

Question ID 68118d8b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 68118d8b

The ancient Spartans were known for their bitinglly concise—or laconic—wit, a quality they maintained even in the face of great peril. _____ when Philip II of Macedon threatened Laconia (the region of Greece containing Sparta), he said, “If I invade Laconia, I shall turn you out.” The Spartans replied with a single word: “If.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Rather,
- B. In other words,
- C. That said,
- D. For instance,

ID: 68118d8b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "For instance" logically signals that the concise, witty exchange between Philip II and the Spartans is an example supporting the previous claim—that the Spartans employed wit even in the face of peril.

Choice A is incorrect because "rather" illogically signals that the exchange between Philip II and the Spartans contrasts with the previous claim about the Spartans’ wit. Instead, the exchange is an example of their wit. Choice B is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the exchange between Philip II and the Spartans is a restatement of the previous claim about the Spartans’ wit. Instead, the exchange is an example of their wit. Choice C is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the exchange between Philip II and the Spartans is an exception to the previous claim about the Spartans’ wit. Instead, the exchange is an example of their wit.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f3445f2b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f3445f2b

“Wishcycling”—putting nonrecyclable items into recycling bins under the mistaken belief that those items can be recycled—ultimately does more harm than good. Nonrecyclable items, such as greasy pizza boxes, can contaminate recyclable materials, rendering entire batches unusable. _____ nonrecyclable products can damage recycling plants’ machinery.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Fittingly,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. Moreover,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: f3445f2b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Moreover” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that nonrecyclable products can damage machinery—adds to the information in the previous sentence to support the claim in the first sentence of the text. The first sentence indicates that “wishcycling” is harmful, the second sentence gives an example, and this sentence gives another example.

Choice A is incorrect because “fittingly,” which means “appropriately,” illogically signals that it is fitting or appropriate that nonrecyclable products can damage machinery, which doesn’t make sense in this context. Instead, this sentence adds another example of the potential harm caused by “wishcycling.” Choice B is incorrect because “on the contrary” illogically signals that this sentence provides information contrary to the information in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence adds another example of the potential harm caused by “wishcycling.” Choice D is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that this sentence provides information that is true in spite of the information in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence adds another example of the potential harm caused by “wishcycling.”

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fde7adc6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fde7adc6

In 1891, dancer and choreographer Loie Fuller first performed her celebrated Serpentine Dance, artfully twirling her long, flowing skirt to create striking visual effects. _____ in 1896, cinema pioneers Auguste and Louis Lumière made a groundbreaking short film of Fuller’s dance.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. Later,
- D. In other words,

ID: fde7adc6 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Later” logically signals that the event discussed in this sentence—the creation of the short film featuring Fuller’s dance—is a related event that occurred after the event discussed in the previous sentence (the 1891 debut of the dance).

Choice A is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence. Choice B is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the information in this sentence concludes or summarizes the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the creation of the short film is a related event that followed the event discussed in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8473dc36

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8473dc36

Researchers believe that pieces of hull found off Oregon’s coast are from a Spanish cargo ship that was lost in 1697. Stories passed down among the area’s Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians support this belief. _____ Siletz stories describe how blocks of beeswax, an item the ship had been carrying, began washing ashore after the ship was lost.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. For example,
- C. However,
- D. Likewise,

ID: 8473dc36 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the Siletz beeswax stories mentioned in this sentence are examples consistent with the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory.

Choice A is incorrect because “for this reason” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax were caused by the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax contrast with the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the Siletz stories about the beeswax are similar to the previous claim that Siletz stories support the shipwreck theory. Instead, the beeswax stories are examples consistent with the claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8bbb85f3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8bbb85f3

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s 2013 novel *Americanah* chronicles the divergent experiences of Ifemelu and Obinze, a young Nigerian couple, after high school. Ifemelu moves to the United States to attend a prestigious university. _____ Obinze travels to London, hoping to start a career there. However, frustrated with the lack of opportunities, he soon returns to Nigeria.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Meanwhile,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Secondly,
- D. In fact,

ID: 8bbb85f3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Meanwhile” logically signals that the action described in this sentence (Obinze’s move to London to pursue a career) is simultaneous with the action described in the previous sentence (Ifemelu’s move to the United States). The first sentence establishes that the actions take place around the same time, referring to the characters’ “divergent experiences” following high school.

Choice B is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Obinze’s move to London is true despite the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time. Choice C is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second point or reason separate from the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time. Choice D is incorrect because “in fact” illogically signals that the information in this sentence emphasizes, modifies, or contradicts the previous information about Ifemelu’s move to the United States. Instead, as the first sentence establishes, Obinze’s move and Ifemelu’s move are related, parallel experiences that occur around the same time.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8be84283

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 8be84283

Award-winning travel writer Linda Watanabe McFerrin considers the background research she conducts on destinations featured in her travel books to be its own reward. _____ McFerrin admits to finding the research phase of her work just as fascinating and engaging as exploring a location in person.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. Likewise,
- C. Besides,
- D. In fact,

ID: 8be84283 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “In fact” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that McFerrin finds the research phase of her work to be just as fascinating as travel—emphasizes and elaborates on the previous sentence’s point that McFerrin regards background research as a rewarding activity.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous sentence’s point about McFerrin’s attitude toward background research. Instead, it emphasizes and elaborates on that point. Choice B is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that this sentence merely adds a second, similar point to the previous sentence’s point about McFerrin’s attitude toward background research. Instead, it emphasizes and elaborates on that point. Choice C is incorrect because “besides” illogically signals that this sentence provides a separate point in addition to, or apart from, the previous sentence’s point about McFerrin’s attitude toward background research. Instead, it emphasizes and elaborates on that point.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9c655fd7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9c655fd7

In his 1925 book *The Morphology of Landscape*, US geographer Carl Sauer challenged prevailing views about how natural landscapes influence human cultures. _____ Sauer argued that instead of being shaped entirely by their natural surroundings, cultures play an active role in their own development by virtue of their interactions with the environment.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Finally,
- C. Therefore,
- D. Specifically,

ID: 9c655fd7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument—that, according to Sauer, cultures play a role in their own development, as opposed to being shaped solely by natural surroundings—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the more general information in the previous sentence about how Sauer challenged prevailing views about how natural landscapes influence human cultures.

Choice A is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument is similar to, but separate from, the more general information in the previous sentence. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice B is incorrect because “finally” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument indicates a last step in a process or a concluding summary. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on the general information in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Sauer’s argument is a result of the more general information in the previous sentence. Instead, it provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e6fb2ff0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e6fb2ff0

Niger ratified the Outer Space Treaty, an international agreement with over 100 signing nations that acts as the foundation for the laws of space, on February 1, 1967. Jordan, _____ has yet to officially ratify the treaty; it only signed it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in contrast,
- B. specifically,
- C. for example,
- D. similarly,

ID: e6fb2ff0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "In contrast" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Jordan has yet to officially ratify the treaty—contrasts with the previous information about Niger having already ratified the treaty.

Choice B is incorrect because "specifically" illogically signals that the information in this sentence specifies or elaborates on the previous information about Niger ratifying the treaty. Instead, the sentence changes subjects from Niger to Jordan, presenting contrasting information about Jordan’s treaty status. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence exemplifies the previous information about Niger ratifying the treaty. Instead, the sentence explains that Jordan has yet to ratify the treaty. Choice D is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about Niger ratifying the treaty. Instead, the sentence presents contrasting information that Jordan has yet to ratify the treaty.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d9926e64

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d9926e64

Practical movie effects, such as the use of actual locations in a film, provide a more realistic visual experience than computer-generated imagery (CGI) does, but giving audiences the “real thing” can be prohibitively expensive. _____ many filmmakers use a blended approach, employing practical effects whenever possible and CGI elements as necessary to control costs.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Furthermore,
- D. In other words,

ID: d9926e64 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “For this reason” has the same meaning as “therefore.” .

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “Similarly” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows the addition of another agreeing idea. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “Furthermore” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows the addition of another agreeing idea. Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that practical effects are more realistic but also more expensive than CGI. The second sentence tells us that many filmmakers use both kinds of effects, balancing realism with cost. To connect these ideas, we need a cause-and-effect transition, like “therefore.” “In other words” doesn’t show cause and effect: it shows a restatement of the same idea in different words.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b615bab7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b615bab7

Etched into Peru’s Nazca Desert are line drawings so large that they can only be fully seen from high above. Archaeologists have known of the lines since the 1920s, when a researcher spotted some from a nearby foothill, and they have been studying the markings ever since. _____ archaeologists’ efforts are aided by drones that capture high-resolution aerial photographs of the lines.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Currently,
- B. In comparison,
- C. Still,
- D. However,

ID: b615bab7 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Currently” logically signals that the archaeologists’ use of drones (a current technology) to photograph the lines is the present-day continuation of the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence offers a comparison to the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research. Choice C is incorrect because “still” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs despite the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs either despite or in contrast to the ongoing archaeological research described in the previous sentence. Instead, the use of drones is the present-day continuation of that research.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b0d17f28

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b0d17f28

In the early 1970s, Albert Popa took up graffiti art, spraying his work onto what was at the time an unconventional surface: concrete. _____ Albert’s son David has chosen an unusual canvas for his new art project, *Fractured*. In this remarkable work, the artist draws charcoal faces onto fragmented ice floes in Finland, creating the visual effect of a face slowly fracturing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Indeed,
- C. Second,
- D. Likewise,

ID: b0d17f28 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Likewise" logically signals that the information about Albert’s son David is similar to the previous information about Albert Popa. Both artists have used unconventional surfaces for their work: Albert used concrete, and David is using ice floes.

Choice A is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information about David contrasts with the previous information about Albert Popa. Instead, it is similar to the previous information about Albert Popa. Choice B is incorrect because "indeed" illogically signals that the information about David emphasizes or strengthens the previous point about Albert Popa. Instead, it is similar to the previous information; it highlights a similarity between father and son. Choice C is incorrect because "second" illogically signals that the information about David is a second point or reason separate from the previous information about Albert Popa. Instead, it is similar to the previous information; it highlights a similarity between father and son.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c93a1664

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c93a1664

When sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi was designing the Statue of Liberty, he sought the advice of engineer Gustave Eiffel. Eiffel suggested that he make the statue’s arm thick and position it straight above the figure’s head. _____ Bartholdi decided to slim the arm and tilt it out at an angle.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. Instead,
- C. Thus,
- D. For example,

ID: c93a1664 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Instead" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Bartholdi decided to slim and tilt out the arm of the Statue of Liberty—contrasts with Eiffel’s design suggestions for the statue.

Choice A is incorrect because "additionally" illogically suggests that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact related to Eiffel’s design suggestions in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with those suggestions. Choice C is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information that follows is a result of Eiffel’s design suggestions in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with those suggestions. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information about Bartholdi’s design decisions in this sentence exemplifies Eiffel’s design suggestions in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with those suggestions.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bbd5972b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bbd5972b

Geoscientists have long considered Hawaii’s Mauna Loa volcano to be Earth’s largest shield volcano by volume, measuring approximately 74,000 cubic kilometers. _____ according to a 2020 study by local geoscientist Michael Garcia, Hawaii’s Pūhāhonu shield volcano is significantly larger, boasting a volume of about 148,000 cubic kilometers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Secondly,
- B. Consequently,
- C. Moreover,
- D. However,

ID: bbd5972b Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “However” logically signals that this sentence, which indicates that the Pūhāhonu volcano may be larger than the Mauna Loa volcano, offers a contrast to or refutation of the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano.

Choice A is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that this sentence merely offers an additional or secondary point concerning the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption. Choice B is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that this sentence offers a result or consequence of the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption. Choice C is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that this sentence merely adds to the previous assumption that Mauna Loa is the largest shield volcano. Instead, the sentence offers a contrast to or refutation of that assumption.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2f5a14c6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2f5a14c6

Although those who migrated to California in 1849 dreamed of finding gold nuggets in streambeds, the state’s richest deposits were buried deeply in rock, beyond the reach of individual prospectors. _____ by 1852, many had given up their fortune-hunting dreams and gone to work for one of the large companies capable of managing California’s complex mining operations.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Furthermore,
- B. Still,
- C. Consequently,
- D. Next,

ID: 2f5a14c6 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Consequently” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that many individual gold prospectors gave up their fortune-hunting dreams and became employees of mining companies—is a result or consequence of the previous information about the inaccessibility of the state’s gold deposits.

Choice A is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about the inaccessibility of the state’s gold deposits. Instead, it’s a result or consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because “still” illogically signals that the information in this sentence offers a contrast or exception to the previous information about the inaccessibility of the state’s gold deposits. Instead, it’s a result or consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “next” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, it’s a result or consequence of the previous information about the inaccessibility of the state’s gold deposits.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a1407d9b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a1407d9b

As Iestyn Barr and his team of researchers discovered when establishing the glacial timeline of Antarctica, the Transantarctic Mountains—a 3,500-km mountain range spanning the continent—are home to glaciers of at least 60 million years in age. _____ the researchers concluded, Antarctica had glaciers long before the formation of its continent-wide ice sheet 34 million years ago.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. Thus,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Even so,

ID: a1407d9b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Thus” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the researchers concluded that Antarctica had glaciers long before the formation of its continent-wide ice sheet—is a result of the previous information about the discovery that Antarctica’s glaciers are at least 60 million years old, whereas its continent-wide ice sheet formed just 34 million years ago.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the researchers’ conclusion about Antarctica having glaciers before its ice sheet formed contrasts with the previous finding about the age of Antarctica’s glaciers. Instead, the conclusion is a result of that finding. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the researchers’ conclusion about Antarctica having glaciers before its ice sheet formed is true despite the previous finding about the age of Antarctica’s glaciers. Instead, the conclusion is a result of that finding. Choice D is incorrect because “even so” illogically signals that the researchers’ conclusion about Antarctica having glaciers before its ice sheet formed is true despite the previous finding about the age of Antarctica’s glaciers. Instead, the conclusion is a result of that finding.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0a2f7e22

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0a2f7e22

Neuroscientist Karen Konkoly wanted to determine whether individuals can understand and respond to questions during REM sleep. She first taught volunteers eye movements they would use to respond to basic math problems while asleep (a single left-right eye movement indicated the number one). _____ she attached electrodes to the volunteers’ faces to record their eye movements during sleep.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Next,
- C. For instance,
- D. In sum,

ID: 0a2f7e22 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Next” logically signals that the action described in this sentence—Konkoly recording participants’ eye movements—is the next step in Konkoly’s experiment.

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that this sentence specifies or elaborates on an aspect of the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it describes the next step in Konkoly’s experiment. Choice C is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence is an example of the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it is the next step in Konkoly’s experiment. Choice D is incorrect because “in sum” illogically signals that this sentence summarizes or concludes the action described in the previous sentence. Instead, it describes the next step in Konkoly’s experiment.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 594491cd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 594491cd

Following the Mata Ortiz pottery technique, Mexican sculptor Juan Quezada Celado starts by creating the base of the pot with a slab of clay. _____ he builds the pot walls by layering coils of clay around the perimeter of the base. Celado then smooths out the pot’s walls with a hacksaw blade. At last, the pot is ready to be painted.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. However,
- C. By contrast,
- D. Next,

ID: 594491cd Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Next" logically signals that the information in this sentence—which explains how Celado builds the pot’s walls—is the next step in Celado’s pot creation process. The sentences that follow further signal this information by completing the process.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information about Celado building pot walls in this sentence exemplifies the information in the previous sentence about how Celado’s pot creation process begins. Instead, it is the next step in this process. Choice B is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence about how Celado’s pot creation process begins. Instead, it is the next step in this process. Choice C is incorrect because "by contrast" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence about how Celado’s pot creation process begins. Instead, it is the next step in this process.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e5d834cf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e5d834cf

Introduced in 2001, Luis von Ahn’s reCAPTCHA security software distinguished human users from autonomous spamming programs, or bots, by prompting a website’s visitors to read distorted text and type it in a box. Over time, though, bots became capable of deciphering distorted text. _____ a version of reCAPTCHA that could detect humans by analyzing cursor movements was released in 2014.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. In other words,
- C. In response,
- D. Indeed,

ID: e5d834cf Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “In response” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that a new version of reCAPTCHA capable of analyzing cursor movements was released in 2014—was a direct response to the previously described issue of bots becoming capable of deciphering distorted text.

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence exemplifies the previously described issue of bots deciphering distorted text. Instead, the release of the new version of reCAPTCHA was a direct response to that issue. Choice B is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previously described issue of bots deciphering distorted text. Instead, the release of the new version of reCAPTCHA was a direct response to that issue. Choice D is incorrect because “indeed” illogically signals that the information in this sentence offers additional emphasis in support of the previously described issue of bots deciphering distorted text. Instead, the release of the new version of reCAPTCHA was a direct response to that issue.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 805f373d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 805f373d

My interest in old public libraries has led me to seek them out whenever I visit a new part of the United States. _____ I could visit every state in the US and still not find the oldest public library in the Western Hemisphere. That library, the Biblioteca Palafoxiana, is located in Puebla, Mexico.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Earlier,
- D. In other words,

ID: 805f373d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Nevertheless" logically signals that the claim in the sentence—that the speaker could visit every state in the US and not find the oldest public library in the Western Hemisphere—is true despite the previous claim about the speaker seeking out old public libraries.

Choice A is incorrect because "as a result" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a consequence of the previous claim about the speaker seeking out old public libraries. Instead, the claim is true despite the previous claim. Choice C is incorrect because "earlier" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence occurs earlier in a chronological sequence of events than the previous claim about the speaker seeking out old public libraries. Instead, the claim is true despite the previous claim. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous claim about the speaker seeking out old public libraries. Instead, the claim is true despite the previous claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6c7c5746

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6c7c5746

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was a prominent classical music composer from England who toured the US three times in the early 1900s. The child of a West African father and an English mother, Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. For example, he referred to himself as Anglo-African. _____ he incorporated the sounds of traditional African music into his classical music compositions.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In addition,
- B. Actually,
- C. However,
- D. Regardless,

ID: 6c7c5746 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “In addition” logically signals that the detail in this sentence—that Coleridge-Taylor included traditional African music in his classical compositions—adds to the information in the previous sentence. Specifically, the previous sentence indicates one way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry, and the claim that follows indicates a second, additional way.

Choice B is incorrect because “actually” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence is surprising in light of the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry. Choice D is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the detail in this sentence is true despite the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the detail adds to the information, indicating a second, additional way in which Coleridge-Taylor emphasized his mixed-race ancestry.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0f53fcae

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0f53fcae

In 1974, Mexican chemist Mario Molina and US chemist F. Sherwood Rowland discovered that chemicals called CFCs were harmful to the ozone layer. Their research was extremely influential in the fight against CFCs. _____ it laid the foundation for a 1987 treaty that phased out the use of CFCs across the globe.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Specifically,
- C. However,
- D. Earlier,

ID: 0f53fcae Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Molina and Rowland’s research laid the foundation for a later treaty—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous sentence’s more general claim about the influence of the research.

Choice A is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous sentence’s claim about the influence of Molina and Rowland’s research. Instead, this information—that the research laid the foundation for a later treaty—provides specific details elaborating on the previous claim. Choice C is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous sentence’s claim about the influence of Molina and Rowland’s research. Instead, this information—that the research laid the foundation for a later treaty—provides specific details elaborating on the previous claim. Choice D is incorrect because "earlier" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurred at a time before Molina and Rowland’s research influenced the fight against CFCs. Instead, this information—that the research laid the foundation for a later treaty—provides specific details elaborating on the previous claim about the research’s influence.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID dd49d3af

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: dd49d3af

When Chinese director Chlo  Zhao accepted the Oscar in 2021 for her film *Nomadland*, she made Academy Award history. _____ only one other woman, Kathryn Bigelow of the United States, had been named best director at the Oscars, making Zhao the second woman and the first Asian woman to win the award.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Previously,
- C. However,
- D. Likewise,

ID: dd49d3af Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Previously” logically signals that the event described in this sentence—Bigelow being named best director—occurred before Zhao’s win. The fact that only one other woman had won the award before puts Zhao’s win in perspective.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred as a result or consequence of Zhao’s win. Instead, it occurred before Zhao was named best director and puts Zhao’s win in perspective. Choice C is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the event described in this sentence occurred in spite of or in contrast to Zhao’s win. Instead, it occurred before Zhao was named best director and puts Zhao’s win in perspective. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that this sentence merely adds a second, similar piece of information to the information about Zhao’s win. Instead, the fact that only one other woman had won the award before puts Zhao’s win in perspective.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 4d0713a1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4d0713a1

During a 2021 launch, Rocket Labs’ Electron rocket experienced an unexpected failure: its second-stage booster shut down suddenly after ignition. _____ instead of downplaying the incident, Rocket Labs’ CEO publicly acknowledged what happened and apologized for the loss of the rocket’s payload, which had consisted of two satellites.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Afterward,
- B. Additionally,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 4d0713a1 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Afterward” logically signals that the events described in this sentence—the CEO’s public acknowledgment and apology—occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events.

Choice B is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence merely occurred in addition to the rocket booster’s failure. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events. Choice C is incorrect because “indeed” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence emphasize or strengthen a statement made in the previous sentence. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events. Choice D is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the events described in this sentence are similar to the rocket booster’s failure. Instead, they occurred after the rocket booster’s failure and are part of a chronological sequence of events.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 745d2907

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 745d2907

While studying jorō spiders, a large species originally from East Asia, University of Georgia researchers wondered if the spiders’ rapid spread throughout the southeastern US was a result of aggressive behavior. _____ they discovered that jorō spiders are gentle giants who react to even minor disturbances by “freezing” in place for an hour or more.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Therefore,
- B. Instead,
- C. For example,
- D. In other words,

ID: 745d2907 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Instead” logically signals that the information about the researchers’ discovery in this sentence—that jorō spiders are gentle giants who “freeze” in place when disturbed—contradicts their initial hypothesis about the spiders’ aggressiveness described in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the discovery about jorō spiders’ gentleness is a result of the initial hypothesis about their aggressive behavior. Instead, the sentence presents information that contradicts the initial hypothesis. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the discovery about jorō spiders’ gentleness exemplifies the initial hypothesis about their aggressive behavior. Instead, the sentence presents information that contradicts the initial hypothesis. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the discovery about jorō spiders’ gentleness is merely restating or rephrasing the initial hypothesis about their aggressive behavior. Instead, the sentence presents information that contradicts the initial hypothesis.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 401e7083

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 401e7083

In the 1880s, inventor Lewis Latimer improved upon Thomas Edison’s design for the electric light bulb. _____ Latimer made the light bulb more durable by placing cardboard around its carbon filament. With this innovation, Latimer became the first Black inventor to contribute to the electrification of the world.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Soon,
- B. Regardless,
- C. However,
- D. Specifically,

ID: 401e7083 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information in this sentence—Latimer making the light bulb more durable—provides a specific detail elaborating on the more general claim in the previous sentence that Latimer improved the light bulb.

Choice A is incorrect because "soon" illogically signals that the information in this sentence occurred shortly after Latimer improved the light bulb. Instead, Latimer making the bulb more durable was the specific improvement. Choice B is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous claim about Latimer. Instead, the information about Latimer making the bulb more durable provides a specific detail elaborating on that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about Latimer. Instead, the information about Latimer making the bulb more durable provides a specific detail elaborating on that claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bf629058

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bf629058

The chemical trimethylamine N-oxide not only gives fish their fishy smell but also protects them from crushing hydrostatic pressure in deep waters. Trimethylamine N-oxide strengthens the bonds between water molecules in a fish’s body. _____ these water molecules maintain their linked structure at extreme depths, thus preventing pressure-related damage.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. As a result,
- C. However,
- D. For instance,

ID: bf629058 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “As a result” indicates that water molecules maintaining their linked structure at high pressures is caused by the strengthening of these water molecules by trimethylamine N-oxide. So the transition “as a result” fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous one—rather, it’s describing an effect of the phenomenon described in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous one; it actually expands on the previous sentence by describing an effect of the strengthened molecules. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The second sentence doesn’t provide an example or instance of the idea in the previous sentence. Instead, it explores the effects of the previous idea in more depth.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 29a18688

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 29a18688

Most conifers (trees belonging to the phylum Coniferophyta) are evergreen. That is, they keep their green leaves or needles year-round. However, not all conifer species are evergreen. Larch trees, _____ lose their needles every fall.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for instance,
- B. nevertheless,
- C. meanwhile,
- D. in addition,

ID: 29a18688 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “For instance” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that larch trees lose their needles every fall—is an example supporting the claim in the previous sentence (that not all conifer species keep their leaves or needles year-round).

Choice B is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true in spite of the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim. Choice C is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim. Choice D is incorrect because “in addition” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact related to the claim about conifer species in the previous sentence. Instead, it’s an example supporting that claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 770510fb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 770510fb

Following the American Revolutionary War, North American foodways underwent a radical transformation, fueled in large part by spiking consumer demand for certain grains. The cultivation, trade, and transportation of maize and wheat, _____ reconfigured the continent’s existing regional foodways into a globally oriented food system.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in particular,
- B. alternatively,
- C. by comparison,
- D. second of all,

ID: 770510fb Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "In particular" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that maize and wheat supply chains transformed North American foodways into a global food system—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the more general information in the previous sentence about the transformation of North American foodways (with maize and wheat the "certain grains" at the center of it).

Choice B is incorrect because "alternatively" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an alternative option to the previous information about the transformation of North American foodways. Instead, the roles of maize and wheat in creating a global food system are specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice C is incorrect because "by comparison" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the previous information about the transformation of North American foodways. Instead, the roles of maize and wheat in creating a global food system are specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice D is incorrect because "second of all" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous claim that North American foodways were transformed. Instead, the roles of maize and wheat in creating a global food system are specific, precise details elaborating on that information, rather than a separate claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 22cee2b3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 22cee2b3

In 1845, the United States District Court for the state of Iowa was established. Initially, the court’s jurisdiction was a single district that encompassed the entire state, but as Iowa’s population grew, this single district began to struggle to serve the needs of everyone in the state. _____ the court’s jurisdiction was subdivided into two districts, each with its own district court.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. Ultimately,
- C. Additionally,
- D. For example,

ID: 22cee2b3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Ultimately” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the court’s jurisdiction was subdivided into two districts—was the eventual outcome or resolution of the previously described struggle of the single district to serve the needs of everyone in the state.

Choice A is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in the sentence is true despite the single district’s struggle to serve the state’s needs. Instead, the sentence describes the eventual resolution of that struggle. Choice C is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the information in the sentence is merely an additional fact related to the single district’s struggle. Instead, the sentence describes the eventual resolution of that struggle. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in the sentence provides a specific example of the single district’s struggle to serve the state’s needs. Instead, the sentence describes the eventual resolution of that struggle.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 833f4e93

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 833f4e93

Riley Black—the author of critically acclaimed books such as *My Beloved Brontosaurus* (2013)—is best known for writing about dinosaurs, but she has also conducted hands-on fieldwork. _____ her fieldwork has included paleontological digs in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming, and her dinosaur fossil discoveries can be seen at places such as the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Subsequently,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Conversely,

ID: 833f4e93 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The second sentence provides more specific information about the fieldwork mentioned in the first sentence—that the paleontological digs took place in Utah, Montana, and Wyoming. Therefore, “specifically” fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Rather, this sentence agrees with and elaborates on the last sentence by providing more specifics about the fieldwork Black does. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates that an event took place after another event. But the two sentences are not describing different events—instead, this sentence gives more details about the fieldwork discussed in the first sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Rather, this sentence agrees with and elaborates on the last sentence by providing more specifics about the fieldwork Black does.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e0acbcef

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e0acbcef

To explore how blinking affects social interactions, Dutch researchers observed interactions between human speakers and “listeners” (animated human faces on a screen). The researchers found that when the listeners blinked slowly, the speakers tended to talk for less time. _____ quicker blinks were associated with longer talking times.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Specifically,
- C. Firstly,
- D. By contrast,

ID: e0acbcef Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the finding described in this sentence contrasts with the finding described in the previous sentence. That is, quicker blinks were associated with longer talking times, whereas slower blinks were associated with shorter talking times.

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the finding described in this sentence is an example of the finding described in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with that finding. Choice B is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that this sentence provides specific, precise details about the finding described in the previous sentence. Instead, it presents information that contrasts with that finding. Choice C is incorrect because “firstly” illogically signals that the finding described in this sentence is a first point or occurs first in a chronological sequence of events. Instead, it contrasts with the finding described in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1a1de00d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1a1de00d

For millennia, acorns were a staple food for the Tongva people, the Indigenous inhabitants of what is now the Los Angeles basin. Raw acorns have an extremely bitter taste, though, due to their high tannin levels. _____ it was necessary to process the acorns—which involved grinding, rinsing, and shaping the nuts into a dough—before eating them.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Therefore,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Afterward,
- D. However,

ID: 1a1de00d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Therefore” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that it was necessary to process the acorns before eating them—is a result or consequence of the previous information about raw acorns having an extremely bitter taste due to high tannin levels.

Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the need to process acorns is similar to the previous information about their bitter taste. Instead, the need to process the acorns is a result or consequence of their bitter taste. Choice C is incorrect because “afterward” illogically signals that the need to process acorns is an event that occurred later in a chronological sequence than the acorns’ bitter taste. Instead, the need to process the acorns is a result or consequence of their bitter taste. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the need to process acorns contrasts with the previous information about their bitter taste. Instead, the need to process the acorns is a result or consequence of their bitter taste.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bb662bfa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bb662bfa

To guarantee the validity of experimental results, scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement. _____ metrologists (scientists who study measurement) developed the SI, or International System of Units. The SI’s units of measurement are based on unchanging values in nature, such as the mass of an electron or the speed of light.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In contrast,
- B. Regardless,
- C. In addition,
- D. For this reason,

ID: bb662bfa Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "For this reason" logically signals that the information that follows—that metrologists developed the SI based on unchanging values in nature—is a result of the previous claim that scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement to guarantee the validity of experimental results.

Choice A is incorrect because "in contrast" illogically signals that the information that follows contrasts with the previous claim that scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement. Instead, the information that metrologists developed the SI based on unchanging values in nature is a result of that claim. Choice B is incorrect because "regardless" illogically signals that the information that follows is true despite the previous claim that scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measure. Instead, the information that metrologists developed the SI based on unchanging values in nature is a result of that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the information that follows is merely an additional fact related to the previous claim that scientists rely on precise, unchanging standards of measurement. Instead, the information that metrologists developed the SI based on unchanging values in nature is a result of that claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a4e61da3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a4e61da3

The Babylonian king Hammurabi achieved much during his forty-year reign. He conquered all of Mesopotamia and built Babylon into one of the most powerful cities of the ancient world. Today, _____ he is mainly remembered for a code of laws inscribed on a seven-foot-tall block of stone: the Code of Hammurabi.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. therefore,
- B. likewise,
- C. however,
- D. for instance,

ID: a4e61da3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Hammurabi is mainly remembered for just a single achievement, the Code of Hammurabi—is contrary to what might be assumed from the previous information about Hammurabi’s many achievements.

Choice A is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous information about Hammurabi’s many achievements. Instead, this sentence makes a point that is contrary to what might be assumed from the previous information. Choice B is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about Hammurabi’s many achievements. Instead, this sentence makes a point that is contrary to what might be assumed from the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that this sentence exemplifies the previous information about Hammurabi’s many achievements. Instead, this sentence makes a point that is contrary to what might be assumed from the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ce20b36f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ce20b36f

Topographic maps show the elevation of landforms above sea level. Bathymetric maps, _____ show the elevation of landforms below the sea, providing valuable information to marine geophysicists like Claudia Flores, who studies seismic data from the northeastern Caribbean.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in conclusion,
- B. for example,
- C. by contrast,
- D. afterward,

ID: ce20b36f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the information about bathymetric maps in this sentence—that they show landforms’ elevation below the sea—presents a direct contrast to the previous information about topographic maps showing landforms’ elevation above sea level.

Choice A is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the information about bathymetric maps in this sentence concludes or summarizes the previous information about topographic maps. Instead, the sentence provides contrasting information about bathymetric maps. Choice B is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information about bathymetric maps in this sentence exemplifies the previous information about topographic maps. Instead, the sentence provides contrasting information about bathymetric maps. Choice D is incorrect because “afterward” illogically signals that this sentence describes an event that chronologically follows the previous information about topographic maps. Instead, the sentence provides contrasting information about bathymetric maps.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2d563e25

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2d563e25

In 2021, a model developed by astrophysicist Catherine Zucker and her research team revealed that the same supernovas responsible for the creation and ongoing expansion of the Local Bubble—a 14-million-year-old cavity in the Milky Way—are likely responsible for the formation of new stars. _____ this model detailed how the bubble’s expansion trapped interstellar clouds of gas and dust that became stars upon their eventual collapse.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Hence,
- B. However,
- C. Admittedly,
- D. Specifically,

ID: 2d563e25 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the Local Bubble’s expansion trapped clouds of gas and dust that formed new stars—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the more general information in the previous sentence about the relationship between the Local Bubble’s expansion and the formation of new stars.

Choice A is incorrect because "hence" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the information in the previous sentence about the relationship between the Local Bubble’s expansion and the formation of new stars. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice B is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence about the relationship between the Local Bubble’s expansion and the formation of new stars. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information. Choice C is incorrect because "admittedly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides an exception or caveat to the previous information about the relationship between the Local Bubble’s expansion and the formation of new stars. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on that information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 61262a0b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 61262a0b

At two weeks old, the time their critical socialization period begins, wolves can smell but cannot yet see or hear. Domesticated dogs, _____ can see, hear, and smell by the end of two weeks. This relative lack of sensory input may help explain why wolves behave so differently around humans than dogs do: from a very young age, wolves are more wary and less exploratory.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in other words,
- B. for instance,
- C. by contrast,
- D. accordingly,

ID: 61262a0b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that dogs can see, hear, and smell by the end of two weeks—contrasts with the preceding information (that wolves can smell but not see or hear at the same age).

Choice A is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information about domesticated dogs in this sentence paraphrases the information about wolves in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about dogs contrasts with what came before. Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information about domesticated dogs in this sentence exemplifies the information about wolves in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about dogs contrasts with what came before. Choice D is incorrect because “accordingly” illogically signals that the information about domesticated dogs in this sentence is in accordance with, or results from, the information about wolves in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about dogs contrasts with what came before.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID cdb99eeb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: cdb99eeb

Alexander Lawrence Posey (1873–1908) varied his focus and tone depending on the genre in which he was writing. In his poetry, he used heartfelt language to evoke the beauty and peacefulness of his natural surroundings; in his journalism, _____ he employed humor and satire to comment on political issues affecting his Muskogee Creek community.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. that is,
- B. granted,
- C. similarly,
- D. by contrast,

ID: cdb99eeb Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This sentence compares two examples of Posey’s tone: the “heartfelt language” he used in his poetry versus the “humor and satire” he used in his journalism. We know from these descriptions and from the claim in the previous sentence that the two tones are very different from each other. So the transition “by contrast” fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea in other words. But the text isn’t restating the first example here. Instead, it’s offering a second, totally different example. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that means “admittedly.” But the text isn’t admitting or conceding anything here. Instead, these two examples work together to support the claim made in the first sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of an agreeing idea. But these two examples are intentionally very different from each other, so “similarly” doesn’t make sense here.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 9469ab77

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9469ab77

In 1873, Spanish scientist Santiago Ramón y Cajal observed that brain fibers have distinct boundaries with clear end points, a finding that went against earlier assumptions about the brain. _____ scientists had assumed that the brain was a continuous web of fused fibers, not a vast network of distinct, individual cells.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Previously,
- C. As a result,
- D. Likewise,

ID: 9469ab77 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Previously” logically signals that the fused fiber theory came before Ramón y Cajal’s discovery.

Choice A is incorrect. “However” illogically signals that the fused fiber theory in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. While this theory does contrast with Ramón y Cajal’s discovery, the previous sentence concludes by stating that his discovery went against prior assumptions about the brain. The fact that the fused fiber theory was one of those earlier assumptions makes “however” an illogical choice. Choice C is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the fused fiber theory in this sentence was a result of the discovery in the previous sentence. Instead, the fused fiber theory came before Ramón y Cajal’s discovery. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the fused fiber theory in this sentence was similar to the discovery in the previous sentence. Instead, the fused fiber theory, which came before Ramón y Cajal’s discovery, was very different from it.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID badf81d3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: badf81d3

Mary Anning (1799–1847), one of the world’s first paleontologists, lived in Lyme Regis along the Jurassic Coast of southern England. _____ she made several important discoveries, including some of the first documented ichthyosaur and plesiosaur skeletons. Indeed, Anning’s groundbreaking work secured the Jurassic Coast a place in the annals of paleontology.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Likewise,
- C. There,
- D. Later,

ID: badf81d3 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “There” logically signals where the events described in this sentence (Anning making several important discoveries) occurred: in Lyme Regis along the Jurassic Coast of southern England, which the previous sentence indicates is where she lived.

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Anning’s discoveries exemplifies the previous information about her living in Lyme Regis. Instead, the sentence refers to the discoveries Anning made while living there—as the information in the third sentence makes clear. Choice B is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the information about Anning’s discoveries is similar to the previous information about her living in Lyme Regis. Instead, the sentence refers to the discoveries Anning made while living there—as the information in the third sentence makes clear. Choice D is incorrect because “later” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Anning’s discoveries occurred after she lived in Lyme Regis, as described in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence refers to the discoveries Anning made while living there—as the information in the third sentence makes clear.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f8f9e099

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f8f9e099

Some members of the US Supreme Court have resisted calls to televise the court’s oral arguments, concerned that the participants would be tempted to perform for the cameras (and thus lower the quality of the discourse). _____ the justices worry that most viewers would not even watch the full deliberations, only short clips that could be misinterpreted and mischaracterized.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Additionally,
- C. In comparison,
- D. For example,

ID: f8f9e099 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Additionally” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that some Supreme Court justices worry that viewers (of televised court arguments) would watch only short, misleading clips—adds to the information in the previous sentence. Specifically, the previous sentence indicates one concern raised by those opposed to televising the court’s oral arguments, and the claim that follows indicates a second, additional concern.

Choice A is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim adds to the information, indicating a second, additional concern that some Supreme Court justices have about televising the court’s arguments. Choice C is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is being compared to the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim adds to the information, indicating a second, additional concern that some Supreme Court justices have about televising the court’s arguments. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim adds to the information, indicating a second, additional concern that some Supreme Court justices have about televising the court’s arguments.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1d66769d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1d66769d

In Gothic architecture, flying buttresses are large arches that help support a building’s exterior walls. Before the Gothic era, cathedrals’ heavy ceilings had to be supported by thick, short walls, but the invention of flying buttresses eliminated this need. _____ Gothic cathedrals could be built with thinner, higher walls.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For instance,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. As a result,

ID: 1d66769d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence were a result of the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence are similar to the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention. Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence are an example supporting the statement about the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the thinner, higher walls in this sentence occurred despite the invention of flying buttresses in the previous sentence. Instead, the walls were a result of that invention.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID cc9387fe

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: cc9387fe

Scientists long debated the origins of chondrules, tiny glass beads that formed in meteors billions of years ago. For decades, different theories were proposed, from lightning strikes to powerful rock collisions, but none had sufficient evidentiary support. _____ scientists found strong evidence that chondrules were formed by shock waves in nearby nebulae.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Therefore,
- C. Similarly,
- D. Finally,

ID: cc9387fe Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Finally" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that scientists found evidence that chondrules were formed by shock waves in nearby nebulae—indicates a conclusion to the scientific debate mentioned in the previous sentences.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information about the evidence for chondrule formation in this sentence exemplifies the information about the scientific debate regarding chondrule formation in the previous sentences. Instead, it indicates a conclusion to the debate. Choice B is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous information about the scientific debate regarding chondrule formation. Instead, it indicates a conclusion to the debate. Choice C is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information that follows is similar to the information about the scientific debate regarding chondrule formation in the previous sentences. Instead, it indicates a conclusion to the debate.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 41df0bb0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 41df0bb0

In 1942, the 1,500-mile Alaska Highway was constructed in under nine months, largely due to the skilled work of nearly 4,000 African American soldiers from US Army engineering regiments. The soldiers’ contribution was overlooked for decades. _____ in 2017, lawmakers declared October 25 a day of recognition—“Alaska Highway Day”—for the troops who helped build this critical roadway.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Lastly,
- B. Then,
- C. Similarly,
- D. For example,

ID: 41df0bb0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Then" logically signals that the event described in this sentence—lawmakers’ 2017 declaration of Alaska Highway Day—is part of a chronological sequence of events, occurring after the decades-long period in which the soldiers’ contribution was overlooked.

Choice A is incorrect because "lastly" illogically signals that this sentence presents the last of a series of points or reasons. Instead, it describes a later event occurring in a chronological sequence of events. Choice C is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about the soldiers’ contribution being overlooked for decades. Instead, it describes an event occurring after that decades-long period. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example illustrating the previous information about the soldiers’ contribution being overlooked for decades. Instead, it describes an event occurring after that decades-long period.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a1d0ada7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a1d0ada7

Despite its great distance from Earth—it is 570 light-years away—the star Shaula is one of the brightest stars in the sky, ranking 23rd. Although not as bright as Shaula, the star Alkaid also ranks among the 50 brightest stars (40th, to be exact). _____ Alkaid’s brightness is likely due to the star’s relative proximity: Alkaid is only 100 light-years from Earth.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Indeed,
- B. As a result,
- C. Granted,
- D. Similarly,

ID: a1d0ada7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Granted” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Alkaid’s brightness is likely due to its relative proximity to Earth—is a concession acknowledging that the star likely appears bright for different reasons than the faraway star to which it is compared, Shaula.

Choice A is incorrect because “indeed” illogically signals that the information in this sentence offers additional emphasis in support of the previous information about Alkaid ranking among the 50 brightest stars. Instead, the sentence concedes that the most likely reason Alkaid is counted among the sky’s brightest stars is its relative proximity to Earth. Choice B is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that Alkaid’s brightness is caused by the previous information about Alkaid ranking among the 50 brightest stars. Instead, the sentence concedes that the most likely reason Alkaid is counted among the sky’s brightest stars is its relative proximity to Earth. Choice D is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about Alkaid ranking among the 50 brightest stars. Instead, the sentence concedes that the most likely reason Alkaid is counted among the sky’s brightest stars is its relative proximity to Earth.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 623d13ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 623d13ec

Denali National Park and Preserve is an important tourist destination in Alaska. Many visitors assume that its \$15 entry fee is charged per vehicle. _____ that fee is charged per person.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Consequently,
- B. Second,
- C. Moreover,
- D. Actually,

ID: 623d13ec Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Actually” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the entry fee is charged per person—corrects the assumption described in the previous sentence that the fee is charged per vehicle.

Choice A is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the fee being charged per person is a consequence of visitors assuming the fee is charged per vehicle. Instead, the sentence corrects that assumption. Choice B is incorrect because “second” illogically signals that the fee being charged per person is a second point in a series following the previous information about what visitors assume. Instead, the sentence corrects that assumption. Choice C is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the fee being charged per person is merely an additional fact related to the previous information about what visitors assume. Instead, the sentence corrects that assumption.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 56269164

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 56269164

Establishing Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) is no easy task. Each month, readings of a single second from atomic clocks around the world are taken and sent to the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in France. _____ BIPM metrologists perform the meticulous work of assembling these minutely disparate readings into a globally shared time standard.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. There,
- B. In particular,
- C. For example,
- D. Conversely,

ID: 56269164 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "There" indicates that the work of calculating Coordinated Universal Time takes place at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in France. Because "there" indicates a location, it fits the context perfectly.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn't make sense here. This sentence is describing where the work of coordinating Coordinated Universal Time takes place, not giving an example of the work described in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn't make sense here. This sentence is describing where the work of coordinating Coordinated Universal Time takes place, not giving an example of the work described in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn't disagree with the previous sentence. They both describe the work involved in calculating Coordinated Universal Time.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 61028951

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 61028951

A potter choosing which type of clay to use for a piece considers two key factors: the desired look of the piece and its intended use. _____ earthenware clay is often used for decorative pieces because of its rustic look. This type of clay is not often used in industrial settings, though, because it is less durable than other clays.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Regardless,
- C. In conclusion,
- D. For example,

ID: 61028951 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The previous sentence tells us that potters think about the look and use of a piece when selecting clay. This sentence provides a specific example of a type of clay selected for its appearance, so the transition "for example" fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a restatement of the same idea. But this sentence does more than just restate the previous idea. Instead, it provides a more specific example of the idea presented in the first sentence. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with the previous sentence. Both sentences suggest that desired look plays a role in the selection of clay types for pottery pieces. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a concluding transition. But this sentence doesn't sum up the previous sentence. Instead, it gives a specific example of the idea presented in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 37f98c6e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 37f98c6e

In 2018, Kurt Luther and Vikram Mohanty created the web-based tool Civil War Photo Sleuth (CWPS). A user uploading an unknown Civil War soldier’s photograph to CWPS first tags the photo with all known information. _____ CWPS’s facial-recognition software analyzes twenty-seven different physical features and looks for matches to tagged images already in the database.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Then,
- B. In fact,
- C. Likewise,
- D. For example,

ID: 37f98c6e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Then” indicates that the events in this sentence took place after the events in the previous sentence. Only after users upload images of unknown soldiers can those images be analyzed.

Choice B is incorrect. This transition is used to emphasize the truth of a statement that modifies the previous statement. But this sentence doesn’t modify the step described in the previous statement: instead, it introduces an entirely new step in the process. So “in fact” wouldn’t make sense here. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new but related idea, which doesn’t make sense here. Analyzing the physical features in the uploaded photographs isn’t a similar idea, but rather the next step in the process. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Analyzing physical features is not an example of uploading and tagging an image.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c5a95f6b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c5a95f6b

In the early 1900s, Jovita Idár fought injustice on both sides of the Mexico–United States border. As a reporter for the Texas newspaper *La Crónica*, she voiced support for the Mexican people’s revolt against authoritarian rule. _____ she founded the League of Mexican Women, a group that advocated for the rights of Mexican Americans.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. For example,
- D. Rather,

ID: c5a95f6b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because “additionally” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Idár founded the League of Mexican Women—is another instance of Idár fighting injustice, this time advocating for the rights of Mexican Americans.

Choice B is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the information in this sentence sums up or concludes the discussion of Idár’s support for the Mexican people’s revolt. Instead, the founding of the League of Mexican Women is a separate instance of Idár fighting injustice. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example of how, as a newspaper reporter, Idár voiced support for the Mexican people’s revolt. Instead, the founding of the League of Mexican Women is a separate instance of Idár fighting injustice, this time in support of Mexican Americans. Choice D is incorrect because “rather” illogically signals that the information in this sentence offers a contrast or exception to the previous information about Idár’s support for the Mexican people’s revolt. Instead, the founding of the League of Mexican Women is a separate instance of Idár fighting injustice.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3c7c0593

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3c7c0593

In her 2012 analysis of tree rings from Japan’s Yaku Island, cosmic ray physicist Fusa Miyake noted an anomalous carbon-14 spike dating to 774–775 CE, indicating that a massive burst of radiation reached Earth during that time. _____ this unprecedented radiocarbon surge was dubbed a “Miyake event” in honor of its discoverer.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Fittingly,
- B. Similarly,
- C. However,
- D. In other words,

ID: 3c7c0593 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Fittingly" logically signals that the naming of an unprecedented radiocarbon surge for Fusa Miyake is appropriate to the situation, since Miyake is the person who identified the surge (through her Yaku Island tree-ring analysis).

Choice B is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about Miyake’s identification of a massive radiation burst through tree-ring analysis. Instead, the naming of the event for its discoverer is a fitting and appropriate outcome. Choice C is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about Miyake’s identification of a massive radiation burst through tree-ring analysis. Instead, the naming of the event for its discoverer is a fitting and appropriate outcome. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about Miyake’s identification of a massive radiation burst through tree-ring analysis. Instead, the naming of the event for its discoverer is a fitting and appropriate outcome.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 12496122

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 12496122

In November 1934, Amrita Sher-Gil was living in what must have seemed like the ideal city for a young artist: Paris. She was studying firsthand the color-saturated style of France’s modernist masters and beginning to make a name for herself as a painter. _____ Sher-Gil longed to return to her childhood home of India; only there, she believed, could her art truly flourish.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Still,
- B. Therefore,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Furthermore,

ID: 12496122 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Still” logically signals that the information about Sher-Gil in this sentence—that she longed to leave Paris and return to India—contrasts with what one would expect after reading about Sher-Gil’s experiences in Paris in the previous sentences.

Choice B is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information about Sher-Gil in this sentence is a result or consequence of the descriptions in the previous sentences. Instead, this information contrasts with what one would expect after reading about Sher-Gil’s experiences in Paris. Choice C is incorrect because “indeed” illogically signals that the information about Sher-Gil in this sentence offers additional emphasis in support of the descriptions in the previous sentences. Instead, this information contrasts with what one would expect after reading about Sher-Gil’s experiences in Paris. Choice D is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the information about Sher-Gil in this sentence offers additional support for or confirmation of the descriptions in the previous sentences. Instead, this information contrasts with what one would expect after reading about Sher-Gil’s experiences in Paris.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a39e5079

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a39e5079

Paleontologists once thought that early apes lived in tropical forests, but recent research suggests that they may have actually lived in savannas. Tropical forests are humid and have many trees spaced close together. _____ savannas are drier, and their trees are spaced further apart.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. In comparison,
- C. Firstly,
- D. In conclusion,

ID: a39e5079 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "In comparison" logically signals that the description of savannas in this sentence—that they are drier and their trees are spaced further apart—forms a comparison with the description of tropical forests in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the description of savannas in this sentence exemplifies the description of tropical forests in the previous sentence. Instead, this description forms a comparison with the description of tropical forests. Choice C is incorrect because "firstly" illogically signals that the description of savannas in this sentence indicates the first in a series of things. Instead, this description forms a comparison with the description of tropical forests in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the description of savannas in this sentence concludes or summarizes information in the previous sentences. Instead, this description forms a comparison with the description of tropical forests in the previous sentence.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b3e49ba5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b3e49ba5

On a chilly spring morning in a Virginia park, as sunlight crested the treetops, Kathrin Swoboda raised her Nikon D500 camera and captured an image that would win the Grand Prize in the 2019 Audubon Photography Awards: a red-winged blackbird, exhaling what appeared to be rings of smoke. _____ the “smoke” was actually the blackbird’s breath hitting the cold morning air as the bird sang.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Furthermore,
- B. For example,
- C. Therefore,
- D. Of course,

ID: b3e49ba5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Of course” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the smokelike effect in the image was actually the blackbird’s breath hitting the cold morning air—is an expected or self-evident clarification of the previous description of the bird appearing to exhale rings of smoke.

Choice A is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the smokelike effect merely adds to the previous description of the image. Instead, the sentence clarifies what produced the smokelike effect in the image. Choice B is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the smokelike effect provides a specific example of the previous description of the image. Instead, the sentence clarifies what produced the smokelike effect in the image. Choice C is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the smokelike effect is a result or consequence of the previous description of the image. Instead, the sentence clarifies what produced the smokelike effect in the image.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6b8ab3dd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6b8ab3dd

When following musical scores, professional opera singers like soprano Ana María Martínez take vocal directions from descriptive notations, typically in Italian, that appear alongside the musical notes. _____ these descriptive terms might guide the performer to sing *giocoso* (playfully) or *lento* (at a slow tempo).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. On the other hand,
- B. All the same,
- C. For example,
- D. In the second place,

ID: 6b8ab3dd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "For example" logically signals that this sentence supports the previous information about the descriptive notations opera singers use by providing specific examples of these notations: *giocoso* (playfully) and *lento* (at a slow tempo).

Choice A is incorrect because "on the other hand" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about the descriptive notations opera singers use. Instead, the sentence provides examples of these notations. Choice B is incorrect because "all the same" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous information about the descriptive notations opera singers use. Instead, the sentence provides examples of these notations. Choice D is incorrect because "in the second place" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second point that is separate from the previous information about the descriptive notations opera singers use. Instead, the sentence provides examples of these notations.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 91e0ea16

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 91e0ea16

As the Proto-Indo-European language split into different languages, many words evolved to sound very different than they had in their proto-language—but this wasn’t always the case. _____ words retained much of their original sound. The word “father,” for instance, sounds similar in Italian (padre), Latin (pater), and Sanskrit (pitar), three Proto-Indo-European descendants.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Moreover,
- C. Thus,
- D. Sometimes,

ID: 91e0ea16 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Sometimes” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that words retained much of their original sound—describes an occasional exception, elaborating on the previous statement that the evolution of words to sound very different from their proto-language origins “wasn’t always the case.”

Choice A is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information about words retaining much of their original sound contrasts with the previous statement. Instead, the sentence describes an occasional exception, elaborating on the previous statement that the evolution of words to sound very different from their proto-language origins “wasn’t always the case.” Choice B is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information about words retaining much of their original sound merely adds to the previous statement. Instead, the sentence describes an occasional exception, elaborating on the previous statement that the evolution of words to sound very different from their proto-language origins “wasn’t always the case.” Choice C is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information about words retaining much of their original sound is a result or consequence of the previous statement. Instead, the sentence describes an occasional exception, elaborating on the previous statement that the evolution of words to sound very different from their proto-language origins “wasn’t always the case.”

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 94260464

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 94260464

The Coastal Futures Conservatory in Virginia is known for creating aural representations of ecological data. One such effort combines underwater audio recorded in seagrass beds with data that track rising carbon levels in the seagrass. As carbon levels increase, the audio is correspondingly distorted; _____ listeners can “hear” the changes in the carbon levels.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. furthermore,
- B. by comparison,
- C. for instance,
- D. thus,

ID: 94260464 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Thus" logically signals that the information in this clause—that listeners can "hear" carbon levels increasing—is a result of the previous information about the audio distorting as carbon levels increase.

Choice A is incorrect because "furthermore" illogically signals that the information in this clause merely adds to the previous information about the audio distorting as carbon levels rise. Instead, the listeners’ ability to "hear" carbon levels increasing is a result of that distortion. Choice B is incorrect because "by comparison" illogically signals that the information in this clause is being compared to the information about the audio distorting as carbon levels rise. Instead, the listeners’ ability to "hear" carbon levels increasing is a result of that distortion. Choice C is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this clause is an example of how the audio distorts as carbon levels rise. Instead, the audio was distorted for the express purpose of representing ecological data; the listeners’ ability to "hear" carbon levels increasing is a direct, intended result of the distortion, not merely an example of it.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 001934e5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 001934e5

Okot p’Bitek’s poem *Song of Lawino* (1966) explores postcolonial Ugandan life through the eyes of a woman living in a rural village. With its vibrant imagery, biting satiric tone, and dexterous use of traditional Acholi song and phraseology, the poem inspired a generation of East African writers. _____ those who adopted its style are often referred to as Okot School poets.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. Fittingly,
- C. By comparison,
- D. Instead,

ID: 001934e5 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Fittingly” is a transition that means “appropriately” or “suitably,” and it is appropriate that writers who adopted their style from Okot p’Bitek would be known as the Okot School poets.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence is not disagreeing with anything—rather, it’s discussing how it makes sense for those writers who adopted Okot’s style to be known as the Okot School poets. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that compares two ideas. But this sentence is not comparing the Okot School poets and their style to Okot’s style. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence is not disagreeing with anything—rather, it’s discussing how it makes sense for those writers who adopted Okot’s style to be known as the Okot School poets.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ca12fa48

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ca12fa48

Few New Yorkers have heard Thelma Pollard’s name. _____ many have seen her work in the famous Broadway musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. As the musical’s longtime makeup supervisor, Pollard put the iconic makeup on the face of the Phantom himself.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Therefore,
- C. For example,
- D. However,

ID: ca12fa48 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "However" logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that many New Yorkers have seen Pollard’s work in a famous Broadway musical—is true despite the previous information that few New Yorkers have heard Pollard’s name.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to the previous information that few New Yorkers have heard Pollard’s name. Instead, the claim that many New Yorkers have seen Pollard’s work is true despite the previous information. Choice B is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is a result of the previous information that few New Yorkers have heard Pollard’s name. Instead, the claim that many New Yorkers have seen Pollard’s work is true despite the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the previous information that few New Yorkers have heard Pollard’s name. Instead, the claim that many New Yorkers have seen Pollard’s work is true despite the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 31484809

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 31484809

Small, flat structures called spatulae are found at the tips of the hairs on a spider’s leg. These spatulae temporarily bond with the atoms of whatever they touch. _____ spiders are able to cling to and climb almost any surface.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. However,
- C. Similarly,
- D. As a result,

ID: 31484809 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “As a result” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that spiders can cling to and climb almost any surface—is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae.

Choice A is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae. Choice B is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae. Choice C is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to, but separate from, the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the claim is because of the previous information about the bonding properties of spiders’ spatulae.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7adaf4b7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7adaf4b7

Most of the planets that have been discovered outside our solar system orbit G-type stars, like our Sun. In 2014, _____ researchers identified a planet orbiting KELT-9, a B-type star more than twice as massive and nearly twice as hot as the Sun. Called KELT-9b, it is one of the hottest planets ever discovered.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. likewise,
- B. however,
- C. therefore,
- D. for example,

ID: 7adaf4b7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The word “however” logically signals that the information in this sentence about the planet KELT-9b—that it orbits a B-type star—contrasts with the previous information about planets discovered outside our solar system. Most of these planets orbit G-type stars, not B-type stars.

Choice A is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the information about the planet KELT-9b is similar to the previous information about most planets outside our solar system. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice C is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information about the planet KELT-9b is a result of the previous information about most planets outside our solar system. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information about the planet KELT-9b is an example of the previous information about most planets outside our solar system. Instead, it contrasts with that information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b6e53278

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b6e53278

Arkansas aviator Louise Thaden was already a record breaker when she won the inaugural National Women’s Air Derby, a race from California to Ohio, in August of 1929. _____ in December of 1928, Thaden had set an aviation record when she reached an altitude of 20,269 feet in a Travel Air biplane.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Earlier,
- B. However,
- C. Next,
- D. As a result,

ID: b6e53278 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift back in time. Since the first sentence talks about Thaden’s race win in 1929 and the second shifts back to talking about her record in 1928, this makes the most sense here.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence actually agrees with and expands on the previous sentence by describing the earlier record that Thaden had "already" held. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates a shift forward in time, which doesn’t make sense here. A record in 1928 didn’t come after Thaden’s race win in 1929. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense in this context—an event in 1929 can’t cause something in 1928.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d27fe5c7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d27fe5c7

In ArtMed inSight, a series of art-based medical education classes taught by Anne Willieme, medical students learn to use techniques more often associated with the arts, such as slowing down interpretation and considering multiple perspectives. _____ Willieme’s students develop better observational skills, enhancing their ability to understand and diagnose patients effectively.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. In doing so,
- C. For example,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: d27fe5c7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “In doing so” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the medical students develop better observational skills—is an outcome of the action described in the previous sentence (the students learning art-based techniques).

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the students developing better observational skills contrasts with the previous information about learning art-based techniques. Instead, the students’ improved skills are a direct result of learning those techniques. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the students developing better observational skills is a specific example of learning art-based techniques. Instead, the students’ improved skills are a direct result of learning those techniques. Choice D is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the students develop better observational skills despite the previous information about learning art-based techniques. Instead, the students’ improved skills are a direct result of learning those techniques.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0f0f0908

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0f0f0908

Historians agree that the jazz pianist Jelly Roll Morton was exaggerating when he claimed to have invented jazz music. No one can deny, _____ that Morton’s innovative compositions and remarkable improvisational skills helped shape jazz as a genre during its early years.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. therefore,
- B. in the second place,
- C. in other words,
- D. though,

ID: 0f0f0908 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Though" logically signals that the claim in the sentence—that Morton’s improvisational skills helped shape jazz as a genre during its early years ("No one can deny" it)—is true despite the previous information about Morton’s exaggerated claim to have invented jazz.

Choice A is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a result of the previous information about Morton’s claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration. Choice B is incorrect because "in the second place" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a second, separate point in addition to Morton’s claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration. Choice C is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about Morton’s claim to have invented jazz. Instead, the sentence states that Morton helped to shape jazz—even if his claim was an exaggeration.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e8cc4581

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e8cc4581

Although novels and poems are considered distinct literary forms, many authors have created hybrid works that incorporate elements of both. Bernardine Evaristo’s *The Emperor’s Babe*, _____ is a verse novel, a book-length narrative complete with characters and a plot but conveyed in short, crisp lines of poetry rather than prose.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. by contrast,
- B. consequently,
- C. secondly,
- D. for example,

ID: e8cc4581 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that *The Emperor’s Babe* is a novel conveyed in lines of poetry—exemplifies the claim in the previous sentence about hybrid works that incorporate elements of both novels and poems.

Choice A is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the claim about hybrid works in the previous sentence. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work. Choice B is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a consequence, or result, of the claim about hybrid works in the previous sentence. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work. Choice C is incorrect because “secondly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous sentence’s claim about hybrid works. Instead, the information demonstrates that Evaristo’s novel is an example of a hybrid work.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 880fb794

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 880fb794

Before California’s 1911 election to approve a proposition granting women the right to vote, activists across the state sold tea to promote the cause of suffrage. In San Francisco, the Woman’s Suffrage Party sold Equality Tea at local fairs. _____ in Los Angeles, activist Nancy Tuttle Craig, who ran one of California’s largest grocery store firms, distributed Votes for Women Tea.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. To conclude,
- C. Similarly,
- D. In other words,

ID: 880fb794 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Similarly” logically signals that the activity described in this sentence (Nancy Tuttle Craig distributing Votes for Women Tea in her Los Angeles grocery stores) is like the activity described in the previous sentence (the Woman’s Suffrage Party selling Equality Tea at fairs in San Francisco). Together, the two examples support the preceding claim that “activists across the state sold tea to promote the cause of suffrage.”

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence exemplifies the activity described in the previous sentence. Instead, the two activities are similar, and both support the preceding claim about selling tea to promote women’s right to vote. Choice B is incorrect because “to conclude” illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence concludes or summarizes the information in the previous sentences. Instead, the activity is similar to the one described in the previous sentence, and both support the preceding claim about selling tea to promote women’s right to vote. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence paraphrases the activity described in the previous sentence. Instead, the two activities are similar, and both support the preceding claim about selling tea to promote women’s right to vote.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0bd67bd5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0bd67bd5

Spanish surrealist Oscar Dominguez, like many of his contemporaries, wanted to incorporate elements of chance and randomness in his artistic process. _____ he employed techniques that produced random, unpredictable results, such as decalcomania, which involved pressing a blank canvas onto a paint-covered surface to generate abstract patterns.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. With this in mind,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. In conclusion,
- D. Regardless,

ID: 0bd67bd5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "With this in mind" logically signals that the activity described in this sentence—Dominguez’s use of techniques like decalcomania to produce unpredictable abstract patterns—is a result of his desire to include random elements in his art.

Choice B is incorrect. "On the contrary" illogically signals that the activity in this sentence opposes or is contrary to Dominguez’s desire to use random elements in his art. Instead, his use of decalcomania is a result of that desire. Choice C is incorrect. "In conclusion" illogically signals that the activity in this sentence is a conclusion or summary of Dominguez’s desire to use random elements in his art. Instead, his use of decalcomania is a result of that desire. Choice D is incorrect. "Regardless" illogically signals that the activity in this sentence occurs despite Dominguez’s desire to use random elements in his art. Instead, his use of decalcomania is a result of that desire.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 83628620

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 83628620

Biographer Michael Gorra notes that the novelist Henry James “lived in a world of second thoughts,” frequently tinkering with his novels and stories after their initial publication. However, the differences between the 1881 first edition and the 1908 edition of his novel *A Portrait of a Lady* are extreme, even by James’s standards; _____ some critics regard the two editions as two different novels altogether.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. by contrast,
- B. in fact,
- C. nevertheless,
- D. in other words,

ID: 83628620 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "In fact" logically signals that the critics’ claim at the end of this sentence—that the two editions are essentially two different novels altogether—offers additional emphasis in support of the previous claim that the differences between the editions are extreme.

Choice A is incorrect because "by contrast" illogically signals that the claim at the end of this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the differences between the editions. Instead, the critics’ opinion offers additional emphasis in support of that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the claim at the end of this sentence is true despite the previous claim about the differences between the two editions. Instead, the critics’ opinion offers additional emphasis in support of that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim at the end of this sentence is merely paraphrasing the previous claim about the differences between the two editions. The critics’ opinion adds new information to the previous claim rather than simply paraphrasing it.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 12c2aee9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 12c2aee9

The 435 state districts in the US House of Representatives are designed to be roughly equal in population. These districts average around 760,000 people in size. However, only about 730,000 people live in the state of Alaska. _____ Alaska has just one House district, encompassing the entire state.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Instead,
- C. Finally,
- D. For instance,

ID: 12c2aee9 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "As a result" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that, in the US House of Representatives, the entire state of Alaska has just one district—is the result or consequence of Alaska having only about 730,000 people. This is slightly below the average for House districts, which are designed to have roughly equal populations.

Choice B is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that Alaska having just one state district is an alternative to the information about the state’s population in the previous sentence. Rather, the fact that Alaska has just one district is a result or consequence of the entire state having slightly fewer people than an average-sized district. Choice C is incorrect because "finally" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Alaska having just one district indicates a last step in a process or a concluding summary. Instead, the fact that Alaska has just one district is a result or consequence of the entire state having slightly fewer people than an average-sized district. Choice D is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Alaska having just one district exemplifies the information about the state’s population in the previous sentence. Instead, the fact that Alaska has just one district is a result or consequence of the entire state having slightly fewer people than an average-sized district.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID dc8a610f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: dc8a610f

Organisms have evolved a number of surprising adaptations to ensure their survival in adverse conditions. Tadpole shrimp (*Triops longicaudatus*) embryos, _____ can pause development for over ten years during extended periods of drought.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in contrast,
- B. for example,
- C. meanwhile,
- D. consequently,

ID: dc8a610f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “For example” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that tadpole shrimp embryos can pause development during extended periods of drought—exemplifies the previous sentence’s claim that organisms have evolved surprising adaptations to survive in adverse conditions.

Choice A is incorrect because “in contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim. Choice C is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim. Choice D is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a consequence, or result, of the claim about organisms in the previous sentence. Instead, it exemplifies this claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c580a963

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c580a963

Working together with the Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources, Dr. Lani Tsinnajinnie analyzed data about snowpack levels in the Chuska Mountains. She found that the snowpack (the amount of snow on the ground) was deepest in early March at lower elevations. At higher elevations, _____ the snowpack was deepest in mid-March.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in other words,
- B. for instance,
- C. on the other hand,
- D. in summary,

ID: c580a963 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "On the other hand" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that the snowpack at higher elevations in the Chuska Mountains was deepest in mid-March—contrasts with the previous information about the snowpack at lower elevations being deepest in early March.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that information in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about the snowpack at lower elevations. Instead, the information about the snowpack at higher elevations contrasts with that information. Choice B is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in the sentence exemplifies the previous information about the snowpack at lower elevations. Instead, the information about the snowpack at higher elevations contrasts with that information. Choice D is incorrect because "in summary" illogically signals that the information in the sentence summarizes the previous information about the snowpack at lower elevations. Instead, the information about the snowpack at higher elevations contrasts with that information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 03c58e74

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 03c58e74

The envelope-shaped paper bags common in the US 150 years ago were impractical for carrying goods. _____ because they were the only paper bags that could be mass-produced, these bags dominated the market. That all changed in the 1870s, when industrial designer Margaret Knight patented a machine to make flat-bottomed, foldable paper bags.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. For instance,
- C. Thus,
- D. In other words,

ID: 03c58e74 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “However” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that envelope-shaped bags dominated the market—contrasts with the previous claim that these bags were impractical for carrying goods.

Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example supporting the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags. Choice C is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags. Choice D is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase of the previous claim that envelope-shaped bags were impractical for carrying goods. Instead, the sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the bags.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 78d1eb90

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 78d1eb90

In 2019, researcher Patricia Jurado Gonzalez and food historian Nawal Nasrallah prepared a stew from a 4,000-year-old recipe found on a Mesopotamian clay tablet. When they tasted the dish, known as *pašrūtum* (“unwinding”), they found that it had a mild taste and inspired a sense of calm. _____ the researchers, knowing that dishes were sometimes named after their intended effects, theorized that the dish’s name, “unwinding,” referred to its function: to help ancient diners relax.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Therefore,
- B. Alternately,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Likewise,

ID: 78d1eb90 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Therefore" logically signals that the action described in this sentence—the researchers theorizing that the dish was named for its effect on diners—is a result or consequence of the previous observation that the dish had a calming effect.

Choice B is incorrect because "alternately" illogically signals that the action described in this sentence offers an alternative or contrast to the previous observation that the dish had a calming effect. Instead, the action is a result or consequence of that observation. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs despite the previous observation that the dish had a calming effect. Instead, the action is a result or consequence of that observation. Choice D is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that this sentence merely adds a second, similar detail to the previous observation that the dish had a calming effect. Instead, this sentence describes an action that is a result or consequence of that observation.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 41ed8f08

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 41ed8f08

In order to create the Global Positioning System (GPS), scientists had to develop an accurate mathematical model of Earth’s shape that accounted for various forces, such as tides. _____ it was mathematician Gladys West who wrote the computer program that could perform these necessary calculations.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Ultimately,
- B. In other words,
- C. Secondly,
- D. In addition,

ID: 41ed8f08 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Ultimately" logically signals that West’s completion of the computer program was the conclusion of the process described in the previous sentence, in which scientists working on GPS sought to develop a mathematical model of Earth.

Choice B is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about West’s program is a restatement of the information about the scientists’ efforts to develop a mathematical model of Earth. Instead, West’s program was the conclusion of those efforts. Choice C is incorrect because "secondly" illogically signals that West’s completion of the computer program was merely the next step in the scientists’ efforts to develop a mathematical model of Earth. Instead, West’s program was the conclusion of those efforts. Choice D is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that West’s completion of the computer program was merely additional information related to the scientists’ work on GPS. Instead, West’s program was the conclusion of the scientists’ efforts to develop a mathematical model of Earth.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 63126057

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 63126057

Paleontologists Jordan C. Mallon and David W.E. Hone used computer models to produce detailed *Tyrannosaurus rex* size estimates, incorporating factors such as growth rate, lifespan, and the size of available fossils. _____ the researchers determined that the largest *T. rex* possible could have been 70% heavier than the current largest-known specimens.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In addition to these factors,
- B. Despite these estimates,
- C. Further complicating these issues,
- D. Based on these models,

ID: 63126057 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Based on these models” logically signals that the research finding described in this sentence—that the largest *T. rex* could have been 70% heavier than the current largest-known specimens—is derived from the computer models described in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “in addition to these factors” illogically signals that the research finding about *T. rex* size presented in this sentence introduces factors beyond those noted in the previous sentence (growth rate, lifespan, and the size of available fossils). Instead, the finding is derived from the researchers’ models, which incorporated those factors. Choice B is incorrect because “despite these estimates” illogically signals that the research finding about *T. rex* size presented in this sentence is true despite the previous information about the researchers’ model-generated size estimates. Instead, the finding is derived from the researchers’ models. Choice C is incorrect because “further complicating these issues” illogically signals that the previous information about the researchers’ computer models presents difficulties and that the research finding about *T. rex* size presented in this sentence adds to those difficulties. Instead, the finding is simply derived from the researchers’ use of the models.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 472dcb8c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 472dcb8c

In 1933, the Twentieth Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified. The amendment mandates that presidential inaugurations be held on January 20, approximately ten weeks after the November election. _____ this amendment requires newly elected US senators and representatives to be sworn into their respective offices on January 3.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. For instance,
- C. Specifically,
- D. In addition,

ID: 472dcb8c Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “In addition” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the Twentieth Amendment requires newly elected US senators and representatives to be sworn in on January 3—is separate from and additional to the amendment’s mandate concerning presidential inaugurations.

Choice A is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the information in the sentence presents an alternative to or substitute for the Twentieth Amendment’s mandate concerning presidential inaugurations. Rather, the sentence presents a separate requirement in addition to that one. Choice B is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information in the sentence exemplifies the Twentieth Amendment’s mandate concerning presidential inaugurations. Instead, the sentence presents a separate requirement in addition to that one. Choice C is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the Twentieth Amendment’s mandate concerning presidential inaugurations. Instead, the sentence presents a separate requirement in addition to that one.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e04ef7ed

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e04ef7ed

Observing that a fire in a closed container soon went out, leading eighteenth-century scientists did not conclude that fresh air (specifically, oxygen) is necessary for combustion; instead, many theorized that the container’s air had become saturated with a substance called phlogiston. _____ when Joseph Priestley first isolated oxygen gas in 1774, he termed it “dephlogisticated air.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Alternatively,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: e04ef7ed Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "For this reason" logically signals that the reason Joseph Priestley termed oxygen "dephlogisticated air" was that he accepted the theory mentioned in the previous sentence—that the presence of phlogiston, rather than the absence of oxygen, causes fire in a closed container to go out.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about Priestley terming oxygen "dephlogisticated air" is a restatement of the previous theory concerning phlogiston. Instead, Priestley chose the term as a result of this theory. Choice C is incorrect because "alternatively" illogically signals that Priestley termed oxygen "dephlogisticated air" as an alternative to the previous theory concerning phlogiston. Instead, Priestley chose the term as a result of this theory. Choice D is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that Priestley termed oxygen "dephlogisticated air" despite the previous theory concerning phlogiston. Instead, Priestley chose the term as a result of this theory.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID efa23b3e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: efa23b3e

Voting members of the 2002 Latin Grammys were impressed by Banda Cuisillos’s album *Puras Rancheras Con Cuisillos* and its contribution to the banda genre, a form of regional Mexican music featuring large ensembles of wind instruments and drums that first developed in southern and central Mexico in the mid-nineteenth century. _____ they awarded the group the Best Banda Album award.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In contrast,
- B. Meanwhile,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Accordingly,

ID: efa23b3e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Accordingly" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the voting members awarded Banda Cuisillos the Best Banda Album award—is in accordance with, or results from, the previous information about the voters being impressed by Banda Cuisillos’s album.

Choice A is incorrect because "in contrast" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about voting members being impressed by Banda Cuisillos’s album. Instead, the voters’ decision to give the group the Best Banda Album award is in accordance with, or results from, that information. Choice B is incorrect because "meanwhile" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) the previous information about the voting members being impressed by Banda Cuisillos’s album. Instead, the voters’ decision to give the group the Best Banda Album award is in accordance with, or results from, that information. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information that follows is despite the information about the voting members being impressed by Banda Cuisillos’s album. Instead, the voters’ decision to give the group the Best Banda Album award is in accordance with, or results from, that information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7f89ad76

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7f89ad76

Plato believed material objects to be crude representations of unseen ideal forms. In his view, such abstract, nonmaterial forms are the ultimate source of knowledge. Aristotle disagreed, positing that knowledge is best obtained through direct engagement with the material world; _____ sensory experience of the material is the ultimate source of knowledge.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. regardless,
- B. admittedly,
- C. in other words,
- D. meanwhile,

ID: 7f89ad76 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “In other words” logically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows—that sensory experience is the source of knowledge—is a restatement of Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is true in spite of Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory. Choice B is incorrect because “admittedly” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is an exception to Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory. Choice D is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the claim about sensory experience that follows is separate from (while occurring simultaneously with) Aristotle’s theory from earlier in the sentence. Instead, this claim is a restatement of his theory.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a71354aa

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a71354aa

Phytoplankton play a crucial role in the ocean’s uptake of carbon from the atmosphere. When alive, these tiny marine organisms absorb atmospheric carbon via photosynthesis. _____ after they die, the phytoplankton sink to the seafloor, where the carbon in their cells gets stored in sediment, preventing it from cycling back into the atmosphere.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. By contrast,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Then,

ID: a71354aa Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Then” logically signals that the event described in this sentence—carbon in phytoplankton cells being trapped in sediment after the organisms have died—occurs later in a chronological sequence than the event described in the previous sentence (phytoplankton absorbing carbon while alive).

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information that follows provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. Choice B is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information that follows contrasts with the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. There is no contrast: in both life and death, phytoplankton contribute to the ocean’s carbon uptake. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information that follows is in spite of the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. There is no contrast: in both life and death, phytoplankton contribute to the ocean’s carbon uptake.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f0bcded2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f0bcded2

Marcel Duchamp intended his 1917 so-called ready-made sculpture *Fountain* to challenge then-prevailing conceptions about the nature of art. _____ Duchamp’s *Fountain* did just that, raising the question of whether displaying any object in an art gallery could be said to transform the object—even, as Duchamp’s sculpture was, a urinal—into a legitimate work of art.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. Indeed,
- C. Instead,
- D. In addition,

ID: f0bcded2 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Indeed" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the sculpture raised the question of whether displaying any object in an art gallery transforms the object into a work of art—offers emphasis in support of the claim in the previous sentence that the sculpture was intended to challenge conceptions about the nature of art.

Choice A is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that information in this sentence is similar to the claim about the sculptor’s intention in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about the question raised by the sculpture offers emphasis in support of that claim. Choice C is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an alternative to the claim about the sculptor’s intention in the previous sentence. Rather, the information about the question raised by the sculpture offers emphasis in support of that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact related to the claim about the sculptor’s intention in the previous sentence. Instead, the information about the question raised by the sculpture offers emphasis in support of that claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 776d22ed

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 776d22ed

Scientists were able to isolate a relatively pure sample of selenium in 1817, the same year they first discovered the element’s existence. _____ the isolation process took longer for molybdenum, which was isolated in its pure form three years after scientists first discovered it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. Thus,
- C. Similarly,
- D. For instance,

ID: 776d22ed Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "By contrast" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that isolating molybdenum was a relatively long process—contrasts with the previous information that isolating selenium was a short process.

Choice B is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous information about selenium’s short isolation process. Instead, the sentence presents contrasting information about molybdenum’s longer isolation process. Choice C is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about selenium’s short isolation process. Instead, the sentence presents contrasting information about molybdenum’s longer isolation process. Choice D is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this sentence exemplifies the previous information about selenium’s short isolation process. Instead, the sentence presents contrasting information about molybdenum’s longer isolation process.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c8a3f2c4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c8a3f2c4

In 1815, while in exile in Jamaica, Venezuelan revolutionary Simón Bolívar penned a letter praising England’s republican government and expressing hope that Latin American nations seeking independence from Spain might achieve something similar. The letter was addressed to a local merchant, Henry Cullen; _____ though, Bolívar’s goal was to persuade political leaders from England and Europe to support his cause.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. additionally,
- B. ultimately,
- C. accordingly,
- D. consequently,

ID: c8a3f2c4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Ultimately” means “in the long run” or “at the highest level.” Although Bolívar wrote to a local merchant, his ultimate goal was to send a message to political leaders in Europe. Therefore, “ultimately” fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of an agreeing idea. However, the second part of the sentence actually disagrees with the first part. Bolívar addressed the letter to Cullen, but he was really sending a message to someone else. Notice how the contrast word “though” also acts as a transition between these ideas. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition. Bolívar’s writing of the letter to Cullen would not cause him to have a goal of persuading European powers to support him. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition. Bolívar’s writing of the letter to Cullen would not cause him to have a goal of persuading European powers to support him.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bcc33d2c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bcc33d2c

Before the 1847 introduction of the US postage stamp, the cost of postage was usually paid by the recipient of a letter rather than the sender, and recipients were not always able or willing to pay promptly. _____ collecting this fee could be slow and arduous, and heaps of unpaid-for, undeliverable mail piled up in post offices.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. Consequently,
- D. For example,

ID: bcc33d2c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Consequently” logically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence (slow fee collection, heaps of undeliverable mail) were a consequence of the fee system described in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence occurred despite the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system. Choice B is incorrect because “on the contrary” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence contrast with the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system. Choice D is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the postal problems described in this sentence are an example of the fee system described in the previous sentence. Instead, they were a consequence of that system.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 036e238b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 036e238b

Every chemical compound has a spectroscopic fingerprint, a pattern of reflected light unique to that compound. _____ upon analyzing the light reflected by the bright regions on the surface of the dwarf planet Ceres, Maria Cristina De Sanctis of Rome’s National Institute of Astrophysics was able to determine that the regions contain large amounts of the compound sodium carbonate.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Regardless,
- B. Meanwhile,
- C. Thus,
- D. In comparison,

ID: 036e238b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Thus” logically signals that the action described in this sentence—the researcher being able to determine the chemical makeup of the planet’s bright regions based on how they reflect light—is a result or consequence of the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints.

Choice A is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence occurs despite the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because “meanwhile” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence either occurs at the same time as or offers an alternative to the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect because “in comparison” illogically signals that the action described in this sentence is being compared with the previous information about spectroscopic fingerprints. Instead, the finding in this sentence is a result or consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 35883aa2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 35883aa2

Earth’s auroras—colorful displays of light seen above the northern and southern poles—result, broadly speaking, from the Sun’s activity. _____ the Sun releases charged particles that are captured by Earth’s magnetic field and channeled toward the poles. These particles then collide with atoms in the atmosphere, causing the atoms to emit auroral light.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Hence,

ID: 35883aa2 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the Sun releases charged particles that later collide with atoms, resulting in auroral light—provides specific, precise details about how auroras result from the Sun’s activity.

Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is despite the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form. Choice D is incorrect because “hence” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the general information about auroras in the previous sentence. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details about how auroras form.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2a86a8f1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2a86a8f1

Giant dust plumes from the Sahara Desert that blow across the Atlantic Ocean can have complex and opposing effects on tropical cyclones. On one hand, the dust can enhance the formation of ice clouds in the cyclone’s core, increasing precipitation. _____ the dust can lower sea surface temperatures around the cyclone’s core, weakening the storm.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Previously,
- B. In other words,
- C. For example,
- D. On the other hand,

ID: 2a86a8f1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “On the other hand” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that dust can lower sea surface temperatures, weakening the storm—presents an opposing effect to the one described in the previous sentence, in which dust enhances ice cloud formation and increases precipitation.

Choice A is incorrect because “previously” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an event that occurred before the dust-enhanced ice cloud formation mentioned in the previous sentence. Instead, the dust lowering surface temperatures—and weakening the storm—is an opposing effect. Choice B is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about dust enhancing ice cloud formation. Instead, the dust lowering surface temperatures—and weakening the storm—is an opposing effect. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an example of the previous information about dust enhancing ice cloud formation. Instead, the dust lowering surface temperatures—and weakening the storm—is an opposing effect.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6cf93e91

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6cf93e91

As a young historian in the 1950s, Alixa Naff began interviewing fellow Arab American immigrants about their experiences straddling two cultures. Over the next few decades, Naff conducted more than 450 such interviews, also known as oral histories. _____ she collected photographs and other artifacts that represented her subjects’ experiences.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. In addition,
- D. Today,

ID: 6cf93e91 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "In addition" logically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting was separate from, and in addition to, her interviewing.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information about Naff’s artifact collecting restates the previous information about her interviewing. Instead, Naff collected artifacts in addition to conducting interviews. Choice B is incorrect because "on the contrary" illogically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting was contrary to her interviewing. Instead, Naff collected artifacts in addition to conducting interviews. Choice D is incorrect because "today" illogically signals that Naff’s artifact collecting is occurring in the present day. Instead, this activity occurred in the past, as indicated by the past tense verb "collected."

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 33474f6a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 33474f6a

Guard cells are specialized cells that are part of a plant’s pores. These cells help regulate the amount of carbon dioxide a plant takes in. _____ they help regulate a plant’s water loss.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. Previously,
- C. In conclusion,
- D. Instead,

ID: 33474f6a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Additionally" logically signals that guard cells’ role in regulating water loss is an additional function of these specialized plant cells that is separate from the function of regulating carbon dioxide intake.

Choice B is incorrect because "previously" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence occurs earlier in a chronological sequence of events than the regulation of carbon dioxide intake described in the previous sentence. Instead, regulating water loss is an additional function of guard cells that is separate from the function of regulating carbon dioxide intake. Choice C is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the description of guard cells’ role in regulating water loss concludes or summarizes the information about guard cells provided in the previous sentences. Instead, regulating water loss is one of the two distinct functions of guard cells described in the text. Choice D is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence happens in place of the activity of regulating carbon dioxide intake described in the previous sentence. Rather, regulating water loss is an additional function of guard cells.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e8b46333

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e8b46333

In his painting *At the Cycle-Race Track*, Jean Metzinger aims to depict a bike race in four-dimensional space. Of course, Metzinger’s painting doesn’t technically represent a fourth dimension; humans can only see in three dimensions. _____ by depicting the race through multiple, simultaneous perspectives, Metzinger offers a fascinating glimpse at what this other universe might look like.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Moreover,
- B. That said,
- C. In other words,
- D. For example,

ID: e8b46333 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "That said" logically signals that the statement in this sentence—that Metzinger offers a glimpse of four-dimensional space by depicting multiple, simultaneous perspectives—is true despite the point in the previous sentence (that Metzinger’s painting doesn’t technically represent a fourth dimension because humans can only see in three dimensions).

Choice A is incorrect because "moreover" illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous point about Metzinger’s painting. Instead, it provides information that is true despite that previous point. Choice C is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous point about Metzinger’s painting. Instead, it provides information that is true despite that previous point. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides an example that supports the previous point about Metzinger’s painting. Instead, it provides information that is true despite that previous point.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ebc64161

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ebc64161

The liquid metals in Earth’s core circulate constantly, and this circulation generates electrical currents that flow between Earth’s North and South magnetic poles. These electrical currents, _____ create a barrier around Earth that protects us from radiation and charged particles coming from space.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in turn,
- B. likewise,
- C. nevertheless,
- D. in reality,

ID: ebc64161 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "In turn" logically signals that the information in the sentence—that the electrical currents create a protective barrier around Earth—is a result or consequence of the previous information about the circulation of liquid metals generating electrical currents that flow between Earth’s magnetic poles.

Choice B is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that the information in the sentence is similar to the previous information about the circulation of liquid metals generating electrical currents that flow between Earth’s magnetic poles. Instead, the new information about the electrical currents is a direct result or consequence of the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in the sentence is true despite the previous information about the circulation of liquid metals generating electrical currents that flow between Earth’s magnetic poles. Instead, the new information about the electrical currents is a direct result or consequence of the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because "in reality" illogically signals that the information in the sentence contradicts the previous information about the circulation of liquid metals generating electrical currents that flow between Earth’s magnetic poles. Instead, the new information about the electrical currents is a direct result or consequence of the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 22942d20

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 22942d20

Archaeologist Sue Brunning explains why the seventh-century ship burial site at Sutton Hoo in England was likely the tomb of a king. First, the gold artifacts inside the ship suggest that the person buried with them was a wealthy and respected leader. _____ the massive effort required to bury the ship would likely only have been undertaken for a king.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. Still,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Second,

ID: 22942d20 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Second” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the effort to bury the ship would likely only have been made for a king—joins the information in the previous sentence (“first...”) in supporting Brunning’s claim that the burial site was likely the tomb of a king.

Choice A is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the information in this sentence presents an alternative or substitute to the previous information about the gold artifacts inside the ship. Rather, this sentence presents a second piece of information that supports Brunning’s claim. Choice B is incorrect because “still” illogically signals that the information in this sentence exists in contrast to or despite the previous information about the gold artifacts inside the ship. Instead, this sentence presents a second piece of information that supports Brunning’s claim. Choice C is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information in this sentence specifies or elaborates on the previous information about the gold artifacts inside the ship. Instead, this sentence presents a second piece of information that supports Brunning’s claim.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1163d21e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT/NMSQT & PSAT 10	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Transitions	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1163d21e

Originally coined by economist Joan Robinson to refer to markets with multiple sellers of a product but only one buyer, the term “monopsony” can also refer to markets where demand for labor is limited. In a product monopsony, the single buyer can force sellers to lower their prices. _____ in a labor monopsony, employers can force workers to accept lower wages.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Earlier,
- B. Instead,
- C. Similarly,
- D. In particular,

ID: 1163d21e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Similarly” logically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony is similar to the information in the previous sentence about a product monopsony. In both types of markets, one party (an employer or a buyer) has the power to force another party (a worker or seller) to accept less money (for labor or products).

Choice A is incorrect because “earlier” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony occurs earlier (in a chronological sequence) than the information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony. Choice B is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony is an alternative to the previous information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony. Choice D is incorrect because “in particular” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about a labor monopsony provides specific details elaborating on the previous information about a product monopsony. Instead, it is similar to the information about a product monopsony.

Question Difficulty: Medium