

Question ID bc386c9d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bc386c9d

The majority of plastics today wind up in landfills or are, at best, recycled into materials that have a very limited range of applications. To address this problem, chemist Guoliang Liu and colleagues designed a reactor that melts polyethylene and polypropylene—two widely used plastics—into a wax. The wax can then be transformed into a surfactant (a chemical compound usable as a detergent). With this promising new method, plastic waste could be turned into a range of useful cleaning products.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined portion of the text?

- A. It clarifies the meaning of a scientific term.
- B. It describes an environmental concern.
- C. It explains the significance of a scientific discovery.
- D. It identifies a result that confused the team.

Question ID 8d2b0e28

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8d2b0e28

Streams and rivers carry soil and rocks from one location to another. But there is another way for these geological materials to move. Scientists call this process “aeolian transport.” In aeolian transport, winds move small particles of soil or rock over potentially great distances. Geologist Melisa Diaz and her team studied dust in Antarctica to find out if it was moved by aeolian transport. They discovered that the dust matched geological material in Australia. Aeolian transport had carried it from one continent to another, across thousands of miles of open ocean.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It presents Melisa Diaz’s remarks about difficulties that her team encountered.
- B. It introduces a scientific term that is used in the discussion that follows.
- C. It emphasizes the surprising nature of the findings that are presented.
- D. It explains the difference between two kinds of geological material.

Question ID 8e85cafb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8e85cafb

The following text is adapted from George Bernard Shaw’s 1912 play *Pygmalion*. Henry Higgins has just arrived at the house of his mother (Mrs. Higgins). She is expecting her friends to visit soon.

MRS. HIGGINS: I’m serious, Henry. You offend all my friends: they stop coming whenever they meet you.

HIGGINS: Nonsense! I know I have no small talk; but people don’t mind.

MRS. HIGGINS: Oh! don’t they? Small talk indeed! What about your large talk? Really, dear, you mustn’t stay.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe what Henry’s mother does when she goes out with her friends
- B. To show that Henry’s mother wants him to leave
- C. To present a detailed account of what Henry’s home looks like
- D. To explain why Henry often visits his mother

Question ID cdff21b3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: cdff21b3

Wakako Yamauchi is best known for *And the Soul Shall Dance*, her 1977 play about a Japanese American family in Southern California. The play is based on a short story Yamauchi had published three years earlier. Adapting the story wasn't easy. Theater relies on dialogue between characters, but the original story features little dialogue and instead describes its characters' silent thoughts. To transform the story into a play, Yamauchi created situations where characters reveal their thoughts by speaking them aloud during conversations with each other.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It offers information about how Yamauchi adapted her short story into a play.
- B. It argues that Yamauchi's play influenced later playwrights.
- C. It explains why Yamauchi's short story is better known than the play adaptation is.
- D. It describes how Yamauchi chose the actors who performed in the play.

Question ID e6c771fc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e6c771fc

The following text is adapted from Cynthia Kadohata’s 2004 novel *Kira-Kira*.

[Uncle Katsuhisa] was as loud as my father was quiet. Even when he wasn’t talking, he made a lot of noise, clearing his throat and sniffing and tapping his fingers.

©2004 by Cynthia Kadohata

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It lists the kinds of topics Uncle Katsuhisa enjoys discussing.
- B. It suggests that Uncle Katsuhisa dislikes meeting new people.
- C. It contrasts Uncle Katsuhisa with the narrator’s father.
- D. It describes a conversation between the narrator and the narrator’s father.

Question ID 9dd362f4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9dd362f4

Animals use many objects as tools to achieve goals more easily. Such goals include grooming, finding food, and protecting themselves. For a long time, people thought tool use was unique to primates. Dolphins and other animals, though, have busted the myth that tool use requires hands. Inventively, dolphins use sponges to protect their noses from scratches when foraging on the seafloor. Palm cockatoos also get creative. They use leaves to pad their beaks when opening nuts.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To question the belief that birds are intelligent
- B. To compare tool use in humans with tool use in palm cockatoos
- C. To establish that tool use doesn't indicate intelligence
- D. To argue that a variety of animals use tools

Question ID 78e882df

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 78e882df

Why do sand cats purr but lions roar? Researchers hypothesize that this difference between the two feline species may be partly due to a U-shaped bone in their throats called the hyoid. Sand cats, which are much smaller than lions, have a rigid hyoid that rumbles when the cat’s larynx vibrates, resulting in a purr. By contrast, lions have a somewhat flexible hyoid, and the bone is attached to the skull with a stretchy ligament that sand cats lack. These traits allow lions and most other species of big cats to produce powerful roars. The same traits may also prevent most big cats from purring.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The text presents a theory about two species, then discusses facts that weaken it.
- B. The text compares the habitats of two species, then explains how those habitats are changing.
- C. The text describes a behavior shared by two species, then discusses other behaviors shared by them.
- D. The text poses a question about two species, then presents a possible answer.

Question ID b0a91bd7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: b0a91bd7

The following text is from Srimati Svarna Kumari Devi’s 1894 novel *The Fatal Garland* (translated by A. Christina Albers in 1910). Shakti is walking near a riverbank that she visited frequently during her childhood.

She crossed the woods she knew so well. The trees seemed to extend their branches like welcoming arms. They greeted her as an old friend. Soon she reached the river-side.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It suggests that Shakti feels uncomfortable near the river.
- B. It indicates that Shakti has lost her sense of direction in the woods.
- C. It emphasizes Shakti’s sense of belonging in the landscape.
- D. It conveys Shakti’s appreciation for her long-term friendships.

Question ID 5b8426ac

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5b8426ac

Hiroshi Senju is known worldwide for his paintings of waterfalls. These paintings are large and tend not to show the entire waterfall. Instead, Senju focuses on just the point where the falling water reaches the pool below, keeping the top of the waterfall out of view. While Senju’s paintings are rooted in art movements originating in the United States, the artist uses traditional Japanese techniques and materials that make his work instantly recognizable.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It introduces an artist and then explains some common characteristics of well-known paintings by that artist.
- B. It explains a specific painting technique and then provides examples of artists who use the technique.
- C. It describes a famous painting and then compares it to a lesser-known painting from the same time period.
- D. It gives an opinion on an artist and then suggests multiple reasons why the artist’s work has been largely overlooked.

Question ID e130a8cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: e130a8cc

Archaeologists studying the ancient city of Pompeii in Italy recently discovered a well-preserved food shop known as a *thermopolium*. The site contains food remains, artworks, and decorations. These items give researchers a better understanding of what daily life in Pompeii may have been like. For example, the archaeologists found a ceramic jar that they believe likely contained a meat and seafood stew.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare ancient artworks with modern ones
- B. To discuss the political system of Italy
- C. To present a recent archaeological discovery
- D. To describe a region’s climate

Question ID dbd8ba46

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: dbd8ba46

Jazz tap is a dance form that was first developed in African American communities. Jazz tap was heavily influenced by jazz music, which became widely popular in the United States in the 1920s. Tap dancers were inspired by jazz music’s quick rhythms and by the way jazz musicians would make up melodies as they played. As jazz music continued to develop in the 1930s and 1940s, jazz tap evolved with it. Because of jazz music’s influence, jazz tap quickly developed into a dance form that was very different from earlier kinds of tap dance.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It explains why audiences prefer some kinds of music over others.
- B. It discusses the development of a dance form.
- C. It describes how to play a musical instrument.
- D. It emphasizes the popularity of a famous dancer.

Question ID f1c4974a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: f1c4974a

Catherine L. Cardelús is a researcher who studies canopy soil. Canopy soil is formed in a tree’s branches (its canopy) when dead leaves and other falling things collect. This material breaks down, becoming canopy soil. Canopy soil helps preserve a healthy water cycle (how water moves through the environment) in rainforests. This benefit is one reason Cardelús is interested in the canopy soils in large choibá trees in rainforests in Costa Rica.

Which choice best describes the text’s overall structure?

- A. It explains a disagreement between researchers and how it was resolved.
- B. It presents an idea and mentions a researcher who disagrees with that idea.
- C. It compares the sizes of two types of trees over several years.
- D. It introduces a researcher and gives information about what she researches.

Question ID f9f3ba10

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: f9f3ba10

The following text is from Joan Didion’s memoir *The Year of Magical Thinking*. In the text, the author discusses her home life.

[I]n California we heated our houses by building fires. We built fires even on summer evenings, because the fog came in. Fires said we were home, we had drawn the circle, we were safe through the night.

©2005 by Joan Didion

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It illustrates that a fire provides comfort beyond physical warmth.
- B. It summarizes the information that came before it in the text.
- C. It explains that the house remains cold even in summer.
- D. It suggests that the author feels comfortable in her home with or without a fire.

Question ID 17086805

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 17086805

Oral histories—whether they consist of interviews or recordings of songs and stories—can offer researchers a rich view of people’s everyday experiences. For her book about coal mining communities in Kentucky during the twentieth century, Karida Brown therefore relied in part on interviews with coal miners and their families. By doing so, she gained valuable insights into her subjects’ day-to-day lives.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It provides a little-known geographical fact about Kentucky.
- B. It argues that Karida Brown is an expert on United States politics.
- C. It presents a major historical event that took place in the twentieth century.
- D. It describes how Karida Brown benefited from incorporating oral history in her book.

Question ID 3c56a302

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3c56a302

In most building demolitions, the building materials are destroyed and sent to landfills. City officials in Portland, Oregon, wanted to reduce this waste. The officials passed a law requiring demolition companies to deconstruct some buildings instead. Deconstruction involves carefully taking buildings apart piece by piece. Damage to the materials is avoided so that they can be reused in new constructions. A 2019 study found that 27 percent of materials from deconstructions in Portland were able to be reused. The remaining materials were processed for recycling instead of going to a landfill.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To explain an effort made by the city of Portland to reduce demolition waste and some results of that effort
- B. To show that popular support for measures that reduce demolition waste has increased since 2019
- C. To argue that building deconstruction is not as effective as other measures at reducing demolition waste
- D. To discuss laws aimed to reduce demolition waste in Portland and compare them to similar laws in other cities

Question ID 7c49f664

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ID: 7c49f664

The following text is from Holly Goldberg Sloan’s 2017 novel *Short*.

More than two years ago my parents bought a piano from some people who were moving to Utah. Mom and Dad gave it to my brothers and me for Christmas. I had to act really happy because it was such a big present, but I pretty much hated the thing from the second it was carried into the hallway upstairs, which is right next to my bedroom. The piano glared at me. It was like a songbird in a cage. It wanted to be set free.

©2017 by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It explains why the narrator always wanted a piano close to her bedroom.
- B. It establishes how the narrator feels about the piano.
- C. It suggests that the narrator’s brothers are talented piano players.
- D. It describes the event that led the narrator’s parents to buy a piano.

Question ID d5e54686

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: d5e54686

The following text is adapted from Pam Muñoz Ryan’s 2020 novel *Mañanaland*. In the village where Max lives, there is an old fortress called La Reina. Children in the village say that the fortress is haunted.

For as long as he could remember, Max had begged Papá [his father] to take him to see La Reina and the ruins up close. He’d be a hero among his friends if he was the first boy to cross the haunted gates! Just because Papá didn’t believe in ghosts didn’t mean they weren’t there. Maybe this summer Papá would finally take him. He was almost twelve.

©2020 by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Which choice best describes the overall purpose of the text?

- A. To portray how proud Max’s father is of Max
- B. To explain why Max doesn’t want to grow up yet
- C. To criticize Max for disliking summer
- D. To show how much Max wants to visit La Reina