

Question ID 7a25bf80

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7a25bf80

The following text is from David Barclay Moore’s 2022 novel *Holler of the Fireflies*. The narrator has just arrived at summer camp, which is far away from his home.

This place was different than I thought it would be. I’d never been somewhere like this before. I did feel scared, but also excited.

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According to the text, how does the narrator feel about being at summer camp?

- A. He feels overjoyed.
- B. He feels peaceful.
- C. He feels both scared and excited.
- D. He feels both angry and jealous.

ID: 7a25bf80 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states how the narrator feels about being at summer camp. In the text, the narrator states that after arriving at the camp, he found it to be different than he’d expected and that as a result, he felt "scared, but also excited."

Choice A is incorrect. In the text, the narrator describes himself as "excited." Although excitement is a positive emotion, it isn’t as intensely positive as feeling overjoyed is. Moreover, the narrator also notes that he felt "scared." In other words, his excitement (a positive emotion) is balanced with fear (a negative emotion). Given this mixture of positive and negative emotions, it would be inaccurate to characterize the narrator as overjoyed. Choice B is incorrect because in the text, the narrator describes himself as having felt both fear and excitement. Neither of these emotions can be thought of as peaceful and, in fact, are almost the opposite of a sense of peace. Choice D is incorrect because in the text, the narrator describes himself as both "scared" and "excited," not angry and jealous.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4a7bf8cd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4a7bf8cd

The following text is adapted from Sylvia Acevedo’s 2018 memoir *Path to the Stars: My Journey from Girl Scout to Rocket Scientist*. The narrator is traveling by car with her family to Mexico City. Mario and Laura are her brother and sister.

Mario and I played games to see how many different license plates we could spot, and Laura liked to look for children in the back seats of the cars we passed. We were used to the forty-five-minute drive to El Paso and familiar with the six-hour ride to Chihuahua, but I wondered what the long journey to Mexico City would be like.

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According to the text, what did the narrator and Mario do while riding in the car?

- A. They read books.
- B. They sang songs.
- C. They went to sleep.
- D. They played games.

ID: 4a7bf8cd Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes what the narrator and Mario did while riding in the car. The text describes a car trip that the narrator is taking with her family. The text states that during the car ride, the narrator and Mario "played games" to see how many different license plates they could spot.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention the narrator and Mario reading during the car ride and instead describes them playing games. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention the narrator and Mario singing songs during the car ride and instead describes them playing games. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention the narrator and Mario sleeping during the car ride and instead describes them playing games.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 44f6c8f7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 44f6c8f7

In the 1700s and 1800s, European composers experimented with volume in their musical works. They did so by increasing the number of musicians playing in the orchestra. For example, in some of his operas, German composer Richard Wagner added more horns, trombones, and tubas to the orchestra. With more instruments playing at the same time, the orchestra could play extremely loudly at key moments in his operas.

According to the text, how did Richard Wagner achieve moments of extremely high volume in his operas?

- A. By moving the performances of his operas from outdoor stages to indoor ones
- B. By increasing the number of musicians playing horns, trombones, and tubas in the orchestra
- C. By building a concert hall whose shape would cause sounds to echo
- D. By insisting that the singers undergo special training to sing for extended periods of time

ID: 44f6c8f7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it presents a statement about how Richard Wagner achieved moments of extremely high volume in his operas that is supported by the text. The text states that European composers experimented with volume in their works by increasing the number of musicians in the orchestra and provides the example of Wagner, who "added more horns, trombones, and tubas to the orchestra." The text explains that by having more of these instruments playing at the same time, the overall volume of the orchestra could be dramatically increased at key moments in Wagner's operas.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never indicates that Wagner moved his operas indoors to achieve moments of extremely high volume, nor does it indicate that his operas were previously performed outdoors. The only technique discussed in the text for achieving extremely high volume is Wagner's addition of more instruments to create a bigger, louder orchestra. Choice C is incorrect because the text never says that Wagner built or used a specially designed concert hall to increase volume through echoes. The only technique discussed in the text is Wagner's addition of more instruments to create a bigger, louder orchestra. Choice D is incorrect because the text never mentions any special training for singers related to volume or singing for extended periods. The text's focus is entirely on the orchestra and how Wagner and other European composers used instruments to experiment with volume in their musical works.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 491f52a8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 491f52a8

Hevea brasiliensis, a tree in the Amazon rainforest, is the world’s main source of natural rubber. The tree produces a milky substance called latex that is used to make rubber. The bark of *Hevea brasiliensis* is helpful for the process of making rubber because it has a unique structure that makes it easy to collect latex. A network of tubes in the tree’s inner bark helps the latex to flow out easily when people make small cuts into the bark.

What feature of *Hevea brasiliensis* does the text say is helpful for the process of making rubber?

- A. Its latex produces rubber of an especially high quality.
- B. Its bark has a unique structure that makes it easy to collect latex.
- C. It is able to grow in a wide variety of climates around the world.
- D. It is one of only two trees in the Amazon that produce latex.

ID: 491f52a8 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states what feature of *Hevea brasiliensis* is helpful for the process of making rubber. According to the text, this tree species produces latex, which is used to make rubber, and its inner bark contains a "network of tubes" that, when cut, enables the latex to flow out. The text explicitly states that this feature of *Hevea brasiliensis* is "helpful for the process of making rubber."

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention the quality of the rubber produced from the latex of *Hevea brasiliensis* or compare its quality to that of rubber produced from other sources. Choice C is incorrect because the text never discusses the climates in which *Hevea brasiliensis* grows. Moreover, the text mentions only one region where this tree is found: the Amazon rainforest. Choice D is incorrect. Because the text states that *Hevea brasiliensis* is the world’s "main source of natural rubber," it can be inferred that there is at least one other source. However, the text doesn’t specify whether that other source is also a tree species and, if so, whether that species grows in the Amazon rainforest.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 14713b45

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: 14713b45

The following text is from Shyam Selvadurai’s 1994 novel *Funny Boy*. The seven-year-old narrator lives with his family in Sri Lanka. Radha Aunty is the narrator’s aunt.

Radha Aunty, who was the youngest in my father’s family, had left for America four years ago when I was three, and I could not remember what she looked like. I went into the corridor to look at the family photographs that were hung there. But all the pictures were old ones, taken when Radha Aunty was a baby or young girl. Try as I might, I couldn’t get an idea of what she looked like now. My imagination, however, was quick to fill in this void.

©1994 by Shyam Selvadurai.

- According to the text, why does the narrator consult some family photographs?
- A. He wants to use the photographs as inspiration for a story he is writing.
 - B. He is curious about how his father dressed a long time ago.
 - C. He hopes the photographs will help him recall what his aunt looked like.
 - D. He wants to remind his aunt of an event that is shown in an old photograph.

ID: 14713b45 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text states that the narrator couldn’t remember what his Radha Aunty looked like, so he went to look at the family photographs she was in.

Choice A is incorrect. There’s no mention of any story that the narrator is writing. Rather, we’re told that the narrator couldn’t remember what his aunt looked like, so he went to look at the family photographs she was in. Choice B is incorrect. The text doesn’t mention how the narrator’s father dressed. Rather, we’re told that the narrator couldn’t remember what his aunt looked like, so he went to look at the family photographs she was in. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn’t mention any events shown in the photographs. Rather, we’re told that the narrator couldn’t remember what his aunt looked like, so he went to look at the family photographs she was in.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID def86f3e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
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ID: def86f3e

The average age at which people in the United States start businesses is 35. Economist Andrés Hincapié studied why young adults are relatively less likely to start businesses and whether there are ways to increase entrepreneurship in early adulthood. Hincapié found that one impediment is lack of knowledge about the practical details of how businesses are started; he further found that simply providing young adults with good informational resources on the topic significantly alleviates this problem.

Based on the text, what would Hincapié most likely say is a promising way to increase entrepreneurship in early adulthood?

- A. Creating social networks of young adults who are interested in starting a business
- B. Encouraging young adults to brainstorm business ideas
- C. Providing young adults with practical information about how to start a business
- D. Giving young adults training opportunities at a variety of businesses

ID: def86f3e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a conclusion about increasing entrepreneurship in early adulthood that can be reasonably inferred from the text. The text explains that Andrés Hincapié investigated why young adults are less likely than older adults to start businesses and found that lack of knowledge of practical aspects of starting a business is a barrier. The text then states that Hincapié found that providing relevant informational resources greatly helps address that problem. Offering young adults practical information about how to start a business would be an example of providing relevant informational resources, so Hincapié would most likely say it is a promising way to increase early adult entrepreneurship.

Choice A is incorrect because creating social networks of young adults interested (but presumably inexperienced) in starting a business wouldn't involve a clear source of practical information for those young adults, and the text indicates that Hincapié identified offering relevant informational resources about starting a business as a way to significantly reduce the problem of young adults' low participation in entrepreneurship. Choice B is incorrect because encouraging young people to brainstorm business ideas wouldn't involve a clear source of practical information for those young adults, and the text indicates that Hincapié identified offering relevant informational resources about starting a business as a way to significantly reduce the problem of young adults' low participation in entrepreneurship. Choice D is incorrect because providing young adults with training opportunities at existing businesses would give those young people exposure to businesses that already exist but not necessarily information about how to start a business, and the text indicates that Hincapié identified offering relevant informational resources about starting a business as a way to significantly reduce the problem of young adults' low participation in entrepreneurship.

Question Difficulty: Easy