Question ID 82b8d6fb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 82b8d6fb

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A wok is a cooking pan that originated in China during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE).
- The wok's round, wide base helps to cook food evenly.
- The wok's high, angled sides help to contain oil splatters.
- Grace Young is a cook and culinary historian.
- Her book *The Breath of a Wok* (2004) traces the history of the wok.

The student wants to describe the wok's shape. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Grace Young's 2004 book, *The Breath of a Wok*, traces the history of the cooking pan.

B. Able to cook food evenly and contain oil splatters, the wok is the subject of Grace Young's 2004 book.

C. A wok is a cooking pan with a round, wide base and high, angled sides.

D. The design of a wok, a type of cooking pan that originated in China during the Han dynasty, helps the pan cook food evenly and contain oil splatters.

ID: 82b8d6fb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. It summarizes the information that describes the wok's shape from the second and third bullet points.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe the shape of a wok. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe the shape of a wok, just some of its features. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe the shape of a wok, only some of its benefits or functions.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b5541591

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: b5541591

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Wool is a natural—and economically important—fiber that is obtained from animals like sheep.
- Australia is a leading producer of wool.
- The thickness of wool fibers varies across sheep breeds.
- Merino sheep produce fine wool that is used for apparel.
- Rambouillet sheep produce fine wool that is used for apparel.
- Romney sheep produce thick wool that is used for rugs and blankets.

The student wants to emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Romney wool is just one of the many kinds of wools, each originating from a different breed of sheep.

B. Sheep wool varies from breed to breed, so Romney wool will be different than other kinds of wool.

C. The fine wool produced by Merino and Rambouillet sheep is used for apparel, whereas the thicker wool of Romney sheep is used in rugs and blankets.

D. Wool is an economically important fiber—especially in Australia—that can be used to make apparel or even rugs and blankets.

ID: b5541591 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice most effectively emphasizes how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It describes the difference in thickness and the difference in what they're used for.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn't mention Merino or Rambouillet wool at all. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn't mention Merino or Rambouillet wool at all. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. It doesn't mention Romney, Merino or Rambouillet wool at all.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0f80d302

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 0f80d302

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The mountain pygmy possum is a mammal species.
- Up until 1966, it was believed to be extinct.
- That year, a live mountain pygmy possum was identified in the wild in Australia.
- The mountain pygmy possum is considered a Lazarus species.
- “Lazarus species” is a term for living species of organisms that were once believed to be extinct.

The student wants to define the term “Lazarus species” and provide an example of one. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish these goals?

A. The term “Lazarus species” describes a living species of organism, such as the mountain pygmy possum, that was once believed to be extinct.

B. One example of a Lazarus species is the mountain pygmy possum, a mammal species that was identified in the wild in Australia in 1966.

C. The mountain pygmy possum, a species of mammal, was identified in the wild in 1966.

D. Sometimes, a species once believed to be extinct is later found living in the wild.

ID: 0f80d302 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence defines the term "Lazarus species" and provides an example of one, explaining that a Lazarus species is a living organism that was once believed to be extinct and providing the mountain pygmy possum as an example.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence provides an example of a Lazarus species, it doesn’t define the term "Lazarus species." Choice C is incorrect. The sentence provides information about the mountain pygmy possum; it doesn’t define the term "Lazarus species" or explicitly identify the mountain pygmy possum as a Lazarus species. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence describes the concept of a Lazarus species, it doesn’t define the term or provide an example of a Lazarus species.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 67df2933

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 67df2933

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In a 2020 study, researchers in California investigated how many potential nesting sites female wood ducks visited during the nesting season.
- The researchers placed nest boxes throughout the survey area and tagged 138 female wood ducks with radio frequency ID trackers.
- These trackers recorded how many nest boxes each duck visited.
- 67 ducks (48.5%) visited only one nest box.
- 18 ducks (13.0%) visited 10 or more nest boxes.
- Younger ducks were more likely to visit multiple nest boxes.

The student wants to present the methods used in the 2020 study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. By recording how many nest boxes each duck visited, the researchers discovered that only a relatively small percentage (13.0%) of the ducks visited 10 or more nest boxes.

B. After tracking how many nest boxes the 138 wood ducks visited, the researchers found that the younger ducks tended to visit more nest boxes than the older ducks.

C. The researchers tagged 138 female wood ducks with radio frequency ID trackers and recorded how many nest boxes each duck visited during the nesting season.

D. The researchers investigated each nesting site for signs that it had been visited by the female wood ducks.

ID: 67df2933 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence presents the methods used in the study, noting that researchers tagged 138 female wood ducks with radio frequency ID trackers and recorded the number of nest boxes each duck visited.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions an aspect of the study's design (that the researchers recorded the number of nest boxes the wood ducks visited), it primarily focuses on a finding of the study rather than the methods the researchers used. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions an aspect of the study's design (that the researchers tracked the number of nest boxes the wood ducks visited), it primarily focuses on a finding of the study rather than the methods the researchers used. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence misrepresents information from the notes. The researchers used radio frequency ID trackers to record the ducks' visits; they didn't investigate each site to look for evidence that it had been visited.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f4dfdf86

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: f4dfdf86

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Muslins are woven cotton fabrics with a variety of uses.
- Dhaka muslin is a handmade fabric produced in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It has an extremely fine weave and is primarily used to make luxury clothing.
- Sheeting muslin is a machine-made fabric produced in factories.
- It has a coarse weave and is primarily used to upholster furniture and create backdrops for theater sets.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two muslins. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Dhaka muslin is a handmade fabric with an extremely fine weave, while sheeting muslin is machine made with a coarse weave.

B. Dhaka muslin and sheeting muslin are two different types of woven cotton fabrics.

C. Muslins can be used in a variety of ways, from making luxury clothing to upholstering furniture and creating backdrops for theater sets.

D. Sheeting muslin is machine made, has a coarse weave, and is used for furniture and theater sets.

ID: f4dfdf86 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The difference between the two different kinds of muslin is emphasized.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice lists two kinds of muslins, but does not say how they are different from one another. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not emphasize a difference between the two muslins. Choice D is incorrect. This choice does not emphasize a difference between the two muslins. It only describes sheeting muslin.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2c063df4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 2c063df4

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Hina Hanta is an online archive curated by the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- Hina Hanta means “bright path” in Choctaw.
- It features images of cultural artifacts relevant to the history of the Choctaw people.
- It includes a fanner basket (*ufko tapushik* in Choctaw) made from cane.
- It includes a robe (*nita anchi*) made from bear fur.

The student wants to specify the fanner basket’s name in Choctaw. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The Hina Hanta archive features cultural artifacts, such as a fanner basket and a robe, that are relevant to the history of the Choctaw people.

B. The cane fanner basket, which is included in the Hina Hanta online archive, is called an *ufko tapushik* in Choctaw.

C. Hina Hanta, which means “bright path” in Choctaw, includes a fanner basket in its archive.

D. The name of the online archive Hina Hanta means “bright path” in Choctaw.

ID: 2c063df4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence specifies the fanner basket’s name in Choctaw, noting that it’s called *ufko tapushik*.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the fanner basket, it doesn’t specify its name in Choctaw. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the fanner basket, it doesn’t specify its name in Choctaw. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence doesn’t mention the fanner basket or specify its name in Choctaw.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 751abed2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 751abed2

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Miguel Luciano is a multimedia visual artist.
- One of his sculptures is *Double Phantom/EntroP.R*. (2017).
- The work consists of two red Schwinn Phantom bicycles that he fused together.
- The bicycles face opposite directions.
- The bicycles share the same rear wheel.

The student wants to describe how the bicycles in *Double Phantom/EntroP.R.* are fused together. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. To create the sculpture *Double Phantom/EntroP.R.*, Miguel Luciano fused together two Schwinn Phantom bicycles.

B. There are two red Schwinn Phantom bicycles in the sculpture *Double Phantom/EntroP.R.*

C. The two red bicycles in *Double Phantom/EntroP.R.* are fused together so that they share the same rear wheel while facing opposite directions.

D. *Double Phantom/EntroP.R.* is a sculpture created by multimedia visual artist Miguel Luciano.

ID: 751abed2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence correctly describes how the bicycles in the sculpture are fused together: they share the same rear wheel while facing opposite directions.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence states that the bicycles are fused together but doesn't describe how they are fused. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence states that there are two bicycles in the sculpture without indicating that they are fused together or describing how they are fused. Choice D is incorrect. It identifies the artist who created the sculpture but doesn't describe how the bicycles are fused together.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a29e6378

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: a29e6378

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Sister Rosetta Tharpe (1915–1973) was a gospel musician.
- She was known for her passionate vocals and electric guitar performances.
- In 2018, Tharpe was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for her major impact on the genre.
- According to songwriter Roxie Moore, “[Tharpe] would sing until you cried and then she would sing until you danced for joy.”
- According to guitarist Celisse Henderson, “Tharpe is the unquestioned founding mother of rock ’n’ roll.”

The student wants to use a quotation to support a claim about Tharpe’s contribution to rock ’n’ roll. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Gospel musician Sister Rosetta Tharpe had a major impact on rock ’n’ roll, and she was known for her passionate electric guitar performances.

B. Celisse Henderson believes that Sister Rosetta Tharpe had a major impact on the development of rock ’n’ roll.

C. Sister Rosetta Tharpe had such a major impact on rock ’n’ roll that Celisse Henderson called her “the unquestioned founding mother” of the genre.

D. A gospel musician, Sister Rosetta Tharpe had the ability to “sing until you cried” and also “until you danced for joy,” according to Roxie Moore.

ID: a29e6378 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence uses the quotation from Henderson to support a claim about Tharpe’s contribution to rock ’n’ roll, noting that the impact Tharpe had on the genre led Henderson to call her "the unquestioned founding mother of rock ’n’ roll."

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence makes the claim that Tharpe had a major impact on rock ’n’ roll, it doesn’t use a quotation to support this claim. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence presents Henderson’s opinion that Tharpe had a major impact on rock ’n’ roll, but it doesn’t use a quotation to support this claim. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence includes a quotation about audience reactions to Tharpe’s music, the sentence describes Tharpe as a gospel musician; it doesn’t support a claim about her contribution to rock ’n’ roll.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ce53b63c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: ce53b63c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Species belonging to the Orchidaceae (orchid) family can be found in both tropical and temperate environments.
- Orchidaceae species diversity has not been well studied in temperate forests, such as those in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández led a study to determine how many different Orchidaceae species are present in the forests of Oaxaca.
- Muñoz-Hernández and her team collected orchids each month for a year at a site in Oaxaca.
- Seventy-four Orchidaceae species were present at the site.

The student wants to present the study and its findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. A study led by Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández identified a total of 74 Orchidaceae species in the temperate forests of Oaxaca, Mexico.

B. There are orchids in many environments, but there are 74 Orchidaceae species in Oaxaca, Mexico.

C. Oaxaca, Mexico, is home to temperate forests containing 74 Orchidaceae species.

D. Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández and her team wanted to know how many different Orchidaceae species are present in the forests of Oaxaca, Mexico, so they conducted a study to collect orchids.

ID: ce53b63c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice most effectively presents the study and its findings. It opens with the study and names its lead researcher, then tells us its finding: that they identified 74 Orchidaceae species in the temperate forests of Oaxaca, Mexico.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't include the study's findings, so it fails to achieve the goal. It doesn't mention that there was a study at all. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't present the study, so it fails to achieve the goal. It doesn't mention that there was a study at all. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't include the study's findings, so it fails to achieve the goal.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bdff71d5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: bdff71d5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1897, African American inventor Andrew Beard invented an automatic coupler.
- It improved on the existing design of train car couplers.
- It made the job of connecting train cars safer.
- In 1938, African American inventor Frederick Jones invented a mobile refrigeration system.
- It improved on the existing design of food transport trucks.
- It enabled trucks to carry perishable foods farther.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between Beard's invention and Jones's invention. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Beard's automatic coupler and Jones's mobile refrigeration system both improved on existing designs.

B. In 1897, Beard invented an automatic coupler, which made the job of connecting train cars safer.

C. Beard's invention made the job of connecting train cars safer, whereas Jones's invention enabled food transport trucks to carry perishables farther.

D. Jones's mobile refrigeration system, which he invented in 1938, made it possible for food transport trucks to carry perishable foods farther.

ID: bdff71d5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It compares Beard's and Jones's inventions to one another, and emphasizes what they have in common.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize a similarity. It only mentions Beard's invention. It doesn't compare it to Jones's invention. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two inventions. Instead, it emphasizes a difference. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize a similarity. It only mentions Jones's invention. It doesn't compare it to Beard's invention.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bcc9b5a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: bcc9b5a5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2019, Emily Shepard and colleagues in the UK and Germany studied the effect of wind on auks' success in landing at cliffside nesting sites.
- They found as wind conditions intensified, the birds needed more attempts in order to make a successful landing.
- When the wind was still, almost 100% of landing attempts were successful.
- In a strong breeze, approximately 40% of attempts were successful.
- In near-gale conditions, only around 20% of attempts were successful.

The student wants to summarize the study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. For a 2019 study, researchers from the UK and Germany collected data on auks' attempts to land at cliffside nesting sites in different wind conditions.

B. Emily Shepard and her colleagues wanted to know the extent to which wind affected auks' success in landing at cliffside nesting sites, so they conducted a study.

C. Knowing that auks often need multiple attempts to land at their cliffside nesting sites, Emily Shepard studied the birds' success rate, which was only around 20% in some conditions.

D. Emily Shepard's 2019 study of auks' success in landing at cliffside nesting sites showed that as wind conditions intensified, the birds' success rate decreased.

ID: bcc9b5a5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence effectively summarizes the study, noting who conducted it, when it was conducted, and what its results showed: that auks' landing success rate decreased as wind conditions intensified.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence presents the methodology of the study—that is, the approach taken by the researchers—it fails to summarize the study as a whole. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence presents the aim, or goal, of the study, it fails to summarize the study as a whole. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence indicates what Shepard studied, it fails to mention a key factor: the effect of wind. It thus fails to summarize the study as a whole.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d1519a0b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: d1519a0b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- By interlocking their bodies, ants can form bridges to help fellow ants cross gaps.
- In 2020, Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin was inspired by ant behavior to design collaborative quadruped robots.
- Over the course of a year, she designed, built, tested, and refined her robots.
- Each robot is programmed to send a signal to another robot upon encountering a gap in a path.
- The signaled robot connects to the back of the signaler robot via magnetic sensors and pushes it across the gap.

The student wants to begin a narrative about the creation of the robots. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. When one of Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin's robots encounters a gap in its path, it sends a signal to another robot; the signaled robot connects to the back of the signaler and pushes it across the gap.

B. After a year, Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin had designed, built, tested, and refined her robots.

C. Inspired by ants, which form bridges with their interlocked bodies to help fellow ants cross gaps, Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin set out to design quadruped robots capable of similarly collaborative behavior.

D. Ants, which have inspired the design of robots, form bridges by interlocking their bodies.

ID: d1519a0b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively begins a narrative about the creation of the robots, explaining that ants' gap-crossing technique inspired Yasemin Ozkan-Aydin to "set out to design" robots that could collaborate in a similar manner.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes how the robots work together to cross gaps; it doesn't effectively begin a narrative about the creation of the robots. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides an overview of the steps Ozkan-Aydin took in creating the robots; it doesn't effectively begin a narrative about their creation. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence explains how ants form bridges; it doesn't effectively begin a narrative about the creation of the robots.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0827ad94

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 0827ad94

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1897, twenty Black US Army infantrymen rode bicycles from Montana to Missouri.
- The 1,900-mile journey took forty-one days.
- The goal was to test the idea of forming a military bicycle corps.
- In 2022, Erick Cedeño, a Black long-distance cyclist, reenacted the journey.
- Cedeño wanted to honor the infantrymen on the journey's 125th anniversary.

The student wants to emphasize how far the infantrymen traveled. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The US infantrymen rode their bicycles from Montana to Missouri—traveling a total of 1,900 miles.

B. The 125th anniversary of the infantrymen's journey was in 2022.

C. The goal of the 1897 journey was to test the idea of forming a military bicycle corps.

D. Over a century later, Erick Cedeño honored the infantrymen by reenacting their 1897 journey.

ID: 0827ad94 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes how far the infantrymen traveled, indicating that they rode their bicycles from Montana to Missouri, a total of 1,900 miles.

Choice B is incorrect because the sentence mentions when the anniversary of the journey occurred; it doesn't emphasize how far the infantrymen traveled. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence discusses the goal of the journey; it doesn't emphasize how far the infantrymen traveled. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence notes that Cedeño honored the infantrymen by reenacting their journey; it doesn't emphasize how far the infantrymen traveled.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID cb29edf3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: cb29edf3

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Tecozautla is a municipality in the state of Hidalgo, Mexico.
- Municipalities are governmental regions responsible for providing many public services to their residents.
- One service they provide is street lighting.
- Tecozautla covers an area of roughly 535 km².
- Hidalgo is divided into 84 municipalities.

The student wants to emphasize the size of Tecozautla. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The municipality of Tecozautla in Hidalgo, Mexico, covers an area of roughly 535 km².

B. Providing street lighting is just one example of the public services that municipalities provide.

C. Tecozautla is one of 84 governmental regions, known as municipalities, across Hidalgo.

D. Tecozautla—a governmental region in the state of Hidalgo, Mexico—provides many public services to its residents.

ID: cb29edf3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the size of Tecozautla, noting that it covers an area of roughly 535 km².

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence gives an example of a public service that municipalities provide; it doesn't emphasize the size of Tecozautla. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about Tecozautla, it doesn't emphasize Tecozautla's size. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about Tecozautla, it doesn't emphasize Tecozautla's size.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4dcd677c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 4dcd677c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- *Certhidea olivacea* is a perching bird that can be found on the Galápagos Island of Pinzón.
- *Creagrus furcatus* is a seabird that can be found on the Galápagos Island of Darwin.
- Conservation organizations evaluate the risk that species will become extinct in the near future.
- *C. olivacea* faces a high risk of extinction.
- *C. furcatus* faces little risk of becoming extinct in the near future.

The student wants to compare the extinction risk faced by *C. olivacea* with that faced by *C. furcatus*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. According to conservation organizations, *C. olivacea* has a higher risk of becoming extinct in the near future than *C. furcatus*.

B. *C. furcatus* faces a high risk of extinction, while *C. olivacea* faces little risk of becoming extinct in the near future.

C. Conservation organizations have evaluated both *C. furcatus*'s and *C. olivacea*'s risk of becoming extinct in the near future.

D. *C. olivacea* is a perching bird that faces a high risk of extinction.

ID: 4dcd677c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence compares the extinction risks of the two species, noting that *C. olivacea* has a higher risk of becoming extinct in the near future than *C. furcatus*.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence does compare the extinction risks of the two species, it misrepresents information from the notes; *C. olivacea* faces a higher risk of becoming extinct in the near future than *C. furcatus*, not the other way around. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that conservation organizations have evaluated both species for extinction risk, it doesn't compare the extinction risks of the two species. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence states that *C. olivacea* faces a high risk of extinction, it doesn't mention *C. furcatus* or compare the extinction risks of the two species.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 20990ab6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 20990ab6

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2013, archaeologists studied cat bone fragments they had found in the ruins of Quanhucun, a Chinese farming village.
- The fragments were estimated to be 5,300 years old.
- A chemical analysis of the fragments revealed that the cats had consumed large amounts of grain.
- The grain consumption is evidence that the Quanhucun cats may have been domesticated.

The student wants to present the Quanhucun study and its conclusions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. As part of a 2013 study of cat domestication, a chemical analysis was conducted on cat bone fragments found in Quanhucun, China.

B. A 2013 analysis of cat bone fragments found in Quanhucun, China, suggests that cats there may have been domesticated 5,300 years ago.

C. In 2013, archaeologists studied what cats in Quanhucun, China, had eaten more than 5,000 years ago.

D. Cat bone fragments estimated to be 5,300 years old were found in Quanhucun, China, in 2013.

ID: 20990ab6 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence presents the study, describing it as a 2013 analysis of Quanhucun cat bone fragments, and its conclusions, indicating what the analysis suggests about cat domestication in Quanhucun.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence focuses on the study's methodology; it doesn't present conclusions from the study. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides a general overview of the study, it doesn't present conclusions from the study. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes a finding from the study; it doesn't present conclusions from the study.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 87bdaf0a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 87bdaf0a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Novelist Willa Cather grew up in Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Some of Cather's best-known novels are set in Nebraska.
- Two such novels are *O Pioneers!* (1913) and *My Ántonia* (1918).
- Cather's novels describe the experiences of immigrants who settled in the Great Plains.

The student wants to identify the setting of Cather's novel *My Ántonia.* Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. *My Ántonia* is set in Nebraska, where Cather grew up.

B. Cather, author of *My Ántonia*, described the experiences of immigrants in her novels.

C. Among Cather's best-known novels are *O Pioneers!* (1913) and *My Ántonia* (1918).

D. Cather attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and set some of her novels in Nebraska.

ID: 87bdaf0a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice directly identifies the setting of Cather's novel *My Ántonia* as Nebraska.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice mentions that Cather wrote about immigrants, but it doesn't indicate where they lived. Choice C is incorrect. This choice mentions that *My Ántonia* is one of Cather's best-known novels but doesn't state where it takes place. Choice D is incorrect. This choice mentions that some of Cather's novels are set in Nebraska, but it doesn't specify which ones, so we can't be certain that *My Ántonia* is one of them. It also includes irrelevant information about Cather's education.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bc6c9392

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: bc6c9392

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Dr. Sunil Bajpai studies dinosaurs at the Indian Institute of Technology.
- Bajpai's research team recently found a 167-million-year-old dicraeosaurid fossil.
- It is the oldest fossil from the dicraeosaurid dinosaur group ever recovered.
- It was found in the Thar Desert in western India.

The student wants to indicate where the dicraeosaurid fossil was found. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The dicraeosaurid fossil was found in western India's Thar Desert.

B. Bajpai's team recently found the oldest dicraeosaurid fossil ever recovered.

C. Dr. Sunil Bajpai, of the Indian Institute of Technology, is part of a research team.

D. The fossil, which is from the dicraeosaurid dinosaur group, is 167 million years old.

ID: bc6c9392 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence indicates where the dicraeosaurid fossil was found: western India's Thar Desert.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence states that Bajpai's team discovered the dicraeosaurid fossil; it doesn't specify where they found it. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence provides information about Dr. Sunil Bajpai; it doesn't indicate where the fossil was found. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about the fossil, it doesn't indicate where the fossil was found.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 03fe4fcf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 03fe4fcf

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Pineapple is a fruit that contains ascorbic acid, an essential nutrient for humans.
- Every 100 grams (g) of pineapple contains 48 milligrams (mg) of ascorbic acid.
- Many animals can make ascorbic acid in their bodies, but humans cannot.
- Humans must get ascorbic acid from foods, including fruits and vegetables.
- Ascorbic acid is also known as vitamin C.

The student wants to provide an example of a fruit that contains vitamin C. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Humans cannot make ascorbic acid in their bodies, but they can get it from foods, such as fruits, for example.

B. Vitamin C, also known as ascorbic acid, can be found in pineapple as well as other fruits.

C. Since humans cannot make vitamin C in their bodies, they must get it from food.

D. Many animals can make ascorbic acid, which is also known as vitamin C, in their bodies, but humans cannot.

ID: 03fe4fcf Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence provides an example of a fruit that contains vitamin C, noting that vitamin C (also known as ascorbic acid) can be found in pineapple as well as other fruits.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence does explain that humans can get vitamin C from fruits, it doesn't provide an example of a specific fruit that contains vitamin C. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains why humans must get vitamin C from foods; it doesn't provide an example of a fruit that contains vitamin C. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence compares vitamin C production in animals with vitamin C production in humans; it doesn't provide an example of a fruit that contains vitamin C.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 46d082c0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 46d082c0

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2022, University of Miami researchers discovered brine pools in the Gulf of Aqaba.
- A brine pool is an underwater lake that sits on the ocean floor.
- The water in brine pools is three to eight times saltier than the surrounding ocean.
- The extreme saltiness of this water makes it toxic to most sea life.
- Some forms of bacteria are able to survive in brine pools.

The student wants to explain why brine pools are toxic to most sea life. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Though brine pools are toxic to most sea life, some bacteria can survive there.

B. The water in brine pools is toxic to most sea life because it is three to eight times saltier than the surrounding ocean.

C. The brine pools in the Gulf of Aqaba are toxic to most sea life and were discovered by researchers in 2022.

D. Brine pools are salty underwater lakes that sit on the ocean floor.

ID: 46d082c0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence explains why brine pools are toxic to most sea life, noting that the water in the pools is three to eight times saltier than the surrounding ocean.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence states that brine pools are toxic to most sea life, it doesn't explain why the pools are toxic. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence states that brine pools are toxic to most sea life, it doesn't explain why the pools are toxic. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence describes brine pools, mentioning that they are salty, but doesn't explain why they are toxic to most sea life.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 999666cd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 999666cd

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Seven species of sea turtle exist today.
- Five sea turtle species can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.
- One of those species is the Kemp's ridley sea turtle.
- Its scientific name is *Lepidochelys kempii*.
- Another of those species is the olive ridley sea turtle.
- Its scientific name is *Lepidochelys olivacea*.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two sea turtle species. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Among the seven species of sea turtle is the olive ridley sea turtle, which can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.

B. The Kemp's ridley sea turtle is referred to as *Lepidochelys kempii*, while the olive ridley sea turtle is referred to as *Lepidochelys olivacea*.

C. Both the Kemp's ridley sea turtle and the olive ridley sea turtle can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.

D. The Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) and the olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) are different species.

ID: 999666cd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two sea turtle species: both can be found in the Atlantic Ocean.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates that the olive ridley sea turtle is one of seven species of sea turtle; it fails to mention the Kemp's ridley sea turtle. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two sea turtle species rather than a similarity. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two sea turtle species rather than a similarity.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 16258643

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 16258643

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Sam Maloof (1916–2009) was an American woodworker and furniture designer.
- He was the son of Lebanese immigrants.
- He received a "genius grant" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 1985.
- The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts, owns a rocking chair that Maloof made from walnut wood.
- The armrests and the seat of the chair are sleek and contoured, and the back consists of seven spindle-like slats.

The student wants to describe the rocking chair to an audience unfamiliar with Sam Maloof. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. With its sleek, contoured armrests and seat, the walnut rocking chair in Boston's Museum of Fine Arts is just one piece of furniture created by American woodworker Sam Maloof.

B. Sam Maloof was born in 1916 and died in 2009, and during his life, he made a chair that you can see if you visit the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

C. Furniture designer Sam Maloof was a recipient of one of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's "genius grants."

D. The rocking chair is made from walnut, and it has been shaped such that its armrests and seat are sleek and contoured.

ID: 16258643 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence effectively describes the rocking chair to an audience unfamiliar with Sam Maloof, noting its sleek, contoured armrests and seat and explaining that Sam Maloof (the walnut chair's creator) was an American woodworker.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence explains who Sam Maloof was and mentions a chair, it doesn't describe the chair. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence explains who Sam Maloof was, it doesn't describe the rocking chair. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence describes the rocking chair, it doesn't explain who Sam Maloof was.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b95af90e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: b95af90e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Seikan Tunnel is a rail tunnel in Japan.
- It connects the island of Honshu to the island of Hokkaido.
- It is roughly 33 miles long.
- The Channel Tunnel is a rail tunnel in Europe.
- It connects Folkestone, England, to Coquelles, France.
- It is about 31 miles long.

The student wants to compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Some of the world's rail tunnels, including one tunnel that extends from Folkestone, England, to Coquelles, France, are longer than 30 miles.

B. The Seikan Tunnel is roughly 33 miles long, while the slightly shorter Channel Tunnel is about 31 miles long.

C. The Seikan Tunnel, which is roughly 33 miles long, connects the Japanese islands of Honshu and Hokkaido.

D. Both the Seikan Tunnel, which is located in Japan, and the Channel Tunnel, which is located in Europe, are examples of rail tunnels.

ID: b95af90e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence compares the lengths of the two rail tunnels, noting that the Channel Tunnel (about 31 miles long) is slightly shorter than the Seikan Tunnel (roughly 33 miles long).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about the length of some rail tunnels; it doesn't compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence describes a single rail tunnel; it doesn't compare the lengths of the two rail tunnels. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two rail tunnels, it doesn't compare their lengths.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fa481b2d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: fa481b2d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Pauline Hopkins (1859-1930) was an African American writer.
- In her career, she created many genre-defining stories.
- Her serialized novel *Hagar's Daughter* was published from 1901 to 1902 in *The Colored American Magazine*.
- It is considered the first African American mystery novel.

The student wants to introduce Pauline Hopkins to an audience unfamiliar with her career. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Pauline Hopkins is the author of *Hagar's Daughter*, a serialized novel published from 1901 to 1902.

B. African American writer Pauline Hopkins created many genre-defining stories during her career, including the first African American mystery novel, *Hagar's Daughter*.

C. Published in *The Colored American Magazine* from 1901 to 1902, *Hagar's Daughter* is a serialized novel by Pauline Hopkins.

D. *Hagar's Daughter* by Pauline Hopkins is considered the first African American mystery novel.

ID: fa481b2d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence introduces Pauline Hopkins to an audience unfamiliar with her career, identifying her as a genre-defining African American writer and noting a career accomplishment.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes that Pauline Hopkins wrote a serialized novel but doesn't introduce Hopkins to an audience unfamiliar with her career. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence introduces Hopkins's novel; it doesn't introduce Hopkins. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence explains that a novel written by Hopkins is considered the first African American mystery novel; it doesn't introduce Hopkins to an audience unfamiliar with her career.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 25429427

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 25429427

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Sue is the nickname of a dinosaur fossil specimen housed at the Field Museum of Natural History.
- The Field Museum of Natural History is located in Chicago, Illinois.
- Sue is a member of the genus *Tyrannosaurus.*
- Big Mike is the nickname of a dinosaur fossil specimen housed at the Museum of the Rockies.
- The Museum of the Rockies is located in Bozeman, Montana.
- Big Mike is a member of the genus *Tyrannosaurus.*

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two specimens. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The Field Museum of Natural History, where Sue is housed, is located in Chicago, Illinois.

B. Big Mike is the nickname of a *Tyrannosaurus* fossil specimen housed at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana.

C. The dinosaur fossil specimens Sue and Big Mike are both members of the genus *Tyrannosaurus.*

D. While Sue is housed at the Field Museum of Natural History, Big Mike is housed at the Museum of the Rockies.

ID: 25429427 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two specimens, noting that Sue and Big Mike are members of the same genus: *Tyrannosaurus*.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence only provides information about where one of the specimens (Sue) can be found; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two specimens. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence only provides information about one specimen (Big Mike); it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two specimens. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence contrasts the locations of Sue and Big Mike; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two specimens.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9c1181aa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 9c1181aa

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The painter Frida Kahlo is one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century.
- She was born in Coyoacán, Mexico, in 1907.
- She is best known for her vivid and richly symbolic self-portraits.
- *The Two Fridas* (1939) features two versions of Kahlo sitting together.
- One version wears a European-style dress and the other a traditional Tehuana dress.

The student wants to introduce Kahlo to an audience unfamiliar with the artist. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Known for being vivid and richly symbolic, Frida Kahlo's self-portraits include *The Two Fridas* (1939).

B. The 1939 painting *The Two Fridas* is one example of a self-portrait by Frida Kahlo.

C. One painting by Frida Kahlo features two versions of herself, with one version wearing a European-style dress and the other a traditional Tehuana dress.

D. One of the most influential artists of the twentieth century, Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is best known for her self-portraits, which are vivid and richly symbolic.

ID: 9c1181aa Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. By identifying Kahlo as an influential artist from Mexico, and by describing the work she's best known for, this choice provides the background information necessary to introduce Kahlo to an unfamiliar audience.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't effectively introduce Kahlo. It doesn't include any background information about who Kahlo is or where she's from. It simply identifies one of her paintings. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't effectively introduce Kahlo. It doesn't include any background information about who Kahlo is or where she's from. It simply identifies one of her paintings. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't effectively introduce Kahlo. It doesn't include any background information about who Kahlo is or where she's from. Instead, it describes one of her paintings in detail.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID be3d5806

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: be3d5806

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Pterosaurs were flying reptiles that existed millions of years ago.
- In a 2021 study, Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan analyzed fragments of pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert.
- She was initially unsure if the bones belonged to juvenile or adult pterosaurs.
- She used advanced microscope techniques to determine that the bones had few growth lines relative to the bones of fully grown pterosaurs.
- She concluded that the bones belonged to juveniles.

The student wants to present the study and its findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In 2021, Chinsamy-Turan studied pterosaur jawbones and was initially unsure if the bones belonged to juveniles or adults.

B. Pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert were the focus of a 2021 study.

C. In a 2021 study, Chinsamy-Turan used advanced microscope techniques to analyze the jawbones of pterosaurs, flying reptiles that existed millions of years ago.

D. In a 2021 study, Chinsamy-Turan determined that pterosaur jawbones located in the Sahara Desert had few growth lines relative to the bones of fully grown pterosaurs and thus belonged to juveniles.

ID: be3d5806 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence presents both the study and its findings, noting the study's date and the researcher's name as well as describing what the researcher determined about the jawbones and how she determined it.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence describes the study and the researcher's initial assessment, it doesn't present the study's findings. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence describes the study and its focus, it doesn't present the study's findings or the name of the researcher who conducted it. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the study's methodology and provides information about pterosaurs, it doesn't present the study's findings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID af539388

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: af539388

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- 1926: The US Congress gave the US Commerce Department authority to regulate safety standards in the fledgling commercial airline industry.
- 1938: Congress transferred this authority to a new independent government agency called the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA).
- 1958: Congress transferred authority from the CAA to the newly established Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- The FAA's first administrator, Elwood R. Quesada, updated safety standards and technologies for the era of commercial jets.
- The FAA remains the regulatory authority for airline safety.

The student wants to specify the order in which different government entities were given the authority to regulate airline safety in the US. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The CAA had the authority to regulate safety for US airlines from 1938 until 1958, at which point authority was transferred to the US Commerce Department by Elwood R. Quesada.

B. The FAA, CAA, and the US Commerce Department all had the authority to regulate US airline safety, but they possessed this authority at different times.

C. The FAA has regulated airline safety since it was established by the US Congress in 1958.

D. The authority to regulate US airline safety transferred from the US Commerce Department to the CAA in 1938, then from the CAA to the FAA in 1958.

ID: af539388 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence specifies the order in which different government entities were given the authority to regulate US airline safety, noting that this role shifted from the US Commerce Department to the CAA in 1938, then from the CAA to the FAA in 1958.

Choice A is incorrect because it misrepresents information from the notes. The authority to regulate airline safety was transferred to the FAA in 1958, not to the US Commerce Department. Moreover, the sentence misrepresents Quesada's role as described in the notes. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that all three entities had the authority to regulate US airline safety at different times, it doesn't specify the chronological order in which they held that authority. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence only mentions when the FAA began regulating US airline safety; it doesn't specify the order in which different government entities held that authority.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 738cdbed

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 738cdbed

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1965, Yale University historians claimed that a world map called the Vinland Map was drawn in the fifteenth century.
- Since that time, the map's age has been the subject of debate.
- In 2021, researchers conducted a study to analyze the elemental composition of the map's ink.
- Their analysis revealed that the ink contains a titanium compound not used in inks until the 1920s.
- The researchers concluded that the map was drawn in the twentieth century.

The student wants to present the study and its findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Given the debate about the Vinland Map's age, researchers in 2021 conducted a study to analyze the elemental composition of the map's ink.

B. A 2021 study of the Vinland Map's ink revealed that it contains a titanium compound not used in inks until the 1920s, indicating that the map was drawn in the twentieth century.

C. The Vinland Map, believed by some to have been drawn in the fifteenth century, was the focus of a 2021 study.

D. Aware that a certain titanium compound was not used in inks until the 1920s, researchers in 2021 studied the elemental composition of the Vinland Map's ink.

ID: 738cdbed Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence effectively presents the study and its findings, providing relevant information: a 2021 study of the Vinland Map found that the map's ink contains a compound not used in inks until the twentieth century.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence introduces the study, it does not present the study's findings. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the study, it does not effectively present the study or its findings. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence introduces the study, it does not present the study's findings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9f2e3c1d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 9f2e3c1d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Samuel Selvon was a Trinidadian author.
- *The Lonely Londoners* is one of his most celebrated novels.
- Selvon published the novel in 1956.
- It is about a group of men who emigrate from the Caribbean to Great Britain after World War II.
- Some of *The Lonely Londoners*' characters also appear in Selvon's later novel *Moses Ascending*.

The student wants to introduce Samuel Selvon and his novel *The Lonely Londoners* to a new audience. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In 1956, Trinidadian author Samuel Selvon published one of his most celebrated novels, *The Lonely Londoners,* which is about a group of men who emigrate from the Caribbean to Great Britain after World War II.

B. Samuel Selvon wrote the novel *Moses Ascending* after he wrote *The Lonely Londoners.*

C. *The Lonely Londoners*, a celebrated novel that was published in 1956, depicts post–World War II Caribbean migration from the perspective of a Trinidadian author.

D. Some of the characters who appear in Samuel Selvon's *Moses Ascending* also appear in *The Lonely Londoners.*

ID: 9f2e3c1d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. By noting that Selvon is a Trinidadian author and indicating that *The Lonely Londoners*, published in 1956, is about a group of men who emigrate from the Caribbean to Great Britain after World War II, the sentence effectively introduces Samuel Selvon and his novel to a new audience.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates the order in which two of Selvon's novels were written; it doesn't introduce Samuel Selvon and *The Lonely Londoners* to a new audience. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence describes the novel *The Lonely Londoners*, it doesn't mention its author, Samuel Selvon, by name and thus doesn't effectively introduce him to a new audience. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates that two of Selvon's novels include the same characters; it doesn't introduce Samuel Selvon and *The Lonely Londoners* to a new audience.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 167e4d85

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 167e4d85

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Samuel Delany is a US writer known for his science fiction.
- Delany's science fiction novel *Babel-17* was published in 1966.
- The novel won a Nebula Award in 1967.
- The Nebula Awards are given each year to the best works of science fiction published in the US.

The student wants to indicate the title of a novel that won a Nebula Award. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. *Babel-17*, by Samuel Delany, won a Nebula Award in 1967.

B. Samuel Delany published a science fiction novel in 1966.

C. Samuel Delany is an award-winning US writer known for his science fiction.

D. One of Samuel Delany's novels was among the best works of science fiction published in the US.

ID: 167e4d85 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence indicates the title of a novel that won a Nebula Award, noting that *Babel-17* by Samuel Delany won the award in 1967.

Choice B is incorrect because the sentence identifies the year that Samuel Delany published a science fiction novel; it doesn't indicate the novel's title or that it won a Nebula Award. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence provides an introduction of Samuel Delany; it doesn't indicate the title of a novel that has won a Nebula Award. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence indicates that one of Samuel Delany's novels met the qualification for a Nebula Award; it doesn't indicate the novel's title or that it won an award.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f556df98

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: f556df98

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Meteorites found on Earth are divided into two categories.
- A meteorite that was observed falling to Earth before being recovered is known as a meteorite fall.
- All other meteorites found on Earth are known as meteorite finds.
- There have been about 1,200 recorded meteorite falls.
- There have been over 60,000 recorded meteorite finds.

The student wants to contrast the number of meteorite falls with the number of meteorite finds. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. A meteorite that was observed falling to Earth before being recovered is known as a meteorite fall; all others are known as meteorite finds.

B. Meteorites found on Earth are divided into two categories: meteorite falls and meteorite finds.

C. There have been about 1,200 recorded meteorite falls, or meteorites observed falling to Earth.

D. While there have been only about 1,200 recorded meteorite falls, there have been over 60,000 meteorite finds.

ID: f556df98 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the number of meteorite falls with the number of meteorite finds, noting that there have been over 60,000 meteorite finds but only about 1,200 recorded meteorite falls.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence explains the difference between meteorite falls and meteorite finds, it doesn't contrast the number of meteorite falls and meteorite finds. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates the two categories of meteorites found on Earth; it doesn't contrast the number of meteorite falls and meteorite finds. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence notes the number of recorded meteorite falls, it doesn't contrast this with the number of meteorite finds.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f6f0351f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: f6f0351f

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Severo Ochoa discovered the enzyme PNPase in 1955.
- PNPase is involved in both the creation and degradation of mRNA.
- Ochoa incorrectly hypothesized that PNPase provides the genetic blueprints for mRNA.
- The discovery of PNPase proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code.
- Deciphering the genetic code has led to a better understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.

The student wants to emphasize the significance of Ochoa's discovery. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Ochoa's 1955 discovery of PNPase proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code, leading to a better understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.

B. Ochoa first discovered PNPase, an enzyme that he hypothesized contained the genetic blueprints for mRNA, in 1955.

C. In 1955, Ochoa discovered the PNPase enzyme, which is involved in both the creation and degradation of mRNA.

D. Though his discovery of PNPase was critical to deciphering the human genetic code, Ochoa incorrectly hypothesized that the enzyme was the source of mRNA's genetic blueprints.

ID: f6f0351f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the significance of Ochoa's discovery, noting that it proved critical to deciphering the human genetic code, which resulted in a better understanding of how genetic variations affect human health.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence explains what Ochoa discovered, it doesn't emphasize the significance of the discovery. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence explains what Ochoa discovered, it doesn't emphasize the significance of the discovery. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that Ochoa's discovery was crucial, it emphasizes Ochoa's incorrect hypothesis, not the significance of the discovery.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID efe7f84b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: efe7f84b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Chromosomes are cellular structures that contain genes.
- Genes carry critical instructions for determining an organism's physical traits.
- Members of the same species typically have the same number of chromosomes.
- The pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) and the melon (*Cucumis melo*) are species of fruits.
- The pineapple has fifty chromosomes.
- The melon has twenty-four chromosomes.

The student wants to specify how many chromosomes the pineapple has. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The pineapple's chromosomes contain genes, which are critical to determining an organism's physical traits.

B. The pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) has fifty chromosomes.

C. The pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) and the melon (*Cucumis melo*) both have chromosomes, but the pineapple has more than the melon does.

D. The melon, a species of fruit, has twenty-four structures called chromosomes.

ID: efe7f84b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence directly specifies how many chromosomes the pineapple has, as indicated in the notes: fifty.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the pineapple's chromosomes, it doesn't specify how many it has. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates that the pineapple has more chromosomes than the melon; it doesn't specify the exact number of chromosomes the pineapple has. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence specifies how many chromosomes the melon has, not how many the pineapple has.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 92a6f794

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 92a6f794

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Elizabeth Catlett's sculpture *Recognition* (1970) shows two African American figures with rounded, indistinct features.
- The figures reach out to each other in a pose that symbolizes a close, supportive relationship.
- Her sculpture *Students Aspire* (1978) shows two African American figures with sharply defined features.
- The figures hold an equal sign above their heads with one hand and embrace each other with the other hand.
- This pose symbolizes their support for each other in the pursuit of equality.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two sculptures. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Catlett's *Students Aspire* depicts two figures supporting each other in the pursuit of equality.

B. *Recognition* and *Students Aspire* both show African American figures in poses that symbolize supportive relationships.

C. Catlett completed *Recognition* in 1970 and *Students Aspire* in 1978.

D. The figures in *Recognition* have features that are rounded and indistinct, while the figures in *Students Aspire* have sharply defined features.

ID: 92a6f794 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the sculptures *Recognition* and *Students Aspire*, noting that both sculptures show African American figures in poses that symbolize supportive relationships.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes one of the sculptures; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two sculptures. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence specifies the different years the sculptures were completed in; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two sculptures. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two sculptures, noting that the figures in the sculptures have different feature definition; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two sculptures.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5e5be794

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 5e5be794

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Brass is a metal alloy composed primarily of zinc and copper.
- Alpha brass contains less than 35% zinc.
- It is more malleable than beta brass and can be manipulated at room temperature.
- Beta brass contains more than 45% zinc.
- It is harder and stronger than alpha brass but is more difficult to work with because it requires heat to manipulate.

The student wants to specify an advantage of alpha brass. Which choice most effectively uses information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. As a metal alloy composed primarily of zinc and copper, alpha brass has a notable advantage over beta brass.

B. Unlike beta brass, which requires heat to manipulate, alpha brass can be shaped at room temperature.

C. Alpha brass contains less than 35% zinc, whereas beta brass contains more than 45% zinc.

D. With its higher zinc content, alpha brass is a stronger material than beta brass.

ID: 5e5be794 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence specifies an advantage of alpha brass, noting that unlike beta brass, which requires heat to manipulate, alpha brass can be shaped at room temperature.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that alpha brass has an advantage over beta brass, it doesn't specify what that advantage is. Both alpha brass and beta brass are metal alloys composed primarily of zinc and copper. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence contrasts the zinc content of alpha and beta brass; it doesn't specify an advantage of alpha brass. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence does specify an advantage, it misrepresents information from the notes: beta brass, not alpha brass, has the higher zinc content and is the stronger material.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 302e6780

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 302e6780

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Spiders are classified as arachnids.
- There are other types of arachnids besides spiders.
- Harvestmen are a type of arachnid.
- Harvestmen are also known as daddy longlegs.
- Harvestmen are not spiders.

The student wants to explain what harvestmen are. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Spiders, also known as harvestmen, are classified as arachnids.

B. There are other types of arachnids besides spiders, such as daddy longlegs.

C. The spiders known as daddy longlegs are classified as harvestmen.

D. Harvestmen, also known as daddy longlegs, are arachnids but not spiders.

ID: 302e6780 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence explains what harvestmen are, noting that they are also known as daddy longlegs and that they are arachnids but not spiders.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence does mention harvestmen, its main focus is on spiders. Moreover, it misrepresents information from the notes: harvestmen are not spiders. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence focuses on the broader point that arachnids include more than just spiders; it doesn't mention harvestmen directly or explain what they are. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence focuses on how daddy longlegs are classified; it doesn't explain what harvestmen are. Moreover, it misrepresents information from the notes. The notes indicate that harvestmen are not spiders, and "harvestmen" is presented in the notes as an alternate name for "daddy longlegs," not a category in which daddy longlegs belong.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 00fc59fb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 00fc59fb

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A lever is a simple machine consisting of a rigid beam and a fulcrum.
- The fulcrum is the point about which the beam pivots.
- The input force (effort) is the force applied to the lever.
- The output force (load) is the force that the lever exerts on another object.
- In first-class levers, the fulcrum is located between the effort and the load.
- In second-class levers, the load is located between the effort and the fulcrum.

The student wants to contrast first-class levers and second-class levers. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In levers, the effort is the force applied to the lever; the load, in contrast, is the force that the lever exerts on another object.

B. In first-class and second-class levers, the fulcrum and the load are in different locations.

C. First-class levers are simple machines consisting of a rigid beam and a fulcrum, but then again, the same is true of second-class levers.

D. In first-class levers, the fulcrum is located between the effort and the load, but in second-class levers, the load is located between the effort and the fulcrum.

ID: 00fc59fb Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence contrasts first-class levers and second-class levers, explaining that the fulcrum in a first-class lever is between the effort and the load, whereas in a second-class lever the load is between the effort and the fulcrum.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence defines two terms associated with levers; it doesn't contrast first-class levers and second-class levers. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence seems to acknowledge a general difference in fulcrum and load locations between first-class and second-class levers, it does not specify what this difference is. Moreover, the sentence could be read as emphasizing a similarity—that in both types of levers, the fulcrum and load are in different locations. The sentence thus fails to effectively contrast the two types of levers. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence describes a similarity between first-class and second-class levers; it doesn't contrast them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2315ad9a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 2315ad9a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- *The Ramayana* is a Sanskrit epic poem from ancient India.
- In *The Ramayana*, the character Kaikeyi is often portrayed as a villain.
- *Kaikeyi* is a 2022 novel by Vaishnavi Patel.
- The novel is a retelling of the epic poem from Kaikeyi's point of view.
- It often portrays Kaikeyi as heroic.

The student wants to emphasize whose point of view the novel is told from. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. From the point of view of *The Ramayana*, the character Kaikeyi is often a villain.

B. Vaishnavi Patel often portrays the character as heroic.

C. *Kaikeyi* is a retelling of *The Ramayana* from the character Kaikeyi's point of view.

D. *The Ramayana* is an epic poem that features the character Kaikeyi.

ID: 2315ad9a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes whose point of view the novel *Kaikeyi* is told from: the character Kaikeyi's.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence does discuss point of view, it focuses on that of the epic poem rather than the novel. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence seems to be referring to Patel's novel, it doesn't establish whose point of view the novel is told from. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence discusses the character Kaikeyi in the context of the epic poem; it doesn't discuss the novel's point of view.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 223bcc89

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 223bcc89

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Edmonia Lewis (1844–1907) was an African American and Mississauga Ojibwe sculptor.
- *Forever Free* (1867) is a marble sculpture by Lewis.
- It depicts a male figure and a female figure gazing upward.
- It commemorates the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation.
- The phrase "forever free" from the text of the Emancipation Proclamation is inscribed on the sculpture's base.
- Art historian Kirsten Buick describes the sculpture as a "celebration of liberty."

The student wants to explain the sculpture's specific historical context. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. According to art historian Kirsten Buick, *Forever Free*, which depicts a male figure and a female figure gazing upward, is a "celebration of liberty."

B. The base of Edmonia Lewis's 1867 marble sculpture is inscribed with a historically significant phrase: "forever free."

C. Completed in 1867, Lewis's sculpture *Forever Free* commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued four years previously.

D. *Forever Free* (1867) is a marble sculpture by Edmonia Lewis, an African American and Mississauga Ojibwe sculptor who lived from 1844 to 1907.

ID: 223bcc89 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence explains the specific historical context of Lewis's sculpture, noting that it commemorates the Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued four years before the sculpture was completed in 1867.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence quotes an art historian's general interpretation of the sculpture's meaning; it doesn't explain the sculpture's specific historical context. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions a historically significant phrase on the sculpture's base, it doesn't explain the specific historical context of the phrase or the sculpture. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence provides biographical information about Lewis; it doesn't explain the specific historical context of the sculpture.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d43438b8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: d43438b8

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was a road built between 1792 and 1794.
- It was the first private turnpike in the United States.
- It connected the cities of Philadelphia and Lancaster in the state of Pennsylvania.
- It was sixty-two miles long.

The student wants to emphasize the distance covered by the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The sixty-two-mile-long Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike connected the Pennsylvania cities of Philadelphia and Lancaster.

B. The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was the first private turnpike in the United States.

C. The Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, which connected two Pennsylvania cities, was built between 1792 and 1794.

D. A historic Pennsylvania road, the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike was completed in 1794.

ID: d43438b8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the distance covered by the Philadelphia and Lancaster Turnpike, noting that the turnpike, which connected the two Pennsylvania cities in its name, was sixty-two miles long.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the significance of the turnpike; it doesn't emphasize the distance that the turnpike covered. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that the turnpike connected two Pennsylvania cities, it doesn't emphasize the specific distance covered by the turnpike. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes when the turnpike was built; it doesn't emphasize the distance that the turnpike covered.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3feedc1d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 3feedc1d

- In 2017, a research team led by Mary Caswell Stoddard determined the average lengths of eggs produced by various bird species.
- *Gygis alba* is a species of bird in the order Charadriiformes.
- *Gygis alba* eggs had an average length of 4.46 cm.
- *Gavia stellata* is a species of bird in the order Gaviiformes.
- *Gavia stellata* eggs had an average length of 7.22 cm.

Which choice most effectively uses information from the given sentences to emphasize a difference between the eggs of the two species?

A. A 2017 study compared the lengths of eggs produced by an array of different bird species, such as *Gygis alba* and *Gavia stellata*.

B. A 2017 study found that *Gygis alba* eggs had an average length of 4.46 cm, whereas *Gavia stellata* eggs were longer, with an average length of 7.22 cm.

C. The bird species *Gygis alba*, which belongs to the order Charadriiformes, and *Gavia stellata*, of the order Gaviiformes, were included in a 2017 study that compared the average lengths of their eggs.

D. Mary Caswell Stoddard led a research study that determined the average lengths of eggs, including those of *Gygis alba* birds (4.46 cm) and *Gavia stellata* birds (7.22 cm).

ID: 3feedc1d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the eggs of the two species, directly contrasting the shorter average length of *Gygis alba* eggs (4.46 cm) with the longer average length of *Gavia stellata* eggs (7.22 cm).

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence mentions both bird species, it doesn't emphasize a difference between their eggs. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about the two bird species, it doesn't emphasize a difference between their eggs. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides the average lengths of both species' eggs, it doesn't explicitly emphasize the difference between them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5ea92ecf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 5ea92ecf

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Scientists have long sought to determine the origin of glass in Chile's Atacama Desert.
- A 2017 study concluded that ancient grass fires had melted the area's sandy soil into glass.
- In 2021, a different study revealed that the mineral signatures of glass samples were consistent with the mineral signatures of comet samples collected by NASA.
- That study concluded that the glass had formed as a result of a cometary explosion close to the desert's surface.

The student wants to describe how scientific understanding about the glass's origin has evolved. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Scientists have long sought to determine the origin of the glass, with one study concluding that it formed when ancient grass fires melted the area's sandy soil.

B. Studies in 2017 and 2021 offered different explanations for the origin of the glass.

C. Mineral signatures of glass samples are consistent with those of comet samples collected by NASA, according to new research.

D. A 2017 study concluded that ancient grass fires had caused the glass's formation, but new research suggests that the glass formed as a result of a cometary explosion close to the desert's surface.

ID: 5ea92ecf Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence describes how scientific understanding of the glass's origin has evolved, explaining that new research suggests the glass formed as a result of a cometary explosion instead of being caused by grass fires (as was previously believed).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence explains the conclusion of the older study; it doesn't describe how scientific understanding of the glass's origin has evolved. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the two studies provided different explanations, it doesn't describe how scientific understanding of the glass's origin has evolved. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence references a recent finding but doesn't effectively describe how scientific understanding of the glass's origin has evolved.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ef1f8032

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: ef1f8032

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Circular particle accelerators known as synchrotrons radiate energy in the form of light.
- Synchrotron light is among the brightest light ever produced.
- Synchrotron light is an ideal tool for researchers investigating the structure of matter.
- The first synchrotron created for the purpose of providing synchrotron light was built in 1968.
- It was called Tantalus and was housed near the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

The student wants to emphasize the location of the first synchrotron built to provide synchrotron light. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Tantalus, the first synchrotron created for the purpose of providing synchrotron light, was built in 1968.

B. Circular particle accelerators known as synchrotrons radiate energy in the form of light, and this light is an ideal tool for researchers investigating the structure of matter.

C. The first synchrotron created for the purpose of providing synchrotron light, Tantalus, was housed near the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

D. Synchrotron light is among the brightest light ever produced, making it an ideal tool for researchers investigating the structure of matter.

ID: ef1f8032 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. After identifying Tantalus as the first synchrotron built to provide light, the sentence emphasizes its location.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence identifies Tantalus as the first synchrotron built to provide light, it doesn't emphasize (or mention) its location. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence describes synchrotrons and how researchers use them; it doesn't emphasize (or mention) the location of Tantalus. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes synchrotron light and how researchers use it; the sentence doesn't emphasize (or mention) the location of Tantalus.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a1e326e6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: a1e326e6

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1859, the novel *Adam Bede* was published in England.
- According to the novel's title page, the author's name was George Eliot.
- George Eliot was widely assumed to be a pseudonym.
- A pseudonym is a fake name used to conceal an author's identity.
- A woman named Mary Ann Evans later revealed herself as the novel's real author.

The student wants to identify the real author of *Adam Bede*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The real author of *Adam Bede* was Mary Ann Evans, who published the novel using the pseudonym George Eliot.

B. George Eliot, which *Adam Bede*'s title page indicated was the name of the novel's author, was widely assumed to be a pseudonym.

C. The title page of the novel *Adam Bede* indicated that the author's name was George Eliot.

D. A woman who had used a pseudonym to conceal her identity later revealed herself as the real author of *Adam Bede*.

ID: a1e326e6 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence identifies the novel's real author, explaining that Mary Ann Evans published the novel under the pseudonym of George Eliot.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains that George Eliot was assumed to be a pseudonym; it doesn't identify the novel's real author. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence specifies the pseudonym used on the novel's title page; it doesn't identify the novel's real author. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the novel's real author used a pseudonym, it doesn't identify that author as Mary Ann Evans.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9dbd9094

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 9dbd9094

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Started in 1925, the Scripps National Spelling Bee is a US-based spelling competition.
- The words used in the competition have diverse linguistic origins.
- In 2008, Sameer Mishra won by correctly spelling the word “guerdon.”
- “Guerdon” derives from the Anglo-French word “guerdun.”
- In 2009, Kavya Shivashankar won by correctly spelling the word “Laodicean.”
- “Laodicean” derives from the ancient Greek word “Laodíkeia.”

The student wants to emphasize a difference in the origins of the two words. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. “Guerdon,” the final word of the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee, is of Anglo-French origin, while the following year’s final word, “Laodicean,” derives from ancient Greek.

B. In 2008, Sameer Mishra won the Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling the word “guerdon”; however, the following year, Kavya Shivashankar won based on spelling the word “Laodicean.”

C. Kavya Shivashankar won the 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling “Laodicean,” which derives from the ancient Greek word “Laodíkeia.”

D. The Scripps National Spelling Bee uses words from diverse linguistic origins, such as “guerdon” and “Laodicean.”

ID: 9dbd9094 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Noting that “guerdon” is of Anglo-French origin and “Laodicean” is of ancient Greek origin, the sentence uses “while” to emphasize a difference in the origins of the two words.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence emphasizes two words used in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, it doesn’t emphasize (or mention) the words’ linguistic origins. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence specifies the linguistic origin of one word used in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, it doesn’t mention the other word or emphasize a difference in the two words’ origins. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence makes a generalization about words used in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, it doesn’t emphasize a difference in the words’ origins.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 68699660

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 68699660

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Traditionally, manufacturers have dyed denim jeans blue by dipping them in a solution containing indigo powder.
- Indigo doesn't dissolve in just water, so manufacturers must mix hazardous chemicals with water to dissolve the powder.
- Textile researcher Smriti Rai discovered a process for dyeing blue jeans without chemicals.
- Rai added indigo powder to a hydrogel containing nanocellulose and produced a dye that could be spread directly onto the denim.
- Nanocellulose is a natural, plant-based substance that separates the molecules of indigo powder.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two approaches to dyeing blue jeans. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Though created using a different process, Rai's dye contains the same ingredient as the dye produced by blue jean manufacturers.

B. Nanocellulose is a natural, plant-based substance that separates the molecules of indigo powder, which doesn't dissolve in water.

C. The traditional approach to dyeing blue jeans is to dip them in a solution containing hazardous chemicals.

D. Rai's approach substitutes a natural, plant-based substance for the hazardous chemicals that manufacturers have traditionally used.

ID: 68699660 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the two approaches to dyeing blue jeans, noting that Rai's approach uses a natural, plant-based substance in place of hazardous chemicals.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the dyes used in the two approaches, noting that the dyes contain the same ingredient; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the two approaches to dyeing blue jeans. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains what nanocellulose is; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the two approaches to dyeing blue jeans. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains the traditional approach to dyeing blue jeans; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the traditional approach and Rai's approach.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 19a48bed

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 19a48bed

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Azores is a group of islands about 870 miles off the coast of Portugal.
- Historians have long believed that in the fifteenth century Portuguese mariners were the first humans to populate the Azores.
- A 2015 study coauthored by Sofia Gabriel and Maria da Luz Mathias found that Vikings from Scandinavia may have populated the Azores as early as the ninth century.
- The researchers found a genetic connection between house mice in the Azores and house mice in Scandinavia.
- House mice may have traveled from Scandinavia to the Azores on Viking ships.

The student wants to specify who may have first populated the Azores, according to the 2015 study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Historians have long believed that the first humans to populate the Azores, a group of islands about 870 miles off the coast of Portugal, arrived in the fifteenth century.

B. Portuguese mariners may not have been the first humans to populate the Azores.

C. In their 2015 study, the researchers found a genetic connection between house mice in the Azores and those in Scandinavia.

D. According to a 2015 study, the first humans to populate the Azores may have been Vikings from Scandinavia, not mariners from Portugal as previously believed.

ID: 19a48bed Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice effectively specifies who may have first populated the Azores, according to the 2015 study: the Vikings.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't effectively specify who may have first populated the Azores, according to the 2015 study. It only mentions the historical belief that the Portuguese were first. The 2015 study drew a different conclusion. Choice B is incorrect. This choice casts doubt on the Portuguese claim but doesn't name the group of people who may have arrived before the Portuguese. Choice C is incorrect. This choice mentions the evidence that the researchers found but not the conclusion they drew from it. It doesn't name the possible group of people who may have arrived before the Portuguese.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6be37aaf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 6be37aaf

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The international Slow Food movement was founded in 1989 with the signing of the “Slow Food Manifesto.”
- The movement promotes universal access to healthy, high-quality food.
- It calls for sustainable food production practices that protect local environments, ecosystems, and biodiversity.
- It advocates for fair treatment of and compensation for food production workers.
- The Slow Food USA organization was founded in 2000.

The student wants to introduce the Slow Food movement to a new audience. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The international Slow Food movement, founded in 1989, promotes universal access to healthy, high-quality food that is produced sustainably by workers who are treated and compensated fairly.

B. The signing of the “Slow Food Manifesto” in 1989 marked the founding of the international Slow Food movement, while the Slow Food USA organization was founded in 2000.

C. The Slow Food movement advocates for food production workers.

D. Goals of the movement include universal access to healthy, high-quality food and sustainable food practices.

ID: 6be37aaf Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces the Slow Food movement to a new audience, explaining that the movement, which was founded in 1989, promotes universal access to high-quality and healthy food that is produced sustainably by workers who are treated fairly.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence indicates when the international Slow Food movement and the Slow Food USA organization were founded, it doesn’t effectively introduce the movement to a new audience. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence notes that the Slow Food movement includes advocacy for food production workers, it doesn’t effectively introduce the movement to a new audience. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence describes some of the goals of the Slow Food movement, it doesn’t effectively introduce the movement to a new audience.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 77cc7be1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 77cc7be1

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Million Song Dataset (MSD) includes main audio features and descriptive tags for popular songs.
- Audio features include acoustic traits such as loudness and pitch intervals.
- Many algorithms use these audio features to predict a new song's popularity.
- These algorithms may fail to accurately identify main audio features of a song with varying acoustic traits.
- Algorithms based on descriptive tags that describe fixed traits such as genre are more reliable predictors of song popularity.

The student wants to explain a disadvantage of relying on audio features to predict a song's popularity. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Many popularity-predicting algorithms are based on a song's audio features, such as loudness and pitch intervals.

B. Algorithms based on audio features may misidentify the main features of a song with varying acoustic traits, making such algorithms less reliable predictors of popularity than those based on fixed traits.

C. Audio features describe acoustic traits such as pitch intervals, which may vary within a song, whereas descriptive tags describe fixed traits such as genre, which are reliable predictors of popularity.

D. The MSD's descriptive tags are reliable predictors of a song's popularity, as the traits they describe are fixed.

ID: 77cc7be1 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice uses relevant information from the notes to explain a disadvantage of relying on audio features to predict a song's popularity—namely, that it may misidentify features of certain songs. It also contrasts audio features with descriptive tags, which are more reliable predictors.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only states a fact about the algorithms without evaluating their reliability or accuracy. Choice C is incorrect. This choice only describes the difference between audio features and descriptive tags without indicating why this difference matters for predicting popularity. Choice D is incorrect. This choice only mentions descriptive tags, which are not the focus of the student's rhetorical goal.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 86659504

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 86659504

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Mary Kang is a Korean American portrait photographer.
- She is based in New York City and in Austin, Texas.
- One of Kang's photographs features artist Dominique Fung.
- In the portrait, Fung is seated on the floor.
- Five of Fung's paintings are resting against the wall behind her.

The student wants to describe where Fung is in the photograph to an audience already familiar with Kang and Fung. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Dominique Fung is in a photograph by Mary Kang, a portrait photographer based in New York City and Austin, Texas.

B. Mary Kang is a photographer based in both New York City and Austin, Texas.

C. Five paintings by artist Dominique Fung can be seen in the background of Mary Kang's photograph.

D. In Kang's portrait of her, Fung is seated on the floor, with five of her paintings resting against the wall behind her.

ID: 86659504 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence describes Fung's location in Kang's photograph, noting that Fung is seated on the floor. Additionally, because the sentence is intended for an audience already familiar with the artists, it omits the artists' first names and other biographical information about them.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Fung appears in Kang's photograph; it doesn't describe Fung's location in Kang's photograph. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence identifies Kang and where she is based; it doesn't describe Fung's location in Kang's photograph. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence describes the background of Kang's photograph; it doesn't describe Fung's location in Kang's photograph.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b603856a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: b603856a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2018 researchers Adwait Deshpande, Shreejata Gupta, and Anindya Sinha were observing wild macaques in India's Bandipur National Park.
- They saw macaques calling out to and gesturing at humans who were eating or carrying food.
- They designed a study to find out if the macaques were intentionally communicating to try to persuade the humans to share their food.
- In the study trials, macaques frequently called out to and gestured at humans holding food.
- In the study trials, macaques called out to and gestured at empty-handed humans less frequently.

The student wants to present the study's results. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Macaques in the study called out to and gestured more frequently at humans holding food than at empty-handed humans.

B. In 2018, researchers who had observed macaques in India's Bandipur National Park calling out to and gesturing at humans designed a study.

C. The researchers hoped to find out if the macaques were intentionally communicating to try to persuade humans to share their food.

D. The researchers studied how macaques behaved around both humans holding food and empty-handed humans.

ID: b603856a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice presents the study's results from the last two bullet points.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice describes the background and motivation of the study but not the outcome or findings. Choice C is incorrect. This choice describes the research question or hypothesis of the study but not the evidence or conclusion. Choice D is incorrect. This choice describes the method or design of the study but not the actual results.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2beb7369

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 2beb7369

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- On January 3, 1959, Alaska became the 49th state to join the US.
- On August 21, 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state to join the US.
- A new 50-star US flag was unveiled the same day.

The student wants to emphasize the order in which Alaska and Hawaii became US states. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Alaska, the 49th US state, became a state several months before Hawaii, the 50th state, did.

B. On August 21, 1959, a new 50-star US flag was unveiled.

C. The 49th and 50th states to join the US did so in the same year.

D. The same day that Hawaii became a US state—August 21, 1959—a new US flag was unveiled.

ID: 2beb7369 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the order in which Alaska and Hawaii became US states, noting that Alaska became a US state several months before Hawaii did.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence specifies when the 50-star US flag was unveiled; it doesn't emphasize the order in which Alaska and Hawaii became US states. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that the 49th and 50th states became US states in the same year, it doesn't identify which state was the 49th and which was the 50th; as a result, it doesn't emphasize the order in which Alaska and Hawaii became states. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates that a new US flag was unveiled when Hawaii became a US state; it doesn't emphasize the order in which Alaska and Hawaii became states.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e0287a8c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: e0287a8c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs.
- Coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems that provide habitats to 25% of all marine species.
- Reefs can include up to 8,000 species of fish, such as toadfish, seahorses, and clown triggerfish.
- The Amazon Reef is a coral reef in Brazil.
- It is one of the largest known reefs in the world.

The student wants to introduce the scientist and her field of study to a new audience. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Located in Brazil, the Amazon Reef is one of the largest known coral reefs in the world.

B. Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs, vital underwater ecosystems that provide homes to 25% of all marine species.

C. Providing homes to 25% of all marine species, including up to 8,000 species of fish, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems and thus of great interest to marine biologists.

D. As Camille Jazmin Gaynus knows well, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems, providing homes to thousands of species of fish.

ID: e0287a8c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. We're asked to select the sentence that "introduce[s] the scientist and her field of study." This choice introduces scientist Camille Jazmin Gaynus as a marine biologist and explains what marine life she studies.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't mention Camille Jazmin Gaynus, so it fails to "introduce the scientist." Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't mention Camille Jazmin Gaynus, so it fails to "introduce the scientist." Choice D is incorrect. This choice mentions Camille Jazmin Gaynus, but it doesn't identify her as a marine biologist. It says she "knows well" about coral reefs, but doesn't identify her expertise as a "field of study."

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b9b6e144

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: b9b6e144

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The human body requires magnesium for over 300 essential processes.
- Magnesium is a mineral present in many foods.
- Peanuts contain 49 milligrams per ounce (mg/oz) of magnesium.
- Almonds contain 80 mg/oz.
- Chia seeds contain 150 mg/oz.

The student wants to identify which of the three foods has the highest magnesium content. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. At 80 mg/oz, almonds contain more magnesium than peanuts (49 mg/oz).

B. Chia seeds contain 150 mg/oz of magnesium, which is more than peanuts and almonds.

C. Magnesium is present in many foods, including peanuts, almonds, and chia seeds.

D. Peanuts contain 49 mg/oz of magnesium, a mineral the human body requires for over 300 essential processes.

ID: b9b6e144 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence identifies chia seeds as having the highest magnesium content of the three foods, noting that they contain 150 mg/oz, which is more than both peanuts and almonds.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence compares the magnesium content of almonds and peanuts; it doesn't identify which of the three foods has the highest magnesium content. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence merely mentions the three foods; it doesn't identify which one has the highest magnesium content. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence identifies the magnesium content of peanuts; it doesn't identify which of the three foods has the highest magnesium content.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e76a1be5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: e76a1be5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1971, experimental musician Pauline Oliveros created *Sonic Meditations*.
- *Sonic Meditations* is not music but rather a series of sound-based exercises called meditations.
- Each meditation consists of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.
- The instructions for Meditation V state, “walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears.”
- Those for Meditation XVIII state, “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”

The student wants to provide an explanation and an example of Oliveros’s *Sonic Meditations*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. *Sonic Meditations* is not music but rather a series of sound-based meditations that consist of instructions; Meditation XVIII, for instance, instructs participants to “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”

B. In 1971, Oliveros created *Sonic Meditations*, a series of meditations that consist of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.

C. “Walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears” is one example of the instructions found in Oliveros’s *Sonic Meditations*.

D. While both meditations consist of instructions, Meditation XVIII instructs participants to “listen,” whereas Meditation V instructs participants to “walk.”

ID: e76a1be5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It describes what a “Sonic Meditation” is, and then gives an example in the form of Meditation XVIII.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice describes what a “Sonic Meditation” is, but doesn’t give an example of one. Choice C is incorrect. This choice gives an example of a “Sonic Meditation,” but doesn’t explain what the meditations are. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn’t describe what a “Sonic Meditation” is.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d0f14280

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: d0f14280

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The engineer Robert Fulton designed the *Clermont* steamboat in 1807.
- He designed it in New York City.
- *Clermont* was the world's first commercially successful steamboat.
- The city of Fulton, Missouri, is named after Robert Fulton.
- New York City's Fulton Street is named after him.

The student wants to indicate how Fulton, Missouri, got its name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Fulton, Missouri, shares its name with Fulton Street in New York City.

B. Fulton Street is in New York City, where the steamboat *Clermont* was designed in 1807.

C. Designed in 1807 in New York City, *Clermont* was the first commercially successful steamboat.

D. Fulton, Missouri, is named after Robert Fulton, designer of the first commercially successful steamboat.

ID: d0f14280 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence indicates how Fulton, Missouri, got its name, noting that the city was named after the designer of the first commercially successful steamboat, Robert Fulton.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Fulton, Missouri, has the same name as a street in New York City; it doesn't indicate how the city of Fulton got its name. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Fulton Street is in New York City; it doesn't indicate how Fulton, Missouri, got its name. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence provides details about Fulton's steamboat; it doesn't indicate how Fulton, Missouri, got its name.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0503e371

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 0503e371

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Minnesota defines a lake as an inland body of water of at least 10 acres.
- Wisconsin's definition of a lake doesn't take size into account.
- By its own definition, Wisconsin has over 15,000 lakes, many smaller than 10 acres.
- By Minnesota's definition, Wisconsin has only about 6,000 lakes.

The student wants to contrast Minnesota's definition of a lake with Wisconsin's. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Wisconsin, which doesn't take size into account in defining a lake, claims that it has over 15,000 lakes.

B. Because its definition of a lake is different from Minnesota's, it is unclear how many lakes Wisconsin really has.

C. According to Minnesota's definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—Wisconsin has about 6,000 lakes.

D. Minnesota's definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—is more restrictive than Wisconsin's, which doesn't take size into account.

ID: 0503e371 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence contrasts Minnesota's definition of a lake with Wisconsin's, explaining that Minnesota's definition (which takes size into account) is more restrictive than Wisconsin's definition (which doesn't).

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence notes that Wisconsin's definition of a lake doesn't take size into account, it doesn't contrast Minnesota's definition with Wisconsin's. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence states that Wisconsin's definition of a lake is different from Minnesota's, but it doesn't clarify how they differ. In other words, it doesn't contrast Minnesota's definition with Wisconsin's. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates how many lakes Wisconsin has according to Minnesota's definition of a lake, but it doesn't clarify how the states' definitions differ. In other words, it doesn't contrast Minnesota's definition with Wisconsin's.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bafcd9b9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: bafcd9b9

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some animals have evolved to physically resemble another animal, plant, or object.
- This is known as mimicry.
- Crab spiders mimic the appearance of flowers.
- This helps crab spiders ambush their prey.
- Katydids mimic the appearance of leaves.
- This helps katydids hide from their predators.

The student wants to emphasize a difference in how katydids and crab spiders use mimicry. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Katydids mimic the appearance of flowers, and crab spiders mimic that of leaves.

B. Katydids and crab spiders are two examples of animals that use mimicry.

C. Unlike crab spiders, which use mimicry to ambush prey, katydids use mimicry to hide from predators.

D. Animals that use mimicry have evolved to resemble another animal, plant, or object.

ID: bafcd9b9 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence uses "unlike" to emphasize a difference in how katydids and crab spiders use mimicry, noting that crab spiders use mimicry to ambush prey while katydids use it to hide from predators.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence does contrast katydids and crab spiders, it misrepresents the information in the notes. Katydids mimic the appearance of leaves (not flowers), whereas crab spiders mimic the appearance of flowers (not leaves). Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that katydids and crab spiders use mimicry, it doesn't emphasize a difference in how they use it. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes what mimicry is; it doesn't emphasize a difference in how katydids and crab spiders specifically use mimicry.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9087b4cf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 9087b4cf

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Haudenosaunee Confederacy is a nearly 1,000-year-old alliance of six Native nations in the northeastern US.
- The members are bound by a centuries-old agreement known as the Great Law of Peace.
- Historian Bruce Johansen is one of several scholars who believe that the principles of the Great Law of Peace influenced the US Constitution.
- This theory is called the influence theory.
- Johansen cites the fact that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson both studied the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

The student wants to present the influence theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Historian Bruce Johansen believes that the Great Law of Peace was very influential.

B. The influence theory is supported by the fact that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson both studied the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

C. The influence theory holds that the principles of the Great Law of Peace, a centuries-old agreement binding six Native nations in the northeastern US, influenced the US Constitution.

D. Native people, including the members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, influenced the founding of the US in many different ways.

ID: 9087b4cf Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively presents the influence theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, explaining the theory's position that the Great Law of Peace influenced the US Constitution while avoiding mention of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy itself.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence broadly emphasizes Johansen's ideas about the Great Law of Peace; it doesn't identify the influence theory or effectively present it. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes one fact that supports the influence theory; it doesn't effectively present the theory to an audience unfamiliar with the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence makes a broad generalization about Native people's influence on the founding of the US; it doesn't effectively present the influence theory.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ef556c78

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: ef556c78

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- *The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present* is a history book by Ojibwe author David Treuer.
- In a review, a critic for *The Economist* noted that "Treuer's storytelling skills shine" and that the book is an "elegant handling of [a] complex narrative."
- A critic for *O, The Oprah Magazine* called it "a marvel of research and storytelling."
- A critic for the *Missoulian* dubbed it "a monumental achievement."

The student wants to emphasize a similarity in how critics responded to Treuer's book. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Treuer's book, which was widely reviewed, focuses on Native American history from 1890 to the present.

B. Dubbed "a monumental achievement" by the *Missoulian*, Treuer's book documents over a century of Native American history.

C. Critics praised Treuer's book for its compelling narrative, with *O, The Oprah Magazine* calling it "a marvel of research and storytelling" and *The Economist* likewise writing that "Treuer's storytelling skills shine" and that the book is an "elegant handling of [a] complex narrative."

D. While the *Missoulian* focused on the book's broader achievement, *The Economist* zeroed in on Treuer's storytelling skills.

ID: ef556c78 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity in how critics responded to Treuer's book, noting that the critics for *O, The Oprah Magazine* and *The Economist* both praised the book's storytelling.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides background information about Treuer's book; it doesn't emphasize a similarity in how critics responded to it. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence cites a single critic's response to Treuer's book; it doesn't emphasize a similarity in the responses of multiple critics. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference, not a similarity, in how two critics responded to Treuer's book.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 096f3f45

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 096f3f45

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- NASA uses rovers, large remote vehicles with wheels, to explore the surface of Mars.
- NASA's rovers can't explore regions inaccessible to wheeled vehicles.
- Rovers are also heavy, making them difficult to land on the planet's surface.
- Microprobes, robotic probes that weigh as little as 50 milligrams, could be deployed virtually anywhere on the surface of Mars.
- Microprobes have been proposed as an alternative to rovers.

The student wants to explain an advantage of microprobes. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Despite being heavy, NASA's rovers can land successfully on the surface of Mars.

B. Microprobes, which weigh as little as 50 milligrams, could explore areas of Mars that are inaccessible to NASA's heavy, wheeled rovers.

C. NASA currently uses its rovers on Mars, but microprobes have been proposed as an alternative.

D. Though they are different sizes, both microprobes and rovers can be used to explore the surface of Mars.

ID: 096f3f45 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of microprobes, noting that because microprobes weigh as little as 50 milligrams, they can explore areas inaccessible to rovers.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates that rovers can land successfully on Mars despite their weight; it doesn't explain an advantage of microprobes. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that microprobes have been proposed as an alternative to rovers, it doesn't explain an advantage of microprobes. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between microprobes and rovers; it doesn't explain an advantage of microprobes.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a6c863e8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: a6c863e8

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some atoms contain an excess of neutrons.
- Often, these neutrons form a “skin” on the atom’s surface.
- An atom of lead-208 has a neutron skin.
- The thickness of its neutron skin is approximately 0.28 trillionths of a millimeter.

The student wants to emphasize the thickness of lead-208’s neutron skin. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The neutron skin surrounding an atom of lead-208 measures about 0.28 trillionths of a millimeter.

B. Atoms with excess neutrons will often acquire a neutron skin.

C. An atom of lead-208, like some other atoms, is surrounded by a neutron skin.

D. Neutrons surround the surface of an atom of lead-208.

ID: a6c863e8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the thickness of lead-208’s neutron skin, noting that it is about 0.28 trillionths of a millimeter thick.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about atoms, stating that atoms with excess neutrons will often acquire a neutron skin; it doesn’t emphasize the thickness of lead-208’s neutron skin. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence states that lead-208 has a neutron skin; it doesn’t emphasize the thickness of that skin. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates that lead-208 is surrounded by neutrons; it doesn’t emphasize the thickness of lead-208’s neutron skin.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1f6392d5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 1f6392d5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Haber-Bosch process is an industrial process used to manufacture ammonia (NH_3).
- It was invented by chemists Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch in 1910.
- The process's primary reaction combines nitrogen (N_2) from the air with hydrogen (H_2).
- It requires an iron catalyst and high temperatures and pressures.
- Most of the ammonia produced by this process is used in fertilizers.

The student wants to provide an overview of the Haber-Bosch process. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The Haber-Bosch process needs nitrogen, hydrogen, and an iron catalyst.

B. The Haber-Bosch process uses an iron catalyst along with high temperatures and pressures to manufacture ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen.

C. Chemists Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch invented an industrial process to manufacture ammonia to be used in fertilizers.

D. In 1910, chemists Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch invented the Haber-Bosch process, which requires high temperatures and pressures.

ID: 1f6392d5 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence provides an overview of the Haber-Bosch process, explaining that it uses an iron catalyst, high temperatures, and high pressures to manufacture ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence identifies some of the process's required components (nitrogen, hydrogen, and an iron catalyst), the overview is incomplete; it doesn't explain what the process does (produces ammonia) or mention the conditions needed for it to function (high temperatures and pressures). Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence indicates who invented the process (Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch) and that it produces ammonia, the overview is incomplete; it doesn't mention any of the necessary ingredients or conditions. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the inventors of the process along with the required conditions (high temperatures and pressures), it doesn't explain that the process produces ammonia or indicate what components are needed.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8f4a426a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 8f4a426a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Komodo dragons are the largest lizards in the world.
- They live on four islands in Komodo National Park, Indonesia.
- The park has a total of twenty-nine islands.

The student wants to emphasize how many islands in Komodo National Park have Komodo dragons living on them. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Komodo dragons, the world's largest lizards, live on islands in Komodo National Park, Indonesia.

B. The largest lizards in the world are found in Komodo National Park.

C. Only four of the twenty-nine islands in Komodo National Park have Komodo dragons living on them.

D. There are twenty-nine islands in Indonesia's Komodo National Park.

ID: 8f4a426a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the number of islands in Komodo National Park that have Komodo dragons living on them, noting that four of the park's twenty-nine islands have Komodo dragons.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence does explain that Komodo dragons live on the islands of Komodo National Park, it doesn't emphasize how many of those islands Komodo dragons live on. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains that Komodo National Park contains the world's largest lizards; it doesn't identify these lizards as Komodo dragons or emphasize how many of the park's islands the lizards live on. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence specifies the total number of islands in Komodo National Park; it doesn't emphasize how many of those islands have Komodo dragons.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4bd9ca1b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 4bd9ca1b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Maika'i Tubbs is a Native Hawaiian sculptor and installation artist.
- His work has been shown in the United States, Canada, Japan, and Germany, among other places.
- Many of his sculptures feature discarded objects.
- His work *Erasure* (2008) includes discarded audiocassette tapes and magnets.
- His work *Home Grown* (2009) includes discarded pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two works. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. *Erasure* (2008) uses discarded objects such as audiocassette tapes and magnets; *Home Grown* (2009), however, includes pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.

B. Tubbs's work, which often features discarded objects, has been shown both within the United States and abroad.

C. Like many of Tubbs's sculptures, both *Erasure* and *Home Grown* include discarded objects: *Erasure* uses audiocassette tapes, and *Home Grown* uses plastic forks.

D. Tubbs completed *Erasure* in 2008 and *Home Grown* in 2009.

ID: 4bd9ca1b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice most effectively emphasizes "a similarity" by identifying a trait the works share: "both Erasure and Home Grown include discarded objects."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity." Instead, this choice shows how the materials used in the two works are different. Notice the use of the contrast word "however." Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity between the two works." While it says that Tubbs's work "often features discarded objects," it doesn't provide details about the two works in question. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't "emphasize a similarity." Instead, this choice shows how the works were produced at different times.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 54078c84

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 54078c84

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Platinum is a rare and expensive metal.
- It is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions.
- Platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
- Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum with liquid gallium.
- Their catalyst was highly effective and required only trace amounts of platinum (0.0001% of the atoms in the mixture).

The student wants to explain an advantage of the new platinum catalyst developed by Jianbo Tang and his colleagues. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum, a rare and expensive metal, with liquid gallium.

B. Like other platinum catalysts, the new platinum catalyst requires a particular amount of the metal to be effective.

C. Platinum is a rare and expensive metal that is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions; however, platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.

D. While still highly effective, the new platinum catalyst requires far less of the rare and expensive metal than do other platinum catalysts.

ID: 54078c84 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of Tang and his colleagues' platinum catalyst, noting that it requires far less platinum (which is rare and expensive) than other platinum catalysts do.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes the platinum catalyst that Tang and his colleagues created; it doesn't explain an advantage of their platinum catalyst. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the new platinum catalyst and other platinum catalysts; it doesn't explain an advantage of the new platinum catalyst. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence connects the metal platinum to the functioning of platinum catalysts, noting that large amounts of platinum are typically required for platinum catalysts to be effective; it doesn't explain an advantage of Tang and his colleagues' platinum catalyst.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ab45cf55

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: ab45cf55

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Ancient Native American and Australian Aboriginal cultures described the Pleiades star cluster as having seven stars.
- It was referred to as the Seven Sisters in the mythology of ancient Greece.
- Today, the cluster appears to have only six stars.
- Two of the stars have moved so close together that they now appear as one.

The student wants to specify the reason the Pleiades' appearance changed. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Ancient Native American and Australian Aboriginal cultures described the Pleiades, which was referred to in Greek mythology as the Seven Sisters, as having seven stars.

B. Although once referred to as the Seven Sisters, the Pleiades appears to have only six stars today.

C. In the time since ancient cultures described the Pleiades as having seven stars, two of the cluster's stars have moved so close together that they now appear as one.

D. The Pleiades has seven stars, but two are so close together that they appear to be a single star.

ID: ab45cf55 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence specifies the reason the Pleiades' appearance changed, noting that two of the cluster's stars have moved so close together that they now appear as one star.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence specifies how ancient Native American and Australian Aboriginal cultures described the Pleiades; it doesn't specify the reason the Pleiades' appearance changed. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence describes the appearance of the Pleiades today; it doesn't specify the reason the Pleiades' appearance changed. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence explains why two of the Pleiades' stars appear to be a single star; it doesn't specify the reason the Pleiades' appearance changed.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d429a1de

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: d429a1de

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Jacob Lawrence was a US painter best known for *The Migration Series* (1940–41).
- *The Migration Series* portrays scenes from the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to cities in the North and Midwest.
- The series consists of 60 colorful semiabstract paintings, numbered 1 through 60.
- The odd-numbered paintings are on display at the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC.
- The even-numbered paintings are on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.
- Painting #12 depicts people buying tickets in a crowded train station.

The student wants to indicate where to go to view Painting #12 from Lawrence's *Migration Series*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Depicting a crowded train station, Painting #12 from *The Migration Series* is on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

B. In Painting #12 and the other works of *The Migration Series*, Lawrence painted African Americans going from the rural South to cities in the North and Midwest.

C. To view an even-numbered painting from Lawrence's *Migration Series*, such as the one that depicts people buying train tickets, one must go to Washington, DC.

D. The 60 colorful semiabstract paintings of Lawrence's series can be viewed in two places: the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

ID: d429a1de Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence indicates where to go to view Painting #12 from Lawrence's *Migration Series*, noting that this even-numbered painting is on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence describes the subject matter of *The Migration Series*; it doesn't indicate where to go to view Painting #12. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence misrepresents information from the notes: even-numbered paintings, such as Painting #12, are on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, not in Washington, DC. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions both locations where paintings from the series are displayed, it doesn't indicate where to go to view Painting #12 specifically.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d25fbd10

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: d25fbd10

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- "Raymond's Run" is a short story.
- It was written by African American author Toni Cade Bambara.
- It was first published in her book *Gorilla, My Love* in 1972.
- It is told from a first person perspective.
- It takes place in Harlem.

The student wants to indicate where the short story takes place. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. "Raymond's Run" takes place in Harlem.

B. "Raymond's Run" was published in *Gorilla, My Love*.

C. "Raymond's Run" is told from a first person perspective.

D. "Raymond's Run" was written by Toni Cade Bambara.

ID: d25fbd10 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence indicates where "Raymond's Run" takes place, stating that it takes place in Harlem.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence identifies the book in which the story "Raymond's Run" was published; it doesn't indicate where the story takes place. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates the point of view used in "Raymond's Run"; it doesn't indicate where the story takes place. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence identifies the author of "Raymond's Run"; it doesn't indicate where the story takes place.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 25e53519

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 25e53519

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Earthquakes start at a point called a “focus” and spread out from there as seismic waves.
- The two types of seismic waves that travel beneath Earth’s surface are primary waves (P waves) and secondary waves (S waves).
- P waves travel more quickly beneath Earth’s surface than do S waves.
- P waves compress and expand the ground, causing it to move backward and forward.
- S waves cause the ground to move from side to side.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between P waves and S waves. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. P waves and S waves both travel beneath Earth’s surface, causing the ground to move.

B. P waves travel away from an earthquake’s starting point at a higher rate of speed than do S waves.

C. Spreading out from the focus of an earthquake, P waves move the ground backward and forward.

D. Although P waves and S waves start at the same point, they behave very differently.

ID: 25e53519 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between P waves and S waves, noting that they both travel beneath Earth’s surface, thereby causing the ground to move.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between P waves and S waves, noting that P waves travel faster than S waves; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between the two types of waves. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes how P waves move; it doesn’t emphasize a similarity between P waves and S waves. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence acknowledges that P waves and S waves start at the same point, it doesn’t emphasize a similarity; instead, the sentence emphasizes a difference between the two types of waves, noting that they behave very differently.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 32d4d3de

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 32d4d3de

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Pointillism is a painting technique in which small, distinct dots of color are applied in patterns to form an image.
- Betty Acquah is an artist from Ghana who uses pointillism in her work.
- "By extending dabs of color in the subject matter into the background and vice-versa, an illusion of movement is created," she says about pointillism.
- Her work often portrays Ghanaian women, whom she sees as the "unsung heroines of the Ghanaian Republic."
- Her pointillist painting "Exquisite" (2016) features five dancing women twirling their skirts.

The student wants to provide a quotation from Acquah that explains why she used pointillism in "Exquisite." Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In painting "Exquisite," Acquah applied pointillism to create what she called an "illusion of movement" within the painting's five dancing women and their twirling skirts.

B. Pointillism, the technique used in Acquah's "Exquisite," involves the application of small, distinct dots of color.

C. In "Exquisite," Acquah uses a technique that she says involves "extending dabs of color in the subject matter into the background and vice-versa."

D. "Exquisite" portrays Acquah's fellow Ghanaian women as she sees them: the "unsung heroes of the Ghanaian Republic."

ID: 32d4d3de Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence provides Acquah's quotation about pointillism's "illusion of movement" to explain that she used pointillism to create the illusion of movement in her painting of women dancing.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence explains pointillism and indicates that Acquah used the technique in her painting, but it doesn't provide a quotation or explain why. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides a quotation from Acquah about pointillism, the quotation merely describes a specific aspect of the technique; the sentence doesn't explain why Acquah used pointillism in her painting. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides a quotation from Acquah, the quotation illustrates Acquah's views on Ghanaian women; the sentence doesn't explain why Acquah used pointillism in her painting.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 73c6fec0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 73c6fec0

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Musicians around the world have used protest songs to raise awareness about human rights violations.
- US folk singer Aunt Molly Jackson released the protest song “Poor Miner’s Farewell” in 1932.
- It exposed the unlivable wages and dangerous working conditions coal miners faced in Kentucky during the 1920s and 1930s.
- South African singer-songwriter Hugh Masekela released the protest song “Bring Him Back Home” in 1987.
- It called on the South African government to free Nelson Mandela, an anti-apartheid leader who’d been unjustly imprisoned.

The student wants to contrast the song “Poor Miner’s Farewell” with the song “Bring Him Back Home.” Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The songs “Poor Miner’s Farewell” and “Bring Him Back Home” both raised awareness about human rights violations.

B. While both are protest songs, “Poor Miner’s Farewell” is about coal miners in Kentucky, whereas “Bring Him Back Home” is about the anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela.

C. Hugh Masekela’s song “Bring Him Back Home,” released in 1987, called on the South African government to free Nelson Mandela.

D. Released in 1932 by Aunt Molly Jackson, the song “Poor Miner’s Farewell” was a protest against the unlivable wages and dangerous working conditions faced by Kentucky coal miners.

ID: 73c6fec0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the two songs, noting that "Poor Miner’s Farewell" is about coal miners in Kentucky, whereas "Bring Him Back Home" is about Nelson Mandela.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between "Poor Miner’s Farewell" and "Bring Him Back Home"; it doesn’t contrast the two songs. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides a description of the song "Bring Him Back Home," it doesn’t mention "Poor Miner’s Farewell" or contrast the two songs. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides a description of the song "Poor Miner’s Farewell," it doesn’t mention "Bring Him Back Home" or contrast the two songs.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a36e65d1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: a36e65d1

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2013, paleontology professor Hesham Sallam and his students from Mansoura University in Egypt made a discovery.
- The team found a partial dinosaur skeleton at a site in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis.
- The skeleton belonged to a dinosaur species that lived approximately 80 million years ago.
- The new species was named *Mansourasaurus* to recognize the team that discovered it.

The student wants to explain the origin of the species' name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. *Mansourasaurus,* a new species discovered in Egypt in 2013, lived approximately 80 million years ago.

B. A partial dinosaur skeleton found in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis belonged to a species named *Mansourasaurus*.

C. *Mansourasaurus,* a species that lived approximately 80 million years ago, was discovered in 2013 by Egyptian paleontologist Hesham Sallam and a team of university students.

D. The new species was named *Mansourasaurus* to recognize the team that discovered it, a professor and students from Mansoura University.

ID: a36e65d1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. It explains where the dinosaur's name came from.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice does not explain the origin of the dinosaur's name. Choice B is incorrect. This choice does not explain the origin of the dinosaur's name. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not explain the origin of the dinosaur's name.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3d7c1308

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 3d7c1308

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Archaeologist Dr. Sada Mire founded the Horn Heritage Foundation to preserve the cultural history of regions in the Horn of Africa.
- Horn Heritage has overseen a preservation project to create 3D digital scans of ancient rock art in Somaliland.
- Paintings found at the Laas Geel caves are included in the scans.
- The Laas Geel paintings feature human figures and animals.
- Paintings found at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves are included in the scans.
- The Dhagah Nabi Galay caves feature what are thought to be the earliest examples of writing in East Africa.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the Laas Geel paintings and the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The earliest examples of writing in East Africa are thought to be featured in the paintings at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves in Somaliland.

B. The paintings at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves feature examples of writing, while those at the Laas Geel caves feature humans and animals.

C. In Somaliland, the paintings in the Laas Geel caves feature human figures and animals.

D. The Laas Geel paintings and the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings are both examples of ancient rock art found in Somaliland.

ID: 3d7c1308 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice compares the Laas Geel paintings and the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings to one another and emphasizes what they have in common: they are both ancient rock art found in the same region.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only mentions the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings. It doesn't compare them to the Laas Geel paintings. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two paintings. Instead, it emphasizes a difference: the type of content they depict. Choice C is incorrect. This choice only mentions the Laas Geel paintings. It doesn't compare them to the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fac48bdd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: fac48bdd

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A thermal inversion is a phenomenon where a layer of atmosphere is warmer than the layer beneath it.
- In 2022, a team of researchers studied the presence of thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants.
- Gas giants are planets largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
- The team found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were also likely to contain heat-absorbing metals.
- One explanation for this relationship is that these metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere, where their absorbed heat causes an increase in temperature.

The student wants to present the study's findings to an audience already familiar with thermal inversions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Heat-absorbing metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere.

B. The team studied thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants, which are largely composed of helium and hydrogen.

C. Researchers found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals, which may reside in the planets' upper atmospheres.

D. Gas giants were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals when they featured a layer of atmosphere warmer than the layer beneath it, researchers found; this phenomenon is known as a thermal inversion.

ID: fac48bdd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. It describes the study's findings in a way that assumes the audience is already familiar with thermal inversions.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't fully describe the findings of the study, because it doesn't include anything about thermal inversions. Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe the study's findings. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn't suited for an audience already familiar with thermal inversion. A familiar audience wouldn't need to have the term defined.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 46623dc1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 46623dc1

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- "Organ^2/ASLSP (As Slow as Possible)" is a musical piece by avant-garde composer John Cage.
- A specially designed automated organ in St. Burchardi Church in Halberstadt, Germany, began playing the piece in 2001.
- It is scheduled to stop playing the piece in 2640.
- The performance will last 639 years.
- It will be the longest continuous musical performance in history.

The student wants to indicate how long John Cage's musical piece will last. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. John Cage is the composer of the musical piece "Organ^2/ASLSP (As Slow as Possible)."

B. "Organ^2/ASLSP (As Slow as Possible)" is a musical piece currently being played in St. Burchardi Church in Halberstadt, Germany.

C. Lasting 639 years, John Cage's musical piece will be the longest continuous musical performance in history.

D. An organ in St. Burchardi Church in Halberstadt, Germany, began playing a musical piece by avant-garde composer John Cage.

ID: 46623dc1 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence indicates how long John Cage's musical piece will last, noting that it will last 639 years and be the longest continuous musical performance in history.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence identifies John Cage as the composer and provides the name of the musical piece; it doesn't indicate how long the piece will last. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides the name of the musical piece and where it is currently being played; it doesn't indicate how long the piece will last. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence mentions where the musical piece is being played and identifies John Cage as the composer; it doesn't indicate how long the piece will last.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ca49dbd9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: ca49dbd9

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the art world, the term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location.
- Such biennials are held in New York, Berlin, and Venice.
- In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the unconventional MexiCali Biennial.
- The MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on both sides of the US-Mexico border.
- The MexiCali Biennial has taken place on an uneven schedule, with exhibitions in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the MexiCali Biennial, which has taken place in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.

B. Unlike traditional biennials, the MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on an uneven schedule.

C. The term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location, not to exhibitions hosted at a variety of times and venues.

D. Biennial exhibitions have been held in New York, Berlin, and Venice but also on both sides of the US-Mexico border.

ID: ca49dbd9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence effectively emphasizes a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials, stating that the MexiCali Biennial is unlike traditional biennials because it hosts exhibitions in different venues on an uneven schedule.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates who founded the MexiCali Biennial and the years this biennial has taken place; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence clarifies the traditional meaning of biennial with language that could apply to the MexiCali Biennial, it doesn't mention the MexiCali Biennial by name. Therefore, the sentence doesn't effectively emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence notes locations where various biennial exhibitions have been held; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 38065b50

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 38065b50

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- If a moon orbiting a planet comes close enough to that planet, tidal forces can cause the moon to break apart.
- In a 2022 study, researchers proposed that Saturn was once orbited by a large moon they named Chrysalis.
- Their simulations indicated that Chrysalis would likely have come very close to Saturn around 160 million years ago.
- At that distance, Chrysalis would have been broken apart by tidal forces.
- The researchers hypothesized that the resulting debris formed Saturn's rings.

The student wants to recount the sequence of events proposed by the researchers. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. According to researchers' simulations, two events likely occurred around 160 million years ago: first, Chrysalis came very close to Saturn, and second, debris from Saturn's rings caused the moon to break apart.

B. If a moon orbiting a planet (like Saturn) comes close enough to that planet, tidal forces can cause the moon to break apart.

C. Around 160 million years ago, a large moon (Chrysalis) came close enough to Saturn that tidal forces broke the moon apart; its debris then formed the planet's rings.

D. First, researchers proposed that Saturn was orbited by a large moon (Chrysalis); next, they conducted simulations; and, finally, they formed a hypothesis.

ID: 38065b50 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence recounts the sequence of events proposed by the researchers: a large moon orbiting Saturn came close enough to the planet that it was broken apart by tidal forces, and the resulting debris formed Saturn's rings.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence misrepresents information from the notes; according to the notes, tidal forces, not debris, caused the moon to break apart. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence offers information relevant to the 2022 study but doesn't recount the sequence of events proposed by the researchers. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence recounts a sequence, but it's a sequence of the researchers' activities, not the sequence of events proposed by the researchers.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 740c059c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 740c059c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Etel Adnan was a Lebanese American poet and artist known for making many leporellos.
- A leporello is an artist's book that is folded accordion style.
- When the book is expanded, the artist's work is revealed, and its zigzag shape allows it to stand on its own.
- Her leporello *December from My Window* (1993) features a panoramic landscape.
- It is painted using ink and watercolor.

The student wants to describe Adnan's *December from My Window* to an audience already familiar with leporellos. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Featuring a panoramic landscape, the 1993 work is one of Adnan's many leporellos, which are accordion-style folded books that when expanded reveal the artist's work.

B. When expanded, Adnan's 1993 leporello *December from My Window* reveals a panoramic landscape painted in ink and watercolor.

C. Known for making many other accordion-style folded books called leporellos, Adnan created *December from My Window* in 1993.

D. A leporello, such as Adnan's *December from My Window*, is folded accordion style, and due to its zigzag shape it is able to stand on its own when fully expanded.

ID: 740c059c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice describes Adnan's *December from My Window* in a way that assumes the audience is already familiar with leporellos and focuses on the specific features of the work—its content and medium.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice isn't suited for an audience already familiar with leporellos. A familiar audience wouldn't need to have the term defined or explained. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe Adnan's *December from My Window*. It mentions the year and the type of work but not the content or the medium. In addition, it provides a simple definition of leporellos, making this an inappropriate choice for an audience already familiar with leporellos. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn't suited for an audience already familiar with leporellos. A familiar audience wouldn't need to have the term defined.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fc974374

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: fc974374

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Grimanesa Amoros is a Peruvian American artist well known for her LED light sculptures.
- Her sculpture *Uros Island* is made of smooth multicolored LED domes.
- It occupies 335 cubic feet of space.
- Her sculpture *Fortuna* is made of entangled blue and white LED tubes.
- It occupies 19,950 cubic feet of space.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between *Uros Island* and *Fortuna*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The smooth LED domes of Grimanesa Amoros's *Uros Island* stand in contrast to the tangled LED tubes of *Fortuna*.

B. At 19,950 cubic feet in size, Grimanesa Amoros's *Fortuna* cuts a larger figure than the 335-cubic-foot *Uros Island*.

C. Grimanesa Amoros is the artist behind *Uros Island*—a sculpture made of smooth multicolored LED domes.

D. *Uros Island* is an LED light sculpture made by Grimanesa Amoros, as is *Fortuna*.

ID: fc974374 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the sculptures, noting that both *Uros Island* and *Fortuna* are LED light sculptures created by Grimanesa Amoros.

Choice A is incorrect. Noting that *Uros Island*'s smooth LED domes contrast with *Fortuna*'s tangled LED tubes, the sentence emphasizes a difference between the two sculptures rather than a similarity. Choice B is incorrect. Contrasting the respective sizes of *Uros Island* and *Fortuna*, the sentence emphasizes a difference between the two sculptures rather than a similarity. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence describes *Uros Island*, it doesn't mention *Fortuna* or emphasize any similarity between the two sculptures.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5e15703b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 5e15703b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some sandstone arches in Utah's Arches National Park have been defaced by tourists' carvings.
- Park rangers can smooth away some carvings using power grinders.
- For deep carvings, power grinding is not always feasible because it can greatly alter or damage the rock.
- Park rangers can use an infilling technique, which involves filling in carvings with ground sandstone and a bonding agent.
- This technique is minimally invasive.

The student wants to explain an advantage of the infilling technique. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. To remove carvings from sandstone arches in Utah's Arches National Park, power grinding is not always feasible.

B. Filling in carvings with ground sandstone and a bonding agent is less invasive than smoothing them away with a power grinder, which can greatly alter or damage the sandstone arches.

C. Park rangers can use a power grinding technique to smooth away carvings or fill them in with ground sandstone and a bonding agent.

D. As methods for removing carvings from sandstone, power grinding and infilling differ in their level of invasiveness.

ID: 5e15703b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence effectively explains an advantage of infilling: it's less invasive than using a power grinder.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence identifies a disadvantage of power grinding; it doesn't explain an advantage of infilling. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence identifies the two techniques park rangers use; it doesn't explain an advantage of infilling. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates that power grinding and infilling are different in one aspect; it fails to explain an advantage of infilling.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fd304685

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: fd304685

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In World War I, US soldiers who were members of the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma participated in the Choctaw Code Talkers program.
- The Choctaw Code Talkers were trained to relay coded military information in their native language.
- In World War II, the US Army recruited Navajo (Diné) soldiers to transmit coded messages in their native language.
- These soldiers were known as the Navajo Code Talkers.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the Choctaw Code Talkers and the Navajo Code Talkers. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. US soldiers who were members of the Choctaw Nation in Oklahoma used their native language to relay coded information.

B. In World War II, one group of Navajo (Diné) soldiers was known as the Navajo Code Talkers.

C. Both the Choctaw Code Talkers and the Navajo Code Talkers transmitted coded military messages in the soldiers' native languages.

D. The Choctaw Code Talkers, not the Navajo Code Talkers, served in World War I.

ID: fd304685 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the Choctaw Code Talkers and the Navajo Code Talkers by explaining that both groups used their native languages to transmit coded messages for the military.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes the Choctaw Code Talkers; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the Choctaw Code Talkers and the Navajo Code Talkers. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence introduces the Navajo Code Talkers; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the Choctaw Code Talkers and the Navajo Code Talkers. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the Choctaw Code Talkers and the Navajo Code Talkers; it doesn't emphasize a similarity.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 32344b35

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 32344b35

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Just like states have state flags, some cities have city flags.
- Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags since 2015.
- The city of Pocatello, Idaho, redesigned its flag after it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America.
- Pocatello's new flag better represents the city's mountainous geography and civic priorities.
- Residents consider the new flag to be a meaningful symbol of civic pride.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags, including Pocatello, whose flag had been named the most poorly designed flag in North America.

B. Pocatello is just one of over one hundred US cities that have redesigned their flags.

C. After it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America, the flag of Pocatello was redesigned to better represent the city's geography and civic priorities.

D. Redesigning a poorly designed city flag can create a meaningful symbol of civic pride, as was the case when Pocatello redesigned its original flag to better represent its geography and civic priorities.

ID: 32344b35 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence makes and supports a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag, noting that redesigning a city flag can create a meaningful symbol of civic pride, as was the case when the city of Pocatello redesigned its flag.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence explains that many US cities have redesigned their flags and provides an example; it doesn't make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence provides an example of a city that redesigned its flag; it doesn't make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag. Choice C is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes why the flag of Pocatello was redesigned; it doesn't make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 44f9fe4d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 44f9fe4d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Shaun Tan is an Australian author.
- In 2008, he published *Tales from Outer Suburbia*, a book of fifteen short stories.
- The stories describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary suburban neighborhoods.
- In 2018, he published *Tales from the Inner City*, a book of twenty-five short stories.
- The stories describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary urban settings.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two books by Shaun Tan. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Shaun Tan's book *Tales from Outer Suburbia*, which describes surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary places, contains fewer short stories than *Tales from the Inner City* does.

B. *Tales from Outer Suburbia* was published in 2008, and *Tales from the Inner City* was published in 2018.

C. Unlike *Tales from the Inner City*, Shaun Tan's book *Tales from Outer Suburbia* is set in suburban neighborhoods.

D. Shaun Tan's books *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City* both describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary places.

ID: 44f9fe4d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence uses "both" to emphasize a thematic similarity between Tan's two books, noting that both *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City* describe surreal events occurring in otherwise ordinary places.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a difference (one contains fewer stories than the other), not a similarity, between the two books. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Tan's books were published ten years apart; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two books. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence uses "unlike" to emphasize a difference between *Tales from Outer Suburbia* and *Tales from the Inner City*; it doesn't emphasize a similarity between the two books.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5365961c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 5365961c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The calendar used by most of the world (the Gregorian calendar) has 365 days.
- Because 365 days can't be divided evenly by 7 (the number of days in a week), calendar dates fall on a different day of the week each year.
- The Hanke-Henry permanent calendar, developed as an alternative to the Gregorian calendar, has 364 days.
- Because 364 can be divided evenly by 7, calendar dates fall on the same day of the week each year, which supports more predictable scheduling.

The student wants to explain an advantage of the Hanke-Henry calendar. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The Gregorian calendar has 365 days, which is one day longer than the Hanke-Henry permanent calendar.

B. Adopting the Hanke-Henry permanent calendar would help solve a problem with the Gregorian calendar.

C. Designed so calendar dates would occur on the same day of the week each year, the Hanke-Henry calendar supports more predictable scheduling than does the Gregorian calendar.

D. The Hanke-Henry permanent calendar was developed as an alternative to the Gregorian calendar, which is currently the most-used calendar in the world.

ID: 5365961c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of the Hanke-Henry calendar, noting that it supports more predictable scheduling than does the Gregorian calendar and describing how it does so (by having calendar dates occur on the same day each year).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence compares the number of days in the Gregorian and Hanke-Henry calendars; it doesn't explain an advantage of the Hanke-Henry calendar. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence refers to a possible reason to adopt the Hanke-Henry calendar—that doing so would help solve a problem with the Gregorian calendar—it doesn't identify the problem or the solution and thus doesn't explain the advantage of the Hanke-Henry calendar. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes the origins of the Hanke-Henry calendar; it doesn't explain an advantage of it.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 53a6ed5c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 53a6ed5c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some US reformers sought to improve society in the 1800s by building utopias.
- A utopia is a community intended to represent a perfect society based on a specific set of principles.
- One such community was Brook Farm near Boston, Massachusetts.
- It was founded in 1841 by writer George Ripley.
- Ripley wrote in a letter that his goal for Brook Farm was "to guarantee the highest mental freedom, by providing all with labor, adapted to their tastes and talents, and securing to them the fruits of their industry."

The student wants to explain the goal of Brook Farm using a quotation from George Ripley. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In a letter, writer George Ripley explained his goal to "guarantee the highest mental freedom."

B. Utopias, such as Brook Farm, founded by George Ripley in 1841, were based on a specific set of principles intended to create a perfect society.

C. Founded by George Ripley near Boston, Massachusetts, Brook Farm was part of a trend in the 1800s, when reformers in the United States built utopias.

D. Established in 1841, Brook Farm was a utopian community created to "guarantee the highest mental freedom, by providing all with labor... [and] the fruits of their industry," according to founder George Ripley.

ID: 53a6ed5c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice explains the goal of Brook Farm—to provide mental freedom to all by engaging individuals in labor suited to their interests—using a quotation from George Ripley.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice only mentions part of Ripley's goal, and it doesn't mention Brook Farm at all. Choice B is incorrect. This choice defines what a utopia is but doesn't use Ripley's words to describe his vision for Brook Farm. Choice C is incorrect. This choice provides some background information about Brook Farm, but it doesn't explain its goals or include Ripley's words.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3717a0be

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 3717a0be

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Gaspar Enriquez is an artist.
- He specializes in portraits of Mexican Americans.
- A portrait is an artistic representation of a person.
- Enriquez completed a painting of the sculptor Luis Jimenez in 2003.
- He completed a drawing of the writer Rudolfo Anaya in 2016.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two portraits. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The portraits, or artistic representations, of Luis Jimenez and Rudolfo Anaya were both completed by Enriquez in the early 2000s.

B. Enriquez has completed portraits of numerous Mexican Americans, including sculptor Luis Jimenez and writer Rudolfo Anaya.

C. While both are by Enriquez, the 2003 portrait of Luis Jimenez is a painting, and the 2016 portrait of Rudolfo Anaya is a drawing.

D. Luis Jimenez was a Mexican American sculptor, and Rudolfo Anaya was a Mexican American writer.

ID: 3717a0be Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the portraits, noting that one is a painting and the other is a drawing.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between the two portraits rather than a difference. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about Enriquez's portraits; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the portraits of Jimenez and Anaya. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence notes a difference between Jimenez and Anaya, it doesn't emphasize a difference between, or even mention, their portraits.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 95582a7f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 95582a7f

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Mexican tetras are a fish species with two distinct populations.
- Surface-dwelling tetras live on the surface and are able to see.
- Cave-dwelling tetras live in total darkness and have lost the ability to see.
- Cave-dwelling tetras have asymmetrical skulls with more sensory receptors on one side than the other.
- These receptors help cave-dwelling tetras navigate in darkness.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras may belong to the same species, but they are quite different.

B. Cave-dwelling tetras can no longer see but use sensory receptors on their skulls to navigate.

C. Mexican tetras are a fish species with two distinct populations: surface-dwelling tetras and cave-dwelling tetras.

D. Surface-dwelling tetras can see, whereas cave-dwelling tetras cannot.

ID: 95582a7f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras, noting that while surface-dwelling tetras can see, cave-dwelling tetras can't.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence notes that surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras are different, it doesn't emphasize any difference between the two populations of tetras. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence explains that cave-dwelling tetras use sensory receptors on their skulls to navigate; it doesn't emphasize a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence notes that there are two different populations of Mexican tetras, it doesn't emphasize any difference between the two populations.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 582fa44a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 582fa44a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Chemical leavening agents cause carbon dioxide to be released within a liquid batter, making the batter rise as it bakes.
- Baking soda and baking powder are chemical leavening agents.
- Baking soda is pure sodium bicarbonate.
- To produce carbon dioxide, baking soda needs to be mixed with liquid and an acidic ingredient such as honey.
- Baking powder is a mixture of sodium bicarbonate and an acid.
- To produce carbon dioxide, baking powder needs to be mixed with liquid but not with an acidic ingredient.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between baking soda and baking powder. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. To make batters rise, bakers use chemical leavening agents such as baking soda and baking powder.

B. Baking soda and baking powder are chemical leavening agents that, when mixed with other ingredients, cause carbon dioxide to be released within a batter.

C. Baking soda is pure sodium bicarbonate, and honey is a type of acidic ingredient.

D. To produce carbon dioxide within a liquid batter, baking soda needs to be mixed with an acidic ingredient, whereas baking powder does not.

ID: 582fa44a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between baking soda and baking powder, noting that baking soda needs to be mixed with an acidic ingredient to produce carbon dioxide but baking powder doesn't.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence focuses on what bakers use to make batters rise; it doesn't emphasize a difference between baking soda and baking powder. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides a general description of baking soda and baking powder; it doesn't emphasize a difference between them. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains what baking soda and honey are; it doesn't emphasize a difference between baking soda and baking powder.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 99f4f4af

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 99f4f4af

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Bioluminescence is the emission of light by living organisms.
- This light is produced by chemical reactions in organisms' cells.
- Jellyfish emit flashes of blue light.
- This behavior serves to startle predators.
- Black dragonfish emit a steady red light.
- This behavior helps them locate prey in deep waters.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the behavior of jellyfish and that of black dragonfish. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Both jellyfish and black dragonfish are organisms that emit light, which is produced by chemical reactions in these organisms' cells.

B. Black dragonfish emit a steady red light, which helps them locate prey in deep waters.

C. Bioluminescence, the emission of light by living organisms, results from chemical reactions in organisms' cells.

D. Jellyfish emit light to startle predators, whereas black dragonfish do so to locate prey.

ID: 99f4f4af Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between the behavior of jellyfish and that of black dragonfish, noting that jellyfish and black dragonfish emit light as part of different behaviors (protection and predation, respectively).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes a similarity between jellyfish and black dragonfish; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the behavior of the two animals. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the type of bioluminescence exhibited by black dragonfish, noting that it's used in predation; it doesn't emphasize a difference between the behavior of the two animals. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence defines bioluminescence and explains how it works; the sentence doesn't mention either animal or emphasize a difference between them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 798905e9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 798905e9

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Bharati Mukherjee was an Indian-born author of novels and short stories.
- She published the novel *The Holder of the World* in 1993.
- A central character in the novel is a woman living in twentieth-century United States.
- Another central character is a woman living in seventeenth-century India.

The student wants to introduce the novel *The Holder of the World* to an audience already familiar with Bharati Mukherjee. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Bharati Mukherjee's settings include both twentieth-century United States and seventeenth-century India.

B. In addition to her novel *The Holder of the World,* which was published in 1993, Indian-born author Bharati Mukherjee wrote other novels and short stories.

C. Bharati Mukherjee's novel *The Holder of the World* centers around two women, one living in twentieth-century United States and the other in seventeenth-century India.

D. *The Holder of the World* was not the only novel written by Indian-born author Bharati Mukherjee.

ID: 798905e9 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively introduces *The Holder of the World* to an audience already familiar with Mukherjee, explaining that the novel centers around two women and mentioning the author without providing any other identifying information.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence provides a detail about Mukherjee's settings; it doesn't introduce, or even mention, the novel. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence provides introductory information about Mukherjee; it doesn't effectively introduce her novel to an audience already familiar with the author. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence provides introductory information about Mukherjee; it doesn't effectively introduce her novel to an audience already familiar with the author.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ac43ec1f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: ac43ec1f

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Physicist Muluneh Abebe was working on a garment suited for both warm and cold conditions.
- He analyzed the emissivity, or ability to emit heat, of the materials he planned to use.
- Abebe found that reflective metal fibers emitted almost no heat and had an emissivity of 0.02.
- He found that silicon carbide fibers absorbed large amounts of heat and had an emissivity of 0.74.
- The amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount of heat it emits.

The student wants to contrast the emissivity of reflective metal fibers with that of silicon carbide fibers. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The ability of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers to emit heat was determined by an analysis of each material's emissivity.

B. The amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount it emits, as evidenced in Abebe's analyses.

C. Though the reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers had different rates of emissivity, Abebe planned to use both in a garment.

D. Whereas the reflective metal fibers had an emissivity of just 0.02, the silicon carbide fibers absorbed large amounts of heat, resulting in an emissivity of 0.74.

ID: ac43ec1f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence uses "whereas" to contrast the emissivities of the two fibers, noting that the emissivity of the reflective metal fibers was just 0.02, far lower than that of the silicon carbide fibers (0.74).

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the ability of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers to emit heat; it doesn't contrast the emissivities of the two fibers. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence states a law of thermodynamics: the amount of heat a material absorbs is equal to the amount it emits. The sentence doesn't contrast the emissivity of reflective metal fibers with that of silicon carbide fibers. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence includes a generalization about the emissivities of reflective metal fibers and silicon carbide fibers, it emphasizes Abebe's plans for their use in a garment; it doesn't contrast the emissivities of the two fibers.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8e258ed1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 8e258ed1

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- J.R.R. Tolkien's 1937 novel *The Hobbit* features two maps.
- The novel opens with a reproduction of the map that the characters use on their quest.
- This map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter.
- The novel closes with a map depicting every stop on the characters' journey.
- That map allows readers to reconstruct the story they have just read.

The student wants to contrast the purposes of the two maps in *The Hobbit*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. *The Hobbit*'s opening map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter, while the closing map allows them to reconstruct the story they have just read.

B. *The Hobbit*, a novel published by J.R.R. Tolkien in 1937, features a reproduction of a map that the characters use on their quest, as well as a map that appears at the end of the novel.

C. *The Hobbit*'s two maps, one opening and one closing the novel, each serve a purpose for readers.

D. In 1937, author J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit*, a novel featuring both an opening and a closing map.

ID: 8e258ed1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the purposes of the two maps in *The Hobbit*, noting that the opening map introduces readers to the book's fictional world, while the closing map helps readers reconstruct the story. The word "while" helps signal a contrast between the purposes of the maps.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two maps, it doesn't contrast the maps' purposes. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two maps and notes that each has a purpose, it doesn't specify what those purposes are or how they contrast. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the two maps, it doesn't contrast the maps' purposes.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a6f53249

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: a6f53249

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The green iguana is a species of reptile.
- It can be found in Central America and Brazil.
- The green iguana primarily eats leaves and fruit.
- It has an average length of 4.8 feet.

The student wants to specify the average length of the green iguana. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The green iguana can be found in Central America.

B. The green iguana has an average length of 4.8 feet.

C. One species of reptile found in Brazil primarily eats leaves and fruit.

D. The green iguana is a reptile that primarily eats leaves and fruit.

ID: a6f53249 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence specifies the average length of the green iguana: 4.8 feet.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about the green iguana, it doesn't specify the green iguana's average length. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence describes the diet of a species of reptile in Brazil; it doesn't specify the green iguana's average length. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about the green iguana, it doesn't specify the green iguana's average length.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fa5ae7d1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: fa5ae7d1

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Muckrakers were journalists who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era (1897–1920).
- Ida Tarbell was a muckraker who investigated the Standard Oil Company.
- She interviewed Standard Oil Company executives, oil industry workers, and public officials.
- She examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications, including letters and financial records.
- Her book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* (1904) exposed the company's unfair business practices.

The student wants to emphasize the thoroughness of Ida Tarbell's investigation of the Standard Oil Company. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Ida Tarbell not only interviewed Standard Oil executives, oil industry workers, and public officials but also examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications.

B. Ida Tarbell, who investigated the Standard Oil Company, was a muckraker (a journalist who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era, 1897–1920).

C. As part of her investigation of the Standard Oil Company, muckraker Ida Tarbell conducted interviews.

D. Published in 1904, muckraker Ida Tarbell's book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* exposed the company's unfair business practices.

ID: fa5ae7d1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. It describes Tarbell's investigation and the lengths she went to complete it.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe how thorough Tarbell was. Instead, it gives a biographical sketch. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe how thorough Tarbell was. Tarbell didn't only conduct interviews—she also "examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications." Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't describe how thorough Tarbell was. It describes her book but doesn't include anything about her investigation.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f8784ba3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: f8784ba3

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- From Earth, all the meteors in a meteor shower appear to originate from a single spot in the sky.
- This spot is called the meteor shower's radiant.
- The Perseid meteor shower is visible in the northern hemisphere in July and August.
- Like many meteor showers, it is named for the location of its radiant.
- Its radiant is located within the constellation Perseus.

The student wants to explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The Perseid meteor shower is named for the constellation Perseus, the location of the meteor shower's radiant.

B. A meteor shower's name may be linked to a single spot in the sky.

C. The Perseid meteor shower, which has a radiant, is visible in the northern hemisphere in July and August.

D. From Earth, all the meteors in a meteor shower appear to originate from a radiant, such as the one within Perseus.

ID: f8784ba3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence explains the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name: the constellation Perseus, where the meteor shower's radiant is located.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence makes a claim about meteor shower names in general; it doesn't explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name specifically. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence indicates when and where the Perseid meteor shower is visible; it doesn't explain the origin of the meteor shower's name. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence discusses meteor showers in general; it doesn't explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5ebef968

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 5ebef968

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The International Center for the Arts of the Americas (ICAA) is directed by Mari Carmen Ramírez.
- Ramírez oversaw an initiative to create an online archive of historical documents related to the history of Latin American and Latino visual art.
- The ICAA digitized over 10,000 documents, including the writings of Latin American and Latino artists and critics.
- The creation of the archive didn't require historical documents to be removed from their countries of origin.
- Scholars now have more access to these documents.

The student wants to explain an advantage of the ICAA's archive being digital. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Over 10,000 documents related to the history of Latin American and Latino visual art are part of the ICAA archive.

B. By offering online versions of historical documents, the ICAA's archive provides more access to these materials without removing them from their countries of origin.

C. Among the historical documents in the ICAA's archive are the writings of Latin American and Latino artists and critics.

D. The ICAA's director, Mari Carmen Ramírez, oversaw the creation of an online archive of historical documents related to Latin American and Latino visual art.

ID: 5ebef968 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence explains an advantage of the ICAA's archive being digital, noting that the archive provides more access to historical documents since they don't have to be removed from their countries of origin.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the number of documents in the ICAA archive; it doesn't explain an advantage of the archive being digital. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence notes the types of historical documents the ICAA's archive contains; it doesn't explain an advantage of the archive being digital. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence identifies who oversaw the creation of the ICAA's online archive; it doesn't explain an advantage of the archive being digital.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID eb07445c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: eb07445c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- 2024: Spain and Portugal sponsored a workshop to address recent encounters between Iberian orcas and marine vessels off the Iberian Peninsula.
- Many of the 637 documented incidents involved pods of orcas damaging vessels by ramming, nudging, or biting the rudders.
- Studies of Iberian orcas suggest recent increases in tuna populations have reduced the time the orcas spend hunting by 99%.
- Researchers believe this shift has increased the number of interactions between marine vessels and understimulated orcas.
- The workshop advised mariners to avoid orcas pending further testing of the efficacy of TAST, a harmless acoustic deterrent.

The student wants to make and support a claim about Iberian orca behavior. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The recent destructive behavior of Iberian orcas may be the result of understimulation, given that orcas' interactions with marine vessels have increased as the orcas have spent less time hunting.

B. As supported by the workshop's analysis of 637 encounters between vessels and Iberian orcas, TAST is a harmless and effective acoustic deterrent.

C. In 2024, Spain and Portugal sponsored a workshop that addressed incidents where pods of Iberian orcas were ramming, nudging, or biting the rudders of vessels.

D. Tuna populations have increased by approximately 99% off the Iberian Peninsula due to changes in the hunting behavior of Iberian orcas.

ID: eb07445c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence makes and supports a claim about Iberian orca behavior, claiming that the orcas' destructive behavior may be the result of understimulation and citing as support the fact that as orcas have spent less time hunting (a stimulating activity), encounters with vessels have increased.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence makes a claim about an orca deterrent, it misrepresents information from the notes. The workshop advised avoiding orcas pending further testing of TAST's efficacy; it didn't claim that TAST was effective. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence describes a workshop that addressed the orcas' behavior; it doesn't make or support a claim about their behavior. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence does make a claim about orcas' hunting behavior, it misrepresents information

from the notes; the notes state that increased tuna populations have reduced orcas' hunting time by 99%, not that tuna populations have increased by 99% because of the orcas' behavior.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4a8fba4e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 4a8fba4e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Crown shyness is a phenomenon in which the tops (crowns) of neighboring trees grow close together but don't overlap.
- To explain how this happens, Australian forester M.R. Jacobs proposes the mutual abrasion theory.
- According to Jacobs's theory, when trees brush against one another, branches break off.
- Malaysian scholar Francis S.P. Ng posits the mutual shade avoidance theory.
- According to Ng's theory, when tree branches detect shade from nearby trees' branches, they stop growing.

The student wants to compare the causes of crown shyness proposed in the two theories. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. While Jacobs proposes that crown shyness is caused by neighboring tree branches brushing against one another, Ng posits that it occurs when branches detect shade from nearby trees' branches.

B. Both Jacobs and Ng have proposed theories to explain what causes crown shyness.

C. Ng posits the mutual shade avoidance theory, whereas Jacobs proposes an alternative theory.

D. Jacobs's mutual abrasion theory proposes that when neighboring trees brush against one another, branches break off, resulting in a phenomenon in which the tops of trees grow close together but don't overlap.

ID: 4a8fba4e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence compares the two proposed causes of crown shyness, noting the theories' differences: Jacobs cites branches brushing against one another as the cause, while Ng cites branches detecting shade from other branches as the cause.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence merely identifies the existence of two theories for crown shyness; it doesn't compare the causes proposed by each theory. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence merely indicates that there are two different theories for crown shyness; it doesn't compare the causes proposed by each theory. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence merely explains one theory for crown shyness; it doesn't compare two theories.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a63c7cbf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: a63c7cbf

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In astronomy, the mass of stars can be described in units called solar masses.
- One solar mass is roughly equal to the mass of the Sun.
- The mass of the star Proxima Centauri is 0.122 solar masses.
- The mass of the star Sirius A is 2.063 solar masses.

The student wants to emphasize the mass of Sirius A. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The mass of stars, like Proxima Centauri, can be described in units called solar masses.

B. In astronomy, the mass of stars can be described in units called solar masses, and one solar mass is roughly equal to the mass of the Sun.

C. The Sun is more massive than Proxima Centauri, which has a mass of 0.122 solar masses.

D. With a mass of 2.063 solar masses, Sirius A is more massive than the Sun.

ID: a63c7cbf Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the mass of Sirius A, noting that it has a mass of 2.063 solar masses and that it is larger than the Sun.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence makes a generalization about how the mass of stars can be measured; it doesn't emphasize the mass of Sirius A. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence introduces solar masses as a unit of measurement; it doesn't emphasize the mass of Sirius A. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the mass of Proxima Centauri, not the mass of Sirius A.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 70095264

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 70095264

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Allan Houser was a Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache sculptor, illustrator, and painter.
- Many of his sculptures featured Native American figures.
- He depicted this subject matter using abstract, modernist forms, developing a distinctive style that influenced many other artists.
- His well-known sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* was pictured on the State of Oklahoma license plate.

The student wants to describe the distinctive style of Houser's sculptures. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. A sculptor, illustrator, and painter, Houser developed a distinctive style for portraying Native American figures.

B. Houser's sculptures employ abstract, modernist forms to depict Native American figures.

C. Many other artists have been influenced by the style of Houser's sculptures.

D. The sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* is a well-known example of Houser's style.

ID: 70095264 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence describes the distinctive style of Houser's sculptures, explaining that the sculptures use abstract, modernist forms to depict Native American figures.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence indicates that Houser developed a distinctive style for portraying Native American figures, it doesn't describe this style. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence states that other artists have been influenced by the style of Houser's sculptures, it doesn't describe this style. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the name of a sculpture that's a well-known example of Houser's style, it doesn't describe the sculpture's style.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 998218ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 998218ec

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Sasanian Empire lasted about 400 years (AD 224 to AD 651).
- The Sasanians controlled an area spanning 1.4 million square miles.
- This area included present-day Iran and Iraq.
- The empire's capital was the ancient city of Ctesiphon.
- Ctesiphon was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

The student wants to specify the location of Ctesiphon. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The Sasanian Empire began in AD 224 and ended in AD 651.

B. The capital of the Sasanian Empire, which spanned 1.4 million square miles, was Ctesiphon.

C. The Sasanians controlled an area of 1.4 million square miles, including present-day Iran and Iraq.

D. Ctesiphon, the capital of the Sasanian Empire, was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

ID: 998218ec Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence specifies the location of Ctesiphon, noting that it was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence explains when the Sasanian Empire began and ended; it doesn't specify the location of Ctesiphon. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence emphasizes that Ctesiphon was the capital of the Sasanian Empire; it doesn't specify Ctesiphon's location. Choice C is incorrect because it emphasizes the size of the Sasanian Empire; it doesn't specify the location of Ctesiphon.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5be5af08

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 5be5af08

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Claude McKay (1889–1948) was a Jamaican American writer.
- *Songs of Jamaica* (1912) and *Constab Ballads* (1912) are two acclaimed poetry collections that McKay published while living in Jamaica.
- McKay moved to Harlem in New York City in 1914.
- He is best known as a poet and novelist of the Harlem Renaissance, a literary and cultural movement of the 1920s and 1930s.
- His most famous works include the poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* (1922) and the novel *Home to Harlem* (1928).

The student wants to emphasize Claude McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Jamaican American writer Claude McKay is the author of works such as *Songs of Jamaica* (1912), *Constab Ballads* (1912), *Harlem Shadows* (1922), and *Home to Harlem* (1928).

B. Although he is best known as a Harlem Renaissance writer, Claude McKay had published two acclaimed poetry collections in 1912 while living in Jamaica: *Songs of Jamaica* and *Constab Ballads*.

C. In 1914, Claude McKay moved to Harlem, where he would become known as a poet and novelist of the Harlem Renaissance (a literary and cultural movement of the 1920s and 1930s).

D. Before moving to Harlem, Claude McKay—author of the poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* (1922) and the novel *Home to Harlem* (1928)—lived in Jamaica.

ID: 5be5af08 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This choice contrasts McKay's fame as a Harlem Renaissance writer with his earlier achievements as a Jamaican poet, and it names the two collections he published before moving to Harlem.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It lists some of his works but doesn't distinguish between those he wrote in Jamaica and those he wrote in Harlem. Choice C is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It only mentions the year he moved and what he would become known for afterwards. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. It mentions that he lived in Jamaica, but it doesn't name any of the works he published there.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ec108d4b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: ec108d4b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Yellowstone is a national park in the northwest United States.
- In 1995, gray wolves were reintroduced into the park.
- Since then, the number of gray wolves in the park has stabilized at roughly 100.
- This number is believed to be the park's carrying capacity.
- Carrying capacity describes the maximum number of a species that a specific environment's resources can sustain over time.

The student wants to specify the number of gray wolves in Yellowstone. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Gray wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone, a national park in the northwest United States, in 1995.

B. As of 1995, there were gray wolves living in Yellowstone, a national park in the northwest United States.

C. The carrying capacity of an environment, such as Yellowstone, describes the maximum number of species that the environment can sustain over time.

D. Yellowstone is a national park that has roughly 100 gray wolves living in it.

ID: ec108d4b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This choice uses relevant information from the third bullet point to state the approximate number of gray wolves in Yellowstone.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice mentions the year gray wolves in Yellowstone were reintroduced but not how many there are currently. Choice B is incorrect. This choice mentions the year gray wolves in Yellowstone were reintroduced but not how many there are currently. Choice C is incorrect. This choice defines the term carrying capacity but doesn't connect it to the specific number of gray wolves currently living in Yellowstone.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e2f4c32d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: e2f4c32d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Jon Ching is a Los Angeles-based painter.
- He uses the term “flauna” to describe the plant-animal hybrids that he depicts in his surreal paintings.
- “Flauna” is a combination of the words “flora” and “fauna.”
- His painting *Nectar* depicts a parrot with leaves for feathers.
- His painting *Primaveral* depicts a snow leopard whose fur sprouts flowers.

The student wants to provide an explanation and example of “flauna.” Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. The term “flauna,” used by Los Angeles-based painter Jon Ching, is a combination of the words “flora” and “fauna.”

B. Jon Ching uses the term “flauna,” a combination of the words “flora” and “fauna,” to describe the subjects of his surreal paintings: plant-animal hybrids such as a parrot with leaves for feathers.

C. Jon Ching, who created *Nectar*, refers to the subjects of his paintings as “flauna.”

D. The subjects of *Nectar* and *Primaveral* are types of “flauna,” a term that the paintings’ creator, Jon Ching, uses when describing his surreal artworks.

ID: e2f4c32d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it provides both an explanation and an example of “flauna.” The sentence explains that flauna, a combination of the words “flora” and “fauna,” is a term used by Jon Ching to describe the plant-animal hybrids in his paintings. The sentence also mentions an example of Ching’s flauna: a parrot with leaves for feathers.

Choice A is incorrect. While the sentence partially explains what “flauna” is, it doesn’t provide a full explanation or specific example of Ching’s flauna. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence partially explains what “flauna” is and includes a title of a Ching painting, it doesn’t provide a full explanation or specific example of Ching’s flauna. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence partially explains what “flauna” is and includes the titles of two Ching paintings, it doesn’t provide a full explanation of Ching’s flauna.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c053de68

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: c053de68

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- *Oracles of the Pink Universe* was a 2021 exhibition at the Denver Museum of Art in Colorado.
- It featured eight artworks by South African artist Simphiwe Ndzube.
- One of these works is a painting titled *Assertion of Will*.
- *Assertion of Will* depicts three standing figures.
- The figures wear clothing made of fabric pieces stitched to the painting's canvas.

The student wants to describe how fabric is used in *Assertion of Will*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In *Assertion of Will*, the figures' clothing is made of fabric pieces stitched to the painting's canvas.

B. The exhibition *Oracles of the Pink Universe* featured artworks by artist Simphiwe Ndzube.

C. Depicting three standing, clothed figures, *Assertion of Will* is a painting by Simphiwe Ndzube.

D. Simphiwe Ndzube's *Assertion of Will* was one of eight artworks exhibited in *Oracles of the Pink Universe* at the Denver Museum of Art.

ID: c053de68 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice directly describes how fabric is used in *Assertion of Will*, by explaining that the fabric pieces are part of the painting itself.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice provides contextual information about the exhibition, but it doesn't mention anything about the painting or the fabric. Choice C is incorrect. This choice mentions that the figures are clothed, but it doesn't explain how the fabric is integrated into the painting. Choice D is incorrect. This choice provides contextual information about the painting, but it doesn't mention anything about the fabric or how it is used.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fff230ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: fff230ec

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the 1930s, the Imperial Sugar Cane Institute in India sought to limit the country's dependence on imported sugarcane.
- The institute enlisted botanist Janaki Ammal to breed a local variety of sugarcane.
- She crossbred the imported sugarcane species *Saccharum officinarum* with grasses native to India.
- She succeeded in creating sugarcane hybrids well suited to India's climate.

The student wants to emphasize Janaki Ammal's achievement. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. By crossbreeding the imported sugarcane species *Saccharum officinarum* with grasses native to India, Ammal succeeded in creating sugarcane hybrids well suited to India's climate.

B. In the 1930s, the Imperial Sugar Cane Institute, which enlisted Ammal, sought to limit dependence on imported sugarcane.

C. Ammal was enlisted by the Imperial Sugar Cane Institute at a time when a local variety of sugarcane needed to be produced.

D. As part of efforts to breed a local variety of sugarcane, an imported sugarcane species called *Saccharum officinarum* was crossbred with grasses native to India.

ID: fff230ec Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes Janaki Ammal's achievement, explaining that she successfully created sugarcane hybrids that are well suited to India's climate by crossbreeding an imported sugarcane species with grasses native to India.

Choice B is incorrect. The sentence emphasizes the goal of the Imperial Sugar Cane Institute in the 1930s; it doesn't emphasize Janaki Ammal's achievement. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions Ammal, it doesn't emphasize her achievement of successfully creating sugarcane hybrids. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence mentions the achievement of crossbreeding imported sugarcane species with grasses native to India, it doesn't emphasize the achievement as belonging to Janaki Ammal.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8fe4a04a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 8fe4a04a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Royal Alcázar of Seville is a historic royal palace in Andalucía, Spain.
- The palace is famous for its intricate tilework.
- The palace features majolica and arista tiles.
- In the majolica style, designs are painted directly on the ceramic tiles.
- In the arista style, designs are stamped into the ceramic tiles.

The student wants to contrast the two styles of tiles. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Tiles in the majolica and arista styles can be found in the Royal Alcázar of Seville in Andalucía, Spain.

B. Featuring tiles in the majolica and arista styles, the Royal Alcázar of Seville in Spain is famous for its intricate tilework.

C. In the arista style, designs are stamped into the ceramic tiles, whereas in the majolica style, the designs are painted directly on them.

D. Among the famous tilework of the Royal Alcázar of Seville are majolica style tiles, made by painting designs directly on the ceramic tiles.

ID: 8fe4a04a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence contrasts the two styles of tiles, noting that tiles in the arista style have designs stamped into them, whereas tiles in the majolica style have designs painted directly on them.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence indicates that the two styles of tile can be found in the same location; it doesn't contrast the two styles of tile. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence indicates that the Royal Alcázar of Seville features tiles in both the majolica and arista styles; it doesn't contrast the two styles of tile. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence indicates that the tilework of the Royal Alcázar of Seville includes tiles in the majolica style; it doesn't contrast tiles in the majolica style with tiles in the arista style.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b8c9153c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: b8c9153c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Planetary scientists classify asteroids based on their composition.
- C-type asteroids are composed primarily of carbon.
- They account for roughly 75 percent of known asteroids.
- S-type asteroids are primarily made up of silicate minerals.
- They account for roughly 17 percent of known asteroids.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between C-type and S-type asteroids. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Planetary scientists classify asteroids into types, two of which are the C-type and the S-type.

B. Planetary scientists consider an asteroid's composition (such as whether the asteroid is composed mainly of silicate minerals or carbon) when classifying it.

C. Roughly 17 percent of known asteroids are classified as S-type asteroids; another percentage is classified as C-type asteroids.

D. C-type asteroids are mainly composed of carbon, whereas S-type asteroids are primarily made up of silicate minerals.

ID: b8c9153c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes a difference between C-type and S-type asteroids, noting that C-type asteroids are mainly composed of carbon, while S-type asteroids are mainly composed of silicate minerals.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence states that C-type and S-type are two types of asteroids, but it doesn't emphasize a difference between them. Choice B is incorrect because it doesn't directly mention C-type or S-type asteroids. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence mentions that 17 percent of known asteroids are S-type asteroids, it doesn't identify the percentage of asteroids that are C-type. Therefore, the sentence doesn't emphasize a difference between the two types.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 59d74cd3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 59d74cd3

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Ibn Sina was a Persian philosopher and physician.
- His book *The Canon of Medicine* recorded the most advanced medical knowledge of his time.
- It was published in the year 1025 CE.
- It was used as a medical textbook in Middle Eastern and European universities for centuries.

The student wants to identify the year that *The Canon of Medicine* was published. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Ibn Sina's book *The Canon of Medicine* was published in the year 1025 CE.

B. A Persian philosopher and physician wrote a medical textbook called *The Canon of Medicine*.

C. *The Canon of Medicine* was a medical textbook used by Middle Eastern and European universities for centuries.

D. Ibn Sina recorded the most advanced medical knowledge of his time in his book *The Canon of Medicine*.

ID: 59d74cd3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence identifies the year in which the book was published.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about the book's author, it doesn't identify the year in which the book was published. Choice C is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about the book's historical use, it doesn't identify the year in which the book was published. Choice D is incorrect. While the sentence provides information about the book's contents, it doesn't identify the year in which the book was published.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f0d7913c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: f0d7913c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A marathon is a long-distance running race that is 26.2 miles long.
- An ultramarathon is a long-distance running race of more than 26.2 miles.
- The Kepler Challenge is a one-day, 37.3-mile ultramarathon in New Zealand.
- The Spreelauf is a six-day, 261-mile ultramarathon in Germany.

The student wants to make a generalization about ultramarathons. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Examples of ultramarathons include the 37.3-mile Kepler Challenge in New Zealand and the 261-mile Spreelauf in Germany.

B. A marathon is 26.2 miles long, but the Spreelauf ultramarathon, at 261 miles, is far longer.

C. Ultramarathons range widely in length, from a few dozen miles to a few hundred.

D. While the Kepler Challenge is a one-day ultramarathon, the Spreelauf is a six-day ultramarathon.

ID: f0d7913c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This is the only choice that makes a generalization about ultramarathons.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice gives specific examples of ultramarathons but doesn't say anything about them as a category. Choice B is incorrect. This choice compares marathons in general to one specific ultramarathon but doesn't say anything about ultramarathons as a category. Choice D is incorrect. This choice contrasts two specific ultramarathons but doesn't say anything about them as a category.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6d49a83e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 6d49a83e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Roughly 96% of Australia's estimated 200,000 animal species are invertebrates.
- Invertebrates of the order Hymenoptera, which consists of sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, are estimated to total 14,800 species in Australia.
- Invertebrates of the order Coleoptera, which consists of beetles and weevils, are estimated to total 28,200 species in Australia.
- Some of these invertebrates' populations are threatened by invasive bird and fish species.

The student wants to emphasize the different orders in which Australia's invertebrate animals are classified. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In Australia, 28,200 species are estimated to be beetles and weevils, both classified as invertebrates of the order Coleoptera.

B. Among Australia's many invertebrates, sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants belong to the order Hymenoptera, while beetles and weevils belong to the order Coleoptera.

C. Many sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants of the order Hymenoptera are threatened by some of Australia's invasive bird and fish species.

D. The order Hymenoptera is estimated to make up 14,800 of Australia's 200,000 animal species.

ID: 6d49a83e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the different orders that Australia's invertebrates belong to, specifying that sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants belong to the order Hymenoptera, whereas beetles and weevils belong to the order Coleoptera.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Coleoptera; it doesn't emphasize the different orders that Australia's invertebrates belong to. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Hymenoptera; it doesn't emphasize the different orders that Australia's invertebrates belong to. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence only mentions one order, Hymenoptera; it doesn't emphasize the different orders that Australia's invertebrates belong to.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 10d2faba

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 10d2faba

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Pinnipeds, which include seals, sea lions, and walruses, live in and around water.
- Pinnipeds are descended not from sea animals but from four-legged, land-dwelling carnivores.
- Canadian paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski recently found a fossil with four legs, webbed toes, and the skull and teeth of a seal.
- Rybczynski refers to her rare find as a "transitional fossil."
- The fossil illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.

The student wants to emphasize the fossil's significance. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Canadian paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski's fossil has the skull and teeth of a seal, which, like sea lions and walruses, is a pinniped.

B. Pinnipeds are descended from four-legged, land-dwelling carnivores; a fossil that resembles both was recently found.

C. Having four legs but the skull and teeth of a seal, the rare fossil illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.

D. A "transitional fossil" was recently found by paleobiologist Natalia Rybczynski.

ID: 10d2faba Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence effectively emphasizes the fossil's significance, explaining that the fossil is rare and illustrates an early stage in the evolution of pinnipeds from their land-dwelling ancestors.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes the fossil Rybczynski found; it doesn't emphasize the fossil's significance. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence mentions that a fossil resembling both pinnipeds and their ancestors was found; it doesn't emphasize the fossil's significance. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence notes a term used to describe the fossil Rybczynski found; it doesn't emphasize the fossil's significance.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 728fb83a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 728fb83a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Little is known about the life of Wong Fei-hung (1847–1925).
- He was born near Foshan, China, and gained local recognition as a physician and Hung Ga (also known as Hung Gar) Kung Fu master.
- He achieved many incredible martial arts feats—some confirmed and some rumored.
- He has become an internationally known folk hero thanks to his depiction in over a hundred films, television shows, and other media.
- In the 1991 film *Once Upon a Time in China*, actor Jet Li portrays Wong Fei-hung using superhuman kung fu abilities to save his community.

The student wants to emphasize the effect media had on building Wong Fei-hung's legacy. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Thanks to his depiction in over a hundred pieces of media, Wong Fei-hung was locally known as a successful physician and Hung Ga Kung Fu master.

B. Though he was known locally during his lifetime, Wong Fei-hung's later depiction in television, film, and other media has turned him into an internationally known folk hero.

C. Various media have depicted Wong Fei-hung, the successful physician and kung fu master who became an internationally known folk hero.

D. Wong Fei-hung's abilities as a kung fu master are depicted in many media, including the 1991 film *Once Upon a Time in China*.

ID: 728fb83a Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The sentence emphasizes the effect media had on building Wong Fei-hung's legacy, noting that media depictions after his lifetime turned Wong Fei-hung into an internationally known folk hero.

Choice A is incorrect. While it appears to emphasize the effect of media depictions of Wong Fei-hung, the sentence misrepresents information from the notes. According to the notes, media depictions resulted in Wong Fei-hung becoming an internationally known folk hero, not a locally known physician and kung fu master. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence discusses Wong Fei-hung's legacy, noting that he became an internationally known folk hero, but it doesn't emphasize the effect media had on building that legacy. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence indicates that Wong Fei-hung has been depicted in many media but doesn't emphasize the effect of these media depictions on building his legacy.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 310b0698

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 310b0698

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Chiura Obata was a Japanese American artist who lived in California.
- *Yosemite Falls* is a notable painting by Obata.
- It uses a Japanese method of black ink painting called sumi-e.
- This painting was completed in 1930.

The student wants to indicate the year *Yosemite Falls* was completed. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. While living in California, Obata created black ink paintings.

B. Obata, a Japanese American artist, created a notable painting.

C. *Yosemite Falls* was completed in 1930.

D. Obata used a Japanese painting method called sumi-e.

ID: 310b0698 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The sentence indicates the year *Yosemite Falls* was completed, stating that it was completed in 1930.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence indicates where Obata created black ink paintings; it doesn't indicate when the painting was completed. Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence identifies Obata as an artist who created a notable painting, it doesn't indicate when that painting was completed. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence identifies the method Obata used; it doesn't indicate when the painting was completed.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d57df584

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: d57df584

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Iranian scholar Abu Rayhan al-Biruni studied Earth's physical features.
- He theorized that a large landmass existed west of Europe and east of Asia.
- Al-Biruni published his landmass theory in 1037 CE.

The student wants to specify when al-Biruni published his landmass theory. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. In 1037 CE, al-Biruni published his theory that a large landmass existed west of Europe and east of Asia.

B. Al-Biruni, who studied Earth's physical features, published a theory about a large landmass.

C. Al-Biruni was an Iranian scholar who studied Earth's physical features.

D. An Iranian scholar who studied Earth's physical features, al-Biruni theorized that a large landmass existed west of Europe and east of Asia.

ID: d57df584 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The sentence specifies when al-Biruni published his landmass theory, indicating that it was published in the year 1037 CE.

Choice B is incorrect. While the sentence notes that al-Biruni published a landmass theory, it doesn't specify when the theory was published. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence identifies al-Biruni as a scholar of Earth's physical features; it doesn't specify when he published his landmass theory. Choice D is incorrect. The sentence describes al-Biruni's landmass theory; it doesn't specify when the theory was published.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b2292d11

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: b2292d11

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The popular wood-wide web theory posits that trees can communicate and exchange resources with one another via common mycorrhizal networks (CMNs) of fungi.
- Ecologist Dr. Suzanne Simard first suggested this theory in 1997.
- She described trees as "super-cooperators."
- In the 2022 study "The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?," mycologist Dr. Justine Karst and colleagues evaluated dozens of CMN studies.
- They write that CMNs "have captured the interest of broad audiences. We are concerned, however, that recent claims about CMNs in forests are disconnected from evidence."

The student wants to use a quotation to emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. Describing trees as "super-cooperators," Simard first suggested that trees can exchange resources with one another in 1997.

B. In "The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?," Karst and colleagues note that common mycorrhizal networks "have captured the interest of broad audiences."

C. After evaluating dozens of CMN studies, Karst and colleagues expressed concern that recent claims about common mycorrhizal networks are "disconnected from evidence."

D. Despite the concerns expressed in the 2022 study "The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?," the wood-wide web theory remains popular.

ID: b2292d11 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. This choice uses a quotation to convey the authors' criticism and challenge to the wood-wide web theory due to an absence of evidence.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn't emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. It uses a quotation to introduce the theory and its originator. It doesn't mention any criticism or challenge to the theory. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a quotation, but it doesn't emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. It uses a quotation to describe the appeal and interest of the theory, but it doesn't indicate why the authors are concerned or what evidence they have. Choice D is incorrect. This choice doesn't use a quotation at all. It paraphrases the main idea of the 2022 study, but it doesn't include any specific words or phrases from the notes. It also doesn't emphasize a potential problem with the theory, but rather its popularity.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5c1c89f2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	

ID: 5c1c89f2

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Georeferencing is the process of assigning geographic coordinates to an image.
- This process enables mapping software to place the image in its real-world location.
- A 2017 project by Tania López Marrero and colleagues georeferenced a set of aerial photographs of Puerto Rico's coastline taken in 1930.
- These photographs are the earliest known aerial photographs of Puerto Rico.
- López Marrero's project provided data that can help researchers analyze changes in Puerto Rico's coastline.

The student wants to define the term "georeferencing." Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

A. A 2017 project by Tania López Marrero and colleagues assigned geographic coordinates to photographs of Puerto Rico's coastline and also used georeferencing.

B. Tania López Marrero and colleagues used georeferencing in their analysis of the earliest known aerial photographs of Puerto Rico.

C. Georeferenced aerial photographs from 1930 can help researchers analyze changes in Puerto Rico's coastline.

D. Georeferencing is the process of assigning geographic coordinates to an image so that mapping software can place it in its real-world location.

ID: 5c1c89f2 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The sentence defines the term "georeferencing," stating that it is the process of assigning geographic coordinates to an image so that mapping software can place the image in its real-world location.

Choice A is incorrect. The sentence describes López Marrero's team's 2017 project; it doesn't provide a definition of the term "georeferencing." Moreover, it misrepresents the information in the notes by characterizing the team's assignment of geographic coordinates to photographs as a process distinct from georeferencing. Choice B is incorrect. The sentence states that López Marrero's team used georeferencing, but it doesn't provide a definition of the term. Choice C is incorrect. The sentence explains why a particular group of georeferenced aerial photographs is potentially useful for researchers; it doesn't provide a definition of the term "georeferencing."

Question Difficulty: Medium