

Question ID 43942bc8

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: 43942bc8

If the formation of Earth’s mantle had been purely a product of core differentiation—whereby heavier elements sink toward the core and lighter elements rise—the upper mantle would be depleted of heavy siderophile elements. Siderophiles are much more abundant in the mantle than predicted in that model, however. _____ extraterrestrial material containing siderophiles, likely from asteroid or comet impacts, almost certainly accreted to Earth following core differentiation.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. That said,
- B. Hence,
- C. For example,
- D. Likewise,

ID: 43942bc8 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Hence" correctly signals that the claim in this sentence regarding extraterrestrial material follows logically from the information in the previous sentences. The previous sentences establish that siderophile elements in the mantle are more abundant than predicted in the core-differentiation model. This sentence claims, logically, that these elements came from extraterrestrial material that accreted to Earth *after* core differentiation.

Choice A is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the information in this sentence regarding extraterrestrial material is an exception to the previous information about siderophiles’ abundance in the mantle. Instead, it is a new claim that follows logically from the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence regarding extraterrestrial material exemplifies the previous information about siderophiles’ abundance in the mantle. Instead, it is a new claim that follows logically from the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that the information in this sentence regarding extraterrestrial material is merely similar to the previous information about siderophiles’ abundance in the mantle. Instead, it is a new claim that follows logically from the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 670150dd

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: 670150dd

When, in the 1800s, geologists first realized that much of Earth had once been covered by great sheets of ice, some theorized that the phenomenon was cyclical, occurring at regular intervals. Each Ice Age is so destructive, though, that it largely erases the geological evidence of its predecessor. _____ geologists were unable to confirm the theory of cyclical Ice Ages until the 1960s.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Hence,
- B. Moreover,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Next,

ID: 670150dd Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Hence” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that geologists couldn’t confirm the theory of cyclical Ice Ages until the 1960s—is a consequence of the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age and the erasure of necessary geological evidence.

Choice B is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely additional to the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age. Instead, the sentence identifies a specific consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the previous information about the destructiveness of each Ice Age. Instead, the sentence identifies a specific 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, the sentence identifies a specific consequence of the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4c435b31

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: 4c435b31

In 2009, the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles hosted a special exhibition, *Sueños/Yume*, showcasing the works of local sculptor Dora de Larios. As suggested by the show’s title (*sueños* and *yume* mean “dreams” in Spanish and Japanese, respectively), de Larios’s art reflects a mix of cultural influences. _____ her work is grounded in the artistic traditions of both Mexico and Japan.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In addition,
- B. In contrast,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Therefore,

ID: 4c435b31 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous sentence’s claim that de Larios’s art reflects a mix of cultures. This sentence specifies which cultures the previous sentence is referring to: the artistic traditions of both Mexico and Japan.

Choice A is incorrect because “in addition” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a separate point that follows the previous claim about de Larios’s art. Instead, it provides specific details elaborating on that claim. Choice B is incorrect because “in contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about de Larios’s art. Instead, it provides specific details elaborating on that claim. Choice D is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous claim about de Larios’s art. Instead, it provides specific details elaborating on that claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID dc6f6daa

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: dc6f6daa

Mary Ellen Pleasant, a successful entrepreneur during the gold rush era, earned the moniker “Mother of Human Rights in California” after successfully challenging discrimination in the state. _____ in 1866, she sued a streetcar company for denying her and other Black riders service, a suit she eventually won when the California Supreme Court declared it illegal for carriers to exclude passengers based on race.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. Then,
- C. In addition,
- D. Specifically,

ID: dc6f6daa Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information about Pleasant’s 1866 lawsuit provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous point that Pleasant successfully challenged discrimination in California.

Choice A is incorrect because "for this reason" illogically signals that Pleasant’s 1866 lawsuit was a result of her successful challenge to discrimination in California. Instead, this sentence provides specific details elaborating on her challenge to discrimination in the state. Choice B is incorrect because "then" illogically signals that Pleasant’s 1866 lawsuit was subsequent to or resulted from her successful challenge to discrimination in California. Instead, this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on how she challenged discrimination in the state. Choice C is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the information about Pleasant’s 1866 lawsuit is merely additional to the previous point that Pleasant successfully challenged discrimination in California. Instead, this sentence provides specific details elaborating on how she did so.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d51ea585

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: d51ea585

In a 2022 analysis of 200 terms, researchers found a broad pattern of valence-dependent mutation for which negative words saw a faster rate of cognate replacement—_____ the rate at which a word will be replaced over time with a noncognate form. Adjectives (e.g., “afraid”) saw the largest effect; nouns (e.g., “attack”), meanwhile, saw the smallest.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for example,
- B. likewise,
- C. in addition,
- D. that is,

ID: d51ea585 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "That is" logically signals that the information that follows in the sentence clarifies a term used in the previous discussion of the researchers’ findings: cognate replacement.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information that follows in the sentence provides a specific example of the research findings described earlier. Instead, it clarifies a term introduced earlier in the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that the information that follows in the sentence is similar to the previous information about the researchers’ findings. Instead, it clarifies a term introduced earlier in the sentence. Choice C is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the information that follows in the sentence merely adds to the previous information about the researchers’ findings. Instead, it clarifies a term introduced earlier in the sentence.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ef4dd7a4

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: ef4dd7a4

In astrophysics, a ring of debris orbiting a larger object within the object’s Roche limit is expected to persist as a ring, whereas a ring of debris orbiting outside this limit would likely accrete into a satellite (e.g., a moon). Bruno Morgado and colleagues, _____ detected a dense ring of material orbiting the trans-Neptunian object Quaoar at a distance of 2,500 miles, well outside the calculated Roche limit of 1,100 miles, that has remained intact.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. though,
- B. for example,
- C. fittingly,
- D. likewise,

ID: ef4dd7a4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Though” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Morgado and colleagues detected a dense ring orbiting outside the Roche limit that remained intact—presents an exception to the previous sentence’s claim about debris orbiting outside an object’s Roche limit. Such debris would be expected to accrete into a satellite, not remain intact as a ring.

Choice B is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information about Morgado’s discovery exemplifies the previous sentence’s claim about debris orbiting outside an object’s Roche limit. Instead, the sentence presents an exception to the claim. Choice C is incorrect because “fittingly” illogically signals that the information about Morgado’s discovery aligns with the previous sentence’s claim about debris orbiting outside an object’s Roche limit. Instead, the sentence presents an exception to the claim. Choice D is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the information about Morgado’s discovery is similar to the previous sentence’s claim about debris orbiting outside an object’s Roche limit. Instead, the sentence presents an exception to the claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e25284d4

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: e25284d4

Charles Demuth’s 1931 painting *Chimney and Water Tower* is a classic Precisionist work. The Precisionists strove for cold, machine-like perfection, with crisp lines, geometric shapes, and smooth, brushstroke-free surfaces. _____ Precisionist works often feature skyscrapers, bridges, and factories, highlighting these angular structures’ engineered symmetry.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Accordingly,
- B. In the end,
- C. That said,
- D. However,

ID: e25284d4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Accordingly” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Precisionist works often feature angular, symmetrical structures, such as skyscrapers, bridges, and factories—is in accordance with the previous claim about the Precisionist style of “cold, machine-like perfection, with crisp lines, geometric shapes, and smooth, brushstroke-free surfaces.”

Choice B is incorrect because “in the end” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a final conclusion or summary of the previous claim about the Precisionist style. Instead, the sentence describes features in Precisionist works that are in accordance with that style. Choice C is incorrect because “that said” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an exception to or qualification of the previous claim about the Precisionist style. Instead, the sentence describes features in Precisionist works that are in accordance with that style. Choice D is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous claim about the Precisionist style. Instead, the sentence describes features in Precisionist works that are in accordance with that style.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e9fc1b36

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: e9fc1b36

In the late twentieth century, scholars directed much discussion toward issues of spatiality. Adherents to quantitative analytical approaches delineated space with the use of GIS spatial technologies; _____ cultural geographer Doreen Massey defined space as the product of “an ever-shifting social geometry of power and signification,” focusing instead on socio-political forces.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for example,
- B. by contrast,
- C. as such,
- D. likewise,

ID: e9fc1b36 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "By contrast" logically signals that the information about how Massey defined space—by focusing on socio-political forces—contrasts with the information in the previous clause, which discusses quantitative analytical approaches and spatial technologies.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information that follows in the sentence exemplifies the quantitative analytical approaches to defining space described previously. Instead, the information about Massey’s socio-political focus presents a contrasting approach. Choice C is incorrect because "as such" illogically signals that the information that follows in the sentence is a direct result or logical consequence of the quantitative analytical approaches to defining space described previously. Instead, the information about Massey’s socio-political focus presents a contrasting approach. Choice D is incorrect because "likewise" illogically signals that the information that follows in the sentence is similar to the quantitative analytical approaches to defining space described previously. Instead, the information about Massey’s socio-political focus presents a contrasting approach.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 35cbd6ec

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: 35cbd6ec

Seismologists Kaiqing Yuan and Barbara Romanowicz have proposed that the magma fueling Iceland’s more than 30 active volcano systems emerges from deep within Earth. The great depths involved—nearly 3,000 km—mark Iceland’s volcanoes as extreme outliers; _____ many of Earth’s volcanoes are fed by shallow pockets of magma found less than 15 km below the surface.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. indeed,
- B. nevertheless,
- C. in addition,
- D. consequently,

ID: 35cbd6ec Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The second part of the sentence says that many volcanoes use shallow pockets of magma. This is an elaboration of the same underlying idea from the first part of the sentence, which says that the super deep magma of Icelandic volcanoes’ makes them outliers. “Indeed” is a transition used for elaborating on the same idea, so it fits the context perfectly.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But these two parts of the sentence agree with each other, so “nevertheless” doesn’t make sense. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new idea. But the second part of the sentence isn’t adding a new idea: it’s elaborating on the same idea expressed in the first part of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The fact that Iceland’s deep-magma volcanoes are outliers doesn’t cause many other volcanoes to get fed by shallow pockets of magma.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 92d0f66d

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: 92d0f66d

When one looks at the dark craggy vistas in Hitoshi Fugo’s evocative photo series, one’s mind might wander off to the cratered surfaces of faraway planets. _____ it’s the series’ title, *Flying Frying Pan*, that brings one back to Earth, reminding the viewer that each photo is actually a close-up view of a familiar household object: a frying pan.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Consequently,
- B. Alternatively,
- C. Ultimately,
- D. Additionally,

ID: 92d0f66d Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The first sentence describes an experience that the viewer has when they’re looking at the photos: they imagine other planets. This sentence describes an experience that the viewer has afterward: the title reminds them that the photos are of frying pans, bringing them back to reality. “Ultimately” is a transition that means “eventually” or “in the end,” so it fits the context perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The viewer imagining other planets when they’re looking at the photos doesn’t cause the title to bring them back to reality. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates another option or possibility, which doesn’t make sense here. Rather, the viewer has both experiences: first the viewer imagines that they’re looking at another planet, and then the title reminds them that it’s just a frying pan. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of an agreeing idea. But the viewer’s experience in the second sentence is actually the opposite of the viewer’s experience in the first sentence. In the first sentence, the viewer is imagining that they’re seeing a landscape from another planet. In the second sentence, the viewer is reminded that they’re looking at a frying pan.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7c7c053e

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: 7c7c053e

Economist Elinor Ostrom’s studies of communities around the world have empirically demonstrated that common pool resources, such as grazing lands, can be sustainably managed by the people who use them (rather than through private entities or centralized governments). _____ Ostrom’s work is a repudiation of the “tragedy of the commons,” the view that individuals will inevitably overexploit a finite shared resource if given unfettered access to it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. For example,
- C. That said,
- D. As such,

ID: 7c7c053e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "As such" correctly signals that the claim in this sentence—that Ostrom’s work is a repudiation of the "tragedy of the commons" view—follows logically from the information about Ostrom’s studies in the previous sentence. According to that sentence, Ostrom’s studies demonstrate that common pool resources can in fact be sustainably managed by the people who use them.

Choice A is incorrect because "by contrast" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information about Ostrom’s studies in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim that Ostrom’s work repudiates the "tragedy of the commons" view follows logically from that information. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence exemplifies the information about Ostrom’s studies in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim that Ostrom’s work repudiates the "tragedy of the commons" view follows logically from that information. Choice C is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an exception or caveat to the information about Ostrom’s studies in the previous sentence. Instead, the claim that Ostrom’s work repudiates the "tragedy of the commons" view follows logically from that information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ecf184ed

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: ecf184ed

Upon first approaching artist Kurt Wenner’s *Dies Irae*, a colorful scene painted on the surface of a cobblestone street in Mantua, Italy, one might assume a deep hole filled with life-sized, classically styled sculptures had opened up in the street. _____ by expertly applying the principles of perspective, Wenner created merely the illusion of depth.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. As a result,
- D. Next,

ID: ecf184ed Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "On the contrary" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that *Dies Irae*’s appearance of depth is merely an illusion—contrasts with the previous statement about a viewer’s possible assumption regarding the street painting.

Choice A is incorrect because "additionally" illogically signals that this sentence is simply additional information about a viewer’s possible assumption regarding the street painting. Instead, the information about how Wenner achieved the illusion of depth contrasts with the previous sentence’s description of the illusion. Choice C is incorrect because "as a result" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of, or caused by, a viewer’s possible assumption regarding the street painting. Instead, the information about how Wenner achieved the illusion of depth contrasts with the previous sentence’s description of the illusion. Choice D is incorrect because "next" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is the next step in a process. Instead, the information about how Wenner achieved the illusion of depth contrasts with the previous sentence’s description of the illusion.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7955038f

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: 7955038f

With her room-sized installation *The Interstitium*, Iranian American artist Laleh Mehran succeeded in creating a space that felt, as intended, both “familiar and distant.” _____ with a video screen placed at the far end of the coal slag-encrusted room, her installation was reminiscent of a typical movie theater—albeit one found in a subterranean coal mine.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Next,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Instead,

ID: 7955038f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Indeed" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Laleh Mehran’s installation resembled both a typical movie theater and a coal mine—supports the previous sentence’s claim that the space Mehran created felt both "familiar and distant."

Choice A is incorrect because "next" illogically signals that the description of Laleh Mehran’s installation in this sentence is the next step in a process. Rather, it supports the previous sentence’s claim about Mehran’s installation. Choice B is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is true despite the claim about Laleh Mehran’s installation in the previous sentence. Rather, it supports that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that this sentence presents an alternative to the previous sentence’s claim about Laleh Mehran’s installation. Rather, it supports that claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d5608759

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: d5608759

The more diverse and wide ranging an animal’s behaviors, the larger and more energy demanding the animal’s brain tends to be. _____ from an evolutionary perspective, animals that perform only basic actions should allocate fewer resources to growing and maintaining brain tissue. The specialized subtypes of ants within colonies provide an opportunity to explore this hypothesis.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Subsequently,
- B. Besides,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. Thus,

ID: d5608759 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Thus” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that animals performing only basic actions should allocate relatively few resources to their brain tissue—is a consequence of the previous sentence’s claim about the energy demands of animal brains (namely, that the more diverse an animal’s behaviors, the more energy its brain needs).

Choice A is incorrect because “subsequently” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence occurs later in a chronological sequence of events than the previous sentence’s claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first. Choice B is incorrect because “besides” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence provides a separate point in addition to, or apart from, the previous sentence’s claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first. Choice C is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is true in spite of the previous sentence’s claim about the energy demands of animal brains. Instead, the second claim is a consequence of the first.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 22372289

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: 22372289

A research team led by Gal Badihi has discovered that chimpanzees communicate through exchanges of gestures occurring at a pace similar to that of human conversations. _____ chimpanzee gesture exchanges have short pauses of about 120 milliseconds between communications, comparable to the 200-millisecond average pause between turns in human speech.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. Specifically,
- C. By contrast,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: 22372289 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Specifically” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that pauses between chimpanzee gestures average about 120 milliseconds, comparable to the 200-millisecond average pause in human speech—provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous sentence’s claim about the pace of chimpanzee communication being similar to that of human conversations.

Choice A is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that this sentence presents a result or consequence of the claim about chimpanzee communication described in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence provides specific details elaborating on that claim. Choice C is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information about chimpanzee gesture exchanges in this sentence contrasts with the previous sentence’s claim about the pace of chimpanzee communication being similar to that of human conversations. Instead, the sentence provides specific details elaborating on that claim. Choice D is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information about chimpanzee gesture exchanges in this sentence is true despite the previous claim about the pace of chimpanzee communication. Instead, the sentence provides specific details elaborating on that claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d46f10a9

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: d46f10a9

The Madison is a type of line dance that involves neat rows of dancers performing a repeated sequence of steps in unison. _____ many other dances are also defined by order, repetition, and synchronicity, but the Madison is distinguished by its extreme uniformity; when an auditorium full of dancers performs the Madison, one almost gets the impression of a military march.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Of course,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Moreover,

ID: d46f10a9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Of course" logically signals that the information that follows—about many dances being "defined by order, repetition, and synchronicity"—acknowledges an obvious similarity between these dances and the previous description of the Madison. The sentence then goes on to emphasize a distinguishing feature of the Madison.

Choice A is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the information that follows contrasts with the previous description of the Madison. Instead, the information about many dances’ features acknowledges an obvious similarity between these dances and the Madison. The sentence then goes on to emphasize a distinguishing feature of the Madison. Choice C is incorrect because "specifically" illogically signals that the information that follows specifies or elaborates on the previous description of the Madison. Instead, the information about many dances’ features acknowledges an obvious similarity between these dances and the Madison. The sentence then goes on to emphasize a distinguishing feature of the Madison. Choice D is incorrect because "moreover" illogically signals that the information that follows adds to or expands on the previous description of the Madison. Instead, the information about many dances’ features acknowledges an obvious similarity between these dances and the Madison. The sentence then goes on to emphasize a distinguishing feature of the Madison.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 32c0164e

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: 32c0164e

One poll taken after the first 1960 presidential debate suggested that John Kennedy lost badly: only 21 percent of those who listened on the radio rated him the winner. _____ the debate was ultimately considered a victory for the telegenic young senator, who rated higher than his opponent, Vice President Richard Nixon, among those watching on the new medium of television.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Therefore,
- C. Likewise,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: 32c0164e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Nevertheless” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that the telegenic Kennedy was ultimately considered the winner of the debate—is true despite the previous information about the poll of radio listeners.

Choice A is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is a paraphrase of the previous information about the poll of radio listeners. Instead, Kennedy was ultimately considered the winner despite what that poll suggested about his performance. Choice B is incorrect because “therefore” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is a result of the previous information about the poll of radio listeners. Instead, Kennedy was ultimately considered the winner despite what that poll suggested about his performance. Choice C is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to the previous information about the poll of radio listeners. Instead, Kennedy was ultimately considered the winner despite what that poll suggested about his performance.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8b671531

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: 8b671531

According to Duverger’s law, countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections for single-member districts tend to polarize into two-party systems, wherein dueling political parties consistently dominate the political system. _____ countries with proportional-representation electoral systems tend to support multi-partyism, under which power gets distributed among many political parties.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Subsequently,
- B. Conversely,
- C. For instance,
- D. In other words,

ID: 8b671531 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Conversely" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that countries with proportional-representation electoral systems tend toward multi-partyism—contrasts with the previous information about countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections, which tend to have two-party systems.

Choice A is incorrect because "subsequently" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems occurs later in a chronological sequence of events than the information in the previous sentence. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems is an example supporting the previous statement about countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections. Instead, it contrasts with the previous statement. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about countries with proportional-representation electoral systems is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about countries with single-ballot majoritarian elections. Instead, it contrasts with the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5278d41f

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: 5278d41f

Many historical accounts of the 1930s focus on the widespread movement of people from dust bowl–ravaged Great Plains states to faraway California. However, a 2016 study of 1940 census data complicates this popular narrative; _____ researchers determined, migrants in states hardest hit by prolonged droughts and dust storms—Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas—merely relocated within the region.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for this reason,
- B. more often,
- C. additionally,
- D. nevertheless,

ID: 5278d41f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “More often” logically signals that the historical outcome in this clause—dust bowl migrants’ relocation within the Great Plains region—was more common than the movement to California described in many historical accounts.

Choice A is incorrect because “for this reason” illogically signals that the historical outcome in this clause was caused by either the narrative about widespread movement to California or the 2016 study’s complication of that narrative. Instead, dust bowl migrants’ regional relocation was found to be more common than the movement to California described in many historical accounts. Choice C is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the historical outcome in this clause merely adds to either the narrative about widespread movement to California or the 2016 study’s complication of that narrative. Instead, dust bowl migrants’ regional relocation was found to be more common than the movement to California described in many historical accounts. Choice D is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the historical outcome in this clause is true despite either the narrative about widespread movement to California or the 2016 study’s complication of that narrative. While the findings about dust bowl migrants’ regional relocation did challenge the previous narrative, they did not challenge the study’s findings, and this choice creates a confusing ambiguity. Instead, dust bowl migrants’ regional relocation was found to be more common than the movement to California described in many historical accounts.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 6ec6396a

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: 6ec6396a

Modernista architects championed nature in their designs. _____ the wavy staircase and ornate floral tilework of Hospital de Sant Pau, a Modernista hospital designed by Lluís Domènech i Montaner, couldn't exactly grow in a forest. Still, one sees natural influences in Domènech i Montaner's penchant for curves (rather than right angles) and plant- and animal-inspired flourishes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Furthermore,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Of course,
- D. Thus,

ID: 6ec6396a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Of course" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that "the wavy staircase and ornate floral tilework" of the Modernista hospital couldn't actually grow in a forest—acknowledges an obvious limitation of, or qualification to, the previous claim that Modernista architects championed nature in their designs.

Choice A is incorrect because "furthermore" illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous claim that Modernista architects championed nature in their designs. Instead, the sentence acknowledges an obvious limitation in how literally that natural influence was expressed in the hospital's features. Choice B is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous claim that Modernista architects championed nature in their designs. Instead, the sentence acknowledges an obvious limitation in how literally that natural influence was expressed in the hospital's features. Choice D is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous claim that Modernista architects championed nature in their designs. Instead, the sentence acknowledges an obvious limitation in how literally that natural influence was expressed in the hospital's features.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 1bb13094

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: 1bb13094

Al-Andalus, the historical region of the Iberian Peninsula that includes most of modern-day Spain, was ruled by various Arabic-speaking Muslim states between the eighth and fifteenth centuries. _____ many Arabic words, such as “alacrán”—meaning “scorpion”—made their way into the Spanish language.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. Instead,
- C. Specifically,
- D. Consequently,

ID: 1bb13094 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Consequently” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that many Arabic words entered the Spanish language—is a result or consequence of the previous information about Arabic-speaking Muslim states ruling Al-Andalus for centuries.

Choice A is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information about Arabic words entering Spanish exemplifies the Arabic-speaking history of Al-Andalus mentioned in the previous sentence. Instead, Arabic words entering Spanish is a consequence of that history. Choice B is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the information about Arabic words entering Spanish provides an alternative to the Arabic-speaking history of Al-Andalus mentioned in the previous sentence. The information about Arabic words entering Spanish is a consequence of that history. Choice C is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information about Arabic words entering Spanish provides specific details elaborating on the Arabic-speaking history of Al-Andalus mentioned in the previous sentence. Instead, Arabic words entering Spanish is a consequence of that history.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f557b14f

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: f557b14f

In *Color Charts: A History* (2024), anthropologist Anne Varichon uses vivid prose to describe various systems and tools that have been used over the past few centuries for categorizing colors. _____ Varichon’s book features many high-quality images of these color presentation tools—from fanlike arrangements of hued fabric swatches to clusters of dyed feathers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Consequently,
- B. Additionally,
- C. That said,
- D. Specifically,

ID: f557b14f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Additionally” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Varichon’s book features many high-quality images of color presentation tools—is an additional feature of the book, supplementing the vivid prose descriptions of these tools mentioned in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the information about the book’s high-quality images is a result or consequence of the previous statement about Varichon’s vivid prose descriptions. Instead, the images are an additional feature of the book. Choice C is incorrect because “that said” illogically signals that the information about the book’s high-quality images is an exception to or qualification of the previous statement about Varichon’s vivid prose descriptions. Instead, the images are an additional feature of the book. Choice D is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information about the book’s high-quality images provides specific, precise details about the vivid prose descriptions mentioned in the previous sentence. Instead, the images are an additional feature of the book.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3f499ef0

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: 3f499ef0

When designing costumes for film, American artist Suttirat Larlarb typically custom fits the garments to each actor. _____ for the film *Sunshine*, in which astronauts must reignite a dying Sun, she designed a golden spacesuit and had a factory reproduce it in a few standard sizes; lacking a tailor-made quality, the final creations reflected the ungainliness of actual spacesuits.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Nevertheless,
- B. Thus,
- C. Likewise,
- D. Moreover,

ID: 3f499ef0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Nevertheless” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the spacesuits Suttirat Larlarb designed for the film *Sunshine* were made in standard sizes in a factory—presents a notable exception to Larlarb’s typical approach of custom-fitting garments to actors, which is described in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previous information about Larlarb’s typical approach of custom-fitting garments to actors. Instead, it presents a notable exception to Larlarb’s typical approach. Choice C is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about Larlarb’s typical approach of custom-fitting garments to actors. Instead, it presents a notable exception to Larlarb’s typical approach. Choice D is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about Larlarb’s typical approach of custom-fitting garments to actors. Instead, it presents a notable exception to Larlarb’s typical approach.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f9897bd2

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: f9897bd2

With his room-sized installation *Unicorn/My Private Sky*, Norwegian artist Børre Sæthre succeeds in creating a whimsical yet perplexing experience. _____ when visitors set foot inside the fantastically blue room and encounter the life-sized stuffed unicorn preening at the far end of it, they are both dazzled and confused—as if stepping into a strange and enchanting new world.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Second,
- B. Instead,
- C. Indeed,
- D. Nevertheless,

ID: f9897bd2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Indeed" logically signals that the description of the art installation in this sentence—its blue room and preening unicorn that leave visitors "dazzled and confused"—offers additional emphasis in support of the previous sentence’s claim about the installation’s "whimsical yet perplexing experience."

Choice A is incorrect because "second" illogically signals that the description in this sentence is a second, separate claim from the previous sentence’s claim about the installation’s "whimsical yet perplexing experience." Instead, the specific details describing the installation emphasize and support the previous claim. Choice B is incorrect because "instead" illogically signals that the description in this sentence is an alternative to the previous sentence’s claim about the installation’s "whimsical yet perplexing experience." Rather, the specific details describing the installation emphasize and support that claim. Choice D is incorrect because "nevertheless" illogically signals that the description in this sentence is true despite the previous sentence’s claim about the installation’s "whimsical yet perplexing experience." Instead, the specific details describing the installation emphasize and support that claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7d1f9125

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: 7d1f9125

When printing paper money for the colony of Pennsylvania in the 1730s, Benjamin Franklin—then a Philadelphia shop owner—took steps to combat the circulation of counterfeit notes, such as weaving blue threads and muscovite (a reflective mineral) into the paper he used. _____ he stamped the notes with detailed imprints of sage leaves that proved difficult for forgers to replicate.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. That said,
- C. For example,
- D. Moreover,

ID: 7d1f9125 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Moreover" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Franklin stamped imprints on paper money to make forgery more difficult—adds to the previous information by describing Franklin’s other strategy for combatting forgers: weaving materials into the paper used for printing money.

Choice A is incorrect because "specifically" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information about Franklin’s other strategy for combatting forgers (weaving materials into paper). Instead, this information about stamping imprints on money adds new information. Choice B is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an exception to the previous information about Franklin’s other strategy for combatting forgers (weaving materials into paper). Instead, this information about stamping imprints on money adds new information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence serves as an example of the previous information about Franklin’s other strategy for combatting forgers (weaving materials into paper). Instead, this information about stamping imprints on money adds new information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID fb2ee1bb

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: fb2ee1bb

Jhumpa Lahiri’s story collection *Interpreter of Maladies* features multiple stories about romantic relationships. In “This Blessed House,” newlyweds argue over whether to replace items left by the previous owners of their new home. _____ in “A Temporary Matter,” a husband and wife attempt to rekindle their relationship during a four-night blackout.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Granted,
- B. For example,
- C. Likewise,
- D. Hence,

ID: fb2ee1bb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Likewise" is a transition that indicates the addition of a new but related idea. In this sentence, the author is providing another similar example to that discussed in the previous sentence. Therefore, "likewise" works best in this context.

Choice A 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 B is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The second story is not an example of the story in the previous sentence—it’s another, similar story. And while both stories exemplify the first sentence in the text, the transition we’re looking for isn’t actually connected to that sentence. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. The first story didn’t result in the events of the second story.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0552f6a7

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: 0552f6a7

In hindsight, given the ideas about the natural world circulating among British scientists in the 1800s, the theory of natural selection was an obvious next step. It may not have been a coincidence, _____ that Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace arrived at the concept independently. Indeed, contrary to the popular myth of the lone genius, theirs is not the first paradigm-shifting theory to have emerged from multiple scholars working in parallel.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. however,
- B. then,
- C. moreover,
- D. for example,

ID: 0552f6a7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Then" signals that this sentence’s claim about Darwin and Wallace follows logically from the previous information. In other words, both scientists independently arriving at the theory of natural selection was, arguably, an expected outcome of the circumstances mentioned in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about the ideas circulating among British scientists in the 1800s. Instead, this claim follows logically from that information. Choice C is incorrect because "moreover" illogically signals that the claim in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about the ideas circulating among British scientists in the 1800s. Instead, this claim follows logically from that information. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about the ideas circulating among British scientists in the 1800s. Instead, it presents a claim that follows logically from that information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7bfbcdda

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: 7bfbcdda

Jeffrey Gibson’s sculptural object *KNOW YOUR MAGIC, BABY*, an Everlast-brand exercise bag embroidered with multicolored beads and a fringe associated with the dances of the Ojibwe people, stitches together—literally and figuratively—recognizable symbols from both Native and non-Native cultures. _____ Gibson’s piece also blurs the distinction between contemporary art and traditional crafts.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Conversely,
- B. In so doing,
- C. For instance,
- D. In particular,

ID: 7bfbcdda Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "In so doing" logically signals that the information in this sentence about Gibson’s piece—that it blurs the distinction between contemporary art and traditional crafts—is a result or consequence of the piece’s blending of particular Native and non-Native cultural symbols.

Choice A is incorrect. "Conversely" illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous information about the blending of particular cultural symbols in Gibson’s piece. Instead, it presents a result or consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect. "For instance" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about the blending of particular cultural symbols in Gibson’s piece. Instead, it presents a result or consequence of that information. Choice D is incorrect. "In particular" illogically signals that this sentence provides specific details elaborating on the previous information about the blending of particular cultural symbols in Gibson’s piece. Instead, it presents a result or consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 6c1349af

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: 6c1349af

With their distinctive cone shapes and steeply sloping sides, the volcanoes Hverfjall (Iceland) and Toliman (Guatemala) may look similar from afar. Tehnuka Ilanko and other volcanologists, _____ can tell by how each was formed that Hverfjall is a cinder cone volcano, while Toliman is a composite volcano.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for example,
- B. in addition,
- C. therefore,
- D. though,

ID: 6c1349af Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Though" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that volcanologists can distinguish the two volcanoes by how they were formed—presents a qualification or exception to the previous statement that the volcanoes look similar. The volcanoes are actually of two different types.

Choice A is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence exemplifies the previous information about the volcanoes looking similar. Instead, the sentence presents a qualification to that apparent similarity—the volcanoes are actually of two different types. Choice B is incorrect because "in addition" illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about the volcanoes looking similar. Instead, the sentence presents a qualification to that apparent similarity—the volcanoes are actually of two different types. Choice C is incorrect because "therefore" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result of the previous information about the volcanoes looking similar. Instead, the sentence presents a qualification to that apparent similarity—the volcanoes are actually of two different types.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3b47e159

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: 3b47e159

Ugandan American professor Peter Nazareth believed that Elvis Presley’s music is best understood not as a homogeneous collection but as an anthology (because Elvis showcased the contributions of a wide range of gospel, blues, and rock artists). _____ Nazareth entitled his college course on Elvis and his music, which focused on Elvis’s many musical influences, “Elvis as Anthology.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. To that end,
- B. In sum,
- C. That is,
- D. In addition,

ID: 3b47e159 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "To that end" logically signals that the activity described in this sentence—Nazareth titling his course "Elvis as Anthology"—is meant to further Nazareth’s goal of helping others understand Presley’s music as an anthology with a wide range of influences.

Choice B is incorrect. "In sum" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence summarizes Nazareth’s view of Presley’s music as an anthology. Instead, titling his course "Elvis as Anthology" is a way for him to promote this view. Choice C is incorrect. "That is" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence is a clarification or interpretation of Nazareth’s view of Presley’s music as an anthology. Instead, titling his course "Elvis as Anthology" is a way for him to promote this view. Choice D is incorrect. "In addition" illogically signals that the activity described in this sentence is merely an additional fact about Nazareth. Instead, titling his course "Elvis as Anthology" is a way for him to promote his view of Presley’s music as an anthology.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3042bebc

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: 3042bebc

In his 2023 collection *The Diaspora Sonnets*, Filipino American poet Oliver de la Paz leverages the sonnet form’s “diamond-like quality of precision,” as he describes it. The poems often adhere scrupulously to the form’s centuries-old conventions, such as its characteristic fourteen-line length. In the twelve-line poem “Diaspora Sonnet at the Feeders Before the Freeze,” _____ de la Paz playfully subverts sonnet conventions, the poem’s truncated length conveying a sense of abruptness.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. fittingly,
- B. similarly,
- C. for example,
- D. by contrast,

ID: 3042bebc Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that one of de la Paz’s poems subverts sonnet conventions—contrasts with the previous information that his poems often adhere to sonnet conventions.

Choice A is incorrect because “fittingly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is an appropriate or expected outcome of the previous information about de la Paz’s adherence to sonnet conventions. Instead, de la Paz’s subversion of sonnet conventions contrasts with that information. Choice B is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is similar to the previous information about de la Paz’s adherence to sonnet conventions. Instead, de la Paz’s subversion of sonnet conventions contrasts with that information. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence exemplifies the previous information about de la Paz’s adherence to sonnet conventions. Instead, de la Paz’s subversion of sonnet conventions contrasts with that information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f82dae6b

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: f82dae6b

The mineral mtorolite is most commonly found in Zimbabwe. Mtorolite is cryptocrystalline, meaning that its crystalline structure is so fine that the individual crystals cannot be distinguished by the naked eye or even under a microscope. The crystals in microcrystalline minerals are also not visible to the naked eye; _____ they can usually be seen under a microscope.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. thus,
- B. for example,
- C. that said,
- D. similarly,

ID: f82dae6b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because "that said" logically signals that the information that follows—that the crystals of microcrystalline minerals can be seen with a microscope—is an exception to the previous information about the crystalline structure of minerals not being visible under a microscope.

Choice A is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information that follows is a direct result or consequence of the fact that the crystals of microcrystalline minerals aren't visible to the naked eye. Instead, the fact that they can be seen under a microscope is an exception to the previous information about crystalline minerals. Choice B is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information that follows exemplifies the fact that the crystals of microcrystalline minerals aren't visible to the naked eye. Instead, the fact that they can be seen under a microscope is an exception to the previous information about crystalline minerals. Choice D is incorrect because "similarly" illogically signals that the information that follows is similar or comparable to the fact that the crystals of microcrystalline minerals aren't visible to the naked eye. Instead, the fact that they can be seen under a microscope is an exception to the previous information about crystalline minerals.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 58d527eb

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: 58d527eb

In her poetry collection *Thomas and Beulah*, Rita Dove interweaves the titular characters’ personal stories with broader historical narratives. She places Thomas’s journey from the American South to the Midwest in the early 1900s within the larger context of the Great Migration. _____ Dove sets events from Beulah’s personal life against the backdrop of the US Civil Rights Movement.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Thus,
- C. Regardless,
- D. Similarly,

ID: 58d527eb Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Similarly” logically signals that the information in the sentence—that Dove situates Beulah’s life in the context of the US Civil Rights Movement—is similar to the previous information about Thomas and the Great Migration. Both sentences support the first sentence’s claim that Dove portrays her characters in the context of broader historical narratives.

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information about Beulah in this sentence provides specific details elaborating on the previous information about Thomas. Instead, it’s similar to the previous information about Thomas. Choice B is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information about Beulah in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previous information about Thomas. Instead, it’s similar to the previous information about Thomas. Choice C is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the information about Beulah in this sentence is true despite the previous information about Thomas. Instead, it’s similar to the previous information about Thomas.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b9236c75

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: b9236c75

Upper-atmospheric jets—phenomena whereby electrical discharges cause narrow cones of blue light to briefly burst upward from the tops of thunderclouds—have been observed reaching the ionosphere. The extreme altitudes involved (the ionosphere begins about 80 km above Earth) mark these gigantic jets as outliers; _____ the majority of jets reach heights of only 20 to 50 km.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. nevertheless,
- B. consequently,
- C. indeed,
- D. in addition,

ID: b9236c75 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Indeed” logically signals that the information that follows—that the majority of jets reach heights of only 20 to 50 km—offers additional emphasis in support of the previous claim that jets reaching the ionosphere (about 80 km above Earth) are outliers.

Choice A is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information about most jets reaching heights of only 20 to 50 km contrasts with the previous claim that jets reaching the ionosphere are outliers. Instead, it provides additional emphasis in support of that claim. Choice B is incorrect because “consequently” illogically signals that the information about most jets reaching heights of only 20 to 50 km is a consequence, or result, of some jets being outliers. Instead, it offers additional emphasis in support of the claim that jets reaching the ionosphere are outliers. Choice D is incorrect because “in addition” illogically signals that the information about most jets reaching heights of only 20 to 50 km merely adds to the previous claim that jets reaching the ionosphere are considered outliers. Instead, it provides additional emphasis in support of that claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID fc371659

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: fc371659

To perform a quad axel, a figure skater must leap into the air and complete four and a half rotations before landing, an extreme feat. _____ in 2022, when 17-year-old Ilia Malinin landed the first quad axel—considered the most difficult quad jump—in a high-level competition, the audience was left awestruck.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Moreover,
- B. Fittingly,
- C. Next,
- D. However,

ID: fc371659 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Fittingly" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the audience was amazed when Malinin landed the first quad axel—describes a suitable or appropriate reaction to the completion of this extremely difficult jump.

Choice A is incorrect. "Moreover" illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to the previous information about the difficulty of completing a quad axel. Instead, the audience’s amazement is a suitable or appropriate reaction to this accomplishment. Choice C is incorrect. "Next" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is simply the next step in a process. Instead, the audience’s amazement is a suitable or appropriate reaction to the accomplishment. Choice D is incorrect. "However" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is in contrast or an exception to the difficulty of completing a quad axel. Instead, the audience’s amazement is a suitable or appropriate reaction to this accomplishment.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e1defd85

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: e1defd85

In a heated debate in biogeography, the field is divided between dispersalists and vicariancists. _____ there are those who argue that dispersal is the most crucial determining factor in a species’ distribution, and those who insist that vicariance (separation due to geographic barriers) is. Biogeographer Isabel Sanmartín counts herself among neither.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Furthermore,
- B. By contrast,
- C. Similarly,
- D. That is,

ID: e1defd85 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “That is” logically signals that the information in this sentence, which explains the difference between the dispersalists’ position and the vicariancists’ position, clarifies the terms of the debate between dispersalists and vicariancists introduced in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely additional to (and separate from) the information in the previous sentence about the debate between dispersalists and vicariancists. Instead, the sentence clarifies the terms of the debate, explaining the difference between the dispersalists’ position and the vicariancists’ position. Choice B is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the information in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence clarifies the terms of the debate between dispersalists and vicariancists introduced in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely similar to (and separate from) the information in the previous sentence about the debate between dispersalists and vicariancists. Instead, the sentence clarifies the terms of the debate, explaining the difference between the dispersalists’ position and the vicariancists’ position.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b3717224

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: b3717224

When soil becomes contaminated by toxic metals, it can be removed from the ground and disposed of in a landfill. _____ contaminated soil can be detoxified via phytoremediation: plants that can withstand high concentrations of metals absorb the pollutants and store them in their shoots, which are then cut off and safely disposed of, preserving the health of the plants.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Alternatively,
- B. Specifically,
- C. For example,
- D. As a result,

ID: b3717224 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Alternatively” logically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence—removing toxic metals from the soil via phytoremediation—offers an alternative to the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground).

Choice B is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence specifies or elaborates on an aspect of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence is an example of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method. Choice D is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the soil decontamination method described in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previously described method (removing the contaminated soil from the ground). Instead, phytoremediation is an alternative to that method.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d8c5be17

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: d8c5be17

Magnetic levitation (maglev) trains are suspended above a track by powerful electromagnets, reducing friction and thus allowing for much faster speeds. Though maglev advocates in the US have long imagined these trains crisscrossing the country, their dream remains unrealized. _____ of the handful of maglev trains currently in operation, all are in Asia.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. To that end,
- C. Nevertheless,
- D. That said,

ID: d8c5be17 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This sentence emphasizes just how far maglev advocates’ dreams are from coming true. “In fact” is a transition used to emphasize the truth of a statement that modifies the previous statement and therefore fits perfectly in this context.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Maglev advocates’ dream remaining unrealized would not cause there to be only a few maglev trains, all located in Asia. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition, which doesn’t make sense here. In fact, this sentence agrees with the previous sentence—both talk about how maglev trains are far from becoming common in the US. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition, which doesn’t make sense here. In fact, this sentence agrees with the previous sentence—both talk about how maglev trains are far from becoming common in the US.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 92e3143d

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: 92e3143d

The prime meridian, the global indicator of zero degrees longitude established in 1884, was originally determined using astronomically derived coordinates. _____ as decades passed, new calculations would reveal increasingly precise coordinates, yet the prime meridian remained unchanged; it wasn't until the 1980s that, spurred by improved geodetic data, the prime meridian was officially moved—roughly one hundred meters east.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. To that end,
- C. Again and again,
- D. Granted,

ID: 92e3143d Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Again and again" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that new calculations revealed increasingly precise coordinates for the location of the prime meridian—refers to events that occurred multiple times in the decades after the establishment of the prime meridian in 1884 (which is described in the preceding sentence).

Choice A is incorrect because "specifically" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the description of the prime meridian's establishment in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence indicates that increasingly precise coordinates were revealed on multiple occasions in the decades following the meridian's establishment. Choice B is incorrect because "to that end" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a means of accomplishing a goal established in the previous sentence about the prime meridian's establishment. Instead, the sentence indicates that increasingly precise coordinates were revealed on multiple occasions in the decades following the meridian's establishment. Choice D is incorrect because "granted" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is in opposition to the information about the prime meridian's establishment in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence indicates that increasingly precise coordinates were revealed on multiple occasions in the decades following the meridian's establishment.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID da736bf1

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: da736bf1

A turtle shell appears external to the animal, protecting its body like armor. _____ the shell is often incorrectly assumed to be an exoskeleton, a rigid outer casing like that of a crustacean or an insect, when in fact it is an endoskeleton, a part of the turtle’s internal bone structure, more akin to a spine or a pair of ribs.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. That being said,
- B. However,
- C. For instance,
- D. Hence,

ID: da736bf1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Hence" logically signals that the information in this sentence about turtle shells—that people incorrectly assume they are exoskeletons—is a consequence of the shells appearing external to the animal.

Choice A is incorrect because "that being said" illogically signals that this sentence qualifies or contrasts with the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because "however" illogically signals that this sentence contrasts with the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about turtle shells appearing external to the animal. Instead, it presents a consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 88d2dd07

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: 88d2dd07

Researchers Helena Mihaljević-Brandt, Lucía Santamaría, and Marco Tullney report that while mathematicians may have traditionally worked alone, evidence points to a shift in the opposite direction. _____ mathematicians are choosing to collaborate with their peers—a trend illustrated by a rise in the number of mathematics publications credited to multiple authors.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Similarly,
- B. For this reason,
- C. Furthermore,
- D. Increasingly,

ID: 88d2dd07 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Increasingly” logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that mathematicians are collaborating with their peers—marks a change relative to what was traditionally done. As the previous sentence explains, while mathematicians may have traditionally worked alone, evidence points to a shift in the opposite direction. The claim describes the shift: a rise in collaboration.

Choice A is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is similar to, but separate from, the previous claim about the shift away from mathematicians working alone. Instead, the claim about the rise in collaboration elaborates on the previous claim, describing the shift. Choice B is incorrect because “for this reason” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is caused by the previous claim about the shift away from mathematicians working alone. Instead, the claim about the rise in collaboration elaborates on the previous claim, describing the shift. Choice C is incorrect because “furthermore” illogically signals that the claim in this sentence is in addition to the previous claim about the shift away from mathematicians working alone. Instead, the claim about the rise in collaboration elaborates on the previous claim, describing the shift.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9697e723

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: 9697e723

A staunch supporter of women’s voting rights, Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Widemann Dowsett sought to coordinate the efforts of suffragists in her native Hawai’i. _____ in 1912, she founded the National Women’s Equal Suffrage Association of Hawai’i, an organization that lobbied for women’s voting rights in the US territory.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. Conversely,
- C. To that end,
- D. Alternatively,

ID: 9697e723 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “To that end” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Dowsett founded the National Women’s Equal Suffrage Association of Hawai’i—describes an action Dowsett took to achieve the goal stated in the previous sentence: to coordinate the efforts of suffragists in Hawai’i.

Choice A is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Dowsett founding a women’s suffrage association is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about Dowsett seeking to coordinate suffragists’ efforts. Instead, the sentence describes a specific action Dowsett took to achieve this goal. Choice B is incorrect because “conversely” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Dowsett founding a women’s suffrage association contrasts with the previous information about Dowsett seeking to coordinate suffragists’ efforts. Instead, the sentence describes a specific action Dowsett took to achieve this goal. Choice D is incorrect because “alternatively” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about Dowsett founding a women’s suffrage association presents an alternative to her seeking to coordinate suffragists’ efforts. Instead, the sentence describes a specific action Dowsett took to achieve this goal.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 52493edb

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: 52493edb

Historically, most conductors of major orchestras and opera companies have been European men, but a new, more diverse generation of artists is stepping up to the podium. Mexico’s Alondra de la Parra took over as conductor for the Queensland Symphony Orchestra in 2017, _____ and Colombia’s Lina Gonzalez-Granados did the same for the Los Angeles Opera in 2022.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in addition,
- B. lastly,
- C. granted,
- D. for instance,

ID: 52493edb Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “For instance” logically signals that the details in this sentence—that Mexican conductor Alondra de la Parra and Colombian conductor Lina Gonzalez-Granados took new conducting positions—are examples supporting the previous claim about the new generation of artists.

Choice A is incorrect because “in addition” illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are merely additional facts related to the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim. Choice B is incorrect because “lastly” illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are the last step or a concluding summary of the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim. Choice C is incorrect because “granted” illogically signals that the details in this sentence about de la Parra and Gonzalez-Granados are exceptions to the previous claim about the new generation of artists. Instead, they are examples supporting that claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 56c484c4

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: 56c484c4

In Annie Dillard’s *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*—where, early on, the author marvels at a single goldfish’s delicate fins but later winces when imagining a horde of goldfish laying and eating their own eggs—Dillard struggles to reconcile the complicated juxtapositions of the natural world. _____ nature’s mesmerizing intricacy and pitiless harshness prove inextricably linked for Dillard, like “two branches of the same creek.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. To that end,
- B. Ultimately,
- C. Moreover,
- D. Hence,

ID: 56c484c4 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Ultimately” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that, for Dillard, nature’s mesmerizing intricacy and pitiless harshness are inextricably linked—is the final conclusion or realization reached after her struggle to reconcile the juxtapositions of the natural world mentioned in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect because “to that end” illogically signals that linking nature’s intricacy and harshness was Dillard’s deliberate goal or purpose in struggling to reconcile nature’s juxtapositions. Instead, the sentence presents her final realization after that struggle. Choice C is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information in this sentence merely adds to Dillard’s struggle to reconcile nature’s juxtapositions mentioned in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence presents her final realization after that struggle. Choice D is incorrect because “hence” illogically signals that nature’s intricacy and harshness being linked is a direct consequence of Dillard’s struggle to reconcile the juxtapositions mentioned in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence presents her final realization after that struggle.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f1f5731f

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: f1f5731f

In Asiya Wadud’s 2022 poem “Shorn, Treaded Red,” the poet contemplates a painting that has inspired her: Etel Adnan’s 2020 work *Satellites 27*. The painting, which features overlapping geometric shapes, fuels the poem’s exploration of temporality and identity. _____ in responding to Adnan’s artwork, Wadud’s poem reflects on the relationship between poetry and other art forms.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. For instance,
- C. What’s more,
- D. Conversely,

ID: f1f5731f Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "What’s more" logically signals that this sentence introduces an additional aspect of Wadud’s poem beyond what was previously discussed. While the previous sentence establishes that Adnan’s painting has inspired "the poem’s exploration of temporality and identity," this sentence provides a separate, additional claim about the poem: that it reflects on poetry’s relationship to other art forms.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous point about how Adnan’s painting has inspired "the poem’s exploration of temporality and identity." Instead, the sentence provides a separate, additional claim about the poem. Choice B is incorrect because "for instance" illogically signals that the information in this sentence supports the previous point about "the poem’s exploration of temporality and identity" by providing an example. Instead, the sentence provides a separate, additional claim about the poem. Choice D is incorrect because "conversely" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is contrary to the previous point about how Adnan’s painting has inspired "the poem’s exploration of temporality and identity." Instead, the sentence provides a separate, additional claim about the poem.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 407c4732

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: 407c4732

Karel Čapek’s 1920 play *R.U.R. (Rossum’s Universal Robots)*, in which artificial workers overthrow their masters, left an indelible mark on the science fiction genre, and the English language, by introducing the term “robot” (derived from the Czech word *robota*, meaning “indentured labor” or “drudgery”). _____ Čapek’s play also contributed to a venerable literary and mythological tradition: using artificial beings as mirrors and foils for humanity.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Beyond the simple coining of a term,
- B. By achieving such a lofty goal,
- C. Ultimately limited in its lasting influence,
- D. Despite its creation of such an iconic trope,

ID: 407c4732 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Beyond the simple coining of a term” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Čapek’s play contributed to a literary and mythological tradition of using artificial beings as mirrors and foils for humanity—describes contributions that extend beyond the previously described achievement of introducing the term “robot” to the English language.

Choice B is incorrect because “by achieving such a lofty goal” illogically signals that the play’s contribution to a literary and mythological tradition was accomplished through the means of the previously described achievement of introducing the term “robot.” Instead, the sentence describes an additional contribution that goes beyond that achievement. Choice C is incorrect because “ultimately limited in its lasting influence” illogically minimizes the play’s influence, which is inconsistent with the text’s other claims about the play. Instead, the sentence describes contributions that go beyond the previously described achievement of introducing the term “robot.” Choice D is incorrect because “despite its creation of such an iconic trope” illogically signals that the play’s contribution to a literary and mythological tradition is surprising given the play’s creation of an iconic trope. Instead, the sentence describes contributions that go beyond the previously described achievement of introducing the term “robot.”

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ab3df18e

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: ab3df18e

One proposed boundary between Earth’s atmosphere and outer space is the Kármán line, 100 km above sea level. Based on the work of physicist Theodore von Kármán, this line marks the theoretical height at which an aircraft no longer remains aloft using the force of lift. _____ an aircraft sustains flight past this altitude primarily by its velocity, reaching a speed sufficient to maintain an orbit but not to generate enough lift from the thin air.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. Instead,
- C. Granted,
- D. Regardless,

ID: ab3df18e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Instead” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that an aircraft sustains flight past the Kármán line primarily by its velocity—is an alternative means of sustaining flight past this line, which the previous sentence indicates is the theoretical height at which an aircraft no longer remains aloft by using the force of lift.

Choice A is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information about an aircraft sustaining flight by velocity exemplifies the previous information about the Kármán line marking the theoretical height at which an aircraft no longer remains aloft using lift. Rather, the sentence describes an alternative means of sustaining flight past this line. Choice C is incorrect because “granted” illogically signals that the information about an aircraft sustaining flight by velocity is a concession or acknowledgment that qualifies the previous information about the Kármán line marking the theoretical height at which an aircraft no longer remains aloft using lift. Rather, the sentence describes an alternative means of sustaining flight past this line. Choice D is incorrect because “regardless” illogically signals that the information about an aircraft sustaining flight by velocity is true despite the previous information about the Kármán line marking the theoretical height at which an aircraft no longer remains aloft using lift. Rather, the sentence describes an alternative means of sustaining flight past this line.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 1d4ca1e1

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: 1d4ca1e1

A team of ornithologists documented patterns of conspecific brood parasitism among wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) in California. The researchers observed several female wood ducks visiting dozens of nesting sites and laying eggs to be incubated by other nesting *A. sponsa*. Subject 7F64B, _____ visited a select few nesting sites before laying and incubating her eggs herself.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in particular,
- B. alternatively,
- C. for example,
- D. similarly,

ID: 1d4ca1e1 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Alternatively” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that Subject 7F64B incubated her own eggs—describes a contrasting alternative to the brood parasitism behavior described in the previous sentence, in which female wood ducks laid eggs to be incubated by other nesting ducks.

Choice A is incorrect because “in particular” illogically signals that Subject 7F64B’s behavior provides a specific, focused detail about, or example of, the brood parasitism behavior described in the previous sentence. Instead, Subject 7F64B’s behavior represents a contrasting alternative to that brood parasitism. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that Subject 7F64B’s behavior provides a specific example of the brood parasitism behavior described in the previous sentence. Instead, Subject 7F64B’s behavior represents a contrasting alternative to that brood parasitism. Choice D is incorrect because “similarly” illogically signals that Subject 7F64B’s behavior is similar to the brood parasitism behavior described in the previous sentence. Instead, Subject 7F64B’s behavior represents a contrasting alternative to that brood parasitism.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 6a4641d4

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: 6a4641d4

A 2017 study of sign language learners tested the role of iconicity—the similarity of a sign to the thing it represents—in language acquisition. The study found that the greater the iconicity of a sign, the more likely it was to have been learned. _____ the correlation between acquisition and iconicity was lower than that between acquisition and another factor studied: sign frequency.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In fact,
- B. In other words,
- C. Granted,
- D. As a result,

ID: 6a4641d4 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Granted” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that iconicity is not as highly correlated with acquisition as sign frequency is—is true in spite of the information in the previous sentence about the positive correlation between iconicity and acquisition.

Choice A is incorrect because “in fact” illogically signals that this sentence either emphasizes or refutes the information in the previous sentence about the positive correlation between acquisition and iconicity. Instead, it provides information about a different correlation—that between acquisition and sign frequency. Choice B is incorrect because “in other words” illogically signals that this sentence merely restates the information in the previous sentence about the positive correlation between acquisition and iconicity. Instead, this sentence provides information about a different correlation—that between acquisition and sign frequency. Choice D is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that this sentence is a consequence of the information in the previous sentence about the positive correlation between acquisition and iconicity. Instead, this sentence provides information about a different correlation—that between acquisition and sign frequency.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID a01b0798

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: a01b0798

In retrospect, one of the lessons of the 2003 Human Genome Project is that a gene is affected by many factors, not the least of which is its interactions with the protein products of other genes. _____ rather than just focusing on the human genome, efforts to better understand gene mutations related to disease have begun to consider the human proteome, the complete set of proteins expressed by human genes.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

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

ID: a01b0798 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Accordingly" logically signals that this sentence states a result or consequence of the previous information about the 2003 Human Genome Project. Taking into account an important lesson of the 2003 project (that a gene is affected by interactions with the protein products of other genes), research has begun to consider the human proteome instead of just the genome.

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about the 2003 Human Genome Project. Instead, this sentence states a result or consequence of that information. Choice B is incorrect because "that said" illogically signals that the information in this sentence qualifies or contrasts with the previous information about the 2003 Human Genome Project. Instead, this sentence states a result or consequence of that information. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that this sentence provides an example supporting the previous information about the 2003 Human Genome Project. Instead, this sentence states a result or consequence of that information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 09b0e29a

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: 09b0e29a

A firefly uses specialized muscles to draw oxygen into its lower abdomen through narrow tubes, triggering a chemical reaction whereby the oxygen combines with chemicals in the firefly’s abdomen to produce a glow. _____ when the firefly stops drawing in oxygen, the reaction—and the glow—cease.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. By contrast,
- C. Specifically,
- D. In conclusion,

ID: 09b0e29a Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that a firefly’s glow ceases when it stops drawing in oxygen—contrasts with the previous sentence’s discussion of the processes that cause a firefly to begin to glow.

Choice A is incorrect because “for instance” illogically signals that the information in the sentence exemplifies the previous sentence’s discussion of how a firefly begins to glow. Instead, it contrasts with the previous sentence’s discussion. Choice C is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information in the sentence provides specific details elaborating on the previous sentence’s discussion of how a firefly begins to glow. Instead, it contrasts with the previous sentence’s discussion. Choice D is incorrect because “in conclusion” illogically signals that the information in the sentence sums up the previous sentence’s discussion of how a firefly begins to glow. Instead, it contrasts with the previous sentence’s discussion.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 55022c09

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: 55022c09

Roughly once an hour, a torrent of boiling water shoots up 100 feet or more from Yellowstone’s Old Faithful geyser before plunging back to the surface—a cycle seemingly inhospitable to life. _____ as microbiologist Eric Boyd attests, “the geyser is... almost like a cradle for biodiversity,” home to numerous bacteria species that thrive in its sulfurous waters.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Thus,
- B. Specifically,
- C. Still,
- D. In other words,

ID: 55022c09 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Still" logically signals that the information in this sentence about Old Faithful’s thriving bacteria species is true despite the previous claim that conditions at the geyser seem as if they would be inhospitable to life.

Choice A is incorrect because "thus" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previous claim about Old Faithful’s seemingly inhospitable conditions. Instead, this information about the geyser’s many thriving bacteria species is true despite the previous claim. Choice B is incorrect because "specifically" illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous claim about Old Faithful’s seemingly inhospitable conditions. Instead, this information about the geyser’s many thriving bacteria species is true despite the previous claim. Choice D is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence serves as a paraphrase or restatement of the previous claim about Old Faithful’s seemingly inhospitable conditions. Instead, this information about the geyser’s many thriving bacteria species is true despite the previous claim.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ddc2648c

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: ddc2648c

With its clichéd imagery of suburban lawns and power lines, John Ashbery’s 2004 poem “Ignorance of the Law Is No Excuse” may seem barren terrain for critical analysis. _____ cultural critic Lauren Berlant finds fertile ground in just its first two stanzas, devoting most of a book chapter to deciphering the “weight of the default space” Ashbery creates in this poem.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Likewise,
- B. Nonetheless,
- C. In turn,
- D. That is,

ID: ddc2648c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Nonetheless” is a transition that indicates disagreement. The first sentence describes the unlikelihood of finding much for critical analysis in Ashbery’s poem (“barren terrain”), while the second sentence describes how Berlant did in fact find much to analyze in Ashbery’s poem (“fertile ground”), so the transition “nonetheless” fits perfectly.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of a new but similar idea, which doesn’t make sense here. The idea in this sentence directly contradicts the idea in the previous sentence. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense in this context—a poem seemingly having little opportunity for critical analysis would not cause someone to write an extensive critical analysis (in fact, we might expect the opposite). Choice D 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 idea here. Instead, it’s offering a contradiction to the idea expressed in the first sentence.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 716aa220

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: 716aa220

Imagine a magazine that a reader has thrown away. This magazine is post-consumer waste, as it became waste after reaching the consumer. _____ the paper scraps left over from printing the magazine are pre-consumer waste, as they became waste before reaching the consumer.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. For example,
- C. As a result,
- D. Specifically,

ID: 716aa220 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “By contrast” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that paper scraps left over from printing a magazine are pre-consumer waste—contrasts with the previous information about magazines being post-consumer waste.

Choice B is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence exemplifies the previous information about post-consumer waste. Instead, the paper scraps being pre-consumer waste contrasts with the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result or consequence of the previous information about post-consumer waste. Instead, the paper scraps being pre-consumer waste contrasts with the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information in this sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information about post-consumer waste. Instead, the paper scraps being pre-consumer waste contrasts with the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 54e3aa19

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: 54e3aa19

A 2022 study by researchers Hala Altamimi and Qiaozhen Liu investigated the relationship between nonprofit arts organizations’ spending and performance. _____ the researchers examined the correlation between how much 22,328 US arts nonprofits spent on overhead—operational costs such as equipment and fundraising—and how many people attended their events (a measure of overall success).

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Thus,
- B. In addition,
- C. By comparison,
- D. Specifically,

ID: 54e3aa19 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "Specifically" logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the researchers examined the overhead costs and attendance at events of 22,328 nonprofits—provides specific, precise details elaborating on how the researchers investigated the relationship between nonprofits’ spending and performance.

Choice A is incorrect. "Thus" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a result or consequence of the researchers’ investigation of nonprofits’ spending and performance. Instead, it specifies how they examined that correlation. Choice B is incorrect. "In addition" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an additional fact about the researchers’ investigation of nonprofits’ spending and performance. Instead, it specifies how they examined that correlation. Choice C is incorrect. "By comparison" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is being compared to the researchers’ investigation of nonprofits’ spending and performance. Instead, it specifies how they examined that correlation.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b18a1a3d

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: b18a1a3d

Brain imaging research led by neuroscientist Dwaynica Greaves found that actors showed suppressed responses in the left anterior prefrontal cortex (the portion of the brain associated with self-awareness) when their names were called during performances; _____ the actors’ responses were normal in nonacting contexts. These findings suggest that when embodying characters, performers may temporarily set aside their personal identities.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. specifically,
- B. conversely,
- C. likewise,
- D. thus,

ID: b18a1a3d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Conversely” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that the actors’ responses were normal in nonacting contexts—presents the opposite of the previous finding that actors showed suppressed responses when their names were called during performances.

Choice A is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information about the actors’ normal responses in nonacting contexts provides specific details elaborating on the previous finding of suppressed responses during performances. Instead, the sentence presents the responses as opposites. Choice C is incorrect because “likewise” illogically signals that the actors’ normal responses in nonacting contexts are similar to the suppressed responses observed during performances. Instead, the sentence presents the responses as opposites. Choice D is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the actors’ normal responses in nonacting contexts are a result or consequence of the suppressed responses observed during performances. Instead, the sentence presents the responses as opposites.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b313c9df

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: b313c9df

When, in 2017, Cambridge University students Lucy Moss and Toby Marlow decided they wanted to develop a musical together, one of their goals was for their female actor friends to have good parts to play. _____ they created the show *Six*, a retelling of the history of King Henry VIII’s wives in which each of the six queens has a starring role.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In other words,
- B. In summary,
- C. For example,
- D. To that end,

ID: b313c9df Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "To that end" logically signals that the information in this sentence—the students’ creation of a show with six starring female roles—is the product of a goal or desire in the previous sentence (the students’ wish to develop a musical with roles for female actors).

Choice A is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a paraphrase or restatement of the previous information about the students’ wish to develop a musical with roles for female actors. Instead, the students’ show is the product of that desire. Choice B is incorrect because "in summary" illogically signals that the information in this sentence summarizes the previous information about the students’ wish to develop a musical with roles for female actors. Instead, the students’ show is the product of that desire. Choice C is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely an example of the previous information about the students’ wish to develop a musical with roles for female actors. Instead, the students’ show is the direct product of that desire.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 209ab087

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: 209ab087

Long thought to be sessile (immobile), adult *Chelonibia testudinaria*, barnacles that adhere to sea turtle shells, have been observed to shift slightly in position over time—a phenomenon that has been attributed to the barnacles’ passive displacement by water currents. _____ a research team found that adult *C. testudinaria* moved toward the heads of their sea turtle hosts and thus against the prevailing water flow, behavior consistent with self-initiated locomotion.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Contrary to this phenomenon,
- B. Undermining this explanation,
- C. Drawing a similar conclusion,
- D. Confirming this hypothesis,

ID: 209ab087 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Undermining this explanation” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that adult *Chelonibia testudinaria* showed behavior consistent with self-initiated locomotion—undermines or weakens the previous explanation that barnacle movement was a result of passive displacement by water currents.

Choice A is incorrect because “contrary to this phenomenon” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about barnacles exhibiting behavior consistent with self-initiated locomotion opposes the previous information about barnacles shifting slightly in position over time. Instead, the sentence undermines or weakens the previous claim about passive displacement. That is, the sentence doesn’t oppose the fact that the barnacles shifted position: it challenges the previous sentence’s explanation for the movement. Choice C is incorrect because “drawing a similar conclusion” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about barnacles exhibiting behavior consistent with self-initiated locomotion is similar to the previous conclusion that barnacle movement is the result of passive displacement. Instead, the sentence undermines or weakens the previous sentence’s explanation for how the barnacles moved. Choice D is incorrect because “confirming this hypothesis” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about barnacles exhibiting behavior consistent with self-initiated locomotion confirms the hypothesis in the previous sentence that the barnacle movement was the result of passive displacement. Instead, the sentence undermines or weakens the previous sentence’s explanation for how the barnacles moved.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID bf222541

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: bf222541

The Sun and other stars are powered by nuclear fusion reactions, in which two atoms collide to form a single heavier atom, releasing energy. Scientists have long believed that fusion has the potential to meet humanity’s clean energy needs. _____ prior to December 2022, no fusion reaction in a laboratory setting had ever generated a net energy gain.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For this reason,
- B. Moreover,
- C. Specifically,
- D. That said,

ID: bf222541 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Scientists believe in fusion’s potential as an energy source, but have struggled to actually make it work—in other words, there is a contradiction between scientists’ beliefs and their reality. “That said” is a disagreement transition that works perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses a cause-and-effect transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Scientists not being able to generate extra energy from lab fusion reactions isn’t an effect of them believing in fusion’s potential. Choice B is incorrect. This transition indicates the addition of another supporting point. But this sentence is not adding a supporting point to the previous sentence—scientists not being able to successfully generate energy from fusion isn’t another point in favor of fusion meeting humanity’s clean energy needs. Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces or elaborates on a particular example. But this sentence doesn’t give an example of scientists’ belief in fusion’s potential to meet humanity’s clean energy needs—in fact, it contrasts that optimistic belief with the reality of past failures to successfully employ fusion for energy production.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID eb2a11b5

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: eb2a11b5

In response to adverse environmental conditions, many plants produce abscisic acid (ABA), a stress hormone. ABA triggers a slowdown in the biological processes of most plants. _____ when the mustard plant *Schrenkiella parvula* produces ABA in response to an environmental stressor, the hormone triggers accelerated growth.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Moreover,
- B. In contrast,
- C. For example,
- D. Thus,

ID: eb2a11b5 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “In contrast” logically signals that the information in this sentence—that ABA triggers accelerated growth in the mustard plant *Schrenkiella parvula*—contrasts with the previous information about ABA triggering a slowdown in most plants’ biological processes.

Choice A is incorrect because “moreover” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the mustard plant merely adds to the previous information about the effects of ABA. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice C is incorrect because “for example” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the mustard plant provides an example consistent with the previous information about the effects of ABA. Instead, it contrasts with that information. Choice D is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the mustard plant is a consequence, or result, of the previous information about the effects of ABA. Instead, it contrasts with that information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 631f5be8

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: 631f5be8

The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project is anticipated to generate 2.6 gigawatts of energy, enough to power almost one million homes. As its name indicates, the project—currently in development—consists of wind turbines located off the Virginia coast. _____ the project plan calls for 176 large turbines to be placed at a site 27 miles east of Virginia Beach.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. To be exact,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. As a result,
- D. In contrast,

ID: 631f5be8 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "To be exact" logically signals that this sentence about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project plan provides specific, precise details—number of turbines, location of site—elaborating on the more general information about the project in the previous sentence.

Choice B is incorrect because "in conclusion" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project plan concludes or summarizes the discussion of the project in the previous sentences. Instead, the sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information. Choice C is incorrect because "as a result" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project plan is caused by, or occurs as a result of, the information about the project in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information. Choice D is incorrect because "in contrast" illogically signals that the information in this sentence about the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project plan contrasts with information about the project in the previous sentence. Instead, the sentence provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9acd9903

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: 9acd9903

To discover which fruit varieties were grown in Italy’s Umbria region before the introduction of industrial farming, botanist Isabella Dalla Ragione often turns to centuries-old lists of cooking ingredients. _____ she analyzes Renaissance paintings of Umbria, as they can provide accurate representations of fruits that were grown there long ago.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In sum,
- B. Instead,
- C. Thus,
- D. Additionally,

ID: 9acd9903 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Additionally” logically signals that the painting analysis discussed in this sentence is an additional part of the botany research discussed in the previous sentence. That is, to research which fruits Umbrians grew in the past, the botanist analyzes old paintings in addition to looking at old lists of ingredients.

Choice A is incorrect because “in sum” illogically signals that the painting analysis discussed in this sentence is a concluding summary of the botany research discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the painting analysis is an additional part of that research. Choice B is incorrect because “instead” illogically signals that the painting analysis discussed in this sentence is an alternative to the botany research discussed in the previous sentence. Rather, the painting analysis is an additional part of that research. Choice C is incorrect because “thus” illogically signals that the painting analysis discussed in this sentence is a result of the botany research discussed in the previous sentence. Instead, the painting analysis is an additional part of that research.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 98021b7d

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: 98021b7d

Because an achiral molecule is symmetrical, flipping it yields a structurally identical molecule. A flipped chiral molecule, _____ can be compared to a glove that has been turned inside out: it produces a structurally inverted molecule rather than an identical one.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. in other words,
- B. by contrast,
- C. for example,
- D. similarly,

ID: 98021b7d Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. This sentence compares a chiral molecule to an achiral one. It discusses how when a chiral molecule is flipped, it results in something very different than when an achiral molecule is flipped. 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 different words. But this sentence doesn't restate the same idea as the previous sentence. Instead, it makes a new point about a different type of molecule (chiral instead of achiral). Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that introduces an example, which doesn't make sense here. The second sentence isn't an example of the first sentence's claim about achiral molecules: it actually introduces an entirely different idea that focuses on chiral molecules. Choice D is incorrect. This choice uses a transition that indicates the addition of an agreeing idea. But this sentence shows a contrast with the first sentence—namely, that a chiral molecule acts very differently from an achiral molecule when flipped.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 96551536

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: 96551536

Iraqi artist Nazik Al-Malaika, celebrated as the first Arabic poet to write in free verse, didn't reject traditional forms entirely; her poem "Elegy for a Woman of No Importance" consists of two ten-line stanzas and a standard number of syllables. Even in this superficially traditional work, _____ Al-Malaika was breaking new ground by memorializing an anonymous woman rather than a famous man.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. therefore,
- B. in fact,
- C. moreover,
- D. though,

ID: 96551536 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Though" is a contrast word similar to "but."

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Therefore" doesn't show contrast; it shows cause and effect. Choice B is incorrect. This isn't a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "In fact" is a phrase that usually emphasizes the truth of the previous statement. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't a logical transition. The first sentence tells us that Al-Malaika sometimes used "traditional forms". The second tells us that even when she used traditional forms, Al-Malaika was "breaking new ground". To connect these ideas, we need a contrast word like "but." "Moreover" doesn't show contrast—it introduces additional information that continues or supports the previous idea.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 50969f48

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: 50969f48

The Inca of South America used intricately knotted string devices called quipus to record countable information, like population data and payments. _____ they may have used quipus to record more complex information, like stories and myths, according to researchers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. As a result,
- B. In other words,
- C. In addition,
- D. For example,

ID: 50969f48 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "In addition" logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that the Inca of South America may have used quipus to record more complex information—is an additional point related to the previous statement about the Inca using quipus to record countable information.

Choice A is incorrect because "as a result" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is a consequence or result of the previous statement about the Inca using quipus to record countable information. Instead, the possibility that the Inca used quipus to record more complex information is an additional point about how the quipus were used. Choice B is incorrect because "in other words" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence is merely a paraphrase or restatement of the previous statement about the Inca using quipus to record countable information. Instead, the possibility that the Inca used quipus to record more complex information is an additional point about how the quipus were used. Choice D is incorrect because "for example" illogically signals that the claim in the sentence exemplifies the previous statement about the Inca using quipus to record countable information. Instead, the possibility that the Inca used quipus to record more complex information is an additional point about how the quipus were used.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e5b0c865

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: e5b0c865

For years, biologists have experimented with using grime-eating bacteria rather than harsh chemicals to clean artworks, and results have been impressive overall. _____ these bacterial strains—which can metabolize centuries’ worth of oil, glue, dirt, and other surface impurities without creating harmful byproducts—have proven more effective than traditional chemical cleaning methods.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. In many cases,
- C. As a result,
- D. Additionally,

ID: e5b0c865 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “In many cases” logically links the information that follows to the previous sentence’s claim that the results of bacterial cleaning “have been impressive overall.” This sentence supports that claim by indicating that the bacteria “have proven more effective than traditional chemical cleaning methods.” Noting that this is true “in many cases” appropriately frames the information in the sentence and thus completes the text with the most logical transition.

Choice A is incorrect because “however” illogically signals that the information in this sentence contrasts with the previous information. Instead, this sentence supports the previous sentence’s claim that the results of bacterial cleaning “have been impressive overall,” noting that the bacteria “have proven more effective than traditional chemical cleaning methods.” Choice C is incorrect because “as a result” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is a consequence of the claim about the results of bacterial cleaning. Instead, this sentence supports the previous sentence’s claim that the results of bacterial cleaning “have been impressive overall,” noting that the bacteria “have proven more effective than traditional chemical cleaning methods.” Choice D is incorrect because “additionally” illogically signals that the information in this sentence is merely additional to (and separate from) the previous information about the results of bacterial cleaning. Instead, this sentence supports the previous sentence’s claim that the results of bacterial cleaning “have been impressive overall,” noting that the bacteria “have proven more effective than traditional chemical cleaning methods.”

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 72f3281c

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: 72f3281c

Mountain climbing routes that incorporate metal rungs and cables are known as via ferratas, from the Italian phrase for “iron path.” As climbing these routes has shifted from a mode of travel to a sporting activity, modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit. _____ new routes favor recreation over utility, aiming to provide a challenging climb or showcase dramatic scenery.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Additionally,
- B. On the other hand,
- C. More often,
- D. Nonetheless,

ID: 72f3281c Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "More often" logically signals that the claim in this sentence—that new via ferratas favor recreation over utility—explains a difference between the new "sporting activity" routes and the older "mode of travel" routes. In so doing, it emphasizes and reinforces the previous claim ("modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit").

Choice A is incorrect because "additionally" illogically signals that this sentence’s claim about new via ferratas adds a new, separate point to the previous claim ("modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit"). Instead, the second claim—that new routes favor recreation over utility—emphasizes and reinforces the previous one. Choice B is incorrect because "on the other hand" illogically signals that this sentence’s claim about new via ferratas contrasts with or opposes the previous claim ("modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit"). Instead, the second claim—that new routes favor recreation over utility—emphasizes and reinforces the previous one. Choice D is incorrect because "nonetheless" illogically signals that this sentence’s claim about new via ferratas is true despite the previous claim ("modern via ferratas are rarely designed to simply reach a summit"). Instead, the second claim—that new routes favor recreation over utility—emphasizes and reinforces the previous one.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b4175838

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: b4175838

“Tulip mania”—the rapid rise and sudden fall of the price of tulip bulbs in seventeenth-century Amsterdam—is often cited as an example of the perils of rampant market speculation. However, recent research has demonstrated that the episode was neither as frenzied nor as disastrous as has been thought. The popular myth surrounding it, _____ should be regarded with some skepticism.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. for example,
- B. by contrast,
- C. nevertheless,
- D. therefore,

ID: b4175838 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This sentence is arguing that new evidence contradicting popular beliefs about “tulip mania” should cast doubt on those beliefs. “Therefore” is a cause-and-effect transition, which fits perfectly in this context.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice uses an exemplification transition, which doesn’t make sense here. Skepticism about the popular beliefs is not an example of recent evidence contradicting those beliefs—rather, skepticism is an effect of that recent evidence. Choice B is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Instead, it connects a cause from the previous sentence (new evidence that tulip mania was not as disastrous as thought) to an effect (that we should look with skepticism upon the myth about its disastrousness). Choice C is incorrect. This choice uses a disagreement transition. But this sentence doesn’t disagree with the previous sentence. Instead, it connects a cause from the previous sentence (new evidence that tulip mania was not as disastrous as thought) to an effect (that we should look with skepticism upon the myth about its disastrousness).

Question Difficulty: Hard