Question ID c926695b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: c926695b

Georgia Douglas Johnson wrote many plays in the 1920s and 1930s. At the time, professional theater companies rarely put on plays by Black women, so few of Johnson's plays made it to the stage. Only a small number of her plays were published in her lifetime. But that doesn't mean that Johnson never learned what other people thought of her plays. Johnson hosted weekly get-togethers for fellow Black writers and artists in her Washington, DC, home. Attendees would read and discuss one another's work, including Johnson's own. These gatherings could therefore serve as _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. an occasion for professional theater companies to put on plays.

B. an opportunity for Johnson to get feedback on her plays.

C. a way for Johnson to learn about plays that were produced in other cities.

D. subject matter for future plays by Johnson.

Question ID 884a491d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 884a491d

The Nacional tree is a rare variety of cacao. Nacionals were thought to have gone extinct by the twentieth century due to a fungus. This fungus can spread from tree to nearby tree through the air and causes disease. But around 2013, cacao expert Servio Pachard located some of these Nacional trees. The trees were in the Piedra de Plata coastal forest, within a hard-to-reach valley in Ecuador. Conservationists inferred that the Nacional trees in Piedra de Plata might have avoided the diseases that wiped out the other Nacionals because _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. early twentieth-century scientists did not know why so many Nacionals were becoming infected.

B. the ability of the fungus to travel through the air was only recently discovered.

C. they were too far from the other Nacional trees infected by the fungus to become infected themselves.

D. the chocolate made from their pods was highly valued.

Question ID cc80f886

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: cc80f886

In many cultures, a handshake can create trust between people. Engineer João Avelino and his team are designing a robot to shake hands with a human in order to improve human-robot interactions. The robot hand adjusts its movements and pressure to better imitate the feel of a human hand. The researchers want the robot's handshake to feel realistic because _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. lifelike handshakes may make people more comfortable interacting with robots.

B. it's easier to program a robot to perform handshakes than it is to program a robot to perform some other types of greetings.

C. people are less likely to interact with robots that don't look like humans.

D. the robot in the researchers' study may have uses other than interacting with humans.

Question ID b7360b49

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: b7360b49

A typical string quartet consists of two violin players, a viola player, and a cello player. When a string quartet performs, one violinist and the cellist usually sit facing the audience. The violist and the other violinist usually sit facing each other. This seating arrangement causes the viola's carved sound openings, or f-holes, to be angled away from the audience. Therefore, if the viola player has a musical solo and wants to make sure that the audience can hear it clearly, the violist typically _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. instructs the other members of the quartet to play louder.

B. plays at the same volume as the cellist.

C. shifts position in order to face outwards toward the audience.

D. looks at the sheet music instead of looking at the audience.

Question ID a1f50201

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: a1f50201

Researchers Eugeni Vidal-Tortosa and Robin Lovelace looked at the relationship between street lighting in a city and people's willingness to ride a bicycle. Their results suggest that poor street lighting can deter new or inexperienced cyclists from riding in a city but has little effect on experienced cyclists. Therefore, increasing the number of streetlights in a city could potentially _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. decrease the number of new or inexperienced cyclists riding in the city.

B. increase the number of experienced cyclists riding in the city.

C. decrease the number of experienced cyclists riding in the city.

D. increase the number of new or inexperienced cyclists riding in the city.

Question ID 346c79f5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 346c79f5

In the 1950s and ’60s, plant breeders created shorter varieties of wheat and rice plants with improved yields. Kelly Gillespie, Rex Bernardo, and other plant specialists are building on that work by exploring the development of shorter corn varieties. Greater height can allow individual plants to produce more ears of corn. However, greater height also makes the stalks more likely to snap or be uprooted in strong winds before the corn can be harvested. Because of this trade-off, some plant specialists suggest that shorter corn varieties will actually _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. help improve yields of harvested corn by being more likely to survive in severe winds.

B. be more likely to be uprooted due to the weight of the corn on the stalks.

C. require more land for planting than short varieties of wheat and rice typically do.

D. begin developing more ears of corn on each plant than the tallest variety of corn currently does.

Question ID 1afc9465

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 1afc9465

Arthur Conan Doyle's stories about detective Sherlock Holmes were published between 1887 and 1927. They have inspired countless successful adaptations, including comic strips, movies, and a television series *Sherlock Hound*, directed by Hayao Miyazaki, who is celebrated for his animated movies. Until 2014, these stories were copyrighted. The right to adapt was only available to those who could afford the copyright fee and gain approval from the strict copyright holders of Doyle's estate. Some journalists predict that the number of Sherlock Holmes adaptations is likely to increase since the end of copyright means that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. Doyle's original stories will become hard to find.

B. people will become more interested in detective stories than they were in the 1800s.

C. producing adaptations will become easier and less expensive.

D. the former copyright holders of Doyle's estate will return fees they collected.

Question ID b2f92619

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: b2f92619

One aspect of in-person shopping that online shopping can't replicate is the opportunity to touch a product before buying it. Does this difference matter? In an experiment, researchers asked one group of participants to touch a mug and a toy, while another group was prohibited from touching the two items. The participants were then asked how much money they'd pay for the items. People who got to touch the items were willing to pay much more money for them than were people who weren't allowed to touch the items. This finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. people who mainly shop online probably spend more money every month than people who mainly shop in person do.

B. in-person shopping may make products seem more valuable than they seem if only viewed online.

C. retailers with in-person and online stores should charge the same price for a given product in both places.

D. online retailers may be able to raise the prices they charge for products that are only available online.

Question ID 42f5e8a0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 42f5e8a0

To create the poems in her 2017 collection *One Last Word*, poet Nikki Grimes used a writing method called the golden shovel. This method often involves choosing a line from an existing poem and then using each word from that line as the last word of each line in a new poem. Grimes wanted the poems in *One Last Word* to honor important Black poets of the past, so she chose lines by poets such as Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson. Writing in this way can be challenging and might seem as though it would produce awkward poems. However, reviewers praised *One Last Word* as a beautiful and powerful tribute to the poets who inspired it. This reaction suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. most reviewers didn't understand Grimes's goal for *One Last Word*.

B. Grimes successfully used the golden shovel method to achieve her goal for *One Last Word*.

C. Langston Hughes and Georgia Douglas Johnson are two of Grimes's favorite poets.

D. Grimes inspired many other writers to create poems using the golden shovel method.

Question ID e42e5374

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: e42e5374

In the South Pacific, New Caledonian crows use two different kinds of stick tools. One tool is complex. The crows shape a stick from a rare plant into a hook. The other tool is basic. The crows find a stick without a hook on the ground. The hooked tool is harder to get but is much better than the basic tool at removing prey from holes. When studying New Caledonian crows, ecologist Barbara Klump found that they hold the hooked tools in their claws when not using them, or they carefully put them in a safe place. The crows don't do the same with the basic tools. This suggests to Klump that the _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. hooked stick tools are more valuable to the crows than the stick tools without hooks.

B. hooked stick tools are easier for most of the crows to hold than the stick tools without hooks.

C. crows prefer to share their hooked stick tools but don't share the stick tools without hooks.

D. crows realize that both kinds of stick tools are less effective than their claws are at removing prey from holes.

Question ID 72fb1828

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 72fb1828

Researchers wanted to study how consumers' reactions to an ad may be affected by other ads. The researchers began by showing study participants an ad for a product, with some seeing a less detailed ad and others seeing a more detailed one. Then, all participants viewed the same second ad for a store and shared their opinion of the store based on this second ad. Participants who had first seen an ad less detailed than the second ad had a higher opinion of the store than the participants who had first seen a more detailed ad. The researchers concluded that reactions to an ad may be affected by _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the number of people who viewed the ad.

B. the length of time viewing previous ads.

C. the amount of detail viewed in previous ads.

D. the time of day that the ad is viewed.

Question ID c20a5d6e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: c20a5d6e

Archaeologist Christiana Kohler and her team excavated the Egyptian tomb of Queen Merneith, the wife of a First Dynasty pharaoh. Some scholars claim that she also ruled Egypt on her own and was actually the first female pharaoh. The team found a tablet in Merneith's tomb with writing suggesting that she was in charge of the country's treasury and other central offices. Whether Merneith was a pharaoh or not, this discovery supports the idea that Merneith likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. had an important role in Egypt's government.

B. lived after rather than before the First Dynasty of Egypt.

C. traveled beyond Egypt's borders often.

D. created a new form of writing in Egypt.

Question ID 0ae1560a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 0ae1560a

The musical *Hadestown* was produced off-Broadway in New York in 2016. A revised version of the musical premiered on Broadway in 2019, in a larger production. In a review of the Broadway production, theater critic Jesse Green enthusiastically praised the musical's storytelling. However, Green also explained that he had seen the earlier version of *Hadestown* in 2016 and had found the storytelling to be very confusing. This suggests that in Green's view, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the 2016 version of *Hadestown* had fewer storytelling problems than the 2019 version did.

B. *Hadestown* should have had a larger production in 2019 than it actually did.

C. the 2019 version of *Hadestown* was less enjoyable than the 2016 version.

D. *Hadestown* improved greatly between 2016 and its premiere on Broadway.

Question ID 8006b2cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 8006b2cc

In Switzerland, the white fuzzy mountain flowers known as edelweiss are widely treated as a symbol of strength and courage. Although edelweiss can thrive in extreme conditions, they aren't notably tougher or harder to reach than other mountain flowers growing in the Swiss Alps. Historian Tobias Scheidegger has shown that the popular view of the flowers originated in the mid-1800s when mountain climbing became popular in Switzerland. Mountain climbers spread the idea that the flowers grew only in steep, icy terrains that were dangerous to climb to. Scheidegger says that these claims were self-interested. He suggests that mountain climbers presented edelweiss in this way in order to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. make themselves appear brave and strong for being able to climb to difficult places where edelweiss supposedly grew.

B. encourage more flower enthusiasts to explore the Swiss Alps.

C. share their observations about the unusual characteristics of edelweiss with scientists.

D. prove that edelweiss were more common in the Swiss Alps than in other mountain regions in Europe.

Question ID 0b568641

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 0b568641

If an animal has been extinct for a long time, how can scientists learn what color it was? One group of scientists came up with a possible answer. When the scientists examined the fossilized feather of an extinct bird, they found melanosomes in it. Melanosomes produce pigment, or grains of color, inside cells. Because melanosomes are shaped differently depending on which colors they produce, the scientists hypothesized that they could _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. show how melanosomes can be found in fossils belonging to animals from other extinct species.

B. determine the colors of the bird based on the appearance of the melanosomes in the feather.

C. explain why the melanosomes in the feather were so well preserved.

D. identify the colors of extinct animals whose fossils lack melanosomes.

Question ID 557021c3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 557021c3

Off-off-Broadway theaters emerged in the late 1950s as a rebellion against mainstream Broadway theaters in New York, freeing artists to create productions that were more experimental than typical Broadway shows. One such artist was playwright María Irene Fornés. Working with off-off Broadway theaters enabled Fornés not only to direct her own plays but also to direct them exactly as she intended them to be staged, regardless of how strange the results might have seemed to audiences accustomed to Broadway shows. In this way, Fornés _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. wrote plays that would have been too expensive to produce if someone else had directed the production.

B. recognized that staging an off-off-Broadway play was more complicated than staging a Broadway play.

C. would have been more famous if she had created plays that were mainstream instead of experimental.

D. illustrates the artistic opportunity offered by off-off Broadway theaters.

Question ID c8f3d047

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: c8f3d047

North American gray wolves usually have mixed gray and white fur, but some members of the species have a version of a gene, or gene variant, that gives them a mostly black coat instead. Sarah Cubaynes and her team studied twelve populations of North American gray wolves. They found that the black-furred wolves are more common in areas where outbreaks of distemper virus happen regularly. The team also discovered that the black-furred wolves are more likely to be immune to distemper than the gray-furred wolves are. Taken together, these findings suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. North American gray wolves experience more outbreaks of distemper virus than other wolf species do.

B. the gene variant that results in black fur may be linked to immunity to the distemper virus.

C. the average life span of gray wolves is likely to increase over time because of a particular gene variant.

D. gray-furred wolves will soon replace black-furred wolves across North America.

Question ID 5d9c22f1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 5d9c22f1

A main goal of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), an arts organization founded in 1965, is to advance new works by Black musicians. The AACM achieves this goal in part by focusing on young artists. By having established musicians and composers serve as mentors, the AACM gives young artists the benefits of expert technical training and creative guidance. Numerous organizations offer similar kinds of support to new generations of painters, writers, and other artists, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. artists of all ages benefit more from technical training than from creative guidance.

B. many arts organizations recognize the importance of providing opportunities for young artists to learn from experienced mentors.

C. most established artists could become even better artists by serving as mentors.

D. finding a mentor is more important for musicians than it is for painters, writers, and other types of artists.

Question ID 1a7a074d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: 1a7a074d

Over 600 languages are spoken in New York City in addition to English—one can find Amharic spoken in the neighborhood of Norwood, or Ilocano in Woodside. Most speakers of Chinese languages reside in the neighborhood of Flushing (part of New York City's borough of Queens) and in Chinatown, in the borough of Manhattan. New immigrants from north China, where Mandarin is the primary first language, tend to settle in Queens, while new immigrants from south China, where many people speak Cantonese or Fuzhounese as a first language, tend to settle in Manhattan. It can therefore be inferred that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. languages tend to change more rapidly in areas where many languages are spoken than in areas where few languages are spoken.

B. languages spoken by immigrant peoples can differ significantly in vocabulary and pronunciation from those same languages in their country of origin.

C. there is a positive correlation between the physical size of a country and the number of languages spoken in that country.

D. correlations in a country between languages and regions where they are spoken can replicate themselves in a new country to which the original country's citizens emigrate.

Question ID eb430378

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	

ID: eb430378

Individuals with visual impairments who want to experience a solar eclipse may be able to make use of a device that converts light into sound. The device is made up of a microcontroller board and a light sensor that measures the brightness of light shining onto the device. It also has a component called a MIDI, which allows the device to play different sounds. The device plays a high-pitched flute sound in bright light, a neutral-pitched clarinet sound in mid-range light, and a soft clicking sound in low light. After a solar eclipse starts, the sun becomes more covered and the amount of light slowly reduces. Therefore, during a solar eclipse the device will _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. play a flute sound, then a clarinet sound, and then a clicking sound.

B. play a clicking sound, then a flute sound, and then a clarinet sound.

C. start with fast clarinet sounds that become steadily slower.

D. start with a soft flute sound that becomes steadily louder.