

Question ID 1fc1a8f1

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: 1fc1a8f1

During Rome’s republican period, which ended in the first century BCE, libraries were predominantly owned by wealthy individuals who tightly controlled access to their book collections. The first public library became available in Rome in 28 BCE and was soon followed by one commissioned by Emperor Augustus. As modern scholar Fabio Fernandes notes, however, these two traditions aren’t as distinct as they seem, as both the emperor and the private library owners viewed their libraries as extensions of their personal patronage, just on vastly differing scales.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To give a brief overview of public access to libraries throughout Rome’s republican period
- B. To contend that early imperial leaders in Rome wielded too much influence over libraries
- C. To assert that private and early public libraries in ancient Rome had an essential similarity
- D. To call into question the notion that private Roman libraries disappeared during the first century BCE

Question ID 222ff46e

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: 222ff46e

Scholarly accounts of the Chicano movement—a movement that advocated for the social, political, and cultural empowerment of Mexican Americans and reached its zenith in the 1960s and 1970s—tend to focus on the most militant, outspoken figures in the movement, making it seem uniformly radical. Geographer Juan Herrera has shown, however, that if we shift our focus toward the way the movement manifested in comparatively low-profile neighborhood institutions and projects, we see participants espousing an array of political orientations and approaches to community activism.

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

- A. It presents a trend in scholarship on the Chicano movement that the text claims has been reevaluated by researchers in light of Herrera’s work on the movement’s participants.
- B. It identifies an aspect of the Chicano movement that the text implies was overemphasized by scholars due to their own political orientations.
- C. It describes a common approach to studying the Chicano movement that, according to the text, obscures the ideological diversity of the movement’s participants.
- D. It summarizes the conventional method for analyzing the Chicano movement, which the text suggests creates a misleading impression of the effectiveness of neighborhood institutions and projects.

Question ID 79beb4da

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: 79beb4da

Micheline Pesantubbee, a historian and citizen of the Choctaw Nation, has identified a dilemma inherent to research on the status of women in her tribe during the 1600s and 1700s: the primary sources from that era, travel narratives and other accounts by male European colonizers, underestimate the degree of power conferred on Choctaw women by their traditional roles in political, civic, and ceremonial life. Pesantubbee argues that the Choctaw oral tradition and findings from archaeological sites in the tribe’s homeland supplement the written record by providing crucial insights into those roles.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It details the shortcomings of certain historical sources, then argues that research should avoid those sources altogether.
- B. It describes a problem that arises in research on a particular topic, then sketches a historian’s approach to addressing that problem.
- C. It lists the advantages of a particular research method, then acknowledges a historian’s criticism of that method.
- D. It characterizes a particular topic as especially challenging to research, then suggests a related topic for historians to pursue instead.

Question ID f6b74e80

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: f6b74e80

A number of Indigenous politicians have been elected to the United States Congress since 2000 as members of the country’s two established political parties. In Canada and several Latin American countries, on the other hand, Indigenous people have formed their own political parties to advance candidates who will advocate for the interests of their communities. This movement has been particularly successful in Ecuador, where Guadalupe Llori, a member of the Indigenous party known as Pachakutik, was elected president of the National Assembly in 2021.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To trace the history of an Indigenous political movement and speculate about its future development
- B. To argue that Indigenous politicians in the United States should form their own political party
- C. To highlight two approaches to achieving political representation for Indigenous people
- D. To consider how Indigenous politicians in the United States have influenced Indigenous politicians in Canada and Latin America

Question ID c85dc4ff

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>

ID: c85dc4ff

The people of medieval Europe have traditionally been seen as uninterested in cleanliness and hygiene, but modern research has shown that this is largely a myth. According to historian Eleanor Janega, most medieval towns in Europe had at least one public bathhouse, which often offered both full-immersion baths and—more affordably—steam baths. While such amenities were available mainly to town dwellers, regular bathing in rivers and streams or daily sponge baths at home were common practices throughout medieval Europe.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion?

- A. It asserts that in medieval Europe steam baths were more popular in rural areas than in urban ones.
- B. It describes a limitation of earlier historians’ studies of medieval European bathing habits.
- C. It concedes that not all people in medieval Europe had access to public bathhouses.
- D. It explains why Janega decided to study the popularity of public bathhouses in medieval Europe.

Question ID 8eb93382

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: 8eb93382

Musician Joni Mitchell, who is also a painter, uses images she creates for her album covers to emphasize ideas expressed in her music. For the cover of her album *Turbulent Indigo* (1994), Mitchell painted a striking self-portrait that closely resembles Vincent van Gogh’s *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* (1889). The image calls attention to the album’s title song, in which Mitchell sings about the legacy of the postimpressionist painter. In that song, Mitchell also hints that she feels a strong artistic connection to Van Gogh—an idea that is reinforced by her imagery on the cover.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents a claim about Mitchell, then gives an example supporting that claim.
- B. It discusses Van Gogh’s influence on Mitchell, then considers Mitchell’s influence on other artists.
- C. It describes a similarity between two artists, then notes a difference between them.
- D. It describes the songs on *Turbulent Indigo*, then explains how they relate to the album’s cover.

Question ID f6a04ddc

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: f6a04ddc

Pteropods are small swimming snails with thin, delicate calcium carbonate shells. These animals are thought to be especially vulnerable to ocean acidification due to calcium carbonate’s susceptibility to dissolution at lower pH values. Victoria L. Peck and colleagues recently found that the periostracum (a protective coating on pteropods’ outer shells) prevents this dissolution when intact. Moreover, the team was surprised to discover that even when the periostracum is breached, pteropods can still mitigate damage by rebuilding the inner shell wall.

Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. To call for additional research on biological mechanisms that improve pteropod survival rates
- B. To discuss a conclusion drawn in a study of calcium carbonate’s role in protecting the periostracum of pteropods
- C. To address some of the ways ocean acidification has altered pteropod behavior over time
- D. To present findings that suggest that a concern about the effects of ocean acidification on pteropod shells may be unwarranted

Question ID 8b8d3e76

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: 8b8d3e76

The 1967 release of Harold Cruse’s book *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* isolated him from almost all other scholars and activists of the American Civil Rights Movement—though many of those thinkers disagreed with each other, he nonetheless found ways to disagree with them all. He thought that activists who believed that Black people such as himself should culturally assimilate were naïve. But he also sharply criticized Black nationalists such as Marcus Garvey who wanted to establish independent, self-contained Black economies and societies, even though Cruse himself identified as a Black nationalist.

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

- A. It describes a direction that Cruse felt the Civil Rights Movement ought to take.
- B. It indicates that Cruse’s reputation as a persistent antagonist of other scholars is undeserved.
- C. It describes a controversy that Cruse’s work caused within the Black nationalist movement.
- D. It helps explain Cruse’s position with respect to the community of civil rights thinkers.

Question ID d7b7ade5

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: d7b7ade5

Early in the Great Migration of 1910–1970, which involved the mass migration of Black people from the southern to the northern United States, political activist and *Chicago Defender* writer Fannie Barrier Williams was instrumental in helping other Black women establish themselves in the North. Many women hoped for better employment opportunities in the North because, in the South, they faced much competition for domestic employment and men tended to get agricultural work. To aid with this transition, Barrier Williams helped secure job placement in the North for many women before they even began their journey.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To introduce and illustrate Barrier Williams’s integral role in supporting other Black women as their circumstances changed during part of the Great Migration
- B. To establish that Barrier Williams used her professional connections to arrange employment for other Black women, including jobs with the *Chicago Defender*
- C. To demonstrate that the factors that motivated the start of the Great Migration were different for Black women than they were for Black men
- D. To provide an overview of the employment challenges faced by Black women in the agricultural and domestic spheres in the southern United States

Question ID d3df4847

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: d3df4847

The following text is from William Shakespeare’s circa 1611 play *The Winter’s Tale*. Camillo has been away from his home in Sicily and serves in the court of Polixenes, the king of Bohemia. He has asked Polixenes for permission to return to Sicily.

POLIXENES: I pray thee, good Camillo, be no more importunate. ’Tis a sickness denying thee anything, a death to grant this.

CAMILLO: It is fifteen years since I saw my country. Though I have for the most part been aired abroad, I desire to lay my bones there. Besides, the penitent king, my master, hath sent for me, to whose feeling sorrows I might be some allay—or I o’erween [presume] to think so—which is another spur to my departure.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?
- A. It establishes Camillo’s hope that Polixenes will be comforted knowing that Camillo isn’t departing at his own discretion.
 - B. It suggests that Camillo feels compelled to persuade Polixenes that Camillo’s decision to leave the court is justified.
 - C. It conveys Camillo’s recognition that one benefit his presence may afford the king of Sicily is merely speculative.
 - D. It bolsters the idea that Camillo’s primary motivation to return home is his concern for the king of Sicily’s well-being in his absence.

Question ID f2b7e360

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: f2b7e360

The following text is adapted from George Eliot’s 1857 short story “The Sad Fortunes of the Rev. Amos Barton.” Mr. Ely is a clergyman in the town of Milby.

By the laity of Milby and its neighbourhood [Mr. Ely] was regarded as a man of quite remarkable powers and learning, who must make a considerable sensation in London pulpits and drawing-rooms on his occasional visit to the metropolis; and by his brother clergy he was regarded as a discreet and agreeable fellow. Mr. Ely never got into a warm discussion; he suggested what might be thought, but rarely said what he thought himself; he never let either men or women see that he was laughing at them, and he never gave any one an opportunity of laughing at *him*.

- Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?
- A. It shows that Mr. Ely had originally been held in high regard by his friends and then details the events that caused their regard for him to subside.
 - B. It implies that Mr. Ely’s neighbors are more naïve in their estimation of him than people in London are and then explains why his neighbors have been so easily misled.
 - C. It stresses the discrepancy between Mr. Ely’s public and private conduct and then alludes to his motivation for hiding his true personality.
 - D. It presents the favorable opinion of Mr. Ely that other people hold and then describes the behaviors of Mr. Ely that enable him to maintain that favorable opinion.

Question ID a4bd7a28

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: a4bd7a28

The following text is adapted from Jane Austen’s 1814 novel *Mansfield Park*. The speaker, Tom, is considering staging a play at home with a group of his friends and family.

We mean nothing but a little amusement among ourselves, just to vary the scene, and exercise our powers in something new. We want no audience, no publicity. We may be trusted, I think, in choosing some play most perfectly unexceptionable; and I can conceive no greater harm or danger to any of us in conversing in the elegant written language of some respectable author than in chattering in words of our own.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To offer Tom’s assurance that the play will be inoffensive and involve only a small number of people
- B. To clarify that the play will not be performed in the manner Tom had originally intended
- C. To elaborate on the idea that the people around Tom lack the skills to successfully stage a play
- D. To assert that Tom believes the group performing the play will be able to successfully promote it

Question ID 533929e9

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: 533929e9

Some studies have suggested that posture can influence cognition, but we should not overstate this phenomenon. A case in point: In a 2014 study, Megan O'Brien and Alaa Ahmed had subjects stand or sit while making risky simulated economic decisions. Standing is more physically unstable and cognitively demanding than sitting; accordingly, O'Brien and Ahmed hypothesized that standing subjects would display more risk aversion during the decision-making tasks than sitting subjects did, since they would want to avoid further feelings of discomfort and complicated risk evaluations. But O'Brien and Ahmed actually found no difference in the groups' performance.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It argues that research findings about the effects of posture on cognition are often misunderstood, as in the case of O'Brien and Ahmed's study.
- B. It presents the study by O'Brien and Ahmed to critique the methods and results reported in previous studies of the effects of posture on cognition.
- C. It explains a significant problem in the emerging understanding of posture's effects on cognition and how O'Brien and Ahmed tried to solve that problem.
- D. It discusses the study by O'Brien and Ahmed to illustrate why caution is needed when making claims about the effects of posture on cognition.

Question ID 93aaf0ab

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: 93aaf0ab

The following text is from John Dryden’s 1697 translation of Virgil’s poem the *Aeneid*, written in the first century BCE. Queen Dido has just heard the Trojan hero Aeneas recount a sad tale.

But anxious cares already seiz’d the queen:
She fed within her veins a flame unseen;
The hero’s valor, acts, and birth inspire
Her soul with love, and fan the secret fire.
His words, his looks, imprinted in her heart,
Improve the passion, and increase the smart.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To indicate that Dido is hiding her skepticism of Aeneas’s account
 - B. To emphasize that Dido has been deeply affected by Aeneas’s story
 - C. To imply that Dido engages both emotionally and intellectually with Aeneas
 - D. To suggest that Dido is worried that Aeneas might discover a secret she is keeping from him

Question ID 1cc51bd0

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: 1cc51bd0

The following text is from the 1923 poem “Black Finger” by Angelina Weld Grimké, a Black American writer. A cypress is a type of evergreen tree.

I have just seen a most beautiful thing,
Slim and still,
 Against a gold, gold sky,
 A straight black cypress,
Sensitive,
Exquisite,
A black finger
Pointing upwards.
Why, beautiful still finger, are you black?
And why are you pointing upwards?

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The speaker assesses a natural phenomenon, then questions the accuracy of her assessment.
- B. The speaker describes a distinctive sight in nature, then ponders what meaning to attribute to that sight.
- C. The speaker presents an outdoor scene, then considers a human behavior occurring within that scene.
- D. The speaker examines her surroundings, then speculates about their influence on her emotional state.

Question ID b2b0ed19

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: b2b0ed19

According to Indian economist and sociologist Radhakamal Mukerjee (1889–1968), the Eurocentric concepts that informed early twentieth-century social scientific methods—for example, the idea that all social relations are reducible to struggles between individuals—had little relevance for India. Making the social sciences more responsive to Indians’ needs, Mukerjee argued, required constructing analytical categories informed by India’s cultural and ecological circumstances. Mukerjee thus proposed the communalist “Indian village” as the ideal model on which to base Indian economic and social policy.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The text recounts Mukerjee’s early training in the social scientific disciplines and then lists social policies whose implementation Mukerjee oversaw.
- B. The text mentions some of Mukerjee’s economic theories and then traces their impact on other Indian social scientists of the twentieth century.
- C. The text presents Mukerjee’s critique of the social sciences and then provides an example of his attempts to address issues he identified in his critique.
- D. The text explains an influential economic theory and then demonstrates how that theory was more important to Mukerjee’s work than other social scientists have acknowledged.

Question ID 3b216fad

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 3b216fad

The following text is from Walt Whitman’s 1860 poem “Calamus 24.”

I HEAR it is charged against me that I seek to destroy institutions;
But really I am neither for nor against institutions
(What indeed have I in common with them?—Or what with the destruction of them?),
Only I will establish in the Mannahatta [Manhattan] and in every city of These States, inland and seaboard,
And in the fields and woods, and above every keel [ship] little or large, that dents the water,
Without edifices, or rules, or trustees, or any argument,
The institution of the dear love of comrades.

- Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?
- A. The speaker questions an increasingly prevalent attitude, then summarizes his worldview.
 - B. The speaker regrets his isolation from others, then predicts a profound change in society.
 - C. The speaker concedes his personal shortcomings, then boasts of his many achievements.
 - D. The speaker addresses a criticism leveled against him, then announces a grand ambition of his.

Question ID 99f671a7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 99f671a7

The following text is from Charlotte Forten Grimké’s 1888 poem “At Newport.”

Oh, deep delight to watch the gladsome waves
Exultant leap upon the rugged rocks;
Ever repulsed, yet ever rushing on—
Filled with a life that will not know defeat;
To see the glorious hues of sky and sea.
The distant snowy sails, glide spirit like,
Into an unknown world, to feel the sweet
Enchantment of the sea thrill all the soul,
Clearing the clouded brain, making the heart
Leap joyous as it own bright, singing waves!

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

- A. It portrays the surroundings as an imposing and intimidating scene.
- B. It characterizes the sea’s waves as a relentless and enduring force.
- C. It conveys the speaker’s ambivalence about the natural world.
- D. It draws a contrast between the sea’s waves and the speaker’s thoughts.

Question ID 4ecb18e7

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: 4ecb18e7

Raymond Antrobus, an accomplished poet and writer of prose, recently released his debut spoken word poetry album, *The First Time I Wore Hearing Aids*, in collaboration with producer Ian Brennan. The album contains both autobiographical and reflective pieces combining Antrobus’s spoken words with Brennan’s fragmented audio elements and pieces of music to convey how people who are deaf may experience sound, both its presence and absence. Some critics suggest that the album questions the function of sound in the world, highlighting that the experience of sound is multifaceted.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It introduces a collaborative spoken word poetry project, details the approach taken to produce the work, and then provides an example of critique the album received upon release.
- B. It mentions a collection of spoken word poems, distinguishes one poem as being an exemplar on the album, and then offers a summary of the subject matter of the whole collection.
- C. It summarizes the efforts to produce a collection of spoken word poems, presents biographies of two people who worked on the album, and speculates about the meaning behind the poetry.
- D. It connects two artists to the same spoken word poetry project, explains the extent of their collaboration on each poem, and then provides an overview of the technique used to produce the work.

Question ID baab6d04

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: baab6d04

Vadamalai Elangovan and Ganapathi Marimuthu showed that high moonlight intensity inhibits the activity of the greater short-nosed fruit bat (*Cynopterus sphinx*), a result explicable in terms of benefits and costs: greater lunar intensity may not enable the bats to increase foraging success enough to offset the higher chance of detection by predatory owls or hawks. Most other nocturnal mammals respond to lunar intensity variations similarly to greater short-nosed fruit bats, but mongoose lemurs (*Eulemur mongoz*) display the opposite pattern, as their heavy reliance on visual foraging results in a different balance of reward and risk.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It discusses two different responses to the same natural phenomenon, explains why one of those responses occurs, and then suggests that the other response still needs to be explained.
- B. It describes and accounts for a finding, characterizes the finding as representative of a general pattern, and then describes and accounts for an exception to that pattern.
- C. It presents and explains a study result, indicates that the result is similar to the results of many other studies, and then attributes a conflicting study result to a difference in that study’s methods.
- D. It introduces an observation of a behavioral pattern, presents an explanation for the pattern, and then describes an exception to the pattern that casts doubt on that explanation.

Question ID 6041bb40

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: 6041bb40

The following text is from Joseph Conrad’s 1907 novel *The Secret Agent: A Simple Tale*. Mr. Verloc is navigating the London streets on his way to a meeting.

Before reaching Knightsbridge, Mr. Verloc took a turn to the left out of the busy main thoroughfare, uproarious with the traffic of swaying omnibuses and trotting vans, in the almost silent, swift flow of hansoms [horse-drawn carriages]. Under his hat, worn with a slight backward tilt, his hair had been carefully brushed into respectful sleekness; for his business was with an Embassy. And Mr. Verloc, steady like a rock—a soft kind of rock—marched now along a street which could with every propriety be described as private.

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

- A. It qualifies an earlier description of Mr. Verloc.
- B. It emphasizes an internal struggle Mr. Verloc experiences.
- C. It contrasts Mr. Verloc with his surroundings.
- D. It reveals a private opinion Mr. Verloc holds.

Question ID b45b53c3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: b45b53c3

Changes to vegetation cover and other human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in soil, though how deep these effects extend is unclear. Hypothesizing that differences in land use lead to differences in carbon and nitrogen levels that are not restricted to the topsoil layer (0–30 cm deep), Chukwuebuka Okolo and colleagues sampled soils across multiple land-use types (e.g., grazing land, cropland, forest) within each of several Ethiopian locations. They found, though, that across land-use types, carbon and nitrogen decreased to comparably low levels beyond depths of 30 cm.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes a phenomenon that scientists do not fully understand, explains a research team’s hypothesis about that phenomenon, and then describes a finding that led the team to refine the hypothesis.
- B. It introduces an unresolved scientific question, presents a research team’s hypothesis pertaining to that question, and then describes an observation made by the team that conflicts with that hypothesis.
- C. It discusses a process that scientists are somewhat unclear about, introduces competing hypotheses about that process, and then explains how a research team concluded that one of those hypotheses is likely correct.
- D. It explains a hypothesis that has been the subject of scientific debate, discusses how a research team tested that hypothesis, and then presents data the team collected that validate the hypothesis.

Question ID 56366ec0

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: 56366ec0

Astronomers are confident that the star Betelgeuse will eventually consume all the helium in its core and explode in a supernova. They are much less confident, however, about when this will happen, since that depends on internal characteristics of Betelgeuse that are largely unknown. Astrophysicist Sarafina El-Badry Nance and colleagues recently investigated whether acoustic waves in the star could be used to determine internal stellar states but concluded that this method could not sufficiently reveal Betelgeuse’s internal characteristics to allow its evolutionary state to be firmly fixed.

Which choice best describes the function of the second sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes a serious limitation of the method used by Nance and colleagues.
- B. It presents the central finding reported by Nance and colleagues.
- C. It identifies the problem that Nance and colleagues attempted to solve but did not.
- D. It explains how the work of Nance and colleagues was received by others in the field.

Question ID b3bfc1d2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: b3bfc1d2

The following text is from George Marion McClellan’s 1895 poem “Eternity.”

My spirit swoons, and all my senses cry
For Ocean’s breast and covering of the sky.
Rock me to sleep, ye waves, and outward bound,
Just let me drift far out from toil and care,
Where lapping of the waves shall be the sound,
Which mingled with the winds that gently bear
Me on between a peaceful sea and sky,
To make my soothing slumberous lullaby.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To illustrate the increasing intensity of the speaker’s desire to escape ongoing hardship by gliding on the ocean
- B. To contrast the demands of the speaker’s everyday life with the serenity of being rocked to sleep by the ocean
- C. To convey the speaker’s longing for the ocean to impart a sense of inner tranquility
- D. To justify the speaker’s qualms about being transported by the ocean to a quiet destination

Question ID 3d7380b6

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: 3d7380b6

People tend to assume that being happy is the ideal emotional state and should be an ongoing aspiration; recently, however, research has suggested that it is at times beneficial to embrace negative emotions. To test whether anger can contribute to problem-solving abilities, researcher Heather Lench led an experiment in which participants were randomly assigned to view images designed to create an emotional condition—either neutral or one of anger, amusement, desire, or sadness. When asked to then solve a series of challenging puzzles, the participants in the anger condition had greater success than those in the other conditions.

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

- A. It describes a general psychological tendency that the study discussed in the text was designed to explain.
- B. It explains an assumption underlying the hypothesis investigated in the study discussed in the text.
- C. It notes a generally accepted belief that is called into question by a finding of the experiment outlined in the text.
- D. It suggests a psychological basis for the behaviors of the participants in the experiment reported in the text.

Question ID bfcd19cb

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: bfcd19cb

In 2020, rap artist and professor A.D. Carson published the first peer-reviewed rap album about his experiences with Black masculinity called “i used to love to dream.” Typically in peer review, experts evaluate scholarly articles prior to publication. For Carson’s album, dubbed a “mixtap/e/ssay,” peer review involved both scholars and rap artists. In combining elements of a mixtape album with scholarly essays that connect Carson’s lyrics to historical and contemporary contexts for listeners both inside and outside academia, Carson’s album helped redefine how scholarship is created and shared.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To compare the relative public impact of scholarly articles and albums
 - B. To capture one scholar’s opinion of a new rap album
 - C. To explain why a certain rap album is particularly innovative
 - D. To describe how each step of the peer review process unfolds

Question ID af3bcb89

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>

ID: af3bcb89

Typically, synthetic leather is petroleum based, but materials scientists searching for an ecologically sustainable alternative have used various bacteria that secrete linear chains of glucose, forming a dense mesh of cellulose called a pellicle, which is leatherlike except in color. The standard process for dyeing leather generates substantial wastewater and other undesirable byproducts, so adopting such a regimen would run counter to the ecological promise of the pellicle approach. To address this, Kenneth T. Walker and colleagues worked to modify *Komagataeibacter rhaeticus* bacteria to produce a pellicle with embedded pigmentation cells, thereby allowing the pellicle to “dye” itself from the inside.

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

- A. To concede that the researchers’ main goal as described in the text will be challenging to achieve due to the standard coloring approach being impractical for use on a pellicle
- B. To indicate the characteristic of conventional synthetic leathers that makes those leathers poorly suited to achieve the researchers’ main goal as presented in the text
- C. To describe a consideration that led the researchers to employ an alternative approach to coloring a pellicle that allowed them to achieve their main goal as presented in the text
- D. To illustrate how the researchers adapted the pellicle approach to overcome a potential impediment to their main goal as presented in the text

Question ID 30649b58

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>

ID: 30649b58

The field of study called affective neuroscience seeks instinctive, physiological causes for feelings such as pleasure or displeasure. Because these sensations are linked to a chemical component (for example, the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the brain when one receives or expects a reward), they can be said to have a partly physiological basis. These processes have been described in mammals, but Jingnan Huang and his colleagues have recently observed that some behaviors of honeybees (such as foraging) are also motivated by a dopamine-based signaling process.

What choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. It describes an experimental method of measuring the strength of physiological responses in humans.
- B. It illustrates processes by which certain insects can express how they are feeling.
- C. It summarizes a finding suggesting that some mechanisms in the brains of certain insects resemble mechanisms in mammalian brains.
- D. It presents research showing that certain insects and mammals behave similarly when there is a possibility of a reward for their actions.

Question ID b73ac8e3

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>

ID: b73ac8e3

Asteroid 6478 Gault has experienced intermittent mass loss since at least 2013, but in contrast to some other asteroids with repeated mass-loss episodes, 6478 Gault has not lost mass at its perihelion (the closest point of its orbit to the Sun), and thus the loss is not attributable to solar energy–driven ice vaporization. And as Jane X. Luu et al. point out, the singular nature of impact ejection makes it untenable as an account of multiple loss episodes of similar duration over several years. Instead, Luu et al. are likely correct that 6478 Gault is shedding mass due to rotational instability.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents a scientific observation, describes a contrast between that observation and other observations, and then explains why those other observations should not be considered credible.
- B. It describes an astronomical finding, discusses competing theories about that finding that the author regards as flawed, and then describes new evidence that supports an alternative theory.
- C. It introduces a natural phenomenon, refutes two potential explanations for that phenomenon, and then presents a third explanation for that phenomenon that the author regards as plausible.
- D. It discusses a physical process, evaluates possible causes of that process, and then states that a persuasive account of the process has yet to be put forward.

Question ID 31cf3265

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: 31cf3265

The following text is from Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s 1910 poem “The Earth’s Entail.”

No matter how we cultivate the land,
Taming the forest and the prairie free;
No matter how we irrigate the sand,
Making the desert blossom at command,
We must always leave the borders of the sea;
The immeasurable reaches
Of the windy wave-wet beaches,
The million-mile-long margin of the sea.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The speaker argues against interfering with nature and then gives evidence supporting this interference.
- B. The speaker presents an account of efforts to dominate nature and then cautions that such efforts are only temporary.
- C. The speaker provides examples of an admirable way of approaching nature and then challenges that approach.
- D. The speaker describes attempts to control nature and then offers a reminder that not all nature is controllable.

Question ID 68bf48ac

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: 68bf48ac

Several studies have found negligible electoral consequences for governments that impose fiscal austerity measures, yet some European governments recently suffered electorally due to their austerity programs. Evelyne Huebscher and colleagues attribute this incongruity to governments’ tendency—not followed in the recent European cases—to implement austerity programs strategically to avoid electoral costs (e.g., setting spending cuts to take effect only after the next election), which has obscured the inherent political risks of austerity measures in the election data scholars have examined.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?
- A. It explains a discrepancy between what has been observed in study settings and what has been observed in real-world settings that the text goes on to assert is attributable to the studies not using real-world data.
 - B. It identifies a conflict between research findings and recent events that the text goes on to suggest is a consequence of a complicating factor in the data used to generate those findings.
 - C. It presents a long-standing divergence in research findings that the text goes on to say is due to different groups of researchers using data that derive from different electoral circumstances.
 - D. It describes a recent exception to a general pattern in research findings that the text goes on to explain is a result of researchers underestimating the significance of inconsistencies in the data they've analyzed.

Question ID bf9ae59a

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: bf9ae59a

The following text is from Charlotte Brontë’s 1847 novel *Jane Eyre*. Jane, the narrator, works as a governess at Thornfield Hall.

I went on with my day’s business tranquilly; but ever and anon vague suggestions kept wandering across my brain of reasons why I should quit Thornfield; and I kept involuntarily framing advertisements and pondering conjectures about new situations: these thoughts I did not think to check; they might germinate and bear fruit if they could.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To convey a contrast between Jane’s outward calmness and internal restlessness
 - B. To emphasize Jane’s loyalty to the people she works for at Thornfield Hall
 - C. To demonstrate that Jane finds her situation both challenging and deeply fulfilling
 - D. To describe Jane’s determination to secure employment outside of Thornfield Hall

Question ID f3acb03d

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: f3acb03d

The following text is adapted from Aphra Behn’s 1689 novel *The Lucky Mistake*. Atlante and Rinaldo are neighbors who have been secretly exchanging letters through Charlot, Atlante’s sister.

[Atlante] gave this letter to Charlot; who immediately ran into the balcony with it, where she still found Rinaldo in a melancholy posture, leaning his head on his hand: She showed him the letter, but was afraid to toss it to him, for fear it might fall to the ground; so he ran and fetched a long cane, which he cleft at one end, and held it while she put the letter into the cleft, and stayed not to hear what he said to it. But never was man so transported with joy, as he was at the reading of this letter; it gives him new wounds; for to the generous, nothing obliges love so much as love.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes the delivery of a letter, and then portrays a character’s happiness at reading that letter.
- B. It establishes that a character is desperate to receive a letter, and then explains why another character has not yet written that letter.
- C. It presents a character’s concerns about delivering a letter, and then details the contents of that letter.
- D. It reveals the inspiration behind a character’s letter, and then emphasizes the excitement that another character feels upon receiving that letter.

Question ID 81defd85

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: 81defd85

Archeological excavation of Market Street Chinatown, a nineteenth-century Chinese American community in San Jose, California, provided the first evidence that Asian food products were imported to the United States in the 1800s: bones from a freshwater fish species native to Southeast Asia. Jinshanzhuang—Hong Kong—based import/export firms—likely coordinated the fish’s transport from Chinese-operated fisheries in Vietnam and Malaysia to North American markets. This route reveals the (often overlooked) multinational dimensions of the trade networks linking Chinese diaspora communities.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?
- A. It explains why efforts to determine the country of origin of the items mentioned in the previous sentence remain inconclusive.
 - B. It provides information that helps support a claim about a discovery’s significance that is presented in the following sentence.
 - C. It traces the steps that were taken to locate and recover the objects that are described in the previous sentence.
 - D. It outlines a hypothesis that additional evidence discussed in the following sentence casts some doubt on.

Question ID f280a30a

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: f280a30a

Industrial activity is often assumed to be a threat to wildlife, but that isn't always so. Consider the silver-studded blue butterfly (*Plebejus argus*): as forest growth has reduced grasslands in northern Germany, many of these butterflies have left meadow habitats and are now thriving in active limestone quarries. In a survey of multiple active quarries and patches of maintained grassland, an ecologist found silver-studded blue butterflies in 100% of the quarries but only 57% of the grassland patches. Moreover, butterfly populations in the quarries were four times larger than those in the meadows.

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

- A. It challenges a common assumption about the species under investigation in the research referred to in the text.
- B. It introduces discussion of a specific example that supports the general claim made in the previous sentence.
- C. It suggests that a certain species should be included in additional studies like the one mentioned later in the text.
- D. It provides a definition for an unfamiliar term that is central to the main argument in the text.

Question ID c84cc907

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: c84cc907

In many agricultural environments, the banks of streams are kept forested to protect water quality, but it's been unclear what effects these forests may have on stream biodiversity. To investigate the issue, biologist Xingli Giam and colleagues studied an Indonesian oil palm plantation, comparing the species richness of forested streams with that of nonforested streams. Giam and colleagues found that species richness was significantly higher in forested streams, a finding the researchers attribute to the role leaf litter plays in sheltering fish from predators and providing food resources.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It discusses research intended to settle a debate about how agricultural yields can be increased without negative effects on water quality.
- B. It explains the differences between stream-protection strategies used in oil palm plantations and stream-protection strategies used in other kinds of agricultural environments.
- C. It describes findings that challenge a previously held view about how fish that inhabit streams in agricultural environments attempt to avoid predators.
- D. It presents a study that addresses an unresolved question about the presence of forests along streams in agricultural environments.

Question ID a06d5b2b

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: a06d5b2b

Works of moral philosophy, such as Plato’s *Republic* or Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, are partly concerned with how to live a morally good life. But philosopher Jonathan Barnes argues that works that present a method of living such a life without also supplying a motive are inherently useful only to those already wishing to be morally good—those with no desire for moral goodness will not choose to follow their rules. However, some works of moral philosophy attempt to describe what constitutes a morally good life while also proposing reasons for living one.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It provides a characterization about a field of thought by noting two works in it and then details a way in which some works in that field are more comprehensive than others.
- B. It mentions two renowned works and then claims that despite their popularity it is impossible for these works to serve the purpose their authors intended.
- C. It summarizes the history of a field of thought by discussing two works and then proposes a topic of further research for specialists in that field.
- D. It describes two influential works and then explains why one is more widely read than the other.

Question ID e48d0707

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>

ID: e48d0707

A study by Dr. Paul Hanel and colleagues concluded that people are more likely to behave politely when listening to ideas they disagree with if they think about values before they engage in a discussion. Study participants were assigned to one of two groups. The experimental group spent a few minutes writing about one of their personal values before they had a group discussion on a controversial topic. And the control group spent a few minutes writing about a drink (tea, milk, etc.) before their group discussion on that topic. Hanel and colleagues found that the experimental group’s discussion was more civil than the control group’s discussion was.

- Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?
- A. To describe a widely held belief and how a study’s results support that belief
 - B. To argue that researchers were surprised by the results of a certain study
 - C. To suggest ways to improve a certain study’s experimental design
 - D. To explain a study’s conclusion and how a research team arrived at that conclusion

Question ID 78847e5f

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: 78847e5f

The following text is from Edith Wharton’s 1905 novel *The House of Mirth*. Lily Bart and a companion are walking through a park. Lily had no real intimacy with nature, but she had a passion for the appropriate and could be keenly sensitive to a scene which was the fitting background of her own sensations. The landscape outspread below her seemed an enlargement of her present mood, and she found something of herself in its calmness, its breadth, its long free reaches. On the nearer slopes the sugar-maples wavered like pyres of light; lower down was a massing of grey orchards, and here and there the lingering green of an oak-grove.

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

- A. It creates a detailed image of the physical setting of the scene.
- B. It establishes that a character is experiencing an internal conflict.
- C. It makes an assertion that the next sentence then expands on.
- D. It illustrates an idea that is introduced in the previous sentence.

Question ID 59971f10

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: 59971f10

The mimosa tree evolved in East Asia, where the beetle *Bruchidius terrenus* preys on its seeds. In 1785, mimosa trees were introduced to North America, far from any *B. terrenus*. But evolutionary links between predators and their prey can persist across centuries and continents. Around 2001, *B. terrenus* was introduced in southeastern North America near where botanist Shu-Mei Chang and colleagues had been monitoring mimosa trees. Within a year, 93 percent of the trees had been attacked by the beetles.

Which choice best describes the function of the third sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It states the hypothesis that Chang and colleagues had set out to investigate using mimosa trees and *B. terrenus*.
- B. It presents a generalization that is exemplified by the discussion of the mimosa trees and *B. terrenus*.
- C. It provides context that clarifies why the species mentioned spread to new locations.
- D. It offers an alternative explanation for the findings of Chang and colleagues.

Question ID b0e95fe4

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: b0e95fe4

Curious about how people visually perceive objects in their dreams, Stephen LaBerge and team recruited lucid dreamers—people aware that they’re dreaming as it’s happening—for a research study. These participants were reliably able to signal when they had entered a dream state; the team then observed participants’ eye movements as they slept. The smoothness with which participants’ eyes tracked objects in their dreams closely matched how sighted people who are awake visually track objects around them, suggesting to the team that the brain perceives dream objects as the product of something other than pure imagination.

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

- A. To offer key evidence that undermines LaBerge and team’s initial hypothesis
- B. To show the unexpected result that led LaBerge and team to change the focus of their study
- C. To illustrate an important real-world implication of LaBerge and team’s main finding
- D. To identify a comparable circumstance that helps justify LaBerge and team’s conclusion

Question ID af526314

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: af526314

A study by a team including finance professor Madhu Veeraraghavan suggests that exposure to sunshine during the workday can lead to overly optimistic behavior. Using data spanning from 1994 to 2010 for a set of US companies, the team compared over 29,000 annual earnings forecasts to the actual earnings later reported by those companies. The team found that the greater the exposure to sunshine at work in the two weeks before a manager submitted an earnings forecast, the more the manager’s forecast exceeded what the company actually earned that year.

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

- A. To summarize the results of the team’s analysis
- B. To present a specific example that illustrates the study’s findings
- C. To explain part of the methodology used in the team’s study
- D. To call out a challenge the team faced in conducting its analysis

Question ID 212b4d86

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: 212b4d86

The north celestial pole (NCP)—the fixed point around which stars in the Northern Hemisphere (including the Sun) appear to rotate—is discernible only at night. Inspired by the navigational strategies of some insects and birds, researchers devised a method for locating the NCP in daytime using skylight polarization, which occurs as atmospheric particles scatter sunlight. A polarimetric camera captures images of polarization patterns, which rotate as the Sun’s position in the sky changes; temporal variances across images can then be used to determine an observer’s latitude and bearing relative to the NCP.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It illustrates how most navigational tools utilize the NCP, recounts how researchers discovered that certain animals are able to navigate without using the NCP, and then proposes that this discovery could be used to avoid problems in navigation associated with reliance on the NCP.
- B. It presents a celestial-based method of navigation, enumerates the comparative benefits of an alternative method used by certain animals that is based on an unrelated natural occurrence, and then indicates how researchers assessed the relative accuracy of the two methods.
- C. It explains how the NCP is typically located, emphasizes a key difference between how humans and certain animals use the NCP for navigation, and then suggests an alternative way of using the NCP to improve existing navigational instruments.
- D. It notes an obstacle to observing an astronomical phenomenon, mentions a navigational ability of certain animals that inspired a solution to that obstacle, and then explains how researchers used an optical device to mimic that ability.

Question ID 9903c0da

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: 9903c0da

Historians have argued that a crucial component of the Civil Rights Movement’s success in the 1960s was the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Citizen Education Program (CEP), which invited promising activists from across the South to its one-week training sessions in Dorchester, Georgia. Led by experienced organizers such as Dorothy Cotton and Septima Clark, CEP attendees—more than 7,000 in all—participated in workshops on topics ranging from public speaking to legal doctrine before returning home and using their newly acquired knowledge to spearhead local civil rights initiatives.

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

- A. It underscores the extent of the CEP’s impact on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.
- B. It illustrates the CEP organizers’ efforts to educate participants on a wide variety of topics.
- C. It suggests that CEP attendees held a diverse array of opinions about the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s political philosophy.
- D. It establishes that criticism of the CEP was limited to a few individuals in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Question ID 58397fed

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: 58397fed

On painter William H. Johnson’s return to the United States in 1938 after a decade in Europe, his style underwent an abrupt transformation. Turning away from landscapes painted in an expressionist style—a style that often involves using fluid, distorted shapes and thick, textured brushstrokes to express the artist’s subjective experience of reality—Johnson began painting portraits of Black Americans in a bold new way. Evocative of African sculpture and American and Scandinavian folk art, these portraits feature flat, deliberately oversimplified figures in a vibrant but limited color palette.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?
- A. It elaborates on the previous sentence’s statement about a transitional moment in Johnson’s artistic career.
 - B. It provides information about Johnson’s travels in support of a claim about his artistic influences, which is advanced in the following sentence.
 - C. It recounts a moment in Johnson’s personal life that enabled the success of his subsequent career, which is summarized in the following sentence.
 - D. It presents evidence that calls into question the previous sentence’s characterization of Johnson’s artistic development.

Question ID 771b44ba

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: 771b44ba

The following text is from Rachel Heng’s 2023 novel *The Great Reclamation*. Ah Boon is fishing off the coast of Singapore.

When he pulled up the nets, they contained only one kind of fish—black pomfrets, the flat diamonds of their bodies slick in the morning light. This uniformity did not surprise him; over the years, he’d learned that the waters here were temperamental. They could be relied upon for a good catch, but from time to time threw up only prawns or squid, and other times colorful varieties of fish that weren’t even supposed to be found in this region. He’d grown to accept the unpredictability, embracing it as a game to be played, like the reading of tea leaves or the grooves of a palm.

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Taken together, the three underlined portions most clearly serve which function in the text as a whole?

- A. They provide examples of what Ah Boon most frequently catches in the area.
- B. They illustrate the changeable nature of the fishing grounds where Ah Boon is.
- C. They emphasize the wide variety of sea creatures that Ah Boon has caught on this particular fishing trip.
- D. They underscore Ah Boon’s lack of surprise at seeing sea creatures that aren’t usually found in the region.

Question ID 1b937810

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: 1b937810

In response to concerns that some recent financial crises were exacerbated by consumers misunderstanding risks associated with credit cards, loans, and other financial products, policymakers in many countries have instituted risk-disclosure requirements on sellers of those products. Enrique Seira et al. investigated a variety of risk-disclosure messages sent to thousands of credit card customers and found that the messages had only small and short-lived effects on behavior. Seira et al. asserted that such effects may nevertheless be worth pursuing, given the negligible cost of messaging.

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

- A. It notes a factor that led Seira et al. to not dismiss risk-disclosure messaging altogether despite their evidence of its limited utility.
- B. It acknowledges a type of risk-disclosure messaging that Seira et al. may not have fully accounted for in their study.
- C. It describes a consideration that explains why Seira et al. recommended risk-disclosure messaging even though its effects may be small relative to its costs.
- D. It points out a circumstance that Seira et al. conceded may make risk-disclosure messaging more effective than their study suggests.

Question ID e0487fbc

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: e0487fbc

“How lifelike are they?” Many computer animators prioritize this question as they strive to create ever more realistic environments and lighting. Generally, while characters in computer-animated films appear highly exaggerated, environments and lighting are carefully engineered to mimic reality. But some animators, such as Pixar’s Sanjay Patel, are focused on a different question. Rather than asking first whether the environments and lighting they’re creating are convincingly lifelike, Patel and others are asking whether these elements reflect their films’ unique stories.

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

- A. It reflects a primary goal that many computer animators have for certain components of the animations they produce.
- B. It represents a concern of computer animators who are more interested in creating unique backgrounds and lighting effects than realistic ones.
- C. It conveys the uncertainty among many computer animators about how to create realistic animations using current technology.
- D. It illustrates a reaction that audiences typically have to the appearance of characters created by computer animators.

Question ID 40f40503

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: 40f40503

The following text is adapted from Herman Melville’s 1855 novel *Israel Potter*. Israel is a young man wandering through New England during the late eighteenth century.

He hired himself out for three months; at the end of that time to receive for his wages two hundred acres of land lying in New Hampshire. [...] His employer proving false to the contract in the matter of the land, and there being no law in the country to force him to fulfil it, Israel—who, however brave-hearted, and even much of a dare-devil upon a pinch, seems nevertheless to have evinced, throughout many parts of his career, a singular patience and mildness—was obliged to look round for other means of livelihood than clearing out a farm for himself in the wilderness.

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

- A. It implies that Israel treasures a particular characteristic of his personality when that characteristic should usually be regarded as a flaw.
- B. It suggests that if not for a certain aspect of his character, Israel might not have been as easily thwarted in his ambition to establish a farm.
- C. It shows why Israel would not have been able to undertake the enormous amount of labor necessary to run a farm even if he had owned the necessary property.
- D. It explains why, when the situation requires it, Israel is able to undertake courageous acts that others would generally avoid.

Question ID 0bf83692

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: 0bf83692

Studying late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century artifacts from an agricultural and domestic site in Texas, archaeologist Ayana O. Flewellen found that Black women employed as farm workers utilized hook-and-eye closures to fasten their clothes at the waist, giving themselves a silhouette similar to the one that was popular in contemporary fashion and typically achieved through more restrictive garments such as corsets. Flewellen argues that this sartorial practice shows that these women balanced hegemonic ideals of femininity with the requirements of their physically demanding occupation.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe an unexpected discovery that altered a researcher’s view of how rapidly fashions among Black female farmworkers in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Texas changed during the period
- B. To discuss research that investigated the ways in which Black female farmworkers in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Texas used fashion practices to resist traditional gender ideals
- C. To evaluate a scholarly work that offers explanations for the impact of urban fashion ideals on Black female farmworkers in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Texas
- D. To summarize the findings of a study that explored factors influencing a fashion practice among Black female farmworkers in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Texas

Question ID 9d538982

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: 9d538982

According to historian Vicki L. Ruiz, Mexican American women made crucial contributions to the labor movement during World War II. At the time, food processing companies entered into contracts to supply United States armed forces with canned goods. Increased production quotas conferred greater bargaining power on the companies’ employees, many of whom were Mexican American women: employees insisted on more favorable benefits, and employers, who were anxious to fulfill the contracts, complied. Thus, labor activism became a platform for Mexican American women to assert their agency.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?
- A. It elaborates on a claim about labor relations in a particular industry made earlier in the text.
 - B. It offers an example of a trend in the World War II–era economy discussed earlier in the text.
 - C. It notes a possible exception to the historical narrative of labor activism sketched earlier in the text.
 - D. It provides further details about the identities of the workers discussed earlier in the text.

Question ID f02726fb

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: f02726fb

In Jane Austen’s novel *Mansfield Park*, an almost imperceptible smile from potential suitor Henry Crawford causes the protagonist Fanny Price to blush; her embarrassment grows when she suspects that he is aware of it. This moment—in which Fanny not only infers Henry’s mental state through his gestures, but also infers that *he* is drawing inferences about *her* mental state—illustrates what literary scholar George Butte calls “deep intersubjectivity,” a technique for representing interactions between consciousnesses through which Austen’s novels derive much of their social and psychological drama.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?
- A. It states a claim about Austen’s skill at representing psychological complexity that is reinforced by an example presented in the following sentence.
 - B. It advances an interpretation of an Austen protagonist who is contrasted with protagonists from other Austen novels cited in the following sentence.
 - C. It describes a recurring theme in Austen’s novels that is the focus of a literary scholar’s analysis summarized in the following sentence.
 - D. It provides a synopsis of an interaction in an Austen novel that illustrates a literary concept discussed in the following sentence.

Question ID 3416a884

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>

ID: 3416a884

Guadalupe Romero Villanueva et al. conducted radiocarbon analysis of paint used in rock art at the Patagonian archaeological site Cueva Huenul 1, revealing that images of a comblike motif date to as early as 8,000 years ago, predating other paintings in the region by several millennia. The motif was subsequently reproduced multiple times at the site over the next 3,000 years, a period coinciding with extremely arid conditions and slightly negative population growth. The motif may therefore have functioned to help preserve cultural knowledge during a time of ecological and demographic stress.

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

- A. It identifies a consideration that factored into an interpretation of the rock art at Cueva Huenul 1 that is presented in the text.
- B. It provides context that informs the text’s claim about why the peoples of Patagonia chose Cueva Huenul 1 as a culturally significant site.
- C. It emphasizes the historical conditions that explain why production of the painted motif described in the text abruptly ceased after 3,000 years of continued use.
- D. It explains the environmental circumstances that account for the rarity of rock art dating to the same period as the motif discussed in the text.

Question ID eea3e2f0

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: eea3e2f0

The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston’s 1921 short story “John Redding Goes to Sea.” John is a child who lives in a town in the woods.

Perhaps ten-year-old John was puzzling to the folk there in the Florida woods for he was an imaginative child and fond of day-dreams. The St. John River flowed a scarce three hundred feet from his back door. On its banks at this point grow numerous palms, luxuriant magnolias and bay trees. On the bosom of the stream float millions of delicately colored hyacinths. [John Redding] loved to wander down to the water’s edge, and, casting in dry twigs, watch them sail away down stream to Jacksonville, the sea, the wide world and [he] wanted to follow them.

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

- A. It provides an extended description of a location that John likes to visit.
- B. It reveals that some residents of John’s town are confused by his behavior.
- C. It illustrates the uniqueness of John’s imagination compared to the imaginations of other children.
- D. It suggests that John longs to experience a larger life outside the Florida woods.

Question ID 80fbbe0e

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: 80fbbe0e

Dubautia carrii is a species in a family of plants known collectively as the silversword alliance, all of which grow only on the Hawaiian Islands. Members of this alliance exhibit an extraordinary range of phenotypes, with some species maturing into vines and others into shrubs and trees. All species in the alliance descended from a single ancestral tarweed plant that arrived on the islands around 5 million years ago. The tarweed’s descendants diversified into distinct species as they adapted to live in the wide variety of habitats found on the Hawaiian Islands.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To indicate the specific tarweed ancestor of all plants that grow on the Hawaiian Islands and explain why the plants have such varied physical characteristics
- B. To describe the specific habitat where *Dubautia carrii* are found and identify other plants that share a common ancestor with them
- C. To describe the silversword alliance and explain how the plant family became so varied
- D. To advance the claim that all plants on the Hawaiian Islands are part of the silversword alliance and list possible ancestors of the plants that make up the alliance

Question ID 44242abe

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: 44242abe

The following text is from H.D.’s 1916 poem “Mid-Day.” In the poem, the speaker is on a path in an outdoor setting.

A slight wind shakes the seed-pods—
my thoughts are spent
as the black seeds.
My thoughts tear me,
I dread their fever.
I am scattered in its whirl.
I am scattered like
the hot shrivelled seeds.

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

- A. It illustrates a change in the natural environment that the speaker implies is responsible for the growing misgivings described in the text.
- B. It establishes an example of consistency in the natural landscape that the speaker then contrasts with the unpredictability of human emotions.
- C. It presents an observation of an occurrence in the natural world that the speaker then expands on to convey a sense of a turbulent interior state.
- D. It evokes the ordinariness of an event in nature to suggest that the critical self-evaluation the speaker engages in is a common pursuit.

Question ID c75abc0a

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: c75abc0a

Technological advances have prompted companies to increasingly rely on automation to streamline production. Armin Granulo and colleagues, however, found that for products with higher symbolic value (those viewed as contributing to individual self-expression), consumers prefer products made by humans rather than by robots, likely because human-made products are more strongly associated with uniqueness. When considering automation, therefore, companies—especially those specializing in products of symbolic value—should weigh trade-offs between efficiency gains and consumer preferences.

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

- A. It presents evidence supporting the text’s argument that consumers prefer products with high symbolic value over products with low symbolic value.
- B. It refers to a finding presented in the previous sentence to recommend that companies that value product quality reconsider automating their production processes.
- C. It illustrates the need for additional research to evaluate the claim in the previous sentence that automation affects how consumers rate product uniqueness.
- D. It emphasizes that a research finding discussed in the text has practical implications that are particularly relevant for businesses making a certain class of product.

Question ID 934aef1b

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: 934aef1b

In 2023 literary scholar Jeremy Douglass cautioned technology investors and enthusiasts who predict conventional books’ ultimate displacement by newer forms of media. Douglass observed that the concept of an “interactive” text is much older than technologists assume, extending back to the first time readers scratched notes into a text’s margins. In addition, newer media, such as video games, haven’t replaced older forms of entertainment, such as comic books, but rather exist alongside them. Douglass believes that rather than supplanting books, technology is simply making new forms of expression possible.

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

- A. It challenges the stance of the investors and enthusiasts who are mentioned earlier in the text.
- B. It explains the basis for the claim made by the technologists mentioned in the text.
- C. It suggests that academics are better suited than investors to see the potential uses of contemporary interactive texts.
- D. It provides a historical anecdote about the technological challenges involved in reading the earliest interactive texts.

Question ID 56d6920b

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: 56d6920b

The following text is adapted from *Indian Boyhood*, a 1902 memoir by Ohiyesa (Charles A. Eastman), a Santee Dakota writer. In the text, Ohiyesa recalls how the women in his tribe harvested maple syrup during his childhood.

Now the women began to test the trees—moving leisurely among them, axe in hand, and striking a single quick blow, to see if the sap would appear. The trees, like people, have their individual characters; some were ready to yield up their life-blood, while others were more reluctant. Now one of the birchen basins was set under each tree, and a hardwood chip driven deep into the cut which the axe had made. From the corners of this chip—at first drop by drop, then more freely—the sap trickled into the little dishes.

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

- A. It portrays the range of personality traits displayed by the women as they work.
- B. It foregrounds the beneficial relationship between humans and maple trees.
- C. It demonstrates how human behavior can be influenced by the natural environment.
- D. It elaborates on an aspect of the maple trees that the women evaluate.

Question ID 935fef97

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: 935fef97

The following text is adapted from Herman Melville’s 1857 novel *The Confidence-Man*. Humphry Davy was a prominent British chemist and inventor.

Years ago, a grave American savant, being in London, observed at an evening party there, a certain coxcombical fellow, as he thought, an absurd ribbon in his lapel, and full of smart [banter], whisking about to the admiration of as many as were disposed to admire. Great was the savant’s disdain; but, chancing ere long to find himself in a corner with the jackanapes, got into conversation with him, when he was somewhat ill-prepared for the good sense of the jackanapes, but was altogether thrown aback, upon subsequently being [informed that he was] no less a personage than Sir Humphry Davy.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It portrays the thoughts of a character who is embarrassed about his own behavior.
- B. It presents an account of a misunderstanding.
- C. It offers a short history of how a person came to be famous.
- D. It explains why one character dislikes another.

Question ID 7c43c03d

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: 7c43c03d

Despite potential independent confirmation, the apparent detection in 2020 of phosphine (PH₃)—a gas that on Earth almost exclusively derives from biological sources—in Venus’s cloud deck remains controversial, in part because Venus is thought to be uninhabitable. To evaluate such a finding’s plausibility, William Bains et al. modeled multiple abiotic PH₃ pathways, including geochemical, atmospheric, and photochemical reactions, but none adequately explain the observed levels of PH₃. If Venusian PH₃ does exist, it would indicate insufficiencies in the current consensus on Venus’s chemistry.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It outlines recent efforts to confirm the presence of a particular gas in Venus’s atmosphere, summarizes a research team’s evaluations of those efforts’ methodological shortcomings, and then explains why that team remains skeptical of the gas’s future detection.
- B. It explains why the consensus view of a particular gas in Venus’s atmosphere has recently become controversial, expands on a scientific team’s reasons for questioning that consensus, and then suggests that future observations of Venus’s atmosphere will likely be needed to settle the controversy.
- C. It introduces an unexpected observation of a particular gas in Venus’s atmosphere, presents an effort to investigate possible mechanisms that could explain that observation, and then notes an implication of that investigation’s findings.
- D. It compares the levels of a particular gas on Venus and Earth, sketches the chemical processes that account for differences in these levels, and then addresses some of the practical challenges of studying the presence of this gas on Venus more closely.

Question ID 17eda244

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: 17eda244

To produce *batik*, an Indonesian textile that originated as early as the 6th century CE, an artist creates patterns on fabric by skillfully applying wax to the surface and then dyeing it. Traditionally, the artist draws on the cloth using a *canting*, a pen-shaped tool that applies wax in fine lines or dots. To expedite this laborious process, the *cap*, a copper stamp that applies preset wax patterns, was introduced. Although the *cap* made the process of producing batiks much quicker, the *canting* is often preferred because it results in unique pieces.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It introduces a traditional type of textile, suggests that it is a variation of an even older type of textile, and then explains a significant difference in how those types of textiles are produced.
- B. It establishes how a textile production technique originated, indicates how the technique has changed over time, and then suggests that renewed interest in the original technique is growing.
- C. It presents a method of textile production, identifies two approaches to that method, and then addresses the relative advantage of each approach.
- D. It conveys admiration of a certain style of textile, emphasizes the level of skill needed to produce the textile, and then urges broader recognition of the skill involved in producing the textile.

Question ID d0cc2bf8

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: d0cc2bf8

Individual elephants and Arctic herbivores such as caribou tend to have fixed geographic ranges throughout their lifetimes, which had prompted some researchers to speculate that the Arctic woolly mammoth, an extinct elephantid, might have exhibited similar behavior. Mammoth tusks grew in sequential layers, incorporating ingested minerals and organics, and so each ivory stratum reflects the ratio of strontium isotopes ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$) in the local environment; thus, the sequence of strata shows where the animal roamed during life. Recent analysis of the strontium ratios in the strata of one Arctic woolly mammoth tusk in relation to the geographic distribution of strontium ratios in the environment shows the animal's range begin to expand as it reached sexual maturity, only to contract again in its final 1.5 years.

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

- A. It discusses a characteristic shared by certain animals in order to explain why researchers raised a possibility that turned out not to be supported by data described later in the text.
- B. It illustrates a pattern of behavior among certain animals in order to present a theory about exceptions to that pattern that is weakened by a finding described later in the text.
- C. It describes a similarity in the behavior of certain animals in order to show why a method described later in the text did not reveal whether another animal also showed that behavior.
- D. It introduces a trait shared by certain animals in order to contextualize a hypothesis about the origin of that trait that is advanced later in the text.