PSAT 10 Practice Test #2

Reading Test Answer Explanations

Question 1

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice A is the best answer. Falvo believes that when trying something new it's important to not overdo it. This can be seen most clearly when Falvo admonishes the newest runner to control his impulses and not to run too fast or try too hard when racing with more experienced runners: "I don't want you doing anything stupid, Mosher. Some of these boys have been at it for a while. Don't think about them, think about yourself" (lines 19-22).

Choice B is incorrect because McCann is described as a "tough-looking kid [who] smiled like a gunslinger" (lines 17-18), implying that he is a risk-taker who is likely to push limits. Choice C is incorrect because in the passage Mosher pushes himself until he makes himself physically sick. Choice D is incorrect because the person who said "let him go" was watching Mosher "stagger" past after he had already pushed himself past his limits.

Question 2

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. The previous question asks which character believes one shouldn't push his or her limits when trying something new: the running coach Falvo. The best evidence in support of that choice is lines 19-22, when Falvo instructs Mosher to control himself when running with the experienced racers by saying "I don't want you doing anything stupid, Mosher. Some of these boys have been at it for a while. Don't think about them, think about yourself."

Choice A is incorrect because while lines 14-17 show Falvo encouraging McCann not to "drain the well," they do not address the issue of McCann "trying something new," which is a central part of the previous question. Choices C and D are incorrect because lines 55-60 and 76-79 both show that Mosher pushed himself too hard, not that he controlled himself.

Question 3

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. "Pace yourself. Let them do what they do. They'll be about thirty yards ahead after the first lap. Don't worry about them. Go out slow, feel your way, then bring it home as best you can. OK?" (lines 24-27). These lines indicate Falvo believes Mosher should run for himself and not focus on what the other, more experienced runners in the time trial are doing. The main

purpose of these lines is to reemphasize what Falvo had said earlier in the passage about not overdoing it when trying new things.

Choice A is incorrect because lines 24-27 were addressed specifically to Mosher, not the group. Choice C is incorrect because lines 24-27 are instructions to one runner about a specific race. Choice D is incorrect because lines 24-27 do not reveal anything about Falvo's beliefs as much as they repeat or reemphasize what he had said earlier.

Question 4

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice B is the best answer. In the passage, the narrator, Mosher, shrugged after Falvo told him not to do anything stupid and then said "sure" when the coach warned him not to worry about the other runners, responses that both indicate that Mosher was ignoring the coach's advice (or being dismissive of it).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because when Mosher shrugs at or offers a one-word response to the coach's advice, it can be inferred that he is simply ignoring it, not that he is a shy, dishonest, or hostile person.

Question 5

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice C is the best answer. Falvo's advice to the runners at the beginning of the passage was not to push themselves too hard. Even if the more experienced runners did not verbally respond to that advice, it's clear they followed it because their running was described throughout the passage as having a "quiet, aggressive, sustained power that looked like nothing" (lines 38-39) and being as "smooth as water" (line 42). When passing Mosher on the track, those runners were also said to be "all business now" (line 55), describing efficiency without too much effort; those runners were not pushing themselves too hard.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the passage never states how the more experienced runners responded to Falvo's advice (except for McCann's smiling at the idea he shouldn't "drain the well" that day), so it's impossible to know if those runners were enthusiastic about it, ignored it, or only pretended to heed it. However, the way those racers were said to have run the time trial ("all business") does show that they generally accepted what their coach had said.

Question 6

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice D is the best answer. The passage makes clear that Mosher ignores Falvo's advice to stay contained as a runner during the time trial. Later he makes it clear that he had no idea why he hadn't

followed Falvo's advice: "I don't know why. I can't explain it" (line 61).

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because line 61 is explicit in stating that the narrator did not have a good reason to ignore Falvo's advice, not that he did so just because he was determined to keep up with the other runners, wanted to prove something to himself, or wanted to improve on his previous time.

Question 7

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice B is the best answer. The previous question asks for Mosher's motivation for pushing himself too hard in the time trial. In line 61, Mosher offers no concrete explanation for why he ran the time trial the way he did: "I don't know why. I can't explain it."

Choice A is incorrect because lines 36-39 describe the other runners in the time trial but not the narrator. Choice C is incorrect because lines 73-76 explain Mosher's physical condition, not his internal motivation, at the end of the time trial. Choice D is incorrect because lines 91-94 explain Falvo's reaction to Mosher's race.

Question 8

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice A is the best answer. Falvo says to the exhausted Mosher: "'What we have here,' he was saying, 'is a failure to communicate. Stay within yourself, I said. Don't drain the well, I said'" (lines 81-83). By then Mosher had pushed himself so hard that he'd become physically ill and used up all his energy.

Choice B is incorrect because "don't drain the well" means don't use up the valuable energy one has, not "don't get sick." Choices C and D are incorrect because in the passage Falvo tells Mosher to maintain his own pace and run his own race, not that he should be concerned with the other runners or that he shouldn't quit if tired.

Question 9

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 88-89 state "He laughed—that bitter Falvo laugh—ha!—like he'd just been vindicated." "Vindicated" means to be justified or proven correct, which is apt in this context because by running himself into sickness and exhaustion, Mosher had proven correct Falvo's belief that Mosher might overdo it.

Choice A is incorrect because "avenged" means to exact vengeance or satisfaction. Choices B and C are incorrect because in this passage no one is either set free or defended against; rather, Falvo is simply proven correct that Mosher might push too hard in the time trial.

Question 10

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice A is the best answer. The passage begins with "the number of democracies in the world today is unprecedented" and then continues in the second paragraph by providing the specific numbers in support of that claim: lines 17-20 state that in 2011, 117 of 193 countries were identified as electoral democracies but that only 69 of 167 countries had been so labeled in 1989. Beginning in line 23, however, the passage moves away from the simple claim that the number of political democracies in the world was increasing (unprecedented) and begins to analyze the reason for that change: "What caused this global transformation?" The remainder of the passage then focuses more closely on the reasons there are more democracies today, including the "local factors" (line 24) involved, "poor economic management by many authoritarian governments" (lines 26-27), and "new reach and speed of mass media" (lines 37-38).

Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn't claim there is less political openness in the world but more. Choice C is incorrect because the passage doesn't start with one set of data and then switch to a conflicting set. Choice D is incorrect because the passage neither supports nor denounces either democracies or autocracies but simply discusses their increasing and/or decreasing numbers in the modern world.

Question 11

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 17-20 state that in 2011, 117 of 193 surveyed countries were identified as electoral democracies but that only 69 of 167 countries were labeled as such in 1989. Then those statistics are further explained by being "put another way" (line 20), or stated another way.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because to "put" the statistics in lines 17-20 "another way" means to explain or state them another way, not to inflict something on someone by will or force ("impose"), physically set something up ("place"), or encourage or arouse ("incite").

Question 12

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 30-31 explain that one way democracy was supported around the world was that "Western governments and activists encouraged dissent and held out rewards for reform." In this context, the rewards being "held out" (line 31) means the rewards being offered.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the rewards being "held out" by Western governments and activists refer to the rewards

being offered, not that those rewards were being resisted, awaited, or avoided.

Question 13

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 56-59 state that "according to one study of the world's democratic electoral systems, Brunei may be the only country where 'electoral politics has failed to put down any meaningful roots at all.'" These lines support the claim that there's been a global trend toward political openness as they make clear that there's only one country on Earth (Brunei) where such openness cannot be found.

Choice A is incorrect because line 23 asks a question related to the proportion of democracies in the world but nothing about "political openness." Choice B is incorrect because lines 26-27 explain one reason authoritarian regimes have failed. Choice C is incorrect because lines 41-42 address the factor of the modern media in politics.

Question 14

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice A is the best answer. While the passage states and supports the idea that there are more democracies and fewer autocracies in the world today, it further explains that, perhaps surprisingly, even those autocracies are becoming more open: "With far fewer repressive regimes in the world, one might have expected the holdouts to be places where freedom and political competition are increasingly suppressed. But in fact the opposite is true" (lines 59-63).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in lines 59-63, the passage explicitly supports the idea that freedom in modern autocracies is not being "increasingly suppressed" ("in fact the opposite is true"), but the passage says nothing about conflicting data and opinion polls regarding life in those autocracies (choice B), that democracy has faced a number of local setbacks (choice C), or that political openness in autocratic countries has declined (choice D).

Question 15

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks about the unexpected state of political openness in autocratic regimes, with lines 59-63 clearly explaining that there is more political openness to be found in those regimes than might have been assumed: "With far fewer repressive regimes in the world, one might have expected the holdouts to be places where freedom and political competition are increasingly suppressed. But in fact the opposite is true."

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the previous question asks about how politically open modern autocratic regimes tend to be, but lines 18-22 discuss the proportion of democracies in the world today; lines 46-50 describe shifts in public attitudes toward democracy; and lines 73-77 analyze reasons why some political autocracies may have changed.

Question 16

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. Lines 63-64 explain that while elections are central to democracy, other indicators of the openness of a society include "freedom of the press, civil liberties, [and] checks and balances that limit the power of any single institution" (lines 65-67).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because "freedom of the press" is clearly cited in line 65 as being an indicator of political openness, but the passage says nothing similar about a strong head of state, confidence in the military, or the presence of a digital culture.

Question 17

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice D is the best answer. While the graph shows there were more than 80 autocracies around the world in 1975, that number is smaller than the number of democracies (nearly 100) that the graph shows existed in 2011.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows that approximately only 20 democracies existed in 1950. Choice B is incorrect because the graph shows that fewer than 80 democracies existed in 1995. Choice C is incorrect because the graph shows that approximately only 20 autocracies existed in 2011.

Question 18

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice B is the best answer. The graph shows the lines representing the number of autocracies and the number of democracies intersecting between 1985 and 1990, when there were approximately 60 of each of those types of government around the world.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows there were more autocracies than democracies in the world from 1975 to 1980. Choices C and D are incorrect because the graph shows there were more democracies than autocracies in the world from 1995 to 2000 and 2005 to 2010.

Question 19

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice A is the best answer. The first paragraph states the main idea: "Researchers have found that the reintroduction of the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park has boosted an important food source for the threatened grizzly bear. A study published in the Journal of Animal Ecology is essentially a tale of who eats what" (lines 3-7). The remainder of the passage then explains how adding gray wolves back into the Yellowstone food web affected various plant and animal species (elk, grizzly bears, fruit-bearing shrubs, aspen, and cottonwood trees), with the main purpose of the passage therefore summarized as a discussion of an ecological phenomenon.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the passage is a full discussion of a certain ecological phenomenon (what happened when gray wolves returned to Yellowstone) and does not specifically mention any scientific experiment, environmental debate, or historic discovery.

Question 20

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 8-15 of the passage highlight what happened in Yellowstone after wolves were introduced back into the park: "When wolves were reintroduced to the park in 1995 after a 70-year absence, they preyed on elk herds that browsed trees and shrubs. The elk population, which had exploded without the wolves, dropped. The over-browsed plants began to rebound, including berry-producing shrubs that provide nutritious summer meals for grizzlies when they are fattening up for hibernation." In other words, when the reintroduced wolves began to prey on elk herds, fewer grazing elk led to an increase in fruit-bearing plants found in the area.

Choice A is incorrect because even though the passage discusses a study of the ecology in Yellowstone National Park after the reintroduction of wolves, neither the study nor any investigation of grizzly bears occurred specifically due to the drop in the elk population. Choice B is incorrect because the passage states that fewer elk in Yellowstone led to a resurgence of aspen trees, not a decrease in their numbers. Choice D is incorrect because the drop in the elk population in Yellowstone did not result in a surge in the wolf population there; rather, the addition of wolves to the park resulted in the drop in the elk population.

Question 21

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. The previous question asks about a direct result of the decrease in elk population in Yellowstone National Park, with the answer being that fewer grazing elk meant

more fruit-bearing plants. That idea is supported in lines 12-15: "The over-browsed plants began to rebound, including berry-producing shrubs that provide nutritious summer meals for grizzlies when they are fattening up for hibernation."

Choices A and D are incorrect because lines 6-7 and 49-50 address the study in question but not a direct result of the decrease in elk population in Yellowstone. Choice C is incorrect because while lines 42-46 discuss the resurgence of certain trees in Yellowstone that occurred when the elk population decreased, those lines do not support the answer to the previous question that fewer elk led to more fruit-bearing plants.

Question 22

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice D is the best answer. The passage specifically mentions one potential challenge to the survival of grizzly bears in lines 50-53: "In the case of the grizzly, the paper's authors said increasing berry production could help make up for the loss of another bear food threatened by climate change, whitebark pine nuts."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because lines 50-53 specifically identify dwindling whitebark pine nuts as a potential threat to grizzly bear survival but the passage says nothing similar about elk, beetles, or cottonwood trees.

Question 23

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. The previous question asks what the passage identifies as a possible challenge to grizzly bear survival, with lines 50-53 explaining the answer that the loss of a food source could prove problematic for that species: "In the case of the grizzly, the paper's authors said increasing berry production could help make up for the loss of another bear food threatened by climate change, whitebark pine nuts."

Choice A is incorrect because lines 27-30 discuss the proportion of fruit found in grizzly bear scat over a certain time period. Choices C and D are incorrect because lines 59-60 and 60-62 discuss the return of fruit-bearing plants in Yellowstone, a change that would not threaten the grizzly bear but benefit it.

Question 24

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 8-10 of the passage state that "when wolves were reintroduced to the park in 1995 after a 70-year absence, they preyed on elk herds that browsed trees and shrubs." In this context, saying the elk herds "browsed" on trees and shrubs means they ate them or grazed on them.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in this context, saying the elk herds "browsed trees and shrubs" means they ate those trees and shrubs, not that the elk inspected, skimmed, or destroyed the trees and shrubs.

Question 25

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 60-62 of the passage offer one scientist's opinion that the return of berry-producing shrubs may not solve all the grizzlies' food problems: "It may not be a panacea or a big silver bullet as a food item for the grizzlies." A "panacea" is a cure-all, so saying the return of berry-producing shrubs may not be a "big silver bullet" means that the return of those shrubs may not be a definitive solution for the grizzlies' food problems.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in the context of this sentence, the "big silver bullet" is equated to a panacea or cure-all; the phrase is clearly meant to imply a definitive solution, not an unexpected outcome, tempting choice, or dangerous event.

Question 26

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. The passage concludes in lines 63-69 by stating that the story of the gray wolf's return to Yellowstone may be more than just the story of one animal: "The wolf-bear connection in Yellowstone offers a broader lesson, Ripple said. 'We should be looking much farther and much more holistically at large mammal or predator management,' he suggested. 'There could be far reaching effects that we have not considered in the past. And they can be very important.'" The main purpose of the final paragraph can therefore be seen as a lesson that what happened to the gray wolves in Yellowstone could happen with other large mammal species in other places.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the final paragraph is clear that the story of the gray wolf's return to Yellowstone could have far-reaching effects in studying animal ecology, not that there may have been limitations to the scientist's conclusions, that another experiment will be undertaken in the future, or that there may be potential ramifications to returning another species to some ecosystems.

Question 27

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. The table shows a decrease in the wolf/elk ratio between the years 1999 (4.09) and 2000 (3.03).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the table shows an *increase* in the wolf/elk ratio between the years 1998 (2.73) and 1999 (4.09); 2000 (3.03) and 2001 (5.37); and 2003 (9.12) and 2004 (12.72).

Question 28

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice A is the best answer. The passage's claim that the reintroduction of gray wolves to Yellowstone National Park led to an overall decline in the number of elk is supported by the table, which shows the number of winter elk in Yellowstone going from more than 16,000 in 1995 to only about 8,000 in 2004.

Choice B is incorrect because the table shows that while the number of elk went down most years after the reintroduction of the gray wolf, it actually went *up* between the years 1998 (11,736) and 1999 (11,742) and the years 1999 (11,742) and 2000 (14,539). Choice C is incorrect because, while the table shows the wolf/elk ratio increasing between 1998 and 1999 (from 2.73 to 4.09), the number of elk actually increased those years too (from 11,736 to 11,742). Choice D is incorrect because the table clearly shows that the stabilization of wolf numbers in Yellowstone ultimately led to a reduction in the overall number of elk (from about 16,000 in 1995 to 8,000 in 2004), not a stabilization of the elk population.

Question 29

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice D is the best answer. In the second paragraph, Thoreau discusses men who blindly serve the state or government without considering how just their actions might be. In the context of saying these types of men "command no more respect than men of straw or a lump of dirt" (lines 22-23), Thoreau uses the word "command" to mean "deserve."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of saying certain men don't command respect, Thoreau means they haven't earned it or don't deserve it, not that they ordered, dominated, or overlooked that respect.

Question 30

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 30-34, Thoreau explains what happens to the people who follow their consciences instead of blindly adhering to the possibly unjust rules of the state: "A very few, as heroes, patriots, martyrs, reformers in the great sense, and *men*, serve the state with their consciences also, and so necessarily resist it for the most part; and they are commonly treated as enemies by it. . . ." As those heroes are said to resist the state and are treated as enemies by it, it would be accurate to characterize the relationship between the two as mutually antagonistic.

Choice A is incorrect because while Thoreau says "a corporation of conscientious men" forming a "corporation *with* a conscience" is possible (lines 7-10), he does not suggest such organizations often occur. Choices C and D are incorrect because at no point in the

passage does Thoreau refer to conscientious people's moral sense as making them human or suggest that such people hold legislators to a different moral standard than they hold themselves.

Question 31

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks what point Thoreau makes about the people who follow their consciences, with the answer being that those people usually resist the state and end up its enemies. The best evidence in support of that answer is found in lines 30-34, which state, "A very few, as heroes, patriots, martyrs, reformers in the great sense, and *men*, serve the state with their consciences also, and so necessarily resist it for the most part; and they are commonly treated as enemies by it. . . ."

Choice A is incorrect because lines 1-2 ask a rhetorical question but do not identify the point Thoreau makes about people who follow their conscience. Choice B is incorrect because lines 7-10 address corporations with a conscience, not people. Choice C is incorrect because lines 17-21 address people who do not follow their conscience but adhere blindly to the rules of the state instead.

Question 32

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice A is the best answer. Lines 53-55 explain that King does not believe unjust laws and statutes should be followed or have any moral authority: "Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that 'an unjust law is no law at all.'"

Choice B is incorrect because at no point does King ever argue to do anything simply to attract attention. Choice C is incorrect because King says "any law that degrades human personality is unjust" (lines 64-65), which is the opposite of saying an unjust law is not detrimental to the human spirit. Choice D is incorrect because King says an unjust law is "out of harmony with the moral law" (line 60), not that an unjust law should be used to enforce moral law.

Question 33

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks how King characterizes unjust statutes, with lines 53-55 providing evidence in support of the idea that King believed those statutes have no moral authority: "one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that 'an unjust law is no law at all.'"

Choice A is incorrect because lines 49-50 highlight what King considers the two different types of laws, just and unjust. Choice B is incorrect because lines 51-52 explain King's belief that one has a

responsibility to follow *just* laws. Choice D is incorrect because lines 64-65 explain King's definition of what makes a law unjust but not how he believes people should respond to such a law.

Question 34

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice A is the best answer. Lines 57-58 ask the question "How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust?" In this context, to "determine" whether a law is just means to establish whether a law is just.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of trying to determine whether a law is just or unjust, the word "determine" means to establish what the law is, not regulate, direct, or limit it.

Question 35

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice A is the best answer. The main purpose of each passage is to argue how individuals should respond to the law (especially unjust laws). Thoreau says that people of conscience need to become enemies of the state and King believes that "an unjust law is no law at all" (lines 54-55). That the primary purpose of each passage is to discuss the relationship between the individual and law can be seen from the first sentence of the Thoreau passage: "Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator?" (lines 1-2) and the last sentence of the King passage: "I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for law" (lines 79-84).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because neither passage forwards a view on how to make laws more just (only on how people of conscience should respond to them), equates the morality of actions with their consequences, or discusses ways the state's power over an individual may change.

Question 36

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice C is the best answer. Both Thoreau and King argue that having respect for existing law does not mean one necessarily acts justly, and the people who blindly follow all rules aren't always acting in accordance with justice. "Law never made men a whit more just; and, by means of their respect for it, even the well-disposed are daily made the agents of injustice" (Thoreau, lines 10-13). King echoes Thoreau's sentiment: "and I can urge them to disobey segregation ordinances, for they are morally wrong" (King, lines 71-73).

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because King does not discuss in detail the consciences, the moral judgment, or the personal moral values of law-abiding people.

Question 37

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 6-7, Thoreau argues that people should first follow their consciences: "The only obligation which I have a right to assume is to do at any time what I think right." King, on the other hand, suggests that it is not conscience that must be heard first but something else: "One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws" (lines 51-52). A significant difference between the two could therefore be identified as Thoreau's emphasis on the importance of conscience and King's emphasis on morality.

Choice A is incorrect because Thoreau suggests that few people follow their consciences. "Must the citizen . . . resign his conscience to the legislator?" (lines 1-2). King differentiates between just and unjust laws (lines 50-54) but never suggests how many people might or might not "adhere to moral law." Choice C is incorrect because Thoreau argues that legality was secondary to conscience, not that conscience (or morality) resulted from legality. Choice D is incorrect because Thoreau does not suggest "good laws" should be disobeyed; he actually says the opposite.

Question 38

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 77-79 expressly state how King believes one should respond to unjust laws: "One who breaks an unjust law must do so openly, lovingly, and with a willingness to accept the penalty." This suggests King would recommend that if Thoreau were truly against slavery, he should publicly break those laws and then willingly accept whatever consequences might result.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because King explicitly states in the passage that people have a moral responsibility to *disobey* unjust laws. King would not recommend that Thoreau obey unjust laws while working to change them (choice A), uphold unjust laws (choice B), or uphold unjust laws he is critical of (choice D).

Question 39

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice C is the best answer. The passage first identifies an agricultural problem: "Consider the western corn rootworm—a beetle that's a serious pest of corn in the United States" (lines 7-8). By the conclusion of the passage, however, the way the rootworm's "gut bacteria" (lines 49-50) aided the insect's survival in both corn and soybean fields has been fully explained: "The team proved that

the bacteria were responsible by killing them with antibiotics. Sure enough, this drastically lowered the cysteine protease activity in the guts of the rotation-resistant beetles and wrecked their ability to thrive among soybeans" (lines 65-69). Overall, the passage can therefore be summarized as having a focus shifting from the identification of an agricultural problem to an explanation of its cause.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not state that the challenge posed by the western corn rootworm was easy to overcome. Choice B is incorrect because the passage provides virtually no biographical information about the scientists involved (other than the fact they worked at the University of Illinois). Choice D is incorrect because while the passage ends its first paragraph by stating the belief that "zoology is ecology," it otherwise does not discuss any particular scientific field.

Question 40

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Hard

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph of the passage says that animals aren't just animals but collections of microbes, with the remainder of the passage going on to explain that scientists found the way to control the western corn rootworm only after coming to understand its gut bacteria. The statement "zoology is ecology" (line 6) implies that the study of animals (zoology) is really the study of ecology (the relationship between organisms), as is shown to be the case through the example of the western corn rootworm's relationship with its gut bacteria. In other words, it asserts a general point that is supported by an example.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the phrase "zoology is ecology" in line 6 means that the study of animals is greatly affected by studying the ways organisms interact (i.e., the way the western corn rootworm's gut bacteria has affected its growth and survival), not that those two fields of study should be merged, that knowledge obtained in one of those fields would lead to expertise in the other, or that one of those fields supplanted another.

Question 41

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. Normal rootworms lay their eggs in corn fields "so that their underground larvae hatch into a feast of corn roots" (lines 10-11). "These rotation-resistant females might lay among soybean fields, so their larvae hatch into a crop of corn" (lines 20-22). Combined, these statements indicate a similarity: both normal and rotation-resistant rootworms produce larvae whose first food will be the roots of crops.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage doesn't state that either type of rootworm reduces crop productivity by extracting nutrients

from the soil. Choice C is incorrect because the passage clearly states that in the face of crop rotation, the normal rootworm will die rather than adapt. Choice D is incorrect because the passage says the normal and rotation-resistant rootworms have very different gut bacteria.

Question 42

KEY: B

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice B is the best answer. The passage states that one way farmers have tried to eradicate the western corn rootworm is by rotating their crops (thereby reducing the viable fields for the rootworms), with the question of how some rootworms have overcome that problem being specifically answered in lines 18-20: "But the rootworms have adapted to this strategy by reducing their strong instincts for laying eggs in corn."

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the lines cited do not specifically answer the question of how some rootworms have overcome the farmers' efforts to eradicate them. Rather, lines 15-17 provide one way the farmers have been able to eradicate rootworms; lines 25-28 explain some of the challenges being faced by researchers studying the rootworm; and lines 41-43 identify a problem for the rootworms, not how these beetles have adapted to the farmers' eradication efforts.

Question 43

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice A is the best answer. The point of the fourth paragraph is to explain how hard it was for scientists to determine what made the rotation-resistant rootworms different from the normal ones. "After many years of research [focused on genes] . . . results were mostly inconclusive" (lines 33-35).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the central claim of the fourth paragraph is simply that many years of research led to only "inconclusive" results about differences between rotation-resistant and normal rootworms. Neither that paragraph nor any part of the passage claims that the rootworm's adaptation ability is unique, that its genetic make-up was more complex than originally thought, or that inadequate understanding of genetics in general was the reason the rootworm remained such a mystery.

Question 44

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Easy

Choice A is the best answer. "There are almost certainly genetic differences that separate the rotation-resistant rootworms from their normal peers, but what are they?" (lines 23-25). In the context of genetic differences separating two types of insects, the word "separate" means to distinguish or differentiate.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of genetic differences separating two types of rootworms, "separate" means to distinguish or differentiate, not to discharge, extract, or scatter.

Question 45

KEY: A

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice A is the best answer. After the passage states that normal rootworms can't survive in soybean fields but that rotation-resistant rootworms can, it explains that the difference between the two is their respective gut bacteria. Lines 54-55 state that "these different microbes give the resistant beetles an edge when eating soybeans."

Choice B is incorrect because the passage says that gut bacteria in rotation-resistant rootworms results in more cysteine proteases in their stomachs, not fewer. Choice C is incorrect because in the passage antibiotics are being used to kill microbes (or gut bacteria) only, not the rootworms themselves. Choice D is incorrect because the passage never mentions anything being transferred to the larvae.

Question 46

KEY: D

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks what the gut bacteria of rotation-resistant rootworms do, with the correct answer being that they allow that variation of beetle to survive in the soybean fields where normal rootworms cannot. This answer is supported specifically in lines 54-55, which state that "these different microbes give the resistant beetles an edge when eating soybeans."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the lines cited do not explain what the gut bacteria of rotation-resistant rootworms do. Rather, lines 29-30 explain that understanding the western corn rootworm was a challenge to researchers; lines 39-40 state only that normal rootworms and rotation-resistant ones have very different microbes in their stomachs; and lines 44-47 explain that the difference in rootworms was not so much simple genetics as a multispecies conspiracy.

Question 47

KEY: C

DIFFICULTY: Medium

Choice C is the best answer. The main idea of the last paragraph is that it is the gut bacteria of rotation-resistant rootworms that allow them, but not normal rootworms, to thrive in soybean fields. "The team proved that the bacteria were responsible by killing them with antibiotics. Sure enough, this drastically lowered the cysteine protease activity in the guts of the rotation-resistant beetles and wrecked their ability to thrive among soybeans" (lines 65-69).

Choice A is incorrect because the second-to-last paragraph of the passage says cysteine proteases allow rootworms to survive in soybean fields, not that they are in any way harmful to the rootworms. Choice B is incorrect because the eggs laid by rotation-resistant rootworms among soybeans will hatch into crops of corn, not of soybeans. Choice D is incorrect because the passage clearly states that rotation-resistant rootworms *do* use cysteine proteases to digest soybeans, not that they do not use them for that task.