

Question ID 4d2d4531

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

ID: 4d2d4531

The following text is from Reyna Grande’s 2012 memoir *The Distance Between Us*. In the text, Grande reflects on a time when she and her older sister Mago were children. A Barbie is a type of doll.

I begged Mago to come play with me. She wasn’t as interested in my Barbie as she had been just two months before, which made me sad because that was the only thing Mago had envied me for. Usually, it was me doing the envying. After I pestered her relentlessly, she finally put her notebook down and came over to me.

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

- A. It indicates Grande’s unhappiness over Mago’s disinterest in Grande’s doll.
- B. It expresses Grande’s anger over Mago’s refusal to spend time with her.
- C. It presents an example of how Mago and Grande generally played together as children.
- D. It provides a reason for why Mago is unwilling to play with Grande.

Question ID 991f3adc

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

ID: 991f3adc

The Bayeux Tapestry, from eleventh-century France, depicts 75 scenes over 250 feet of fabric. It was likely produced by workers embroidering in sections and then joining the resulting panels together. It’s plausible that the workshop that produced the tapestry had never produced one so large, and some researchers claim that a close examination of the joins—the places where the panels are stitched together—suggests that the workers developed and refined their joining process over the course of production. For example, the first join the workers completed exhibits a clear misalignment of the borders of the two panels, whereas the later joins are virtually invisible.

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

- A. It identifies the people and events depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.
- B. It supports an argument about the workers who produced the Bayeux Tapestry.
- C. It compares the Bayeux Tapestry with other tapestries from eleventh-century France.
- D. It describes how researchers determined where the Bayeux Tapestry was produced.

Question ID f46cc575

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

ID: f46cc575

Following the eradication of the gray wolf in Yellowstone National Park in 1926, the population of elk—a primary prey of the gray wolf—exceeded a healthy size for the park’s ecosystem. Elk overpopulation led to overgrazing of areas that a multitude of other animals relied on for food and shelter. As scientists began to see how essential the gray wolf was to the Yellowstone food chain, ecological restoration strategies were employed to reintroduce the gray wolf to the park in 1996. The rebound effect in the park’s natural ecosystem was noticed almost immediately.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It summarizes a problem that developed in Yellowstone National Park in the 1920s and then offers potential solutions to that problem.
- B. It mentions the elimination of the gray wolf from Yellowstone National Park and then explains why the wolf was eventually restored to the park.
- C. It presents a claim about the health of the Yellowstone National Park gray wolf population and then gives specific examples to support that claim.
- D. It explains why Yellowstone National Park allowed the eradication of the gray wolf and then discusses the consequences of reintroducing the wolf to the park.

Question ID 8e7b0e60

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

ID: 8e7b0e60

Were penguins always flightless? Theresa Cole and her team argue that penguins could fly at some point, but that they lost that ability more than 60 million years ago as they adapted to marine life. After examining various penguin fossils and genetic information, the researchers concluded that over time penguins developed underwater vision, blood oxygenation, and bone density better suited for swimming than flying. Thus, environmental conditions might have driven penguins to change from flyers to swimmers.

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

- A. It defines a scientific term used in the sentence that follows.
- B. It contradicts a description in the sentence that follows.
- C. It provides an answer to the question in the previous sentence.
- D. It notes that the question in the previous sentence has not been researched.

Question ID 07cfa795

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

ID: 07cfa795

Chile’s Atacama Desert is one of the driest places on Earth. Mary Beth Wilhelm and other astrobiologists search for life, or its remains, in this harsh place because the desert closely mirrors the extreme environment on Mars. The algae and bacteria found in Atacama’s driest regions may offer clues about Martian life. By studying how these and other microorganisms survive such extreme conditions on Earth, Wilhelm’s team hopes to determine whether similar life might have existed on Mars and to develop the best tools to look for evidence of it.

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

- A. To contrast the conditions in the Atacama Desert with those on Mars
- B. To explain why many life-forms cannot survive in the Atacama Desert
- C. To indicate why astrobiologists choose to conduct research in the Atacama Desert
- D. To describe certain limitations to conducting scientific study in the Atacama Desert

Question ID 521f5d1a

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

ID: 521f5d1a

Mathematician Claude Shannon is widely regarded as a foundational figure in information theory. His most important paper, “A Mathematical Theory of Communication,” published in 1948 when he was employed at Bell Labs, utilized a concept called a “binary digit” (shortened to “bit”) to measure the amount of information in any signal and determine the fastest rate at which information could be transmitted while still being reliably decipherable. Robert Gallagher, one of Shannon’s colleagues, said that the bit was “[Shannon’s] discovery, and from it the whole communications revolution has sprung.”

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents a theoretical concept, illustrates how the name of the concept has changed, and shows how the name has entered common usage.
- B. It introduces a respected researcher, describes an aspect of his work, and suggests why the work is historically significant.
- C. It names the company where an important mathematician worked, details the mathematician’s career at the company, and provides an example of the recognition he received there.
- D. It mentions a paper, offers a summary of the paper’s findings, and presents a researcher’s commentary on the paper.

Question ID 4fb217c7

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

ID: 4fb217c7

The following text is from Herman Melville’s 1854 novel *The Lightning-rod Man*.
The stranger still stood in the exact middle of the cottage, where he had first planted himself. His singularity impelled a closer scrutiny. A lean, gloomy figure. Hair dark and lank, mattedly streaked over his brow. His sunken pitfalls of eyes were ringed by indigo halos, and played with an innocuous sort of lightning: the gleam without the bolt. The whole man was dripping. He stood in a puddle on the bare oak floor: his strange walking-stick vertically resting at his side.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It elaborates on the previous sentence’s description of the character.
- B. It introduces the setting that is described in the sentences that follow.
- C. It establishes a contrast with the description in the previous sentence.
- D. It sets up the character description presented in the sentences that follow.

Question ID c0d36961

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

ID: c0d36961

Using NASA’s powerful James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), Mercedes López-Morales and colleagues measured the wavelengths of light traveling through the atmosphere of WASP-39b, an exoplanet, or planet outside our solar system. Different molecules absorb different wavelengths of light, and the wavelength measurements showed the presence of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in WASP-39b’s atmosphere. This finding not only offers the first decisive evidence of CO₂ in the atmosphere of an exoplanet but also illustrates the potential for future scientific breakthroughs held by the JWST.

- Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?
- A. It discusses a method used by some researchers, then states why an alternative method is superior to it.
 - B. It describes how researchers made a scientific discovery, then explains the importance of that discovery.
 - C. It outlines the steps taken in a scientific study, then presents a hypothesis based on that study.
 - D. It examines how a group of scientists reached a conclusion, then shows how other scientists have challenged that conclusion.

Question ID 8c423925

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

ID: 8c423925

By combining Indigenous and classical music, Cree composer and cellist Cris Derksen creates works that reflect the diverse cultural landscape of Canada. For her album *Orchestral Powwow*, Derksen composed new songs in the style of traditional powwow music that were accompanied by classical arrangements played by an orchestra. But where an orchestra would normally follow the directions of a conductor, the musicians on *Orchestral Powwow* are led by the beat of a powwow drum.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To examine how Derksen’s musical compositions blend cultures
- B. To argue that Derksen should be recognized for creating a new style of music
- C. To describe the difficulties Derksen encountered when producing her album
- D. To establish a contrast between Derksen’s classical training and her Cree heritage

Question ID 58da5b54

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

ID: 58da5b54

The following text is adapted from Louisa May Alcott’s 1869 novel *An Old-Fashioned Girl*. Polly, a teenager, is visiting her friend Fanny.

Fanny’s friends did not interest Polly much; she was rather afraid of them [because] they seemed so much older and wiser than herself, even those younger in years. They talked about things of which she knew nothing and when Fanny tried to explain, she didn’t find them interesting; indeed, some of them rather shocked and puzzled her.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To portray Polly’s reaction to Fanny’s friends
- B. To identify the topics Polly talks about with Fanny’s friends
- C. To explain how Fanny met some of her friends
- D. To illustrate how Fanny’s friends feel about Polly

Question ID abd9e6b5

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

ID: abd9e6b5

Companies are providing consumers with more opportunities to purchase customized products than ever before. Whether buying customized sneakers, jewelry, or clothing, consumers can participate in the design of products to meet their specific needs and tastes. In turn, companies profit too: studies have shown that consumers are willing to pay more and wait longer for a customized product. Still, it can be difficult for companies to offer customization while keeping costs low, as the standard methods of mass production may not be able to accommodate making a unique product each time.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It discusses several recent innovations in product manufacturing and then suggests some potential applications of those innovations.
- B. It describes a company’s recent success with new products and then explains multiple factors that may have contributed to that success.
- C. It introduces a trend in consumer products and then explains how the trend both benefits and poses a challenge to companies.
- D. It presents two contrasting product-marketing techniques and then provides examples of one of those techniques.

Question ID 09686e93

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

ID: 09686e93

The following text is from Sarah Orne Jewett’s 1899 short story “Martha’s Lady.” Martha is employed by Miss Pyne as a maid.

Miss Pyne sat by the window watching, in her best dress, looking stately and calm; she seldom went out now, and it was almost time for the carriage. Martha was just coming in from the garden with the strawberries, and with more flowers in her apron. It was a bright cool evening in June, the golden robins sang in the elms, and the sun was going down behind the apple-trees at the foot of the garden. The beautiful old house stood wide open to the long-expected guest.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey the worries brought about by a new guest
- B. To describe how the characters have changed over time
- C. To contrast the activity indoors with the stillness outside
- D. To depict the setting as the characters await a visitor’s arrival

Question ID 1894a92f

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

ID: 1894a92f

Many films from the early 1900s have been lost. These losses include several films by the first wave of Black women filmmakers. We know about these lost movies only from small pieces of evidence. For example, an advertisement for Jennie Louise Touissant Welcome’s documentary *Doing Their Bit* still exists. There’s a reference in a magazine to Tressie Souders’s film *A Woman’s Error*. And Maria P. Williams’s *The Flames of Wrath* is mentioned in a letter and a newspaper article, and one image from the movie was discovered in the 1990s.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The text identifies a complex problem, then presents examples of unsuccessful attempts to solve that problem.
- B. The text summarizes a debate among researchers, then gives reasons for supporting one side in that debate.
- C. The text describes a general situation, then illustrates that situation with specific examples.
- D. The text discusses several notable individuals, then explains commonly overlooked differences between those individuals.

Question ID 21deac4f

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

ID: 21deac4f

In 1154, Muhammad al-Idrisi completed a collection of maps of the lands known to medieval Arabic and European scholars. This collection was titled *Al-Kitāb al-Rujārī (The Book of Roger)*, after the Norman king Roger II who hired him to create it. To create the collection, al-Idrisi consulted Arabic and Greek maps and interviewed travelers about the lands they visited. He included these travelers’ stories alongside the map illustrations.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To discuss the benefits of studying mapmaking
- B. To explain how travelers created maps
- C. To describe a collection of medieval maps and how it was created
- D. To compare medieval Arabic and Greek mapmaking techniques

Question ID 938f9ec5

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

ID: 938f9ec5

The following text is adapted from Paul Laurence Dunbar’s 1902 novel *The Sport of the Gods*. Joe and some of his family members have recently moved to New York City.

[Joe] was wild with enthusiasm and with a desire to be a part of all that the metropolis meant. In the evening he saw the young fellows passing by dressed in their spruce clothes, and he wondered with a sort of envy where they could be going. Back home there had been no place much worth going to, except church and one or two people’s houses.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. It illustrates a character’s reaction to a new environment.
 - B. It explains why a character has traveled to a city.
 - C. It compares a character’s thoughts about an event at two different times of day.
 - D. It presents a character feeling regret over leaving home.

Question ID fabb16d5

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

ID: fabb16d5

The following text is from the 1924 poem “Cycle” by D’Arcy McNickle, who was a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

There shall be new roads wending,
A new beating of the drum—
Men’s eyes shall have fresh seeing,
Grey lives reprise their span—
But under the new sun’s being,
Completing what night began,
There’ll be the same backs bending,
The same sad feet shall drum—
When this night finds its ending
And day shall have come.....

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To consider how the repetitiveness inherent in human life can be both rewarding and challenging
- B. To question whether activities completed at one time of day are more memorable than those completed at another time of day
- C. To refute the idea that joy is a more commonly experienced emotion than sadness is
- D. To demonstrate how the experiences of individuals relate to the experiences of their communities

Question ID a66e7e47

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

ID: a66e7e47

A team of researchers discovered that Matabele ants can identify an infected wound in a member of the colony and then treat the infection by covering the wound with antimicrobial secretions that the ants produce. The team found that the mortality rate for Matabele ants with infected injuries was reduced by 90% with this treatment, and they are hopeful that this discovery could aid in the development of new antibiotics for human use.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It summarizes research findings on Matabele ants and then identifies an area for further research.
- B. It introduces a study of Matabele ants and then explains the research methods used in the study.
- C. It describes unique properties of Matabele ants and then speculates on how those properties evolved.
- D. It identifies an issue concerning Matabele ants and then proposes a solution to address the issue.

Question ID 98439a9a

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

ID: 98439a9a

The following text is from Paul Laurence Dunbar’s 1913 poem “The Poet and His Song.”

A song is but a little thing,
And yet what joy it is to sing!
In hours of toil it gives me zest,
And when at eve I long for rest;
When cows come home along the bars,
 And in the fold I hear the bell,
As Night, the shepherd, herds his stars,
 I sing my song, and all is well.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey how engaging in song makes the speaker feel
- B. To compare the speaker to a singing shepherd
- C. To portray the speaker’s excitement about farming
- D. To describe the pieces of music the speaker enjoys hearing

Question ID 9ebd0d69

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

ID: 9ebd0d69

Some bird species don't raise their own chicks. Instead, adult females lay their eggs in other nests, next to another bird species' own eggs. Female cuckoos have been seen quickly laying eggs in the nests of other bird species when those birds are out looking for food. After the eggs hatch, the noncuckoo parents will typically raise the cuckoo chicks as if they were their own offspring, even if the cuckoos look very different from the other chicks.

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

- A. It introduces a physical feature of female cuckoos that is described later in the text.
- B. It describes the appearance of the cuckoo nests mentioned earlier in the text.
- C. It offers a detail about how female cuckoos carry out the behavior discussed in the text.
- D. It explains how other birds react to the female cuckoo behavior discussed in the text.

Question ID eb3ef3f4

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

ID: eb3ef3f4

In 1801, a Blackfoot chief named Ac Ko Mok Ki drew a finely detailed map of the Upper Missouri region. This work demonstrates a vast amount of topographic knowledge, as the map features specific names of mountains and rivers, as well as the first-known sketch of the drainage network of the Missouri River. The map is especially notable because Ac Ko Mok Ki also included details about the numerous tribes that lived in the area.

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

- A. It emphasizes Ac Ko Mok Ki’s desire to represent other tribes on the map.
- B. It explains how Ac Ko Mok Ki developed an interest in mapmaking.
- C. It identifies some reasons why the map is impressive.
- D. It details how the map was used for hunting and trading purposes.

Question ID 92f73430

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

ID: 92f73430

In the 1950s, scientists didn’t know much about the ocean floor. Many scientists at the time believed that the ocean floor was mostly flat. But geologist Marie Tharp and her research partner, Bruce Heezen, proved that this idea was wrong. Using sonar data collected from the Atlantic Ocean, Tharp and Heezen showed that the floor was filled with canyons, mountains, and valleys.

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

- A. It identifies a scientific belief that Tharp and Heezen showed to be wrong.
- B. It describes the design of Tharp and Heezen’s experiment.
- C. It emphasizes a disagreement between Tharp and Heezen.
- D. It presents data to support a claim that Tharp and Heezen made.

Question ID 1eabb5a4

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

ID: 1eabb5a4

In the *Here and Now Storybook* (1921), educator Lucy Sprague Mitchell advanced the then controversial idea that books for very young children should imitate how they use language, since toddlers, who cannot yet grasp narrative or abstract ideas, seek reassurance in verbal repetition and naming. The most enduring example of this idea is Margaret Wise Brown’s 1947 picture book *Goodnight Moon*, in which a young rabbit names the objects in his room as he drifts off to sleep. Scholars note that the book’s emphasis on repetition, rhythm, and nonsense rhyme speaks directly to Mitchell’s influence.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The text outlines a debate between two authors of children’s literature and then traces how that debate shaped theories on early childhood education.
- B. The text summarizes an argument about how children’s literature should be evaluated and then discusses a contrasting view on that subject.
- C. The text lists the literary characteristics that are common to many classics of children’s literature and then indicates the narrative subjects that are most appropriate for young children.
- D. The text presents a philosophy about what material is most suitable for children’s literature and then describes a book influenced by that philosophy.

Question ID dcdcb002

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

ID: dcdcb002

San Francisco is known for the colorful murals painted on many of its buildings. The densest collection of murals is found on Balmy Alley in the Mission District neighborhood. In the 1970s, Latina artists painted vivid scenes of community life on walls along this block. As the original murals have faded, later generations of artists have painted new ones over them. As a result, Balmy Alley has become a living showcase of San Francisco’s artistic spirit, with its murals reflecting changes in the cultural life of the city.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare the Balmy Alley murals to other murals in San Francisco
- B. To offer an overview of the history and importance of the Balmy Alley murals
- C. To urge people to protect the murals of San Francisco from decay
- D. To describe the rise of mural painting in San Francisco beginning in the 1970s

Question ID 63474adf

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

ID: 63474adf

The following text is adapted from Jason Reynolds’s 2016 novel *Ghost*. The narrator, who is in middle school, is at a bus stop.

I just go there [to the bus stop] to look at the people working out. See, the gym across the street has this big window—like the whole wall is a window—and they have those machines that make you feel like you walking up steps and so everybody just be facing the bus stop, looking all crazy like they’re about to pass out. And trust me, there ain’t nothing funnier than that. So I check that out for a little while like it’s some kind of movie: *The About to Pass Out Show*, starring stair-stepper person one through ten.

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Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To give a reason why the narrator is excited to start middle school
- B. To describe an activity that the narrator finds amusing
- C. To explain a problem that the narrator has overcome
- D. To discuss a movie that the narrator saw in a theater

Question ID 0fe295fc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 0fe295fc

A team investigating frugivorous (fruit-eating) birds found that their feeding patterns vary depending on where they live within their habitat range. At the geographic boundaries of their natural range, these birds become highly selective, choosing fruits that closely match their beak size to maximize energy intake while minimizing effort. However, this fruit-selection strategy doesn't occur at elevation boundaries (the highest and lowest altitudes of their range). In these areas, other factors, such as territorial competition among species, have a stronger influence on feeding patterns.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe research methods that can be used to study the habitat preferences of frugivorous birds
- B. To present research findings concerning how location within a habitat affects the feeding patterns of frugivorous birds
- C. To discuss how competition among frugivorous bird species influences their habitat boundaries
- D. To explain why habitat boundaries are more important than beak size in determining the feeding patterns of frugivorous birds

Question ID d9f6e0ca

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

ID: d9f6e0ca

The following text is from Georgia Douglas Johnson’s 1922 poem “Benediction.”

Go forth, my son,
Winged by my heart’s desire!
Great reaches, yet unknown,
Await
For your possession.
I may not, if I would,
Retrace the way with you,
My pilgrimage is through,
But life is calling you!

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To express hope that a child will have the same accomplishments as his parent did
- B. To suggest that raising a child involves many struggles
- C. To warn a child that he will face many challenges throughout his life
- D. To encourage a child to embrace the experiences life will offer

Question ID fbca09be

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: fbca09be

Part of the Atacama Desert in Peru has surprisingly rich plant life despite receiving almost no rainfall. Moisture from winter fog sustains plants once they’re growing, but the soil’s tough crust makes it hard for seeds to germinate in the first place. Local birds that dig nests in the ground seem to be of help: they churn the soil, exposing buried seeds to moisture and nutrients. Indeed, in 2016 Cristina Rengifo Faiffer found that mounds of soil dug up by birds were far more fertile and supported more seedlings than soil in undisturbed areas.

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

- A. It elaborates on the idea that the top layer of Atacama Desert soil forms a tough crust.
- B. It describes the process by which seeds are deposited into Atacama Desert soil.
- C. It identifies the reason particular bird species dig nests in Atacama Desert soil.
- D. It explains how certain birds promote seed germination in Atacama Desert soil.

Question ID 290d589d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 290d589d

Alternative-history fiction is a subgenre of science fiction in which plots center on “what if?” questions. What if India had started the Industrial Revolution? What if Soviet cosmonauts had been first to land on the moon? Speculative counterfactuals like these can be great fodder for stories, but they’re also commonly deployed by academic historians to better understand factors influencing historical events. Well-realized and coherent alternative-history stories can thus complement historians’ speculations about the past.

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

- A. It illustrates how academic historians have influenced writers of alternative-history fiction.
- B. It acknowledges counterfactual questions that academic historians have largely overlooked.
- C. It provides examples of the types of scenarios addressed in alternative-history fiction.
- D. It indicates specific ideas that were first raised by writers of alternative-history fiction and that subsequently inspired scholarship by academic historians.

Question ID fbb164cd

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

ID: fbb164cd

Understanding juvenile sea turtles’ migratory patterns is crucial for conservation efforts. While adult sea turtles are well studied, little is known about juveniles during their oceanic stage, when they spend most of their time in the open ocean. To learn about this stage, researchers tagged and released six juvenile green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) into the eastern Caribbean Sea. Their findings revealed that the majority of the turtles passively drifted with ocean currents throughout the region. However, two individuals swam against the currents, possibly in search of foraging grounds off the coast of South America.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe successful conservation efforts for sea turtles
- B. To summarize research on an understudied stage of sea turtle development
- C. To compare the behavior of adult and juvenile sea turtles during migration
- D. To suggest reasons why some juvenile sea turtles swim against the ocean currents

Question ID 31003a62

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

ID: 31003a62

Horizontal gene transfer occurs when an organism of one species acquires genetic material from an organism of another species through nonreproductive means. The genetic material can then be transferred “vertically” in the second species—that is, through reproductive inheritance. Scientist Atma Ivancevic and her team have hypothesized infection by invertebrate parasites as a mechanism of horizontal gene transfer between vertebrate species: while feeding, a parasite could acquire a gene from one host, then relocate to a host from a different vertebrate species and transfer the gene to it in turn.

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

- A. It explains why parasites are less susceptible to horizontal gene transfer than their hosts are.
- B. It clarifies why some genes are more likely to be transferred horizontally than others are.
- C. It contrasts how horizontal gene transfer occurs among vertebrates with how it occurs among invertebrates.
- D. It describes a means by which horizontal gene transfer might occur among vertebrates.

Question ID a05ebca5

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

ID: a05ebca5

The following text is adapted from Gwendolyn Bennett’s 1926 poem “Street Lamps in Early Spring.”

Night wears a garment
All velvet soft, all violet blue...
And over her face she draws a veil
As shimmering fine as floating dew...
And here and there
In the black of her hair
The subtle hands of Night
Move slowly with their gem-starred light.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents alternating descriptions of night in a rural area and in a city.
- B. It sketches an image of nightfall, then an image of sunrise.
- C. It makes an extended comparison of night to a human being.
- D. It portrays how night changes from one season of the year to the next.

Question ID f5cd38a8

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

ID: f5cd38a8

The following text is adapted from Louise Erdrich’s 2020 novel *The Night Watchman*. Louis Pipestone is collecting signatures for a petition from fellow members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa on the tribe’s reservation in North Dakota.

Louis Pipestone tended the petition like a garden. He kept it with him at all times. In town, his eyes sharpened when he noticed a tribal member who hadn’t yet signed. Wherever they were—at the gas pump, mercantile [general store], at Henry’s [Café], on the road, or outside the clinic and hospital—Louis cornered them. If they were waiting for a baby to be born, he’d have them sign. If they were laughing, if they were arguing. If they were taking a child home from school, they signed.

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Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To suggest that some tribal members refuse to sign the petition because they dislike Louis Pipestone
- B. To show that attitudes toward the petition within the tribal community change over time
- C. To demonstrate that most tribal members are enthusiastic about signing the petition
- D. To portray Louis Pipestone’s strong commitment to collecting signatures for the petition

Question ID 85edd37e

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

ID: 85edd37e

Historians Tiya Miles and Roy E. Finkenbine have both documented the assistance Indigenous peoples gave to Black freedom seekers leaving the South before the US Civil War. Much of the historical evidence of this help comes from Indigenous oral traditions and from autobiographies written by the freedom seekers. One such narrative is Jermain Loguen’s autobiography, which tells about how Neshnabé (Potawatomi) villagers offered him food, lodging, and directions during his 1835 journey from Tennessee to Canada.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It provides an example of an autobiography that describes help given by an Indigenous people to a Black freedom seeker.
- B. It shows why Loguen decided to write in great detail about his experiences traveling from Tennessee to Canada in his autobiography.
- C. It argues that autobiographies are particularly important sources of information about geography in the United States before the Civil War.
- D. It suggests that most historians believe that Neshnabé villagers were more successful in assisting freedom seekers than other people were.

Question ID 3431eab8

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

ID: 3431eab8

The following text is adapted from Susan Glaspell’s 1912 short story “Out There.” An elderly shop owner is looking at a picture that he recently acquired and hopes to sell.

It did seem that the picture failed to fit in with the rest of the shop. A persuasive young fellow who claimed he was closing out his stock let the old man have it for what he called a song. It was only a little out-of-the-way store which subsisted chiefly on the framing of pictures. The old man looked around at his views of the city, his pictures of cats and dogs, his flaming bits of landscape. “Don’t belong in here,” he fumed.

And yet the old man was secretly proud of his acquisition. There was a hidden dignity in his scowling as he shuffled about pondering the least ridiculous place for the picture.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To reveal the shop owner’s conflicted feelings about the new picture
 - B. To convey the shop owner’s resentment of the person he got the new picture from
 - C. To describe the items that the shop owner most highly prizes
 - D. To explain differences between the new picture and other pictures in the shop

Question ID 7801ffc1

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

ID: 7801ffc1

Built in the 1970s, Raccoon Mountain is a pumped-storage hydropower facility (a “water-battery”) located in the United States along the Tennessee River. When energy demand is low, excess power from the regional electric utility’s nuclear plants is used to pump water (from a lower reservoir filled from the Tennessee River) up a shaft to the summit lake, where the water is stored as gravitational potential energy. When energy demand peaks, the water drains down from the summit lake, spinning turbines and generating upward of 1,700 megawatts of power—enough to power one million homes for twenty hours.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To point out the differences between two methods of energy generation
 - B. To explain the basics of how a specific energy technology works
 - C. To encourage regional electric utilities to build energy storage facilities
 - D. To discuss the benefits of a new energy technology

Question ID 7cd79f47

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

ID: 7cd79f47

Very little is known about the role nocturnal insects, such as moths, play in flower pollination because it is difficult to monitor insects at night. To address this problem, a team of scientists used time-lapse cameras to record pollinator visits to red clover all day and night. The recordings showed that while most pollinator visits were by bumblebees, one-third of visits were by moths. Additionally, flowers that were visited by both moths and bees produced more seeds than flowers that were only visited by bees.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. To describe an approach a team of scientists used to study pollinators
- B. To question a claim scientists make about pollinators
- C. To explain why moths prefer red clover to other flowers
- D. To announce an unexpected research finding about red clover

Question ID f74fdbf0

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

ID: f74fdbf0

The following text is from Annie Dillard’s 1987 autobiographical novel *An American Childhood*. The narrator is a young girl living in Pittsburgh.

I walked. My mother had given me the freedom of the streets as soon as I could say our telephone number. I walked and memorized the neighborhood. I made a mental map and located myself upon it. At night in bed I rehearsed the small world’s scheme and set challenges: Find the store using backyards only. Imagine a route from the school to my friend’s house.

©1987 by Annie Dillard

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

- A. It describes the narrator trying to memorize her telephone number.
- B. It provides examples of what the narrator thinks about at night.
- C. It gives directions to the narrator’s favorite local store.
- D. It portrays the narrator’s relationship with her mother.

Question ID d09b0482

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

ID: d09b0482

In the late 1800s, Spanish-language newspapers flourished in cities across Texas. San Antonio alone produced eleven newspapers in Spanish between 1890 and 1900. But El Paso surpassed all other cities in the state. This city produced twenty-two newspapers in Spanish during that period. El Paso is located on the border with Mexico and has always had a large population of Spanish speakers. Thus, it is unsurprising that this city became such a rich site for Spanish-language journalism.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas today with ones published there during the late 1800s
- B. To explain that Spanish-language newspapers thrived in Texas and especially in El Paso during the late 1800s
- C. To argue that Spanish-language newspapers published in El Paso influenced the ones published in San Antonio during the late 1800s
- D. To explain why Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas were so popular in Mexico during the late 1800s

Question ID 9f3a45a8

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

ID: 9f3a45a8

The following text is from Louise Erdrich’s 1986 novel *The Beet Queen*. The narrator discusses her relationship with her young niece, Dot. Celestine, the narrator’s sister-in-law, is Dot’s mother.

Dot was as impatient with babyhood as I. She tried at once to grow out of it. Celestine never saw that, because she, and only she, took pleasure in Dot’s helpless softness. Only Celestine was saddened by her daughter’s fierce progress. Day by day, Dot grew stronger. In her shopping-cart stroller she exercised to exhaustion, bouncing for hours to develop her leg muscles.

©1986 by Louise Erdrich

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

- A. It offers a detail that shows how Dot is growing stronger.
- B. It expresses hope that Celestine will mature psychologically.
- C. It explores some of the narrator’s psychological characteristics.
- D. It indicates how sad Celestine is by describing a behavior she engages in.

Question ID 5be3041b

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

ID: 5be3041b

Composer Florence Price won first place for her score Symphony in E Minor at the 1932 Wanamaker Foundation Awards. The piece was performed the following year by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a significant recognition of its quality. Price continued to compose many musical pieces throughout her career, blending traditional Black spirituals with classical European Romantic musical traditions. In recent years, Price’s concertos and symphonies have been performed and recorded by several major orchestras, further preserving her work for others to enjoy.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To provide examples of Price’s importance as a composer
- B. To argue that more major orchestras should perform Price’s compositions
- C. To describe the musical styles that inspired many of Price’s symphonies
- D. To compare Price’s scores with those of classical European composers

Question ID dac886d3

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

ID: dac886d3

The following text is adapted from Jean Webster’s 1912 novel *Daddy-Long-Legs*. The narrator is a young college student writing letters detailing her weekly experiences.

[The college is] organizing the Freshman basket-ball team and there’s just a chance that I shall make it. I’m little of course, but terribly quick and wiry and tough. While the others are hopping about in the air, I can dodge under their feet and grab the ball.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To compare basketball with other sports
 - B. To provide details of how to play basketball
 - C. To state how players will be chosen for the basketball team
 - D. To explain why the narrator thinks she might make the basketball team

Question ID dbf0300f

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

ID: dbf0300f

The following text is adapted from Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto’s 1925 memoir *A Daughter of the Samurai*. As a young woman, Sugimoto moved from feudal Japan to the United States.

The standards of my own and my adopted country differed so widely in some ways, and my love for both lands was so sincere, that sometimes I had an odd feeling of standing upon a cloud in space, and gazing with measuring eyes upon two separate worlds. At first I was continually trying to explain, by Japanese standards, all the queer things that came every day before my surprised eyes; for no one seemed to know the origin or significance of even the most familiar customs, nor why they existed and were followed.

- Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?
- A. To convey the narrator’s experience of observing and making sense of differences between two cultures she embraces
 - B. To establish the narrator’s hope of forming connections with new companions by sharing customs she learned as a child
 - C. To reveal the narrator’s recognition that she is hesitant to ask questions about certain aspects of a culture she is newly encountering
 - D. To emphasize the narrator’s wonder at discovering that the physical distance between two countries is greater than she had expected

Question ID 393d6d09

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

ID: 393d6d09

Space scientists Anna-Lisa Paul, Stephen M. Elardo, and Robert Ferl planted seeds of *Arabidopsis thaliana* in samples of lunar regolith—the surface material of the Moon—and, serving as a control group, in terrestrial soil. They found that while all the seeds germinated, the roots of the regolith-grown plants were stunted compared with those in the control group. Moreover, unlike the plants in the control group, the regolith-grown plants exhibited red pigmentation, reduced leaf size, and inhibited growth rates—indicators of stress that were corroborated by postharvest molecular analysis.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It describes an experiment that addressed an unresolved question about the extent to which lunar regolith resembles terrestrial soils.
- B. It compares two distinct methods of assessing indicators of stress in plants grown in a simulated lunar environment.
- C. It presents evidence in support of the hypothesis that seed germination in lunar habitats is an unattainable goal.
- D. It discusses the findings of a study that evaluated the effects of exposing a plant species to lunar soil conditions.

Question ID 17a639b6

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

ID: 17a639b6

The following text is adapted from Oscar Wilde’s 1897 nonfiction work *De Profundis*.

People whose desire is solely for self-realisation never know where they are going. They can’t know. In one sense of the word it is of course necessary to know oneself: that is the first achievement of knowledge. But to recognise that the soul of a man is unknowable, is the ultimate achievement of wisdom. The final mystery is oneself. When one has weighed the sun in the balance, and measured the steps of the moon, and mapped out the seven heavens star by star, there still remains oneself. Who can calculate the orbit of his own soul?

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

- A. It reinforces the text’s skepticism about the possibility of truly achieving self-knowledge.
- B. It speculates that some readers will share the doubts expressed in the text about the value of self-knowledge.
- C. It cautions readers that the text’s directions for how to achieve self-knowledge are hard to follow.
- D. It concedes that the definition of self-knowledge advanced in the text is unpopular.

Question ID 3e961059

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

ID: 3e961059

Many archaeologists assume that large-scale engineering projects in ancient societies required an elite class to plan and direct the necessary labor. However, recent discoveries, such as the excavation of an ancient canal near the Gulf Coast of Alabama, have complicated this picture. Using radiocarbon dating, a team of researchers concluded that the 1.39-kilometer-long canal was most likely constructed between 576 and 650 CE by an Indigenous society that was relatively free of social classes.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes a common view among archaeologists, then discusses a recent finding that challenges that view.
- B. It outlines a method used in some archaeological fieldwork, then explains why an alternative method is superior to it.
- C. It presents contradictory conclusions drawn by archaeologists, then evaluates a study that has apparently resolved that contradiction.
- D. It identifies a gap in scientific research, then presents a strategy used by some archaeologists to remedy that gap.

Question ID b0f7e5b1

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

ID: b0f7e5b1

Though Chloé Zhao’s films are fictional, she incorporates real events into them in a documentary-like style and casts nonprofessional actors who reside in the places that she aims to portray. She also encourages these actors, whether they are teenagers living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation or adults who travel the country for work, to put as much of themselves into their roles as possible. Her approach adds powerful resonance to films that explore the highly personal experiences of place and home, and often the difficult decision to stay or leave.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To argue that Chloé Zhao’s films are best understood as documentaries
- B. To discuss how Chloé Zhao’s background in documentary filmmaking has influenced her storytelling style in films
- C. To emphasize that Chloé Zhao’s decisions during the filmmaking process reinforce the themes of her films
- D. To summarize how Chloé Zhao’s style of filmmaking changed over the course of her career

Question ID a221c76d

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

ID: a221c76d

The following text is from Ameen Rihani’s 1921 poem “The Wanderer.”

I wander among the hills of alien lands
Where Nature her prerogative resigns
To Man; where Comfort in her shack reclines
And all the arts and sciences commands.
But in my soul
The eastern billows roll—
I hear the voices of my native strands.

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

- A. It establishes that the speaker’s enthusiasm about current travels conflicts with the growing urge to return home.
- B. It illustrates the speaker’s uncertainty about maintaining strong links with relatives in distant places.
- C. It conveys the speaker’s sense of feeling a pull toward home while traveling in an unfamiliar place.
- D. It reveals that upon returning after an extended absence, the speaker longs for the way a location once felt.

Question ID e1960e6f

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

ID: e1960e6f

The following text is adapted from Charles Chesnutt’s 1899 short story “Mars Jeems’s Nightmare.” The narrator and his wife have recently moved to the southern United States, and Julius is their carriage driver.

Julius [was] very useful when we moved to our new residence. He had a thorough knowledge of the neighborhood, was familiar with the roads and the watercourses, knew the qualities of the various soils and what they would produce, and where the best hunting and fishing were to be had. He was a marvelous hand in the management of horses and dogs.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare the narrator’s reaction to a new home with his wife’s reaction
- B. To give an example of Julius’s knowledge about soil
- C. To show that the narrator and Julius often hunt and fish together
- D. To explain different ways in which Julius was helpful

Question ID a37d3d4e

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

ID: a37d3d4e

The following text is from the 1895 poem “Marshlands” by Emily Pauline Johnson, a Kanienkahagen (Mohawk) writer also known as Tekahionwake.

Among the wild rice in the still lagoon,
In monotone the lizard shrills his tune.
The wild goose, homing, seeks a sheltering,
Where rushes grow, and oozing lichens cling.
Late cranes with heavy wing, and lazy flight,
Sail up the silence with the nearing night.
And like a spirit, swathed in some soft veil,
Steals twilight and its shadows o’er the swale.
Hushed lie the sedges, and the vapours creep,
Thick, grey and humid, while the marshes sleep.

- Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?
- A. It names animal species found in a place, then names plant species there.
 - B. It sketches a setting by presenting a series of images of nature.
 - C. It makes an extended comparison of nature to human emotions.
 - D. It identifies a location, then refers to a person living there.

Question ID 7fc2daad

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

ID: 7fc2daad

Today composer Scott Joplin is mainly celebrated for his catchy ragtime pieces “Maple Leaf Rag” and “The Entertainer.” However, by overlooking his less famous works, listeners will miss the full range of Joplin’s creativity. For instance, his waltz “Pleasant Moments” and his opera *Treemonisha* skillfully blend ragtime and classical music. These masterpieces deserve as much fame as Joplin’s biggest hits.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe the similarities and differences between ragtime music and opera
- B. To argue that more attention should be given to Joplin’s lesser-known works
- C. To encourage music lovers to listen to music by many different composers
- D. To explain how Joplin learned to compose and perform ragtime music

Question ID c3147c89

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

ID: c3147c89

The following text is from Betty Smith’s 1943 novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Francie, a young girl, visits the library often.

Francie thought that all the books in the world were in that library and she had a plan about reading all the books in the world. She was reading a book a day in alphabetical order and not skipping the dry ones. She remembered that the first author had been Abbott. She had been reading a book a day for a long time now and she was still in the B’s. Already she had read about bees and buffaloes, Bermuda vacations and Byzantine architecture. For all her enthusiasm, she had to admit that some of the B’s had been hard going. But Francie was a reader.

©1947 by Betty Smith

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To illustrate Francie’s enjoyment of an unusual topic
- B. To explain why Francie prefers reading over other activities
- C. To portray Francie’s determination to meet a goal
- D. To describe a book that Francie greatly admires

Question ID fd16a0c0

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

ID: fd16a0c0

Genetic studies have led researchers to suggest that turtles are most closely related to the group that includes modern crocodiles. But studies of fossils have suggested instead that turtles are most closely related to other groups, such as the one that contains modern snakes. However, many of the fossil studies have relied on incomplete data sets. For a 2022 investigation, biologist Tiago R. Simões and colleagues examined more than 1,000 reptile fossils collected worldwide. From this large data set, they found clear agreement with the results of the genetic studies.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It offers an overview of the tools scientists use to examine fossils.
- B. It describes a limitation of some studies about the origin of turtles.
- C. It summarizes previous research on the evolution of crocodiles.
- D. It criticizes a widely held belief about genetic studies of reptiles.

Question ID 5ba8ba43

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

ID: 5ba8ba43

Researchers have long hypothesized that woolly mammoths were hunted to extinction in North America by humans using spears with grooved tips known as Clovis points. One anthropologist set out to test this hypothesis. Using a mechanical spear-thrower, he launched spears with Clovis points into mounds of clay—substitutes for the animals’ large bodies. The projectiles generally penetrated only a few inches into the clay, an amount insufficient to have harmed most woolly mammoths. This led the anthropologist to conclude that hunters using spears with Clovis points likely weren’t the principal drivers of the extinction.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To argue for the significance of new findings amid an ongoing debate among researchers
- B. To discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the method used in an experiment
- C. To summarize two competing hypotheses and a major finding associated with each one
- D. To describe an experiment whose results cast doubt on an established hypothesis

Question ID 3eac637e

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

ID: 3eac637e

In 1973, poet Miguel Algarín started inviting other writers who, like him, were Nuyorican—a term for New Yorkers of Puerto Rican heritage—to gather in his apartment to present their work. The gatherings were so well attended that Algarín soon had to rent space in a cafe to accommodate them. Thus, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe was born. Moving to a permanent location in 1981, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe expanded its original scope beyond the written word, hosting art exhibitions and musical performances as well. Half a century since its inception, it continues to foster emerging Nuyorican talent.

Which choice best describes the overall purpose of the text?

- A. To explain what motivated Algarín to found the Nuyorican Poets Cafe
- B. To situate the Nuyorican Poets Cafe within the cultural life of New York as a whole
- C. To discuss why the Nuyorican Poets Cafe expanded its scope to include art and music
- D. To provide an overview of the founding and mission of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe

Question ID d24ed117

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

ID: d24ed117

Researchers have found a nearly 164,000-year-old molar from a member of the archaic human species known as Denisovans in a cave in Laos, suggesting that Denisovans lived in a wider range of environments than indicated by earlier evidence. Before the discovery, Denisovans were thought to have lived only at high altitudes in relatively cold climates in what are now Russia and China, but the discovery of the tooth in Laos suggests that they may have lived at low altitudes in relatively warm climates in Southeast Asia as well.

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

- A. It dismisses as untrue the research presented in the previous sentence.
- B. It defines a term used in the description that follows in the rest of the sentence.
- C. It emphasizes the main goal of the research introduced in the previous sentence.
- D. It provides context that clarifies the significance of the information that follows in the rest of the sentence.

Question ID 070f31a6

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

ID: 070f31a6

The following text is from Bram Stoker’s 1911 novel *The Lair of the White Worm*. Adam is meeting his great-uncle Richard at a port.

The meeting so auspiciously begun proceeded well. Adam, seeing that the old man was interested in the novelty of the ship, suggested that he should stay the night on board, and that he would himself be ready to start at any hour and go anywhere that the other suggested. This affectionate willingness to fall in with his own plans quite won the old man’s heart. He warmly accepted the invitation, and at once they became not only on terms of affectionate relationship, but almost like old friends.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It states the reasons why Adam and his great-uncle Richard decide to sleep on the ship rather than finding lodging on land.
- B. It showcases how Adam’s flexibility and consideration strengthen his relationship with his great-uncle Richard.
- C. It describes why Adam and his great-uncle Richard are excited for their upcoming journey on the ship.
- D. It contrasts great-uncle Richard’s wary first impressions of Adam with his ultimate affection toward him.

Question ID baf303b9

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

ID: baf303b9

In 2007, computer scientist Luis von Ahn was working on converting printed books into a digital format. He found that some words were distorted enough that digital scanners couldn’t recognize them, but most humans could easily read them. Based on that finding, von Ahn invented a simple security test to keep automated “bots” out of websites. The first version of the reCAPTCHA test asked users to type one known word and one of the many words scanners couldn’t recognize. Correct answers proved the users were humans and added data to the book-digitizing project.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To discuss von Ahn’s invention of reCAPTCHA
- B. To explain how digital scanners work
- C. To call attention to von Ahn’s book-digitizing project
- D. To indicate how popular reCAPTCHA is

Question ID 44b9d078

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

ID: 44b9d078

Yawn contagion occurs when one individual yawns in response to another's yawn. Studies of this behavior in primates have focused on populations in captivity, but biologist Elisabetta Palagi and her colleagues have shown that it can occur in wild primate populations as well. In their study, which focused on a wild population of gelada monkeys (*Theropithecus gelada*) in Ethiopia, the researchers further reported that yawn contagion most commonly occurred in males and across different social groups instead of within a single social group.

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

- A. It defines a phenomenon that is discussed in the text.
- B. It introduces a problem that is examined in the text.
- C. It makes a claim that is challenged in the text.
- D. It presents a hypothesis that is evaluated in the text.

Question ID a93ffa9d

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

ID: a93ffa9d

Generally it takes Tule geese about four days to migrate south for the winter. From their summer breeding grounds in Cook Inlet, Alaska, the birds begin by flying over the Gulf of Alaska, keeping about 100 miles from the Canadian shore. They pause to rest on the Pacific Ocean, then fly toward Summer Lake, Oregon, before finally arriving at their winter destination of Sacramento Valley, California. In 2020, however, it took the geese over twice as long to make their way from Cook Inlet to Sacramento Valley. According to researchers, the reason was airborne pollutants.

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

- A. It illustrates a change in Tule geese’s usual flight behavior.
- B. It suggests an explanation for why Tule geese breed in Alaska.
- C. It describes part of the Tule geese’s typical winter migration journey.
- D. It compares Tule geese to other birds that migrate south for the winter.

Question ID a0aa08f7

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

ID: a0aa08f7

For his 1986 album *Keyboard Fantasies*, Beverly Glenn-Copeland wrote songs grounded in traditional soul and folk music, then accompanied them with futuristic synthesizer arrangements featuring ambient sounds and complex rhythms. The result was so strange, so unprecedented, that the album attracted little attention when first released. In recent years, however, a younger generation of musicians has embraced the stylistic experimentation of *Keyboard Fantasies*. Alternative R&B musicians Blood Orange and Moses Sumney, among other contemporary recording artists, cite the album as an influence.

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

- A. It urges contemporary musicians to adopt the unique sound of *Keyboard Fantasies*.
- B. It responds to criticism of *Keyboard Fantasies* by some younger musicians.
- C. It offers examples of younger musicians whose work has been impacted by *Keyboard Fantasies*.
- D. It contrasts *Keyboard Fantasies* with the recordings of two younger musicians.

Question ID e4080ae8

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

ID: e4080ae8

The following text is from Lucy Maud Montgomery’s 1908 novel *Anne of Green Gables*. Anne, an eleven-year-old girl, has come to live on a farm with a woman named Marilla in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Anne reveled in the world of color about her.
“Oh, Marilla,” she exclaimed one Saturday morning, coming dancing in with her arms full of gorgeous boughs, “I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn’t it? Look at these maple branches. Don’t they give you a thrill—several thrills? I’m going to decorate my room with them.”
“Messy things,” said Marilla, whose aesthetic sense was not noticeably developed. “You clutter up your room entirely too much with out-of-doors stuff, Anne. Bedrooms were made to sleep in.”

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To demonstrate that Anne has a newly developed appreciation of nature
 - B. To describe an argument that Anne and Marilla often have
 - C. To emphasize Marilla’s disapproval of how Anne has decorated her room
 - D. To show that Anne and Marilla have very different personalities

Question ID 8151db33

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

ID: 8151db33

In the past, historians who wanted to examine Frederick Douglass’s diary and other personal papers had to visit the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, to view them on microfilm (film containing scaled-down reproductions of documents). But traveling to the library often added time and costs to research projects. Now, by going to the library’s website, researchers can access digitized versions of Douglass’s papers without physically going anywhere.

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

- A. It gives information about a famous person.
- B. It explains the meaning of a word.
- C. It describes a debate among historians.
- D. It summarizes an unexpected finding.

Question ID bc294dc9

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

ID: bc294dc9

The following text is adapted from Charles Dickens’s 1854 novel *Hard Times*. Coketown is a fictional town in England. [Coketown] contained several large streets all very like one another, and many small streets still more like one another, inhabited by people equally like one another, who all went in and out at the same hours, with the same sound upon the same pavements, to do the same work, and to whom every day was the same as yesterday and tomorrow, and every year the counterpart of the last and the next.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To emphasize the uniformity of both the town and the people who live there
 - B. To explain the limited work opportunities available to the town’s residents
 - C. To reveal how the predictability of the town makes it easy for people lose track of time
 - D. To argue that the simplicity of life in the town makes it a pleasant place to live

Question ID e4a01f32

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

ID: e4a01f32

When ancient oak planks were unearthed during subway construction in Rome, Mauro Bernabei and his team examined the growth rings in the wood to determine where these planks came from. By comparing the growth rings on the planks to records of similar rings in oaks from Europe, the team could trace the wood to the Jura region of France, hundreds of kilometers from Rome. Because timber could only have been transported from distant Jura to Rome by boat, the team’s findings suggest the complexity of Roman trade routes.

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

- A. It presents a conclusion about Roman trade routes based on the team’s findings.
- B. It questions how the team was able to conclude that the planks were used to build a boat.
- C. It explains why the planks were made from oak rather than a different kind of wood.
- D. It describes common methods used in Roman subway construction.

Question ID 4e6c5418

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

ID: 4e6c5418

Jackie Ormes’s *Torchy Brown in Dixie to Harlem* (1937–38) was the first comic strip by a Black woman to appear in a widely read newspaper. The strip tells the story of Torchy, a young woman who leaves Mississippi to become a performer in New York City. Torchy’s story reflects the experience of the Great Migration (1910–1970), when millions of Black Americans left the South in search of opportunities in other parts of the United States. *Torchy Brown* thus shows how Ormes used comics to comment humorously on issues affecting Black Americans, which she continued to do throughout her career.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To show how Ormes’s *Torchy Brown* inspired other Black women to write comic strips in the 1930s
- B. To illustrate how the subjects Ormes addressed in her comic strips changed over the course of her career
- C. To give an example of how Ormes presented the experiences of Black Americans in her comic strips
- D. To claim that several characters in *Torchy Brown* were based on people that Ormes knew personally

Question ID 5d31fbb8

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

ID: 5d31fbb8

In the early days of television in the 1940s, many people thought that US television programs would rely on the financial support of ad agencies and commercial sponsors, much like radio did. But advertisers hesitated to jump into a new space, particularly at a time when the manufacturing of new television sets was stalled due to the US’s involvement in World War II. Broadcasters, like the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), needed to persuade advertisers to support their programming despite not knowing whether there would be a robust television audience to begin with.

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

- A. It compares the beginnings of radio programming with the beginnings of television programming in the United States.
- B. It identifies a specific reason behind some advertisers’ hesitance to support television.
- C. It describes how broadcasters attempted to convince advertisers to support television.
- D. It explains why a type of television programming was popular at the time.

Question ID c1dfe41f

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

ID: c1dfe41f

The following text is from Virginia Woolf’s 1919 novel *Night and Day*. The text describes a gathering of young artists and intellectuals.

One person after another rose, and, as with an ill-balanced axe, attempted to hew out his conception of art a little more clearly, and sat down with the feeling that, for some reason which he could not grasp, his strokes had gone awry. As they sat down they turned almost invariably to the person sitting next them, and rectified and continued what they had just said in public.

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

- A. To demonstrate individuals’ puzzlement over the reputation of a certain artwork
- B. To highlight the physical effort involved in individuals’ construction of large-scale works of art
- C. To draw attention to individuals’ discontent with the group’s conversation about art
- D. To emphasize the extent of individuals’ struggles to articulate thoughts on art

Question ID 9a79ab9c

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

ID: 9a79ab9c

The following text is adapted from Akwaeke Emezi’s 2019 novel *Pet*. Jam is a teenager who lives with her father, Aloe, and her mother, Bitter, who is a painter.

Bitter finished the painting in the dark morning of a day—it was well past midnight when Jam heard the studio door creak open. She stared into the velvet black of her room and listened to her mother’s footsteps walking in her [mother] and Aloe’s bedroom. There was a weight thrumming through the floorboards in a low song, and that was how Jam knew the painting was done. Bitter’s feet were singing the news.

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

- A. It indicates that Jam is more interested in music than in art.
- B. It adds to the idea that Bitter’s footsteps reveal something to Jam.
- C. It indicates that Bitter always sings when working on a painting.
- D. It describes Aloe’s reaction upon seeing the painting for the first time.

Question ID eb4b2a58

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

ID: eb4b2a58

Ordinary soap bubbles usually exist for a minute or less before popping due to either a rupture forced by gravity-induced drainage or the evaporation of the liquid from which the bubble is composed. But physicist Aymeric Roux and colleagues discovered ways to mitigate these factors, resulting in bubbles that can last for a year or more. For example, glycerol tends to adhere to water molecules, so a bubble with a shell that contains both water and glycerol is able to draw additional water molecules from the surrounding air and thereby compensate for evaporation.

Which choice best states the purpose of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It describes the effects of a process devised by researchers that increases the longevity of an object discussed in the text.
- B. It details the circumstances that prompted the research discussed in the text.
- C. It presents a reason why the phenomenon discussed in the text that the researchers wanted to avoid will inevitably occur.
- D. It mentions a method discussed in the text that researchers intend to test in future experiments.