adults. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "outstrip" would most nearly mean to exceed, and nothing in the text indicates that the financial support provided to retirees would exceed the amount of wealth these workers can create. The text does suggest that workers providing funds to retirees works against those workers’ wealth accumulation, but not that the support to retirees exceeds the workers’ accumulated wealth.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4b18b230

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: 4b18b230

The following text is adapted from James Baldwin’s 1956 novel *Giovanni’s Room*. The narrator is riding in a taxi down a street lined with food vendors and shoppers in Paris, France.

The multitude of Paris seems to be dressed in blue every day but Sunday, when, for the most part, they put on an unbelievably festive black. Here they were now, in blue, disputing, every inch, our passage, with their wagons, handtrucks, their bursting baskets carried at an angle steeply self-confident on the back.

©1956 by James Baldwin

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

- A. Arguing about
- B. Disapproving of
- C. Asserting possession of
- D. Providing resistance to

ID: 4b18b230 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "disputing" most nearly means providing resistance to. The narrator is in a taxi as it drives down a street lined with so many food vendors and shoppers that the narrator describes them as "the multitude of Paris," meaning an immense group of people. The street is essentially a large open-air market, and there are so many people pushing small wagons of goods and carrying shopping baskets that "every inch" of the taxi’s progress is impeded. In other words, the people are providing resistance to the taxi’s attempt to drive down the street.

Choice A is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "disputing" can mean arguing, the narrator doesn’t portray the shoppers and vendors as arguing with the driver of the taxi or, indeed, arguing at all. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "disputing" can mean expressing disapproval, the narrator doesn’t suggest that the shoppers and vendors necessarily disapprove of the taxi’s attempt to drive down the street. Instead, their combined presence along the street has the effect of impeding the taxi’s progress. Choice C is incorrect because, as the narrator explains, both the multitude of people and the taxi are using a public space (a street) at the same time. The narrator doesn’t go so far as to suggest that the people feel that they, and not the taxi, possess exclusive access to the street.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8d40b6da

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: 8d40b6da

In the search for new impact craters on Mars, the roles of seismic monitoring and orbital imaging as data sources are _____. when vibrations detected with seismic monitoring indicate roughly where an impact has occurred, researchers can use orbital images of that relatively limited area of the rocky surface to precisely locate a new crater.

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

- A. interchangeable
- B. complementary
- C. exhaustive
- D. redundant

ID: 8d40b6da Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how seismic monitoring and orbital imaging are used to find impact craters on Mars. In this context, “complementary” means combining in such a way that each contributes something the other lacks. The text describes how two data sources work together: seismic monitoring detects vibrations that indicate the rough location of an impact, and orbital imaging is then used to examine that limited area in detail to pinpoint the exact location of the crater. Each method does something the other does not—seismic monitoring narrows the search area, while orbital imaging provides the precise location—and together they accomplish what neither could alone. This context supports the idea that the two methods’ roles are complementary.

Choice A is incorrect because describing the roles of seismic monitoring and orbital imaging as “interchangeable,” or able to be substituted for each other, would contradict the text. The text indicates that the two methods perform different functions in sequence (seismic monitoring narrows the area; orbital imaging pinpoints the crater), so they cannot be substituted for each other. Choice C is incorrect because describing the roles of seismic monitoring and orbital imaging as “exhaustive,” or comprehensive in covering all possibilities, wouldn’t be logical in context. The text describes how the two methods work together to perform a particular two-step task (locating new impact craters), not whether they collectively address every possible aspect of Mars research. Choice D is incorrect because describing the roles of seismic monitoring and orbital imaging as “redundant,” or unnecessarily duplicative, would contradict the text. The text indicates that each method performs a distinct function in finding impact craters on Mars—rough localization versus precise localization—so neither method duplicates the other’s contribution.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 43174f10

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: 43174f10

Despite stated claims of global relevance, much major research on income inequality performed in the 2010s suffered from a myopic focus on a few countries in North America and Western Europe, partly due to limited data availability. Researchers would later _____ this shortcoming after gaining new access to banking records located in nations in Africa, such as Tunisia, and Eastern Europe, such as Hungary.

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

- A. presuppose
- B. categorize
- C. mitigate
- D. validate

ID: 43174f10 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of research on income inequality in the 2010s. In this context, "mitigate" means to make less severe or reduce the negative effects of something. The text first identifies a shortcoming in the research: a "myopic focus on a few countries" despite claims of "global relevance." The text then explains that researchers later gained access to new data from previously excluded regions (Africa and Eastern Europe). This context supports the idea that with these new data, researchers would be able to reduce, or mitigate, the identified shortcoming by incorporating a broader range of geographic regions into their studies of income inequality.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "presuppose" would mean to assume in advance that something is true, and it wouldn’t make logical sense to say that researchers later assumed as true in advance a shortcoming they had already encountered. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "categorize" would mean to classify or place into groups. The text indicates that researchers did something about the shortcoming that characterized research on income inequality in the 2010s—limited geographic scope—after they gained access to new data from previously excluded regions. Categorizing a shortcoming doesn’t require access to or analysis of new data; it could be done without any new information, but by analyzing new data, researchers went beyond merely categorizing the shortcoming and instead took action to address it. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "validate" would mean to confirm or substantiate something. The text indicates that researchers did something about a known shortcoming of research on income inequality in the 2010s—limited geographic scope—after they gained access to new data from previously excluded regions. Confirming an already known shortcoming doesn’t require access to or analysis of new data; it could be done without any new information, but by analyzing new data, researchers went beyond merely validating the shortcoming and instead took action to make the shortcoming less severe.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 36f8d65c

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: 36f8d65c

Eighteenth-century historian Edward Gibbon thought the only character defect of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius was his mild temperament—though the emperor was widely considered virtuous, his overly permissive nature led him to _____ the vices of those who surrounded him.

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

- A. indulge
- B. despise
- C. moderate
- D. criticize

ID: 36f8d65c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius. In this context, "indulge" means treat with excessive leniency. The text states that according to historian Edward Gibbon, Marcus Aurelius, who was widely considered virtuous, had only a single character flaw: his mild temperament. The text suggests that because of this flaw, Marcus Aurelius had an overly permissive nature. This context, in turn, supports the idea that Marcus Aurelius treated the vices, or evils, of those around him with excessive leniency, indulging rather than punishing those vices.

Choice B is incorrect. While the text does state that Marcus Aurelius was widely considered virtuous, it gives no indication that he was inclined to "despise," or hate, others’ vices. Rather, the text suggests that he showed undue tolerance for these vices because of his overly permissive nature—that is, his inclination to allow others to do as they wished. Choice C is incorrect because the text’s description of Marcus Aurelius as overly permissive suggests that he showed undue tolerance for others’ vices, not that he tried to "moderate" those vices, or lessen their intensity. Choice D is incorrect because the text’s description of Marcus Aurelius as overly permissive suggests that he showed undue tolerance for others’ vices, not that he attempted to "criticize," or speak disapprovingly of, those vices.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 776b8c1f

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: 776b8c1f

Given that the conditions in binary star systems should make planetary formation nearly impossible, it’s not surprising that the existence of planets in such systems has lacked _____ explanation. Roman Rafikov and Kedron Silsbee shed light on the subject when they used modeling to determine a complex set of factors that could support planets’ development.

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

- A. a discernible
- B. a straightforward
- C. an inconclusive
- D. an unbiased

ID: 776b8c1f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s description of efforts to explain the existence of planets in binary star systems. As used in this context, describing an explanation as “a straightforward” one would mean that the explanation is direct and uncomplicated. The text asserts that since it should be “nearly impossible” for planets to form in binary star systems, it’s “not surprising” that there isn’t a straightforward explanation for the existence of planets in such systems; the fact that one potential approach involves “complex” factors offers further contextual support for this idea.

Choice A is incorrect because it would not make sense in context to say that there isn’t “a discernible” explanation—meaning an explanation capable of being perceived—for the existence of planets in binary star systems. The text discusses just such an explanation offered by Roman Rafikov and Kedron Silsbee, which indicates that their explanation can be discerned. Choice C is incorrect because the text emphasizes how difficult it is to explain the existence of planets in binary star systems, suggesting that the situation isn’t marked by the lack of “an inconclusive” explanation—an explanation that does not resolve the issue—but rather that if any explanations have been offered, they’ve likely been inconclusive ones. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that there is a lack of “an unbiased,” or impartial and unprejudiced, explanation for the existence of planets in binary star systems. The text indicates that it’s difficult to explain the existence of planets in such systems and it describes one attempt to do so, but there is no evidence that explanations from Roman Rafikov and Kedron Silsbee or others are biased.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3a3fd0e2

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: 3a3fd0e2

Austin McCoy has argued that historians have tended to _____ rank-and-file workers in analyses of changes in organized labor in the United States in the decades following the Second World War, presenting political, business, and labor leaders as the major actors and ordinary workers as nearly devoid of agency.

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

- A. epitomize
- B. marginalize
- C. extol
- D. substantiate

ID: 3a3fd0e2 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how historians have treated rank-and-file (ordinary) workers in their analyses. In this context, "marginalize" means treat as unimportant or relatively powerless within a group or society. The text explains that according to Austin McCoy, historians have tended to treat "political, business, and labor leaders" as the "major actors" involved in making changes in organized labor in the period after the Second World War. By emphasizing the contributions of these leaders, historians have in effect minimized the contributions of ordinary workers, treating them as relatively unimportant and "nearly devoid of agency," thereby marginalizing them.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "epitomize" would mean either serve as an ideal example of something or make into an example of something, neither of which would make sense. In stating that historians have tended to characterize political, business, and labor leaders as the primary actors responsible for changes in the post-Second World War labor movement in a manner that minimizes the influence of ordinary workers, the text suggests that historians have tended to present ordinary workers as unimportant to or uninfluential within the movement, not that historians themselves serve as examples of ordinary workers, or that historians in their analyses have made ordinary workers into examples of the changes that occurred. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "extol" would mean praise highly or glorify. The text states that historians have tended to present ordinary workers as being "nearly devoid of agency," thereby minimizing their importance. It therefore wouldn’t make sense to say that in doing so, historians have tended to praise or glorify them. Choice D is incorrect because "substantiate" would mean verify with evidence, and nothing in the text suggests that historians have verified rank-and-file workers or their contributions in their analyses. If anything, the text suggests the opposite, implying that by minimizing workers’ agency in organized labor, historians have likely overlooked evidence demonstrating their influence.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 1cb7ce62

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: 1cb7ce62

In studying the use of external stimuli to reduce the itching sensation caused by an allergic histamine response, Louise Ward and colleagues found that while harmless applications of vibration or warming can provide a temporary distraction, such _____ stimuli actually offer less relief than a stimulus that seems less benign, like a mild electric shock.

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

- A. deceptive
- B. innocuous
- C. novel
- D. impractical

ID: 1cb7ce62 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ward and colleagues’ findings. As used in this context, “innocuous” means mild or unharmed. The text describes the vibration and warming that Ward and colleagues used to alleviate itching as “harmless applications” and goes on to contrast these applications with another stimulus that actually offers more relief even though it seems to be stronger and “less benign.” This context conveys the idea that vibration and warming were innocuous stimuli.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on a distinction between harmless stimuli and those that seem to be less benign. Nothing in the text suggests that any of the treatments are “deceptive,” or misleading; indeed, even the less effective ones are described as offering some relief. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses on the amount of relief from itching offered by harmless stimuli and those that seem to be less benign. The text doesn’t suggest that any of these stimuli are “novel,” or original and new; heat, vibration, and electricity aren’t new inventions. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to describe an application of vibration or warming as “impractical,” or not suitable for use. The text indicates that these harmless applications are useful in that they offer at least some temporary relief.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 1dfcc06f

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: 1dfcc06f

In editor Lisa Yaszek’s introduction to her anthology *The Future Is Female! More Classic Science Fiction Stories by Women*, Yaszek identifies an increasing sense of _____ feminist mode of writing in the 1970s, in contrast to many woman-authored science fiction stories of the 1920s to 1960s whose politics were less deliberately signaled.

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

- A. a prudently
- B. an overtly
- C. a cordially
- D. an inadvertently

ID: 1dfcc06f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Yaszek’s introduction to her science fiction anthology. In this context "overtly" means openly or without concealment. The text draws a contrast between the lack of "deliberately signaled" political themes in woman-authored science fiction from the 1920s to the 1960s and what Yaszek notes about woman-authored science fiction from the 1970s. This contrast implies that the work from the 1970s did clearly reflect feminist political themes. In other words, the text indicates that unlike women who wrote science fiction in the 1920s to the 1960s, the women who wrote science fiction in the 1970s expressed overtly feminist themes.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context "prudently" would mean cautiously, which might plausibly describe the women who wrote science fiction from the 1920s to the 1960s, in that they tended to avoid revealing their political views; however, the text contrasts these authors with the women writing science fiction in the 1970s, thereby suggesting that the authors writing in the 1970s were not restrained in that way. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "cordially" would mean politely, and nothing in the text indicates that politeness was a significant factor for women writing science fiction either from the 1920s to the 1960s or in the 1970s. The text draws a contrast between the lack of "deliberately signaled" political themes in woman-authored science fiction from the 1920s to the 1960s and what Yaszek notes about woman-authored science fiction from the 1970s. It’s unclear how "less deliberately signaled" politics and an increasing sense of politeness toward feminism would constitute a meaningful contrast. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "inadvertently" would mean unintentionally, and nothing in the text suggests that Yaszek thought the feminist elements of the woman-authored science fiction from the 1970s arose without deliberate effort.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ff6698c1

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: ff6698c1

During a 2014 archaeological dig in Spain, Vicente Lull and his team uncovered the skeleton of a woman from El Algar, an Early Bronze Age society, buried with valuable objects signaling a high position of power. This finding may persuade researchers who have argued that Bronze Age societies were ruled by men to _____ that women may have also held leadership roles.

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

- A. waive
- B. concede
- C. refute
- D. require

ID: ff6698c1 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the significance of the 2014 archaeological finding at El Algar. In this context, “concede” means to admit something is true after first resisting that admission. The text indicates that some researchers believe “Bronze Age societies were ruled by men.” But the Bronze Age burial of a woman at El Algar included “valuable objects signaling a high position of power,” which would raise the possibility that “women may have also held leadership roles.” Thus, the text is calling into question the notion that only men were leaders in these societies and speculating that people holding this view may reconsider their opinion.

Choice A is incorrect because “waive” means to refrain from insisting that something, such as a right or a requirement, be observed; the word isn’t used, however, in contexts where someone acknowledges that an opinion they hold may be invalid, as is the case in the text. Choice C is incorrect. According to the text, the finding from the El Algar burial site undermines the view that Bronze Age societies were exclusively ruled by men. However, “refute” means to demonstrate that something is false and would not make sense in context. Lull and team’s finding supports the view that women may have also held leadership roles, not that they did not participate in such roles. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, “require” means to demand or specify as mandatory. However, it would not make sense for contemporary researchers to demand that Bronze Age “women may have also held leadership roles.”

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ab2387d7

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: ab2387d7

Bicycle sharing systems allow users to rent a bicycle at one location within a city and return it to any other designated location in that city, which can cause serious problems of bicycle supply and user demand within the city’s system. Tohru Ikeguchi uses open-source data and statistical modeling to identify when a high number of users making one-way trips is likely to leave some locations within the system _____ bicycles and other areas with insufficient supply.

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

- A. susceptible to
- B. contingent on
- C. saturated with
- D. depleted of

ID: ab2387d7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ikeguchi’s model of bicycle supply. In this context, “saturated with” means thoroughly or completely supplied with. The text explains a problem encountered by some bicycle-sharing programs: users can return bicycles to different locations than where the users picked up the bicycles to start, which can result in a mismatch between bicycle supply (that is, where the bicycles are currently located) and user demand (that is, the locations where users are hoping to pick up bicycles). The text goes on to explain that Ikeguchi developed a way to identify when this mismatch is likely to occur. This context suggests that Ikeguchi’s method will show when it is likely that some locations have an insufficient supply and other locations, by implicit contrast, are saturated with bicycles.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that some locations are “susceptible to,” or sensitive to or easily influenced by, bicycles. The text describes the phenomenon of bicycles being redistributed away from locations where users want them, not anything about those locations being influenced by the bicycles. Choice B is incorrect because the text describes situations in which some locations have an insufficient supply of bicycles because the bicycles have been relocated elsewhere, which suggests that the other locations have many bicycles, not that the other locations are “contingent on,” or dependent on, the bicycles. Nothing in the text suggests that the locations themselves depend on the bicycles for anything. Choice D is incorrect because it would not make sense in context to say that some locations are “depleted of,” or empty of, bicycles while others have an insufficient supply. The text describes situations in which bicycles have been relocated such that there is a mismatch between bicycle supply and user demand—the bicycles are no longer at the locations where users want to pick them up. This means that some locations do not have enough bicycles, while other locations must have many bicycles, not be depleted of bicycles.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0bf311a6

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: 0bf311a6

Interruptions in the supply chain for microchips used in personal electronics have challenged an economist’s assertion that retailers can expect robust growth in sales of those devices in the coming months. The delays are unlikely to _____ her projection entirely but will almost certainly extend its time frame.

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

- A. dispute
- B. withdraw
- C. underscore
- D. invalidate

ID: 0bf311a6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the economist’s claim about sales of personal electronic devices. In this context, “invalidate” most nearly means nullify or make invalid. The text indicates that interruptions in the supply of microchips for personal electronics “have challenged” the economist’s claim that sales of personal electronics will show strong growth in the coming months. The text goes on to clarify the effect of the delays on the economist’s projection, stating that the delays are very likely to extend the time frame over which the projected growth in sales will occur. This context suggests that the delays are unlikely to invalidate the economist’s projection entirely—the delays will probably alter the time frame of the projection, not nullify it or make it invalid.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that the delays are unlikely to “dispute,” or argue against, the economist’s projection wouldn’t make sense. Since the delays are an inanimate circumstance, they couldn’t argue against a prediction about the sales of personal electronics. Choice B is incorrect because saying that the delays are unlikely to “withdraw,” or remove from consideration, the economist’s projection wouldn’t make sense. Although the economist could withdraw her projection because of the delays, the delays themselves couldn’t withdraw her projection since they’re an inanimate circumstance and thus can’t choose to remove something from consideration. Choice C is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that the delays will “underscore,” or emphasize, the economist’s projection. Instead, the text suggests that the delays are likely to extend the time frame of the economist’s projection but not to undermine the projection entirely.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 41530f05

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: 41530f05

In *Habitat Threshold*, Chamoru (Chamorro) poet Craig Santos Perez practices what he calls “recycling,” in which he preserves the syntactical and rhetorical structures of canonical poems but replaces their content to evoke current environmental issues. The form of these poems is thus _____ to their meaning, inviting readers to consider how climate change alters ostensibly familiar experiences.

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

- A. antithetical
- B. resigned
- C. invulnerable
- D. integral

ID: 41530f05 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Craig Santos Perez’s poetic practice in *Habitat Threshold*. In this context, “integral” means essential or fundamentally connected. The text describes Perez’s “recycling” technique, in which he retains the syntactical and rhetorical structures (i.e., formal elements) of canonical poems but alters their content to address current environmental issues. The text further indicates that this technique invites readers to recognize how climate change has transformed seemingly familiar experiences—an effect that depends on the contrast between a poem’s recognizable inherited form and its new content. Because meaning derives from the particular way in which form and content interact in Perez’s poems, the context supports the idea that the form of these poems is integral to their meaning—in other words, form is fundamentally bound up with what the poems convey.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that the form of Perez’s poems is “antithetical,” or directly opposed, to their meaning. The text indicates that the inherited form and the new content work together to produce the poems’ effect, so the form is essential, not opposed, to the poems’ meaning. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that the form of Perez’s poems is “resigned,” or passively accepting. “Resigned” describes an attitude held by a person, not a relationship between a poem’s form and its meaning. Moreover, the poems’ form actively contributes to their meaning; it would contradict the text to suggest that the poems’ form merely serves as a passive vehicle for meaning. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that the form of Perez’s poems is “invulnerable,” or incapable of being harmed. The text doesn’t characterize the poems’ meanings as threats to their form; instead, it discusses how form and meaning relate.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c9c4a616

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: c9c4a616

The Polynesian languages, a group of related languages originating on islands in the Pacific, typically have _____ array of consonant sounds. For example, the Mangareva language of the South Pacific has nine consonants, and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, the language of the Native Hawaiian people, has eight. Globally, however, the median number of consonants per language is over twenty-two.

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

- A. an unvarying
- B. a musical
- C. an exclusive
- D. a modest

ID: c9c4a616 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Polynesian languages. In this context, “modest” means relatively limited or small. The text begins with a statement about the array, or number, of consonant sounds in these languages. It then gives examples of one Polynesian language that has nine consonants and one that has eight consonants before noting that the global median number of consonants per language is more than twenty-two; in other words, the numbers of consonants in the Polynesian examples are well below the global median number. This context conveys that the text is making the point that the Polynesian languages have a modest array of consonant sounds.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, “unvarying” would mean unchanging. The text focuses on comparing the typical numbers of consonant sounds in Polynesian languages to the global median number of consonants per language, not on conveying that the number of consonant sounds in Polynesian languages typically doesn’t vary; the text makes no mention of the number of consonants changing within a language or language group. Choice B is incorrect because the text is focused on the quantity of consonant sounds in Polynesian languages, not the idea that those consonants are “musical,” or pleasantly harmonious and like music; the text discusses only the numbers of consonants in Polynesian languages and the global median number of consonants per language, not the way consonants sound. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, “exclusive” would mean limited to a single group. The text discusses the typical numbers of consonant sounds in Polynesian languages and gives two examples of languages with consonant numbers below the global median number of consonants per language, but it doesn’t suggest that the array, or number, of consonant sounds in Polynesian languages is exclusive to those languages—that is, that Polynesian languages are the only ones with eight to nine consonants.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7ff10082

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: 7ff10082

In the 2010s, the price of pop music cassette tapes from the 1980s and 1990s rose dramatically, which had the counterintuitive effect of _____ demand: buyers who hadn't previously wanted to purchase vintage cassettes thronged the market, believing prices would continue to rise and the tapes could be resold later at a profit.

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

- A. exploiting
- B. monetizing
- C. appraising
- D. engendering

ID: 7ff10082 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how rising prices affected demand for vintage cassette tapes. In this context, "engendering" means producing or causing to exist. The text indicates that the effect of a dramatic increase in the price of vintage cassettes was counterintuitive, or contrary to what would typically be expected. Generally, when prices rise, demand falls—but the text indicates that in this case, buyers who previously had no interest in cassettes "thronged the market" (that is, many of them began purchasing cassettes) because they saw the cassettes as potential investments. This context conveys that the rising prices surprisingly produced significant demand, producing many new buyers for vintage cassettes.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on a rise in prices of vintage cassettes, and it wouldn't make sense to describe the price increase itself—rather than sellers of vintage cassettes—as "exploiting," or unfairly or selfishly taking advantage of, demand. Further, wanting to take advantage of new demand would be a motivation for a price increase, not a counterintuitive effect of it. Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "monetizing" would mean utilizing as a source of profit, and it wouldn't make sense to describe a price increase itself, rather than sellers of vintage cassettes, as using demand as a source of profit; moreover, seeking to profit when there's new demand would be a reason for price increases, not a counterintuitive effect of them. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "appraising" would mean assessing the value or significance of something. The text focuses on a rise in prices of vintage cassettes, and while it would be reasonable to suggest that sellers might have appraised demand for those cassettes, it wouldn't make sense to suggest that a price increase itself could do such an assessment; moreover, an appraisal of demand would most likely precede a price increase rather than be an effect of it.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b33eff0f

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: b33eff0f

Archaeologists have identified a plethora of beads fashioned from *Tritia gibbosula* shells in many Middle Stone Age (MSA) sites across western North Africa, including El Mnasra Cave, Morocco. In a 2021 paper, El Mehdi Sehasseh et al. attribute these artifacts’ apparent _____ to the evolution and propagation of symbolic behavior (e.g., use of personal ornaments) in humans and the widespread availability of *T. gibbosula* during the MSA.

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

- A. heterogeneity
- B. ubiquity
- C. expediency
- D. fecundity

ID: b33eff0f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of beads found in Middle Stone Age sites. In this context, “ubiquity” means widespread presence or commonness. The text states that archaeologists have encountered “a plethora,” or an abundance, of beads made from *Tritia gibbosula* shells “in many Middle Stone Age (MSA) sites across western North Africa.” In this context, the abundance of beads therefore suggests their ubiquity.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, “heterogeneity” would mean variety or diversity among the beads. The text doesn’t suggest that the beads varied significantly from one another; rather, it focuses on their widespread presence across multiple sites. Moreover, the text mentions that all the beads were “fashioned from *Tritia gibbosula* shells,” suggesting consistency rather than heterogeneity. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t emphasize the beads’ “expediency,” or convenience or practicality. The text doesn’t support the idea of convenience (there’s no indication, for example, that the beads were easy to use or make) but rather focuses on the beads’ abundant presence at MSA sites. Choice D is incorrect. While “fecundity” can suggest abundant production, it specifically refers to fertility, and the text doesn’t connect the beads to this theme. Instead, the text attributes their widespread presence to the development of symbolic behavior in humans and the natural availability of *Tritia gibbosula* during the MSA.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ce5ebcf6

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: ce5ebcf6

The following text is adapted from Upton Sinclair’s 1906 novel *The Jungle*. Marija is helping to manage her sister’s wedding.

It was [Marija’s] task to see that all things went in due form, and after the best home traditions; and, flying wildly hither and thither, bowling every one out of the way, and scolding and exhorting all day with her tremendous voice, Marija was too eager to see that others conformed to the proprieties to consider them herself.

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

- A. Take into account and follow
- B. Admire steadily and praise
- C. Come to a decision about
- D. Have an opinion on

ID: ce5ebcf6 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "consider" most nearly means to take into account and follow. The text explains that Marija’s job was to make sure that her sister’s wedding proceeded in certain ways ("in due form") and that she loudly directed everyone’s actions all day. The text then indicates that Marija was so focused on ensuring that others "conformed to the proprieties"—that is, that they behaved in appropriate ways—that she failed to "consider them herself"; that is, she didn’t take standards of appropriate behavior into account and follow them in her own actions.

Choice B is incorrect. In some contexts, "consider" can mean to think about something in a positive way—which can involve admiration—but the text doesn’t suggest that Marija was so busy imposing "proprieties" (standards of appropriate behavior) on others that she didn’t admire and praise them herself. The context suggests it’s more likely that Marija did speak positively of "due form" and "the best home traditions" while ensuring others behaved in certain ways. Choice C is incorrect. In some contexts, "consider" can mean to come to a decision, but the text doesn’t suggest that Marija wasn’t able to make a decision for herself about the "proprieties" (standards of appropriate behavior) she ensured everyone else conformed to. Rather, the context conveys that Marija knew very clearly which behaviors others should follow as "due form" and "the best home traditions." Choice D is incorrect. In some contexts, "consider" can mean to have an opinion, but the text doesn’t suggest that Marija wasn’t able to have an opinion on the "proprieties" (standards of appropriate behavior) she was ensuring others conformed to. Rather, the context conveys that Marija had strong feelings about which behaviors were "due form" and "the best home traditions."

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e813cfd7

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: e813cfd7

The percentage of US forest land that a 2023 federal report identified as being either mature or old growth exceeds other recent estimates. Given how little _____ there is among scientists regarding the scope of these categories, this discrepancy shouldn't be surprising: forest researchers regularly dispute one another's classifications.

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

- A. deliberation
- B. vigilance
- C. interest
- D. consensus

ID: e813cfd7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of US forest land classifications. In this context, "consensus" means agreement. The text indicates that a percentage given in a US forest land report differs from other estimates and that this discrepancy isn't surprising, given that forest researchers regularly dispute one another's classifications of parts of US forest land as either mature or old growth. This context conveys that there is little agreement when it comes to these categories.

Choice A is incorrect because the text states that there is often dispute among forest researchers about classifications of US forest land as either mature or old growth, which directly indicates that when it comes to these categories, there is much "deliberation," or discussion and consideration, not little deliberation. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that there is often dispute among forest researchers about classifications of US forest land as either mature or old growth; this doesn't imply that there is little "vigilance," or careful attention, among researchers when it comes to these categories but rather conveys that researchers do pay attention to forest land classifications and question one another's decisions. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that there is often dispute among forest researchers about classifications of US forest land as either mature or old growth; this doesn't imply that there is little "interest," or concern, among researchers when it comes to these categories but rather conveys that researchers are concerned with forest land classifications and pay attention to one another's classifications.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3f40d4cb

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: 3f40d4cb

To develop a method for measuring snow depth with laser beams, NASA physicist Yongxiang Hu relied on ____; identifying broad similarities between two seemingly different phenomena, Hu used information about how ants move inside colonies to calculate how the particles of light that make up laser beams travel through snow.

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

- A. a collaboration
- B. an accessory
- C. a contradiction
- D. an analogy

ID: 3f40d4cb Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text after the semicolon tells us that Hu "identif[ied] broad similarities between two seemingly different phenomena," comparing ants with light particles. Since an analogy seeks similarities between seemingly unrelated phenomena, this fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. "A collaboration" refers to "an act of working with others," but what comes after the semicolon doesn't describe collaboration with other researchers. Instead, it shows a comparison between two different (but ultimately similar) scientific phenomena. Choice B is incorrect. "An accessory" can refer to "something added to increase attractiveness or usefulness." No accessories are described in this text. Choice C is incorrect. "A contradiction" means "a set of ideas or things that are opposed to or inconsistent with each other." The text describes how Hu used the similarity between ant and light particle movement to develop his method, so a word that refers to difference would not make sense here.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b06a1758

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: b06a1758

Birds sing to communicate over potentially great distances. For this reason, many researchers believe that birds in densely vegetated habitats generally sing at lower frequencies than birds living in comparatively sparse habitats, since dense vegetation tends to _____ the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel.

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

- A. exceed
- B. diminish
- C. encompass
- D. conceal

ID: b06a1758 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of birdsong. In this context, "diminish" means reduce or lessen. The text establishes that birds sing to communicate over potentially large distances and that researchers believe that birds that live in densely vegetated habitats sing at lower frequencies than birds that live in comparatively sparsely vegetated habitats. The text then explains that researchers hold this belief due to some effect of dense vegetation on the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel. If birds sing to communicate over long distances, it would be logical to conclude that researchers believe that birds in densely vegetated habitats sing at lower frequencies than birds in relatively sparse habitats do because dense vegetation diminishes the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that dense vegetation can "exceed," or surpass or go beyond, the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel. The text suggests that dense vegetation reduces the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel, not that dense vegetation goes farther than that distance. Choice C is incorrect because it would not be sensible to say that dense vegetation can "encompass," or enclose or encircle, the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel. The distance that sounds can travel is not an object that can be enclosed or encircled by vegetation. Choice D is incorrect because there is no information in the text indicating that dense vegetation can "conceal," or hide or keep from being observed, the distance that high-frequency sounds travel. Instead, the text suggests that dense vegetation reduces the distance that high-frequency sounds can travel.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 848b7a05

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: 848b7a05

The fossil remains of the individual known as Oase 1, discovered in Romania in 2002, can help paleoanthropologists not only _____ steps in the evolution of hominids but also illuminate the Pleistocene epoch generally, revealing important details about the time in which Oase 1 lived.

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

- A. exploit
- B. discern
- C. prioritize
- D. yield

ID: 848b7a05 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the utility of the Oase 1 fossil to paleoanthropologists. As used in this context, "discern" means to detect or recognize something, especially something hidden or obscure. The text indicates that the Oase 1 fossil can help paleoanthropologists recognize patterns in the evolutionary process and shed light on ("illuminate") the period in which Oase 1 lived. Thus, the fossil will enable researchers to gain insights into, or discern, facts that are still not well understood.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "exploit" would suggest that the paleoanthropologists are using "steps in the evolution of hominids," which does not make logical sense. Rather, the text is about how the Oase 1 fossil could help paleoanthropologists learn about hominid evolution and the Pleistocene epoch more generally. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "prioritize" would suggest that either the paleoanthropologists are placing more importance on "steps in the evolution of hominids" than they are on something else not identified in the text or that they are placing these steps in some sort of order. Rather, the text is about how the Oase 1 fossil could help paleoanthropologists learn about hominid evolution and the Pleistocene epoch more generally. Choice D is incorrect because to say that paleoanthropologists could "yield" or generate "steps in the evolution of hominids" doesn’t make sense. The researchers may develop new insights into those evolutionary steps, but they do not create those steps themselves. Rather, the context makes it clear that they are detecting or discovering patterns based on their study of the Oase 1 fossil.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e8bfd2c5

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: e8bfd2c5

Stephen Hannock’s luminous landscape paintings are appealing to viewers but have elicited little commentary from contemporary critics, a phenomenon that may be due to the very fact that the paintings seem so _____. Many critics focus their attention on art that is cryptic or overtly challenging.

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

- A. innovative
- B. subversive
- C. profound
- D. accessible

ID: e8bfd2c5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. When talking about a thing, “accessible” means “easy to understand.” This sets up the contrast in the next sentence, which tells us that critics mostly focus on art that is “cryptic or challenging” (meaning not easy to understand).

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. The next sentence tells us that critics focus on art that is mysterious and challenging. If Hannock’s paintings are “innovative” (meaning advanced and original), then critics probably would comment on them. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. The next sentence tells us that critics focus on art that is mysterious and challenging. If Hannock’s paintings are “subversive” (meaning disruptive and revolutionary), then critics probably would comment on them. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. The next sentence tells us that critics focus on art that is mysterious and challenging. If Hannock’s paintings are “profound” (meaning very deep and insightful), then critics probably would comment on them.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID fe53b5ac

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: fe53b5ac

Businesses typically try to promote themselves, but research by Michael Luca, Abhishek Nagaraj, and Gauri Subramani suggests that some do not _____ their marketing. The researchers studied restaurants in Texas and found that those listed on a popular review website (which can be done at no cost) had revenue increases of 5 percent on average, but 33 percent of restaurants studied never listed on the site.

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

- A. adorn
- B. optimize
- C. endorse
- D. counteract

ID: fe53b5ac Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of business marketing practices. In this context, "optimize" means make the most effective possible use of available opportunities. The text indicates that though businesses typically try to promote themselves, they don’t always make use of effective tools for doing so, pointing to research showing that 33 percent of restaurants failed to use a free listing service that increased revenue by 5 percent on average for restaurants that did use the service. The text therefore suggests that by foregoing a free and effective marketing tool, some businesses aren’t making the best use of, or optimizing, marketing opportunities.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "adorn" would mean decorate or enhance the appearance of, and there’s nothing in the text to suggest that by failing to use a free and effective promotional tool, some businesses aren’t enhancing the appearance of their own marketing. The example in the text illustrates that some businesses aren’t utilizing an effective marketing opportunity, not that they aren’t improving the appearance of their marketing. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "endorse" would mean openly approve or recommend, and the text’s discussion of the fact that some businesses have overlooked an effective marketing tool doesn’t support the idea that those businesses therefore don’t approve of their own marketing. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, saying that businesses don’t "counteract" their marketing would suggest that they don’t actively undermine it or make it ineffective. The text begins by stating that businesses typically try to promote themselves but then continues to imply that some businesses fail to take advantage of good opportunities to do so, citing the example of businesses that failed to use a free and effective marketing tool. Though it’s possible that those businesses that did use the site therefore didn’t unintentionally counteract their own marketing, the first sentence conveys that the text’s focus is on things that some businesses do and that some businesses don’t do when trying to promote themselves, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that any businesses would actively try to undermine their own marketing in pursuit of that goal.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 565161be

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: 565161be

Barring major archaeological discoveries, we are unlikely to ever have _____ account of ancient Egypt under the female pharaoh Hatshepsut, as much of the evidence of her reign was deliberately destroyed by her successors.

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

- A. an imaginative
- B. a superficial
- C. an exhaustive
- D. a questionable

ID: 565161be Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of historical evidence about ancient Egypt under the reign of the pharaoh Hatshepsut. In this context, "an exhaustive" account would be a thorough one. The text states that much of the evidence from her reign was purposely destroyed—in other words, there is a lack of surviving records. This context conveys that unless there are major new archaeological discoveries, an exhaustive account of Hatshepsut’s reign is unlikely.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "an imaginative" account would be an account based on imagination, or ideas and speculation, rather than facts. The text indicates that much of the evidence of Hatshepsut’s reign was deliberately destroyed, and a lack of evidence actually makes it more likely that accounts will be imaginative to some degree and not strictly factual. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "a superficial" account would be one that is lacking in depth or concerned only with what is obvious. The text indicates that most evidence of Hatshepsut’s reign was purposely destroyed, which suggests that accounts of that time are likely already somewhat superficial, since there is little information available to support deeper knowledge. Further, it would be illogical to suggest that discovering major new evidence would make it more likely that accounts would be superficial. Choice D is incorrect because "a questionable" account would be one likely to be challenged or doubted, and since the text suggests that little evidence of Hatshepsut’s reign has survived, accounts of that time probably involve some speculation and thus may already be open to doubt. Further, it would be illogical to suggest that discovering major new evidence would make it more likely that accounts would be questionable.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 32dc2794

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: 32dc2794

The subscription model in which consumers who do not deliberately cancel their subscriptions automatically pay recurring fees for access to products and services benefits retailers when consumer _____ is high. Many of the 8.5 percent of subscribers who canceled their food and beverage subscriptions in January 2022 had stopped valuing their subscriptions long before then, but sellers profited from those customers’ passivity in the interim.

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

- A. inertia
- B. decisiveness
- C. evasion
- D. turnover

ID: 32dc2794 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of when the subscription model benefits retailers. In this context, “inertia” means a tendency to remain inactive or unchanged. The text describes a subscription model in which consumers continue to pay recurring fees unless they actively cancel and indicates that retailers profit when consumers fail to cancel even after they have stopped valuing the subscription. The text reinforces this by stating that sellers profited from canceling customers’ “passivity in the interim”—that is, the period during which those customers had ceased valuing their subscriptions but had not yet acted to cancel. This context supports the idea that the model benefits retailers when consumer inertia is high—that is, when consumers tend to remain inactive rather than take action to cancel.

Choice B is incorrect because saying that the subscription model benefits retailers when consumer “decisiveness,” or quick and firm action, is high would contradict the text. The text indicates that retailers profit from consumer “passivity”—the failure to act—and decisive consumers would presumably cancel subscriptions promptly once they stopped valuing them, eliminating the retailers’ benefit. Choice C is incorrect because saying that the subscription model benefits retailers when consumer “evasion,” or active avoidance, is high wouldn’t make sense in this context. Evasion implies deliberate action to avoid something, but the text describes consumers as passive—they fail to cancel not because they actively avoid doing so but because they don’t take action at all. Choice D is incorrect because saying that the subscription model benefits retailers when consumer “turnover,” or the rate at which customers are replaced by new ones, is high would contradict the text. The text indicates that retailers profit when consumers continue paying without canceling, which means retailers benefit from retaining consumers, not from a high rate of consumer replacement.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID a1911403

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: a1911403

The results of randomized clinical trials testing the efficacy of common medical interventions sometimes fail to _____ conclusions that practitioners reach based on their real-world observations of patients. While there are several possible reasons for this, one is that practitioners may overlook confounding variables that account for the results they attribute to the interventions in question.

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

- A. circumvent
- B. corroborate
- C. disseminate
- D. implement

ID: a1911403 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of a relationship between the results of randomized clinical tests of how effective common medical interventions are and the conclusions practitioners reach about such interventions in real-world settings. In this context, "corroborate" means confirm or support with evidence. The text indicates that one possible explanation for the relationship being discussed is that practitioners may overlook confounding variables—that is, additional factors other than the medical interventions being investigated that affect the observed outcomes. This means that practitioners may assume that an outcome is the direct result of a medical intervention when it is actually the result of a combination of factors. Clinical trials take steps to rule out factors other than the one being studied, so if those extra factors are actually having an effect on real-world outcomes, the trials are likely to produce conclusions different from those practitioners reach in their real-world observations. In other words, clinical trials may fail to corroborate practitioners’ conclusions.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "circumvent," or find a way around or bypass, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; it’s possible that researchers conducting the trials might avoid engaging with practitioners’ conclusions, but findings from a study can’t choose to get around something. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "disseminate," or spread widely, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; the researchers conducting the trials might choose to draw attention to practitioners’ conclusions, but findings from a study can’t spread anything. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that the results of clinical trials could "implement," or put into effect, conclusions practitioners reach in real-world scenarios with patients; the researchers conducting the trials might consider practitioners’ conclusions, but findings from a study can’t put anything into effect.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 62e0d018

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: 62e0d018

The familial structure of the black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) shows tremendous ____: breeding pairs with demonstrated success in rearing cygnets (young swans) have been observed to foster those of less successful pairs, and while rearing by female-male pairs is most common, male-male pairs sometimes rear cygnets too, achieving a significantly higher rate of survival to adulthood than female-male pairs.

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

- A. cohesion
- B. elasticity
- C. affection
- D. reciprocity

ID: 62e0d018 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of black swan familial structures. In this context, “elasticity” means flexibility or adaptability. The text provides examples of flexible family arrangements among black swans: successful male-female breeding pairs are known to foster other pairs’ cygnets, and while they are less common, male-male pairs also successfully rear cygnets. This context therefore emphasizes the flexibility or elasticity of black swan familial structures, showing how this trait contributes to the success of the species.

Choice A is incorrect. Although close family units may show “cohesion,” which refers to unity or harmony within a group, the text’s focus is on the variety and adaptability of black swan family structures. The examples given—fostering other pairs’ cygnets and forming male-male as well as female-male pairs—highlight flexibility rather than cohesion, emphasizing family structures that vary from the model in which a breeding pair raises its own young. Choice C is incorrect. While “affection,” or fondness, might be present in black swan relationships, the text doesn’t focus on emotional bonds but rather on the structural flexibility of black swan familial arrangements. The examples provided demonstrate adaptable breeding and rearing practices rather than affectionate behaviors. Choice D is incorrect because “reciprocity” would suggest mutual exchange or cooperation between parties. Although the text mentions the fostering of cygnets by different successful breeding pairs, it doesn’t establish that this is based on reciprocal exchanges. The focus is instead on the flexibility of family structures and the effectiveness of these varied structures in rearing young.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 765d74c4

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: 765d74c4

Drivers who strongly believe that the toll they must pay to use the Lewis and Clark Bridge, which spans the Ohio River to connect Indiana and Kentucky, is currently too high are unlikely to be _____ a proposal to increase the toll. Advocates for a higher toll are likely to have more success if they instead direct their arguments toward a more persuadable segment of the population.

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

- A. receptive to
- B. apprised of
- C. incensed by
- D. cited in

ID: 765d74c4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of driver attitudes toward a toll increase. In this context, "receptive to" would mean open to or willing to consider something. The text focuses on drivers who think the current toll for the Lewis and Clark Bridge is too high, suggesting that advocates for increasing that toll would have better success presenting their arguments to "a more persuadable segment of the population" rather than to those drivers. This context suggests that the drivers who strongly believe the toll is already too high are not persuadable—that is, that they are unlikely to be willing to consider the toll-increase proposal.

Choice B is incorrect because "apprised of" means informed about or made aware of something, and nothing in the text suggests that the drivers who think a toll is already too high wouldn’t be informed of a proposal for an even higher toll; in fact, the text implies that advocates of the proposal would "direct their arguments" in favor of the increase to those drivers, even though they would likely be more successful focusing on people who are more open to hearing their arguments. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "incensed by" would mean angered or outraged by something. The text focuses on drivers who feel that a current toll is too high, and it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that those drivers would be *unlikely* to be angered by a proposal for the toll to be increased; indeed, drivers who think the toll is already too high likely would be angered by a move to raise it even higher. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "cited in" would mean referred to or mentioned in something. Although it’s reasonable to suggest that a proposal to raise a toll might not make any mention of drivers who think the toll is already too high, the text focuses on how those drivers and other people are likely to react to arguments in favor of the proposal, not on whether those drivers would be cited in the proposal itself.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5a13e00c

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: 5a13e00c

Scholarly discussions of gender in Shakespeare’s comedies often celebrate the rebellion of the playwright’s characters against the rigid expectations _____ by Elizabethan society. Most of the comedies end in marriage, with characters returning to their socially dictated gender roles after previously defying them, but there are some notable exceptions.

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

- A. interjected
- B. committed
- C. illustrated
- D. prescribed

ID: 5a13e00c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of gender roles in Shakespeare’s comedies. As used in this context, “prescribed” would mean laid down as rules. The text indicates that the characters in the comedies often defy gender roles that are “socially dictated” (even if most characters do return to those roles eventually) and that scholars have been very interested in these acts of defiance. This context indicates that what the characters are rebelling against are standards of behavior prescribed by the society of the time.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that expectations about gender were “interjected,” or suddenly inserted between other things, wouldn’t make sense in context. There’s no suggestion in the text that the issue of gender roles was inserted between other things or was an interruption in a larger discussion. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that Shakespeare depicts characters rebelling against expectations about gender that have been “socially dictated,” not expectations that society has “committed,” or carried out, entrusted, or promised. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that Shakespeare depicts characters rebelling against expectations about gender that have been “socially dictated,” not expectations that have been “illustrated,” or clarified with examples. Although it’s possible for expectations about gender roles to be illustrated, there’s nothing in the text to indicate that characters in Shakespeare’s comedies rebel against illustrations of gender expectations.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 19ffc195

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: 19ffc195

New and interesting research conducted by Suleiman A. Al-Sweedan and Moath Alhaj is inspired by their observation that though there have been many studies of the effect of high altitude on blood chemistry, there is a _____ studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level, such as the California towns of Salton City and Seeley.

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

- A. quarrel about
- B. paucity of
- C. profusion of
- D. verisimilitude in

ID: 19ffc195 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically and precisely completes the text’s discussion of studies of altitude’s effect on blood chemistry. In this context, “paucity of” means lack of. In describing the inspiration behind Al-Sweedan and Alhaj’s research, the text uses the word “though” to suggest a contrasting relationship between two types of studies: those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living at a high altitude and those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. This contrasting relationship and the text’s use of the word “many” provide context suggesting that there are few, if any, examples of the second type of study, whereas there are numerous examples of the first type.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context for there to be a “quarrel about,” or open disagreement about, studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. The text’s use of the words “though” and “many” suggests a contrasting relationship in terms of amount between two types of studies: those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living at a high altitude and those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. There’s nothing in the text to suggest that the contrast between the two types of studies involves the extent to which researchers broadly agree or disagree about the contents of either type. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context for there to be a “profusion of,” or great abundance of, studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. The text’s use of the words “though” and “many” suggests a contrasting relationship in terms of amount between two types of studies: those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living at a high altitude and those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. Rather than logically completing this contrast, “profusion of” would indicate that the two types of studies are similar in terms of amount, with many examples existing of both types. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context for there to be a “verisimilitude in,” or appearance of truth in, studies of the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. The text’s use of the words “though” and “many” suggests a contrasting relationship in terms of amount between two types of studies: those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living at a high altitude and those examining the effect on blood chemistry of living in locations below sea level. There’s nothing in the text to

suggest that the contrast between the two types of studies involves the extent to which either type of study presents an appearance of truth.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f213cbda

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: f213cbda

As discussed by scholar Anna Mladentseva, many artworks produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s exclusively for exhibition on the internet, such as Sinae Kim’s *Genesis* (2001), have become inaccessible because viewing them requires the use of _____ software (most notably Adobe Flash, discontinued in 2021).

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

- A. defunct
- B. arcane
- C. ubiquitous
- D. extraneous

ID: f213cbda Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of artworks that were produced for exhibition on the internet. In this context, "defunct" means no longer existing or functioning. According to the text, many artworks that were produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s for exhibition on the internet have become inaccessible due to their reliance on certain software. As an example, the text cites Sinae Kim’s *Genesis*, which relied on software that was discontinued in 2021. This context supports the idea that the software is defunct.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that viewing artworks produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s for exhibition on the internet requires the use of software. Artists generally want their works to be seen by many people, so it wouldn’t make sense for creators of internet art to require the use of software that is "arcane," or known or knowable to only a few people. Moreover, the text states that a prominent example of software used to view these artworks is Adobe Flash, which was discontinued in 2021, meaning it’s now defunct. Choice C is incorrect because "ubiquitous" would mean found everywhere, which wouldn’t make sense in this context. The text indicates that the reason why many artworks that were produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s for exhibition on the internet have become inaccessible has to do with the software required for viewing them. According to the text, one example of such software is Adobe Flash, which was discontinued in 2021, meaning it’s now defunct. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the software used to view artworks produced in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s for exhibition on the internet is "extraneous," or irrelevant. Instead, the text indicates that use of specific software is required to view certain artworks from this period and that the discontinuation of the software renders the works inaccessible.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f74ff48b

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: f74ff48b

The author’s claim about the relationship between Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* is _____, as it fails to account for several recent archaeological discoveries. To be convincing, his argument would need to address recent finds of additional hominid fossils, such as the latest Denisovan specimens and *Homo longi*.

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

- A. disorienting
- B. tenuous
- C. nuanced
- D. unoriginal

ID: f74ff48b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the author’s claim about the relationship between Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens*. As used in this context, “tenuous” means lacking substance. The end of the first sentence states that the author’s claim didn’t consider certain key pieces of evidence—“recent archaeological discoveries”—and is therefore weak.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to refer to the author’s claim as “disorienting,” or confusing. The text suggests that the author’s claim is insubstantial, not that it’s difficult to grasp. Choice C is incorrect because referring to the claim as “nuanced,” or subtle, wouldn’t make sense in context. According to the text, the claim is incomplete because it didn’t consider certain key information about recent archaeological finds; it doesn’t suggest that what’s in the claim lacks precision. Choice D is incorrect because saying that the claim is “unoriginal,” or imitative, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text faults the claim because it doesn’t consider certain key information about recent archaeological finds; it doesn’t suggest that the author’s claim lacks originality.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 08d53726

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: 08d53726

In a 2022 study, Nicolás M. Morato and colleagues attempted to resolve a long-standing paradox: although water is critical to most reactions that enable life, during the earliest stages of Earth’s history—when most of the planet’s surface was covered by oceans—the presence of water likely _____ the formation of proteins and other biomolecules that are found in all living organisms.

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

- A. reflected
- B. hampered
- C. imitated
- D. exploited

ID: 08d53726 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of a scientific paradox regarding water and life during Earth’s early history. In this context, “hampered” means hindered or impeded. The text discusses a paradox, or a situation that seems to contradict itself, and indicates that one half of the paradox is that the presence of water is necessary to support most biochemical reactions that enable life. The contradictory idea, then, would be a case of the presence of water not supporting such reactions; this context suggests that the other half of the paradox is that when oceans covered most of the planet, the water likely hindered or impeded a biochemical process (the formation of biomolecules) that is important for all living organisms.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, “reflected” would mean showed or gave an indication. The text focuses on a paradox, or a seemingly self-contradictory situation, having to do with the role of water in supporting life; since the first part of the paradox has to do with water usually being essential for enabling life, the second part of the paradox should have to do with water having a negative effect on life, and water being an indication of a biomolecular process important for life wouldn’t be a negative thing. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, “imitated” would mean mimicked or copied, and it isn’t clear what it would mean to say that water being present on early Earth’s surface somehow copied the creation of biomolecules in living organisms. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, “exploited” would mean used or took advantage of, and it isn’t clear what it would mean to say that the presence of water—the fact of water being present—on early Earth’s surface somehow took advantage of a biomolecular process occurring in living organisms.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID fd5172e7

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: fd5172e7

Mineralogical differences are detectable in samples collected from two locations on the near-Earth asteroid Ryugu, but such differences may not indicate substantial compositional variations in the asteroid. Cosmochemist Kazuhide Nagashima and colleagues note that at the small scale of the samples, the distribution of minerals is unlikely to be _____.

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

- A. neglected
- B. redundant
- C. ongoing
- D. uniform

ID: fd5172e7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text tells us that the samples are too "small scale" to reflect the composition of the asteroid, which probably doesn't show the same variation on a large scale. This suggests that the mineral composition of the samples are unlikely to be exactly the same from sample to sample.

Choice A is incorrect. "Neglected" means "suffering a lack of proper care" or "abandoned," which doesn't work here. The text never suggests that the distribution of minerals in the samples would be neglected, so this statement doesn't logically follow. Choice B is incorrect. "Redundant" means "not or no longer useful or needed," which is too strong. The text doesn't suggest that the variation between the samples isn't a useful finding at all—just that we can't assume that the large-scale composition of the asteroid will show the same variation. But the composition of the samples might be useful for something else. Choice C is incorrect. "Ongoing" means "still in progress," which doesn't make sense: the distribution of minerals in a sample can't be "ongoing."

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3799ba66

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: 3799ba66

As an undergraduate researcher in anthropology, Jennifer C. Chen contributed to a groundbreaking study challenging the accepted view that among prehistoric peoples, female participation in hunting was _____. The research team’s review of data from late Pleistocene and early Holocene burials in the Americas revealed that, in fact, as many as half of the hunters in those populations were female.

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

- A. inevitable
- B. satisfactory
- C. negligible
- D. commonplace

ID: 3799ba66 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the study of female participation in hunting among prehistoric peoples. In this context, “negligible” means not significant enough to be worth considering. The text says that the study challenged the accepted view of female participation in hunting among prehistoric peoples. The text goes on to say that the researchers found that “in fact, as many as half” the hunters in the groups studied were female. The phrase “in fact” establishes a contrast indicating that the finding that as many as half the hunters were female differs from the accepted view. This context suggests, then, that the accepted view is that female participation in hunting was negligible.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that the study challenged the accepted view by showing that as many as half of hunters among prehistoric peoples were female, which suggests that the accepted view is that female participation was low, not that female participation was “inevitable,” or unavoidable. Nothing in the text suggests that the accepted view is that prehistoric peoples could not avoid female participation in hunting. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the accepted view of female participation in hunting among prehistoric peoples is that such participation was “satisfactory,” or sufficient to meet a requirement or demand. There is no information in the text about any demands or requirements regarding female participation in hunting, let alone any information about how much female participation in hunting would be enough to satisfy those demands or requirements. Instead, the text indicates that the study challenged the accepted view by showing that as many as half the hunters in the groups studied were female, suggesting that the accepted view is that female participation in hunting was low. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that the study challenged the accepted view by showing that as many as half of hunters among the prehistoric peoples studied were female, which suggests that the accepted view is that female participation was low, not that female participation was “commonplace,” or ordinary or unremarkable. Although the study under discussion suggests that female participation may have been commonplace, that study is presented as challenging the accepted view, not as reinforcing the accepted view.

Question ID 3bfd2264

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: 3bfd2264

According to a US tax policy expert, state taxes are _____ other factors when considering an interstate move. Even significant differences in state taxation have almost no effect on most people’s decisions, while differences in employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate are strong influences.

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

- A. consistent with
- B. representative of
- C. overshadowed by
- D. irrelevant to

ID: 3bfd2264 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the factors that influence peoples’ decisions to move to a different state. As used in this context, “overshadowed by” means to be surpassed by or caused to seem less important than other factors affecting a move. The text indicates that, according to a US tax policy expert, when people think about an interstate move, state taxes have little effect on their decisions, while employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate have a very strong effect. This context suggests that people consider these other factors to be more important than state taxes.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that state taxes aren’t as important a consideration as other factors when people are thinking of moving to another state. The context doesn’t suggest that state taxes are “consistent with,” or in agreement with these other factors. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that state taxes are “representative of,” or typical of, other factors. Taxes aren’t an example of employment opportunities, housing availability, and climate, which are the other factors listed in the text. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to say that state taxes are “irrelevant to,” or unconnected or unimportant to other factors. State taxes are irrelevant to peoples’ decisions, not to other factors. In other words, although the text suggests that state taxes may be irrelevant to people considering a move to another state, the other factors mentioned in the text, such as employment opportunities, are unable to have an opinion about state taxes. Furthermore, the text indicates that significant differences in state taxes have almost no effect on peoples’ choices to move, but they aren’t completely unimportant.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID af7873e0

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: af7873e0

Some scientists have suggested that mammals in the Mesozoic era were not a very _____ group, but paleontologist Zhe-Xi Luo’s research suggests that early mammals living in the shadow of dinosaurs weren’t all ground-dwelling insectivores. Fossils of various plant-eating mammals have been found in China, including species like *Vilevolodon diplomylos*, which Luo says could glide like a flying squirrel.

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

- A. predatory
- B. obscure
- C. diverse
- D. localized

ID: af7873e0 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the kinds of mammals alive during the Mesozoic era. As used in this context, “diverse” means to have a significant amount of variety. The text indicates that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals can’t be characterized in a certain way, then contrasts the view put forward by those scientists with Luo’s research, which shows that Mesozoic mammals “weren’t all ground-dwelling insectivores” and instead were “various.” This context suggests that some scientists have viewed Mesozoic mammals as being all alike, or not a very diverse group.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals weren’t very “predatory,” or that they didn’t prey on other animals, since the text establishes a contrast between what some scientists have suggested and Luo’s research showing that Mesozoic mammals “weren’t all ground-dwelling insectivores.” This context suggests that some scientists have regarded Mesozoic mammals as all being insectivores, or animals that prey on insects, not that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals didn’t prey on other animals. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals weren’t very “obscure,” or concealed or not well known, since the text establishes a contrast between what some scientists have suggested and Luo’s research showing that Mesozoic mammals were a varied group. There’s no contrast between saying that the mammals weren’t concealed or well known and the mammals being varied. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that some scientists have suggested that Mesozoic mammals weren’t very “localized,” or confined to a particular area, since the text establishes a contrast between what some scientists have suggested and Luo’s research showing that Mesozoic mammals were a varied group. There’s no contrast between saying that the mammals weren’t localized and the mammals being varied. Although the text mentions mammal fossils found in China, nothing in the discussion of Luo’s research addresses the limits of Mesozoic mammal habitats.

Question ID a828070d

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: a828070d

Yanzhe Fu et al. suggest that the extinct aquatic insect *Karataviella popovi* utilized a brood care strategy that mitigated the risk of oxygen deficiency. This determination rests on the researchers’ analysis of fossils uncovered at a particularly _____ site: China’s Haifanggou Formation, which has yielded a vast diversity of fossils, including those of long-proboscid scorpionflies.

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

- A. fruitful
- B. unassailable
- C. obscure
- D. quantified

ID: a828070d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the fossil site from which the evidence about brood care in *K. popovi* was recovered. In this context, “fruitful” means abundantly productive. The text indicates that the researchers drew their evidence from fossils found in China’s Haifanggou Formation, a location that has yielded a vast diversity of fossils. The information about the site yielding a vast diversity of fossils supports the characterization of the Haifanggou Formation as particularly productive, or fruitful.

Choice B is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to support characterizing the Haifanggou Formation as a site that is particularly “unassailable,” or not open to attack, question, or criticism. The text emphasizes that the site has yielded a vast diversity of fossils, suggesting that it is a particularly productive location for fossil hunters, not that it cannot be challenged. Choice C is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to support characterizing the Haifanggou Formation as a site that is particularly “obscure,” or poorly understood or relatively unknown. In fact, the text notes that the Haifanggou Formation has yielded a vast diversity of fossils, suggesting that the site is not an obscure one. Choice D is incorrect because “quantified” means expressed or measured as a quantity, which does not describe the productiveness the context calls for. Although the text indicates that the Haifanggou Formation has yielded a vast diversity of fossils, that fact suggests that the site can be characterized as particularly productive, not as particularly quantified.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8f784550

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: 8f784550

The following text is from a 1955 translation of Samuel Beckett’s 1951 novel *Molloy* (translated by the author and Patrick Bowles). In the text, Molloy has arrived at the town ramparts, an elevated walkway atop the city walls.

And having cleared the ramparts I had to confess the sky was clearing, prior to its winding in the other shroud, night. Yes, the great cloud was ravelling, discovering here and there a pale and dying sky, and the sun, already down, was manifest in the livid tongues of fire darting towards the zenith, falling and darting again, ever more pale and languid, and doomed no sooner lit to be extinguished.

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

- A. Realized
- B. Perceptible
- C. Situated
- D. Dwindling

ID: 8f784550 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, “manifest” most nearly means perceptible or detectable. The text indicates that the sun was “already down,” meaning it was below the horizon and not directly visible. However, the sun’s presence was nonetheless perceptible or manifest in the “tongues of fire” (or beams of light) that still flickered in the darkening sky.

Choice A is incorrect. Although in some contexts “manifest” can mean “realized” or “brought into being,” that is not the context here. Rather, the text is about how the sun’s presence was perceptible or manifest in the “darting” beams of light that could still be seen in the sky. Choice C is incorrect. This choice would suggest that the sun is situated, or located, in the light it emits, which is not supported by the surrounding context. Rather, the text is about how the sun’s presence was perceptible or manifest in the remaining light that could still be seen in the sky. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text is about the decreasing light in the scene at sunset, the text’s use of “manifest” is about how the sun’s presence was nonetheless perceptible or manifest in the “tongues of fire” still visible in the sky as night approached.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID bb64a176

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: bb64a176

People sometimes dismiss a claim if it comes from a source they regard as self-interested, but from a strictly logical perspective, the source of a claim is _____. it has no direct bearing on whether the claim is true.

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

- A. indistinct
- B. irrelevant
- C. indisputable
- D. implicit

ID: bb64a176 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion about people’s tendency to dismiss claims from sources perceived as self-interested, or acting for their own advantage. In this context, "irrelevant" means not applicable to the matter at hand. The text explains that as a matter of logical reasoning, the source of a claim has nothing to do with the claim’s truthfulness—a claim is either true or false in actuality, regardless of where it originates. This context suggests that even though people may distrust a claim based on its source, the source of the claim is actually irrelevant.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "indistinct" would mean uncertain or not clearly recognizable. Instead of suggesting that the source of a claim can’t be determined with certainty, the text suggests that recognizing a source and having an opinion of it simply doesn’t matter because as a matter of logic, a claim is true or false in actuality, regardless of where it originates. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "indisputable" would mean impossible to question or deny. Although the text suggests that it isn’t logical to assume a claim is false just because its source appears to be self-interested, it doesn’t go so far as to suggest that the source of a claim can’t be questioned—the text instead makes the point that from a logical standpoint, the source of a claim doesn’t matter because the claim is either true or false in and of itself. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "implicit" would mean suggested or understood without being directly expressed. Nothing in the text suggests that logically, the source of a claim is only suggested; instead of addressing whether sources can be directly identified, the text focuses on the idea that sources don’t matter because a claim is true or false in actuality, regardless of where it originates.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 879626ee

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: 879626ee

The work of Tobias Gerstenberg et al. on tracking eye movements supports a theory that people envision _____ scenarios when making causal judgments: when subjects were asked to look at two colliding billiard balls and judge whether one caused or prevented the other’s movement through a gate, their eyes looked at where the target ball would have gone if the ball that altered its path did not exist.

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

- A. ambivalent
- B. retrospective
- C. counterfactual
- D. analogical

ID: 879626ee Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of what people envision when making causal judgments, or judgments of cause and effect. In this context, “counterfactual” means contrary to fact. The text explains that in an experiment in which subjects judged whether one billiard ball caused or prevented another billiard ball’s movement through a gate, researchers found that the subjects looked at where the target ball would have gone if the other ball hadn’t been there at all—that is, the subjects pictured the path the target ball would have taken in a scenario contrary to the one they actually saw. This would be an example of people envisioning counterfactual scenarios when considering causes and effects.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to describe scenarios people envision when making judgments of cause and effect as “ambivalent,” or characterized by conflicting feelings. People might have conflicting feelings in response to a scenario, but a scenario itself can’t have feelings. Choice B is incorrect. In this context, “retrospective” would mean looking back at something that occurred in the past. The text indicates that when asked to make a judgment about the movement of the target billiard ball, subjects envisioned what would have happened if only one ball had been present—that is, the text indicates that they envisioned a scenario that hadn’t actually happened, not that they examined only what had already actually happened. Choice D is incorrect. The text indicates that in an experiment involving the interaction of two billiard balls, eye movements showed that subjects pictured the path one ball would have taken if the other hadn’t been present. Because the subjects were picturing a scenario in the same context (the movement of the target billiard ball), just with a different arrangement of details (only one ball present), this wouldn’t be an example of people envisioning “analogical” scenarios, or hypothetical scenarios that are comparable to the scenario in question despite having different contexts.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 077808ae

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: 077808ae

Some foraging models predict that the distance bees travel when foraging will decline as floral density increases, but biologists Shalene Jha and Claire Kremen showed that bees’ behavior is inconsistent with this prediction if flowers in dense patches are _____. bees will forage beyond patches of low species richness to acquire multiple resource types.

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

- A. depleted
- B. homogeneous
- C. immature
- D. dispersed

ID: 077808ae Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Jha and Kremen’s finding about bees’ foraging behavior. In this context, “homogeneous” means uniform or of the same kind. The text indicates that some models predict that the distance that bees travel when they’re foraging declines as the density of flowers increases. The text goes on to say, however, that Jha and Kremen identified a circumstance in which bees don’t behave this way. Specifically, if bees encounter “patches of low species richness”—that is, patches in which the flowers are largely from the same species—they’ll travel beyond those patches to get varied food resources. This context thus suggests that bees don’t behave as some models predict if the dense patches of flowers the bees encounter are homogeneous.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that Jha and Kremen found that bees will behave differently than some models predict if the bees encounter flower patches that are not rich in species, not if the flowers are “depleted,” or emptied or reduced in quality or quantity. Although it could be true that bees are likely to leave depleted patches in search of more resources, the text doesn’t indicate that Jha and Kremen investigated that possibility. Choice C is incorrect because there’s no information in the text suggesting that bees will not behave as some models predict if flowers in patches are “immature,” or not fully developed. Instead, the text indicates that Jha and Kremen found that bees will behave contrary to some models’ predictions if the flower patches are not rich in species. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that bees’ behavior will be inconsistent with the predictions of some models if the flower patches that the bees encounter are of low species richness, not if the flowers are in patches that are “dispersed,” or widely scattered. Although the text does describe bees as leaving patches that are not rich in species to forage elsewhere, there’s no suggestion that Jha and Kremen found that the distance between dense flower patches affects whether the bees behave as some models predict.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9ab7c4e8

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: 9ab7c4e8

Seminole/Muscogee director Sterlin Harjo _____ television’s tendency to situate Native characters in the distant past: this rejection is evident in his series *Reservation Dogs*, which revolves around teenagers who dress in contemporary styles and whose dialogue is laced with current slang.

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

- A. repudiates
- B. proclaims
- C. foretells
- D. recants

ID: 9ab7c4e8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Sterlin Harjo’s approach to representing Native characters on television. As used in this context, “repudiates” means rejects or refuses to have anything to do with. The text indicates that television shows tend to depict Native characters as living long ago, but that Harjo’s series *Reservation Dogs* focuses on Native teenagers in the present day, representing a “rejection” of the typical approach to depicting Native characters. This context thus indicates that Harjo repudiates television’s general tendency regarding Native characters.

Choice B is incorrect because the text describes Harjo’s “rejection” of the typical approach to representing Native characters on television, so it wouldn’t make sense to say that Harjo “proclaims,” or declares or affirms, television’s general tendency regarding Native characters. Harjo is described as refusing to follow the pattern of depicting Native characters in the distant past, not as proclaiming that pattern. Choice C is incorrect because the text describes television’s tendency to represent Native characters in the distant past as something that is already occurring, not as something that Harjo “foretells,” or predicts will happen in the future. The text is focused on Harjo’s “rejection” of this pattern, not on any predictions he may have about it. Choice D is incorrect because saying that Harjo “recants” something would mean that he withdraws a previously held belief, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that Harjo recants television’s tendency to represent Native characters as living in the past. No beliefs previously held by Harjo are mentioned. Additionally, a tendency isn’t a belief and thus isn’t something that can be recanted.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 97d3bd78

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: 97d3bd78

Diadromous fish migrate between freshwater and marine biomes during their life cycle. The migration’s obligate nature is why diadromous fish can be _____ those that are merely euryhaline (able to tolerate high salinity): the euryhaline blackchin tilapia can survive high salinity, but its life cycle does not involve relocation to a different biome, as does that of the diadromous wild salmon.

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

- A. demarcated from
- B. reconstituted as
- C. conflated with
- D. derived from

ID: 97d3bd78 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of diadromous fish. In this context, "demarcated from" means separate or set apart from. The text indicates that diadromous fish differ from euryhaline fish in that diadromous fish "migrate between freshwater and marine biomes during their life," whereas euryhaline fish do not relocate to a different biome because they can tolerate higher salinity environments. Therefore, this context suggests that because of differences between their migration patterns, diadromous fish are distinct and can be demarcated from euryhaline fish.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that diadromous fish migrate and relocate, the text does not suggest that diadromous fish would be "reconstituted as," or formed again as, anything new. Only their environments change and not the fish themselves. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not suggest that diadromous fish can be "conflated with," or combined with, euryhaline fish. Instead, the text distinguishes the two types of fish by pointing out their differences with regard to migration and tolerance for salinity. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that based on migration habits and tolerance for salinity, diadromous fish are different from euryhaline fish; so it would not make logical sense to say that diadromous fish would be "derived from," or be an extension of or result from, euryhaline fish.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9322bb61

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: 9322bb61

Steiger Butte Drum, a family ensemble from the Klamath Tribes of the Pacific Northwest, collaborated with composer Michael Gordon to create *Natural History*, a work featuring traditional drumming and vocals alongside an orchestra and chorus. Steiger Butte Drum’s participation is _____ to the piece: members not only contributed to its composition but also must be included in all performances.

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

- A. tangential
- B. subsequent
- C. analogous
- D. integral

ID: 9322bb61 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Steiger Butte Drum’s contributions to the musical work *Natural History*. In this context, “integral” means essential or necessary to the whole. The text states that Steiger Butte Drum not only took part in the piece’s creation, collaborating with composer Michael Gordon on it, but also “must be included in all performances.” This context clearly indicates that the ensemble’s participation is essential, or integral, to the piece, both in its creation and its performance.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, “tangential” would mean peripheral or of little relevance to something. The text emphasizes the importance of Steiger Butte Drum’s involvement in both the composition and performance of *Natural History*, indicating their role is central, not tangential. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “subsequent” would mean following after or coming later than something else. The text doesn’t establish a temporal sequence where the participation of Steiger Butte Drum followed after the creation of *Natural History*; rather, it indicates that the ensemble was involved with the piece from the beginning, having worked with Michael Gordon during the creation process. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, “analogous” would mean similar or comparable to something else, and the text doesn’t compare Steiger Butte Drum’s participation in the creation and performances of *Natural History* to anything else; instead, it describes the nature and importance of the ensemble’s involvement.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID eb0cf607

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: eb0cf607

The creation of Lotte Reiniger’s 1926 animated film *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* was _____ process. Over the course of three years, Reiniger and her collaborators painstakingly made more than 250,000 individual images of hand-cut paper silhouettes and repeatedly had to invent entirely new methods and tools to create the special effects Reiniger envisioned.

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

- A. a haphazard
- B. a contentious
- C. an ineffectual
- D. an arduous

ID: eb0cf607 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the creation of *The Adventures of Prince Achmed*. In this context, "arduous" means that the process is marked by great labor or effort. According to the text, the creation of the 1926 animated film *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* took three years and was a painstaking process. Since the process was so long and required great efforts by Lotte Reiniger and her team, the creation of the film was therefore an arduous process.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the creation of Reiniger’s film was "a haphazard," or disorganized, process. In fact, the text suggests that the creation process was quite meticulous and the team worked hard together to produce the envisioned effects. Choice B is incorrect. While the text does suggest that the creation of Reiniger’s film was a long and difficult process, it doesn’t suggest that the process was "a contentious" one, or one causing controversy or argument. The text suggests that the team worked together to produce the envisioned effects. Choice C is incorrect because rather than describing the process of creating the film as "ineffectual," or not having the effect it was intended to have, the text describes the process as ultimately successful despite the difficulty it involved.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c0b3aa09

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: c0b3aa09

Despite how _____ they may seem on first glance, the works of the philosopher Georg Hegel have proven to be quite influential. Readers who manage to penetrate Hegel’s frustratingly dense prose often find that his thrillingly original and profound ideas wind up shaping their own thinking.

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

- A. authoritative
- B. opaque
- C. empirical
- D. facile

ID: c0b3aa09 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Hegel’s works. In this context, "opaque" means difficult to understand or unclear. The text creates a contrast between the initial impression given by Hegel’s works and their influence and insight, noting that readers must "penetrate Hegel’s frustratingly dense prose" to access his important ideas. This context clearly establishes that Hegel’s writing is initially challenging to comprehend, or opaque.

Choice A is incorrect because "authoritative" means influential or clearly accurate. Hegel’s works may be authoritative, but it wouldn’t make logical sense in context to say that although his works seem authoritative, they have been influential. Instead, the text focuses on the fact that Hegel’s works are challenging to read, but that working through the dense prose can be rewarding. Choice C is incorrect because referring to Hegel’s works as "empirical," which means factual or verifiable, would suggest that they are based on observation or experience rather than theory. The text, however, doesn’t address this aspect of Hegel’s philosophy. Instead, it focuses on the difficulty of understanding his writing. Choice D is incorrect because describing Hegel’s works as "facile," which means superficial or simplistic, would directly contradict the text’s characterization of his writing as "frustratingly dense" and requiring effort to understand.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9b9e86ef

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: 9b9e86ef

The province of Xoconochco was situated on the Pacific coast, hundreds of kilometers southeast of Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire. Because Xoconochco’s location within the empire was so _____, cacao and other trade goods produced there could reach the capital only after a long overland journey.

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

- A. unobtrusive
- B. concealed
- C. approximate
- D. peripheral

ID: 9b9e86ef Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the location of the province of Xoconochco within the Aztec Empire. As used in this context, “peripheral” means situated toward the outer bounds rather than the center. The text indicates that Xoconochco was located on a coast, hundreds of kilometers away from the capital of the Aztec Empire. The text also states that trade between the province and the capital required “a long overland journey.” This context suggests that Xoconochco was situated toward an edge of the empire’s territory rather than near its center.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense in context to refer to Xoconochco’s location within the Aztec Empire as “unobtrusive,” or not blatant or undesirably prominent; it’s not clear how a province’s physical location would or wouldn’t be blatant. Instead of focusing on how noticeable Xoconochco’s location was, the text emphasizes the province’s distance from the capital of the empire, pointing out that because of this distance trade between the two required “a long overland journey.” Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that the province of Xoconochco was located on a coast far from the capital of the Aztec Empire, not that it was “concealed,” or kept out of sight or hidden from view. Nothing in the text suggests that Xoconochco was actually hidden such that people couldn’t see it, and being hidden wouldn’t necessarily result in trade between the province and the capital requiring “a long overland journey.” Choice C is incorrect because to say that Xoconochco’s location within the Aztec Empire was “approximate” would mean that the location either wasn’t precisely correct or was close to some other location. Neither of these meanings would make sense in context because the text indicates that Xoconochco’s location is known and that it was far from the empire’s capital, so there’s no reason to characterize the location as either not precisely correct or close to another location.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b04da6bc

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: b04da6bc

It is by no means _____ to recognize the influence of Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch on Ali Banisadr’s paintings; indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration. However, some scholars have suggested that the ancient Mesopotamian poem *Epic of Gilgamesh* may have had a far greater impact on Banisadr’s work.

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

- A. substantial
- B. satisfying
- C. unimportant
- D. appropriate

ID: b04da6bc Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the sentence about the influences on Banisadr’s work. In context, “It is by no means” followed by “unimportant” conveys how it is relevant to recognize Bosch’s influence on Banisadr. The text points out that the artist himself cites Bosch as an inspiration, and then goes on to claim that *The Epic of Gilgamesh* has had a more significant influence than Bosch.

Choice A is incorrect because “substantial,” which means weighty or meaningful, incorrectly suggests that it wouldn’t be meaningful to acknowledge Bosch’s influence on Banisadr. The phrase “indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration” doesn’t support this suggestion. Choice B is incorrect because “satisfying,” which means pleasing, incorrectly suggests that it wouldn’t be pleasing to acknowledge Bosch’s influence on Banisadr. The phrase “indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration” doesn’t support this suggestion. Choice D is incorrect because “appropriate,” which means suitable, incorrectly suggests that it wouldn’t be proper to acknowledge Bosch’s influence on Banisadr. The phrase “indeed, Banisadr himself cites Bosch as an inspiration” doesn’t support this suggestion.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d370fb6c

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: d370fb6c

In a 2019 study, Jeremy Gunawardena and colleagues found that the single-celled protozoan *Stentor roeseli* not only uses strategies to escape irritating stimuli but also switches strategies when one fails. This evidence of protozoans sophisticatedly “changing their minds” demonstrates that single-celled organisms may not be limited to _____ behaviors.

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

- A. aggressive
- B. rudimentary
- C. evolving
- D. advantageous

ID: d370fb6c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of single-celled organism behavior. As used in this context, “rudimentary” means basic or unsophisticated. According to the text, a study of the single-celled protozoan *Stentor roeseli* showed that the organisms can switch strategies for escaping certain stimuli, “sophisticatedly ‘changing their minds’” and using new strategies should other strategies fail. This context suggests that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behaviors that are basic or rudimentary, since the study showed that single-celled protozoans can respond complexly to irritating stimuli.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behavior that is “aggressive,” or threatening. Rather, the text suggests that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behaviors that are basic, since the study of *Stentor roeseli* showed that single-celled protozoans can respond complexly to irritating stimuli. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behavior that is “evolving,” or advancing. Rather, the text suggests that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behaviors that are basic, since the study of *Stentor roeseli* showed that single-celled protozoans can respond complexly to irritating stimuli. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behavior that is “advantageous,” or helpful. Rather, the text suggests that single-celled organisms may not be limited to behaviors that are basic, since the study of *Stentor roeseli* showed that single-celled protozoans can respond complexly to irritating stimuli.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 62ac3a8a

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: 62ac3a8a

Among saltwater fish species, there is a clear association between habitat latitude and morphological variety. While tropical species are _____ deep-bodied physical forms (body shapes that are laterally compressed but vertically extended), polar and temperate species are highly dispersed across the morphological spectrum.

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

- A. authenticated by
- B. habituated to
- C. contemporary with
- D. concentrated among

ID: 62ac3a8a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the relationship between habitat latitude and body shape in saltwater fish species. In this context, “concentrated among” means largely confined to. The text sets up a contrast between tropical species, which are generally characterized by a single shape—deep-bodied forms—and polar and temperate species, which are “highly dispersed across the morphological spectrum” (meaning they exhibit a wide range of body shapes). This context supports the idea that tropical species are concentrated among deep-bodied physical forms—that is, largely confined to this single morphological category rather than spread across many.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that tropical species are “authenticated by,” or proven genuine by, deep-bodied physical forms wouldn’t make sense. Instead, the text describes the typical morphology (body shape) of tropical fish species and how that differs from the typical morphologies of polar and temperate fish species. Choice B is incorrect because saying that tropical species are “habituated to,” or accustomed through repeated exposure to, deep-bodied physical forms wouldn’t make sense. Instead, the text describes the typical morphology (body shape) of tropical fish species and how that differs from the typical morphologies of polar and temperate fish species. Choice C is incorrect because saying that tropical species are “contemporary with,” or existing at the same time as, deep-bodied physical forms indicates that the species exist at the same time as their body shapes do, which, if it is a meaningful statement at all, is at best trivially true and unrelated to the text’s discussion of the typical morphology (body shape) of tropical fish species and how that differs from the typical morphologies of polar and temperate fish species.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8e59bf41

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: 8e59bf41

Political blogs with conspicuous ideological alignments became an integral component of US media in the early 2000s. While some commentators lauded this development, asserting that such blogs had a welcome transparency missing from traditional news, less _____ observers countered that such blogs tended to ideological extremes that exacerbated political polarization to problematic levels.

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

- A. sanguine
- B. recalcitrant
- C. misanthropic
- D. earnest

ID: 8e59bf41 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of political blogs. In this context, "sanguine" means optimistic. The text begins by noting the rise of political blogs with readily identifiable ideological alignments in the early 2000s. The text then indicates that some commentators saw this as a positive development, citing a reason why (their difference from traditional news). Finally, the text goes on to contrast those commentators with others who have a negative opinion of the rise of political blogs (because they increase political polarization among their readers). This context supports the idea that the second group of commentators is less positive than the first: thus, the second group of commentators is less optimistic, or sanguine.

Choice B is incorrect because it would not make sense in this context to describe those commentators who have a negative opinion of political blogs as less "recalcitrant," or obstinately uncooperative, than those commentators who supported political blogs. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that those commentators who have a negative opinion of political blogs are less "misanthropic," or less contemptuous of humankind, than those commentators who have a positive opinion of political blogs—there is no indication in the text that those commentators who like political blogs would be contemptuous of humankind at all. Choice D is incorrect because there is no evidence that those commentators who have a negative opinion of political blogs are less "earnest," or sincere, than those who have a positive opinion of such blogs—presumably, both groups of commentators hold their beliefs with equal conviction.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f78732ae

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: f78732ae

Though copies of *The Adventures of Indiana Jones in Wenceslas Square in Prague on January 16, 1989*—an underground computer game that was created anonymously in 1989 as an act of political protest against the authoritarian regime of what was then Czechoslovakia—were originally distributed _____, the game is now readily available online for anyone to play.

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

- A. succinctly
- B. dispassionately
- C. disingenuously
- D. surreptitiously

ID: f78732ae Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how *The Adventures of Indiana Jones in Wenceslas Square in Prague on January 16, 1989* was originally distributed. In this context, “surreptitiously” means in a secret manner. The text describes the game as being underground and created anonymously as a way to oppose the regime of what was then Czechoslovakia. The text goes on to contrast the game’s original distribution with its current broader availability. This context supports the idea that copies were originally distributed surreptitiously—that is, secretly, as would be necessary for an act of protest against an authoritarian regime.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that copies of the game were originally distributed “succinctly,” or in a brief and concise manner, wouldn’t make sense in this context. “Succinctly” describes the manner in which something is expressed, not the manner in which physical copies of a game are circulated. Choice B is incorrect because saying that copies of the game were originally distributed “dispassionately,” or without emotion, wouldn’t make sense in this context. The text describes the game as an act of political protest, suggesting that its creation and distribution were motivated by strong feelings about the then Czechoslovakian regime. Moreover, the text establishes the contrast between secretive distribution and open availability, not between emotional and unemotional distribution. Choice C is incorrect because saying that copies of the game were originally distributed “disingenuously,” or in an insincere manner, wouldn’t make sense in this context. The text characterizes the game as a sincere act of political protest, and the contrast the text sets up concerns secrecy (“underground” and “anonymously”) versus openness (“readily available”).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 42f1b5b8

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: 42f1b5b8

Within baleen whale species, some individuals develop an accessory spleen—a seemingly functionless formation of splenic tissue outside the normal spleen. Given the formation’s greater prevalence among whales known to make deeper dives, some researchers hypothesize that its role isn’t ____; rather, the accessory spleen may actively support diving mechanisms.

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

- A. replicable
- B. predetermined
- C. operative
- D. latent

ID: 42f1b5b8 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of baleen whale accessory spleens. In this context, “latent” means dormant or functionless. The text sets up a contrast between the idea that baleen whale accessory spleens appear not to have a function and the research indicating that the accessory spleen may actually have a role in supporting the whales’ diving mechanisms. This context therefore conveys the idea that the assumption that baleen whale accessory spleens are latent may be incorrect.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that the role of the accessory spleen is “replicable,” or capable of being reproduced. The text indicates that the role of the accessory spleen seems to have no function, but some researchers think it does have a role; the text doesn’t address whether the role of the accessory spleen could or couldn’t be reproduced. Choice B is incorrect because suggesting that the role of the accessory spleen is “predetermined,” or decided in advance, wouldn’t make sense in context. Although the researchers may agree that the role of the accessory spleen or any other organ hasn’t been determined in advance, the text focuses on the idea that the accessory spleen was thought to have been functionless but may in fact serve an active role for baleen whales. Choice C is incorrect because it’s the opposite of what the context of the text is conveying. The second sentence of the text indicates that baleen whale accessory spleens may not be useless, not that they aren’t “operative,” or functional.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID fa581ec9

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: fa581ec9

In a 2020 paper, Arya Udry et al. cautioned that although similarities in the isotopic signatures of elements detected in Mars’s atmosphere and in Martian meteorites recovered on Earth make it tempting to treat the geochemical properties of the meteorites as _____ those of Mars’s interiors, Mars’s geology cannot be ascertained based solely on meteorite-sample analyses.

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

- A. contrivances of
- B. proxies for
- C. catalysts of
- D. deterrents to

ID: fa581ec9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the relationship between Martian meteorites and Mars’s interior geology. In this context, “proxies for” means substitutes used to represent something else. The text describes Udry and colleagues as cautioning against a tempting line of reasoning: because the isotopic signatures (chemical fingerprints) of elements in Mars’s atmosphere resemble those in Martian meteorites recovered on Earth, researchers might be inclined to treat the meteorites’ geochemical properties as reasonably standing in for those of Mars’s interiors. The text indicates that Udry and colleagues argue against this reasoning, noting that Mars’s geology cannot be determined solely from meteorite analysis. This context conveys that it is tempting to treat the meteorites’ properties as proxies for those of Mars’s interiors.

Choice A is incorrect because “contrivances of” would mean things artificially devised or produced by something, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that it’s tempting to treat the geochemical properties of meteorites as having been artificially produced by the planet the meteorites came from; it’s not clear how a planet could fabricate such properties. Further, the text is focused on the idea that it’s tempting to treat the meteorites’ properties as standing in for those of Mars’s interiors, which likely wouldn’t be the case if the meteorite’s properties were considered artificial in any way. Choice C is incorrect because “catalysts of” something are things that trigger or accelerate its change or action. The text focuses on the idea of analyzing samples of Martian meteorites found on Earth to determine Mars’s geology; this suggests that the temptation is to view the geochemical properties of the meteorites as direct evidence of those of Mars’s interior, not to treat them as though they had caused changes in Mars’s interior geology. Choice D is incorrect because “deterrents to” something would mean things that discourage or prevent it, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that it’s tempting to treat the geochemical properties of Martian meteorites as preventing the geochemical properties of Mars’s interiors; the meteorites came from Mars and are no longer there, so their properties can’t have any effect on those of the planet.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e837aa42

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: e837aa42

Some economic historians _____ that late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century households in the United States experienced an economy of scale when it came to food purchases—they assumed that large households spent less on food per person than did small households. Economist Trevon Logan showed, however, that a close look at the available data disproves this supposition.

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

- A. surmised
- B. contrived
- C. questioned
- D. regretted

ID: e837aa42 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century household food purchases. In this context, “surmised” means formed an idea or assumption with little evidence. The text explains that certain economic historians “assumed” that large and small households spent different amounts on food per person, but that another economist found this supposition to be false based on evidence from available data. This context suggests that the economic historians made an incorrect assumption without enough consideration of evidence.

Choice B is incorrect. In this context, “contrived” would mean brought about or created through trickery. Nothing in the text suggests that the economic historians were deliberately trying to trick people with a claim about food purchasing behaviors in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century households; the text simply suggests that they made an assumption about those behaviors that another historian believes isn’t supported by the available data. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that it’s Logan and not the economic historians who “questioned,” or doubted, the assumption that large and small households in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries spent different amounts on food per person; the economic historians are the ones who made that assumption to begin with. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that some economic historians “regretted,” or felt sad or remorseful about, the food purchasing behaviors of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century households. The text focuses on the idea that the economic historians made an assumption about those behaviors that may not be supported by available data, not on the historians’ emotional response to what households did in the past.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 92d77da3

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: 92d77da3

The following text is adapted from Edith Wharton’s 1911 novella *Ethan Frome*. The narrator has asked the woman he rents a room from about Ethan Frome, a town resident he encountered recently.

Her mind was a store-house of innocuous anecdote and any question about her acquaintances brought forth a volume of detail; but on the subject of Ethan Frome I found her unexpectedly reticent. There was no hint of disapproval in her reserve; I merely felt in her an insurmountable reluctance to speak of him.

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

- A. Modesty
- B. Misgiving
- C. Constraint
- D. Composure

ID: 92d77da3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, “reserve” most nearly means constraint, or repression of one’s behavior or actions. The text indicates that although the narrator’s landlady is ordinarily “a store-house of innocuous anecdote” who readily produces “a volume of detail” in response to questions about her acquaintances—that is, she usually tells harmless stories and is willing to share details about people she knows—she is “unexpectedly reticent,” or surprisingly unwilling to speak, when it comes to Ethan Frome. The narrator then observes that the landlady doesn’t appear to disapprove of Ethan, she simply seems completely reluctant to speak of him. In this context, then, “reserve” refers to the landlady’s constraint—her repression of her usual willingness to share details in conversation.

Choice A is incorrect. “Modesty” can refer to being appropriate in speech or behavior, and one might consider it appropriate to decline to speak of someone, but the text gives no indication that the narrator thinks the landlady is acting out of modesty. The narrator suggests that the landlady generally isn’t concerned about the appropriateness of discussing others (she’s usually “a store-house of innocuous anecdote” and shares many details) and isn’t holding back to avoid saying something negative about Ethan Frome (there’s “no hint of disapproval”); indeed, the narrator suggests he can’t tell why the landlady is so unwilling to speak of Ethan. Choice B is incorrect because the text never suggests that the landlady has any “misgiving,” or feeling of doubt or apprehension, about Ethan Frome. In fact, the text explicitly states that there is “no hint of disapproval” in her surprising unwillingness to discuss Ethan. Choice D is incorrect because the narrator doesn’t suggest that the landlady is acting with “composure,” or calmness and control of her emotions. Instead of describing the landlady’s emotional state or presenting her as calm, the narrator simply conveys her surprising unwillingness to discuss Ethan Frome.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4fdb40fc

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: 4fdb40fc

In 1891, design artist William Morris cofounded the Kelmscott Press, which printed editions of books using preindustrial methods. Historians argue that Morris’s repudiation of industrialization is _____ the Kelmscott editions’ use of handmade materials and intricate ornamentation reminiscent of medieval manuscripts: these meticulously handcrafted elements exemplify the artistry involved.

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

- A. insensible to
- B. manifest in
- C. scrutinized by
- D. complicated by

ID: 4fdb40fc Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the Kelmscott Press’s books. In this context, "manifest in" means evident or apparent from. The text states that the Kelmscott Press, which was cofounded by William Morris, produced its books using preindustrial methods. The text notes the similarity between those methods, which include the use of handmade materials and intricate ornamentation, and methods used in the creation of medieval manuscripts. This context suggests that Morris’s repudiation of industrialization is apparent from, or manifest in, the methods and materials his company employed.

Choice A is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to suggest that Morris’s repudiation of industrialization is "insensible to," or unaware of or lacking perception of, the use of handmade materials and intricate ornamentation in the production of the Kelmscott editions. Instead, the text suggests that the methods and materials used to produce the Kelmscott editions are evidence of Morris’s repudiation of industrialization. Choice C is incorrect because it would not make sense to say that Morris’s repudiation of industrialization was "scrutinized by," or examined closely by, the Kelmscott editions’ use of handmade materials and intricate ornamentation. Although creating the Kelmscott editions may have involved examining the books closely, the text does not mention this aspect of Morris’s work, and in any case, the action of using certain materials to create those editions cannot scrutinize Morris’s attitude toward industrialization. Choice D is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Morris’s repudiation of industrialization is "complicated by," or made more complex or difficult by, the Kelmscott Press’s use of preindustrial methods and handcrafted elements to produce books. Instead, the text presents those methods as exemplifying Morris’s repudiation of industrialization.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 699dad5b

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: 699dad5b

In addition to being an accomplished psychologist himself, Francis Cecil Sumner was a _____ increasing the opportunity for Black students to study psychology, helping to found the psychology department at Howard University, a historically Black university, in 1930.

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

- A. proponent of
- B. supplement to
- C. beneficiary of
- D. distraction for

ID: 699dad5b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Francis Cecil Sumner. As used in this context, “proponent of” means supporter of. The text says that Sumner helped to found the psychology department at historically Black Howard University in 1930. This is evidence that Sumner supported increasing the opportunity for Black students to study psychology.

Choice B is incorrect because the phrase “supplement to,” or addition to, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text discusses Sumner’s efforts to increase the number of Black psychology students, but it doesn’t make sense to describe him as an addition to his efforts. Choice C is incorrect because Sumner was already an accomplished psychologist himself when he helped to found the Howard University psychology department. While Black students were the beneficiaries of his efforts—that is, they received help because of his efforts—it wouldn’t make sense in this context to describe Sumner as a “beneficiary of” opportunities, because he was the one doing the helping. Choice D is incorrect because founding a psychology department at Howard University wouldn’t be a “distraction for” Sumner’s aim to increase the opportunity for Black students to study psychology—that is, it wouldn’t be something that draws Sumner’s attention away from that goal, but rather the opposite.

Question Difficulty: Hard