

Question ID 395f921a

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

ID: 395f921a

Data collected by the Mars rover *Curiosity* at the Gale Crater’s Murray Formation are suggestive of hydrological deposition of sediment in the distant past. To characterize the nature of the depositional environment, Frances Rivera-Hernández et al. analyzed the grain size of Murray Formation sediment, finding that although there are intervals of coarse grains, most of the sediment consists of fine grains that show signs of cracking due to episodic desiccation. Rivera-Hernández et al. concluded that the coarse grains are sandstone, which tends to be deposited by flowing water, whereas the fine grains are mudstone, which is slowly deposited by settling out of suspension in low-flow water, leading the researchers to posit that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. although the area of the Murray Formation experienced a prolonged period of dryness that prevented a lake from forming, water flowing from a distant source was present.
- B. a lake existed at the Murray Formation for a prolonged period, though the lake occasionally experienced drying and there were periods in which one or more streams were present.
- C. one or more streams existed at the Murray Formation for an extended period until being replaced by a lake that persisted for only a brief period before permanently drying.
- D. a stream-fed lake was present at the Murray Formation for an extended period, and although the streams experienced occasional drying, the lake did not.

Question ID 2a384ed7

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

ID: 2a384ed7

Martin Dančák, Wewin Tjiasmanto, and colleagues have identified a new carnivorous plant species (*Nepenthes pudica*) in Indonesia. Like other carnivorous plants, *N. pudica* has pitfall traps, or pitchers, that capture prey, but unlike others, the pitchers of *N. pudica* are located underground. The researchers unearthed the new species on fairly dry ridges with surfaces that host few other plants and animals. Therefore, the researchers hypothesize that the *N. pudica* species likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. represents one of many undiscovered carnivorous plant species in the region.
- B. formed pitchers early in development to absorb more moisture.
- C. is buried by nearby animals as they forage along the ridges for food.
- D. evolved to have underground traps to access more prey than would surface traps.

Question ID a089fb0b

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

ID: a089fb0b

Marine archaeologists have found much of the wooden hull of a sixteenth-century ship in a flooded quarry in southeast England. When it is exposed to air and water, wood rots quickly unless it is protected by sediment that shields it from oxygen. Therefore, the discovered ship was likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. covered by a protective sediment layer in the quarry.
- B. one of several other ships buried in the same quarry.
- C. a confirmation of previous theories about the type of wood that was used in sixteenth-century ships.
- D. first constructed much earlier than previously thought.

Question ID 4e76256c

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

ID: 4e76256c

Some geologists have proposed designating the period from 1950 to the present as a new geological epoch (the Anthropocene) characterized by human impact on Earth, but they have struggled to identify reliable stratigraphic markers of the epoch’s onset. Inta Dimante-Deimantovica and a research team investigated whether the initial appearance of primary microplastics—invented and mass-produced for industrial and other purposes, beginning around the middle of the twentieth century—in sedimentary layers could serve this role. The researchers analyzed European lake sediment profiles from the late eighteenth century to the present. Microplastics were present in all layers, likely because certain microplastic shapes enabled rapid downward migration. The researchers therefore concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the lowest sedimentary layer in which microplastics are found cannot be treated as indicative of the chronological beginning of the Anthropocene.
- B. the presence of microplastics in sediment dating to the late eighteenth century casts doubt on the appropriateness of designating 1950 as the onset of the Anthropocene.
- C. microplastics are not prevalent enough in sediment to serve as a reliable sign of the human impact characteristic of the Anthropocene.
- D. using the earliest presence of microplastics as a stratigraphic marker of the beginning of the Anthropocene is likely to be viable in some locations but is not viable in Europe.

Question ID 637557c3

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

ID: 637557c3

In their book *Smart Pricing*, Jagmohan Raju and Z. John Zhang consider musicians’ use of the nontraditional “pay as you wish” pricing model. This model generally offers listeners the choice to pay more or less than a suggested price for a song or album—or even to pay nothing at all. As the authors note, that’s the option most listeners chose for an album by the band Harvey Danger. Only about 1% opted to pay for the album, resulting in earnings below the band’s expectations. But the authors also discuss musician Jane Siberry, who saw significant earnings from her “pay as you wish” online music store as a result of many listeners choosing to pay more than the store’s suggested prices. Hence, the “pay as you wish” model may _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. prove financially successful for some musicians but disappointing for others.
- B. hold greater financial appeal for bands than for individual musicians.
- C. cause most musicians who use the model to lower the suggested prices of their songs and albums over time.
- D. more strongly reflect differences in certain musicians’ popularity than traditional pricing models do.

Question ID 8b8df3d8

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

ID: 8b8df3d8

In classical Greek and Roman mythology, female characters are typically cast as either villains lacking in psychological depth or passive victims who are marginal to these stories, which usually focus on the exploits of male characters. Recently, a subgenre has emerged in which writers reimagine these stories from the perspectives of their female characters, giving them agency and complex motivations. Purists argue that such efforts represent a distinctively modern tendency to impose our own values on past civilizations, obscuring those civilizations’ beliefs. Defenders of the subgenre counter that reimaginings of the myths for new cultural contexts are almost as old as the myths themselves, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. bringing female perspectives to the forefront is not indicative of a novel attitude regarding fidelity to Greek and Roman myths’ ideologies.
- B. modern writers’ foregrounding of female characters is chiefly motivated by a desire to counterbalance the primacy of male perspectives among earlier adaptations of Greek and Roman myths.
- C. purists are overlooking a long tradition of adapting Greek and Roman myths to focus on female characters.
- D. the complex motivations given to female characters in modern retellings of Greek and Roman myths reflect a recent shift toward psychological depth in fictional representation.

Question ID a94fa4c6

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

ID: a94fa4c6

Red velvet cake has been a favorite dessert of many for years, but the recipe’s origins are unclear. A bakery in Dallas, Texas, argued that it created the first recipe for the cake when the bakery opened in the 1860s. The Adams Extract Co., which sells baking products, claims to have created the recipe in the 1930s to help market their red dye. A US hotel and a Canadian department store also publicly stated that the red velvet cake sold in each of their establishments in the 1930s was an original creation, each alleging that it was the recipe author. No clear evidence has emerged to favor one of these claims over the others, however. It thus seems that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. red velvet cake was first baked sometime before the 1860s.
- B. we cannot say at present who actually baked the first red velvet cake.
- C. none of the supposed inventors of red velvet cake are likely to have invented it.
- D. the bakery in Dallas, Texas, probably invented red velvet cake.

Question ID becccd59

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

ID: becccd59

The practice of logging (cutting down trees for commercial and other uses) is often thought to be at odds with forest conservation (the work of preserving forests). However, a massive study in forest management and preservation spanning 700,000 hectares in Oregon’s Malheur National Forest calls that view into question. So far, results of the study suggest that forest plots that have undergone limited logging (the careful removal of a controlled number of trees) may be more robust than plots that haven’t been logged at all. These results, in turn, suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. logging may be useful for maintaining healthy forests, provided it is limited.
- B. other forest management strategies are more effective than limited logging.
- C. as time passes, it will be difficult to know whether limited logging has any benefits.
- D. the best way to support forest health may be to leave large forests entirely untouched.

Question ID 4d68ca10

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

ID: 4d68ca10

Mosses can struggle in harsh desert conditions because these plants require enough sunlight for photosynthesis but not so much that they risk drying out. Researchers Jenna Ekwealor and Kirsten M. Fisher found several species of *Syntrichia caninervis*, a type of desert moss, growing under quartz crystals in California’s Mojave Desert. To evaluate whether these semitransparent rocks benefited the moss, the researchers compared the shoot tissue, a measure of plant growth, of *S. caninervis* when growing on the soil surface versus when the moss was growing under the quartz rocks. They found that the shoot tissue was 62% longer for moss growing under the quartz as compared to moss on the soil surface, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. *S. caninervis* is one of the few types of moss that can survive under semitransparent rocks.
- B. quartz crystals do not transmit the necessary sunlight for photosynthesis in *S. caninervis*.
- C. *S. caninervis* growing under quartz crystals experience lower light intensity and are thus able to retain more moisture.
- D. quartz crystals are capable of supporting *S. caninervis* growth if the crystals are not too thin.

Question ID e77e6c16

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

ID: e77e6c16

Arthurian legends (tales related to the character of King Arthur) derive from many sources, such as *Vita Sancti Cadoci*, composed in the 11th century, and *Culhwch and Olwen* from the second half of the 12th century. One of the most significant sources, Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *History of the Kings of Britain*, was written in the 1130s; some material from it was later adapted by the Norman poet Wace into the *Roman de Brut* in 1155. But Wace didn’t merely adapt *History*, he added to it as well, introducing the famous Round Table at which Arthur’s knights assembled, which suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. *Roman de Brut* is more historically accurate than *History*, because *Culhwch and Olwen* had not been written when Geoffrey of Monmouth was writing his work.
- B. Geoffrey of Monmouth was unaware of stories of the Round Table when composing his *History*, though historians know that works containing such stories were available to him.
- C. Geoffrey of Monmouth’s accounts of Arthurian legends in his *History* are more similar overall in content to the accounts in *Culhwch and Olwen* than they are to the accounts in *Roman de Brut*.
- D. the Arthurian legends that the author of *Vita Sancti Cadoci* drew on would not have featured the Round Table.

Question ID 0f123a3f

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

ID: 0f123a3f

Researchers recently found that disruptions to an enjoyable experience, like a short series of advertisements during a television show, often increase viewers’ reported enjoyment. Suspecting that disruptions to an unpleasant experience would have the opposite effect, the researchers had participants listen to construction noise for 30 minutes and anticipated that those whose listening experience was frequently interrupted with short breaks of silence would thus _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. find the disruptions more irritating as time went on.
- B. rate the listening experience as more negative than those whose listening experience was uninterrupted.
- C. rate the experience of listening to construction noise as lasting for less time than it actually lasted.
- D. perceive the volume of the construction noise as growing softer over time.

Question ID bdb661b1

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

ID: bdb661b1

The alpaca was domesticated by Indigenous peoples in the Andes about 7,000 years ago. But which wild species did it descend from, the vicuña or guanaco? A research team led by Ruiwen Fan may have solved the mystery, concluding that the alpaca is the domesticated form of the vicuña but that the modern alpaca gets only 64 percent of its genetic material from its wild ancestor. The rest comes from the domesticated llama. The llama, meanwhile, gets 95.5 percent of its genetic material from its own wild ancestor, the guanaco, and the rest from the alpaca. The llama and alpaca apparently interbred widely for only a handful of generations between 400 and 600 years ago. Assuming that the findings of Fan’s team are valid, it can be inferred that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. modern llama populations have a greater degree of genetic diversity, on average, than modern alpaca populations do.
- B. the domestication process of the alpaca may have involved some introduction of genetic material from the llama.
- C. the period of interbreeding resulted in a greater genetic difference between alpacas and their wild ancestors than between llamas and their wild ancestors.
- D. if they were subjected to genetic testing, modern populations of guanacos and vicuñas would likely show traces of ancient interbreeding as well.

Question ID 2263adb4

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

ID: 2263adb4

Scholars have noted that F. Scott Fitzgerald’s writings were likely influenced in part by his marriage to Zelda Fitzgerald, but many don’t recognize Zelda as a writer in her own right. Indeed, Zelda authored several works herself, such as the novel *Save Me the Waltz* and numerous short stories. Thus, those who primarily view Zelda as an inspiration for F. Scott’s writings _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. overlook the many other factors that motivated F. Scott to write.
- B. risk misrepresenting the full range of Zelda’s contributions to literature.
- C. may draw inaccurate conclusions about how F. Scott and Zelda viewed each other’s works.
- D. tend to read the works of F. Scott and Zelda in an overly autobiographical light.

Question ID f5d5e224

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

ID: f5d5e224

“Gestures” in painting are typically thought of as bold, expressive brushstrokes. In the 1970s, American painter Jack Whitten built a 12-foot (3.7-meter) tool he named the “developer” to apply paint to an entire canvas in one motion, resulting in his series of “slab” paintings from that decade. Whitten described this process as making an entire painting in “one gesture,” signaling a clear departure from the prevalence of gestures in his work from the 1960s. Some art historians claim this shift represents “removing gesture” from the process. Therefore, regardless of whether using the developer constitutes a gesture, both Whitten and these art historians likely agree that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. any tool that a painter uses to create an artwork is capable of creating gestures.
- B. Whitten’s work from the 1960s exhibits many more gestures than his work from the 1970s does.
- C. Whitten became less interested in exploring the role of gesture in his work as his career progressed.
- D. Whitten’s work from the 1960s is much more realistic than his work from the 1970s is.

Question ID 80bae6d9

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

ID: 80bae6d9

Ana Castillo’s 1986 novel *The Mixquiahuala Letters* is a story told entirely through expressive letters from the narrator to her friend —letters that Castillo suggests could be read in several different orders. As they began reading it in class, some students remarked that they found the novel’s letter format daunting and its treatment of gender relations old-fashioned. The professor, however, pointed out that the novel is written in modern-sounding language and addresses issues that still matter today, suggesting that *The Mixquiahuala Letters* _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. has more to say about gender relations than other novels from the same period.
- B. is more relevant to contemporary audiences than it may seem at first.
- C. is easier to read than many contemporary novels that focus on friendship.
- D. is best understood after multiple readings in different orders.

Question ID b35a6c5c

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

ID: b35a6c5c

Silicon-based photovoltaic cells account for 95% of the cells used in solar panels worldwide despite converting an average of only 18–22% of the sunlight that reaches them. In a study addressing this relative inefficiency, a team led by Laura Miranda-Pérez demonstrated that the addition of a thin layer of the mineral perovskite—which captures the blue range of light in the solar spectrum, whereas silicon captures the red range—allows the cells to convert 29.5% or more of the Sun’s energy into usable electricity. Cells made with only perovskite, however, are no more efficient than silicon-based ones. It’s reasonable to conclude, then, that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. photovoltaic cells with both silicon and perovskite are more efficient because they make use of more of the solar spectrum.
- B. photovoltaic cells with only perovskite and no silicon would likely convert more than 29.5% of the Sun’s energy.
- C. solar power will remain elusive until photovoltaic cells are replaced with a more practical technology.
- D. researchers need to evaluate whether other minerals like perovskite are as effective as perovskite seems to be.

Question ID da623133

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

ID: da623133

Pigments give paints and dyes their color. Ocher is a mineral-based pigment used to make several colors, including red. Red ocher gets its color from iron oxide. Pigments can also be plant-based; plant-based pigments contain a high level of carbon. In a 2023 study, archaeologists tested the red pigment on decorated beads made by members of the Natufian culture approximately 15,000 years ago. The test showed that the pigment found on several beads contained no iron but had a high level of carbon. This finding led the researchers to conclude that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the Natufian beads examined in the study are the oldest surviving examples of the use of plant-based pigments for decorating beads.
- B. the Natufian beadmakers used plant-based pigments rather than ocher to decorate some of the beads examined in the study.
- C. the Natufian beadmakers preferred to use plant-based pigments because they are much brighter than mineral-based pigments are.
- D. the pigments used by the Natufian beadmakers likely came from plants because ocher was difficult to find.

Question ID 33e2ed66

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

ID: 33e2ed66

By running computer simulations of the development of our solar system, André Izidoro, Rajdeep Dasgupta, and colleagues concluded that the Sun may have been surrounded by three giant dust rings before the planets started to form. The researchers suggest that the materials in the innermost ring became the four planets closest to the Sun, the materials in the middle ring produced the rest of the planets, and the materials in the outermost ring created the asteroids and other small bodies in the region beyond Neptune. In one simulation, the researchers delayed the initial formation of the middle ring, causing oversized super-Earths to begin developing from the innermost ring. The researchers therefore hypothesize that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the middle ring formed earlier in the solar system’s development than the initial simulations suggested.
- B. the timing of the initial formation of the middle ring played an important role in determining the eventual size of Earth.
- C. if the formation of the outermost ring had occurred earlier in a simulation, all the planets would have become super-Earths.
- D. the innermost ring actually formed into all the planets in our solar system, not just the four closest to the Sun.

Question ID 909d62d4

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

ID: 909d62d4

A social species, chickens will cry out to one another in warning if they sense a hawk or other predator nearby. But if alone, a chicken will remain silent so as not to attract the predator’s attention. Sonja Hillemacher decided to use this behavior to determine whether individual chickens possess a capacity to recognize themselves visually when reflected in a mirror (a common standard for animal intelligence). In the first condition of her study, the subject could see its reflection, but no other chickens were present. In a second condition, another chicken was visible to the subject. Hillemacher presented an image of a hawk to the subject in both conditions, reasoning that if chickens lacked a capacity for visual self-recognition, then _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. neither study condition would elicit an audible response from the subject.
- B. the subject likely would cry out a warning in both study conditions.
- C. only the first study condition would elicit an audible response from the subject.
- D. the subject would fail to distinguish its reflection from the image of the hawk.

Question ID c162371f

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

ID: c162371f

Zooarchaeologist Ophélie Lebrasseur and her team examined a fox skeleton discovered in 1991 at an archaeological site alongside artifacts of human habitation (like spear points) in central Argentina. Lebrasseur et al. determined that the fox was *Dusicyon avus*, an extinct species resembling a jackal, and radiocarbon dating placed the fox at the site at the same time as human inhabitants. (Indeed, the inhabitants may have deliberately buried the fox.) In addition, while wild foxes have a diet entirely made of meat, isotopic signatures of the skeleton’s teeth indicated that the fox’s diet, like that of the humans, was partly composed of plant material. Lebrasseur et al. therefore concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the humans who were alive at the same time as the fox most likely ate more meat than the fox did.
- B. the fox may have been a companion animal of the humans who inhabited the site at the same time.
- C. the fox had a diet more similar to that of jackals than to that of wild foxes.
- D. the humans who were alive at the same time as the fox hunted using the spears whose points were also found at the site.

Question ID ac58ccc9

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

ID: ac58ccc9

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is a circa 1400 poem written in Middle English—an archaic form of the English spoken today. Over the last several centuries, the English language has undergone such transformations in vocabulary, spelling, and grammar that most readers now rely on translations to read *Sir Gawain*. In the introduction to his 2007 translation, Simon Armitage remarks that the sonic patterns of the poem, which was written in alliterative verse (a verse form featuring extensive repetition of initial consonant sounds), are essential to its structure. Because many Modern English words begin with different sounds than their Middle English equivalents do, a strictly literal translation of *Sir Gawain* would therefore likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. preserve much of the original text’s meaning at the expense of other qualities that are also integral to the experience of reading the poem.
- B. appeal more to modern readers than would translations like Armitage’s that instead prioritize the original text’s sonic and structural qualities.
- C. be more faithful to the original intentions of the poem than most strictly literal translations of alliterative Middle English poems are to their originals.
- D. be preferable to modern readers who are primarily interested in learning what the poem reveals about historical conditions during the time it was originally written.

Question ID fa812387

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

ID: fa812387

Volunteering, or giving time for a community service for free, is a valuable form of civic engagement because helping in a community is also good for society as a whole. In a survey of youths in the United States, most young people said that they believe volunteering is a way to help people on an individual level. Meanwhile, only 6% of the youths said that they think volunteering is a way to help fix problems in society overall. These replies suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. many young people think they can volunteer only within their own communities.
- B. volunteering may be even more helpful than many young people think it is.
- C. volunteering can help society overall more than it can help individual people.
- D. many young people may not know how to find ways to volunteer their time.

Question ID 8aba4673

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

ID: 8aba4673

Euphorbia esula (leafy spurge) is a Eurasian plant that has become invasive in North America, where it displaces native vegetation and sickens cattle. *E. esula* can be controlled with chemical herbicides, but that approach can also kill harmless plants nearby. Recent research on introducing engineered DNA into plant species to inhibit their reproduction may offer a path toward exclusively targeting *E. esula*, consequently _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. making individual *E. esula* plants more susceptible to existing chemical herbicides.
- B. enhancing the ecological benefits of *E. esula* in North America.
- C. enabling cattle to consume *E. esula* without becoming sick.
- D. reducing invasive *E. esula* numbers without harming other organisms.

Question ID 569417b9

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

ID: 569417b9

The Younger Dryas was a period of extreme cooling from 11,700 to 12,900 years ago in the Northern Hemisphere. Some scientists argue that a comet fragment hitting Earth brought about the cooling. Others disagree, partly because there is no known crater from such an impact that dates to the beginning of the period. In 2015, a team led by Kurt Kjær detected a 19-mile-wide crater beneath a glacier in Greenland. The scientists who believe an impact caused the Younger Dryas claim that this discovery supports their view. However, Kjær’s team hasn’t yet been able to determine the age of the crater. Therefore, the team suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. it can’t be concluded that the impact that made the crater was connected to the beginning of the Younger Dryas.
- B. it can’t be determined whether a comet fragment could make a crater as large as 19 miles wide.
- C. scientists have ignored the possibility that something other than a comet fragment could have made the crater.
- D. the scientists who believe an impact caused the Younger Dryas have made incorrect assumptions about when the period began.

Question ID 4427bf2b

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

ID: 4427bf2b

The Indus River valley civilization flourished in South Asia from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE. Many examples of the civilization’s writing system exist, but researchers haven’t yet deciphered it or identified which ancient language it represents. Nevertheless, archaeologists have found historical artifacts, such as clay figures and jewelry, that provide information about the civilization’s customs and how its communities were organized. The archaeologists’ findings therefore suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. investigating an ancient civilization is easier without knowledge of the civilization’s language.
- B. knowing an ancient civilization’s language isn’t necessary in order to learn details about the civilization.
- C. archaeological research should focus on finding additional artifacts rather than deciphering ancient languages.
- D. examining the civilization’s historical artifacts has resolved the debate about this civilization’s language.

Question ID a28bcdbf

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

ID: a28bcdbf

Archaeologists have been debating the origin of a rare form of lead found in Shang dynasty (1766–1046 BCE) bronze artifacts since its presence was discovered in China in the 1990s. Different researchers have proposed theories on which regions of the world would have had the raw materials containing the specific lead in these artifacts, but no conclusive evidence has been presented. What is intriguing is that bronze artifacts from China dated after the Shang dynasty do not contain this form of lead, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. Shang dynasty bronze pieces are rare and therefore more valuable than those from other time periods.
- B. the source of some of the raw materials used to make bronze was exploited only until the end of the Shang dynasty.
- C. bronze was used for a short time during the Shang dynasty before different metals were used to make artifacts.
- D. methods used to analyze bronze artifacts are not useful on pieces that are dated after the Shang dynasty.

Question ID 9709b49b

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

ID: 9709b49b

Songbirds learn to respond to and imitate their species’ songs from an early age. With each generation, small differences are introduced that result in distinct variations—called dialects—among geographically isolated populations of the same species. A research study examined whether twelve-day-old *Ficedula hypoleuca* (pied flycatcher) nestlings prefer local dialects over the unfamiliar dialects of nonlocal *F. hypoleuca* populations: the more begging calls the nestlings made in response to a song, the stronger their preference. The researchers found that nestlings produced more begging calls in response to their own dialect than to nonlocal dialects. Since song preference plays a role in songbird mate selection, the finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings’ preference for their own dialect likely disappears as they mature to promote socialization between different *F. hypoleuca* populations.
- B. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings who show an early preference for their own dialect are likely to receive more food from their caretakers than nestlings who show no preferences among any *F. hypoleuca* dialects.
- C. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings’ preference for their own dialect likely drives them when they mature to reproduce with other *F. hypoleuca* from local rather than nonlocal populations.
- D. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings show a preference for both local *F. hypoleuca* dialects and the songs of other local songbirds over the songs of nonlocal birds of any species.

Question ID 112e8795

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

ID: 112e8795

The Uto-Aztecan language family is divided into a northern branch, which includes the Shoshone language of present-day Idaho and Utah, and a southern one, whose best-known representative is Nahuatl, the language of the Aztec Empire in Mexico. Lexical similarities across the family, including of botanical terms, confirm descent from a single language spoken millennia ago, and the family’s geographical distribution suggests an origin in what is now the US Southwest. However, vocabulary pertaining to maize isn’t shared between northern and southern branches, despite the crop’s universal cultivation among Uto-Aztecan tribes. Given archaeological evidence that maize originated in Mexico and diffused northward into what became the US Southwest, some linguists reason that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. northern Uto-Aztecan tribes likely obtained the crop directly from a southern Uto-Aztecan tribe rather than from a non-Uto-Aztecan tribe.
- B. variation in maize-related vocabulary within each branch of the Uto-Aztecan family likely reflects regionally specific methods for cultivating the crop.
- C. southern Uto-Aztecan tribes likely acquired maize at roughly the same time as northern Uto-Aztecan tribes did, though from different sources.
- D. the family’s division into northern and southern branches likely preceded the acquisition of the crop by the Uto-Aztecan tribes.

Question ID df30ce17

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

ID: df30ce17

Like many other genera of wild bees, bumblebees have in recent decades experienced population collapse caused by, among other factors, habitat destruction and climate variation. Bumblebees are also one of the most researched bee genera, second only to honeybees. As a result, ecologists have gained much of their insight about wild-bee declines from bumblebees. In a 2021 paper, zoologist Guillaume Ghisbain notes that bumblebees are among the relatively few wild-bee genera that display social behaviors and dietary generalism (ability to obtain nectar and pollen from a diversity of plant species), two traits that are associated with increased resilience to some specific environmental changes. Ghisbain therefore contends that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. although bumblebees and many other wild bees have experienced similar population declines in the past, compared with other wild bees, bumblebees are likely at greater risk of being harmed by climate variation than by habitat destruction.
- B. although bumblebees have been more extensively studied than most wild bees, researchers should not use bumblebees to draw conclusions about the decline of other wild bees, even ones with feeding patterns and levels of sociability that are similar to those of bumblebees.
- C. because bumblebees and other bees with generalist diets are less negatively affected by environmental stress than bees with specialized diets are, they are less likely to experience major population changes in the future than bees with specialized diets are.
- D. because the responses of bumblebees and other wild bees to environmental threats are not always comparable, researchers need to exercise caution when extrapolating information about wild-bee population declines from bumblebees.

Question ID 1f337951

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

ID: 1f337951

Violins made by Antonio Stradivari and other craftspeople in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries in Cremona, Italy, produce a sound that is considered superior to that of modern stringed instruments. Some experts have claimed that the type of wood used to create Cremonese violins is responsible for their prized sound, but modern and Cremonese violins are made of the same kinds of wood: maple and spruce. New analysis, however, has revealed unique indications that the wood in the older violins was chemically treated by the makers, leading researchers to suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. Cremonese violins probably were not considered superior to other instruments at the time they were made.
- B. the sound quality of Cremonese violins results in part from a method the craftspeople used to alter the wood.
- C. if modern violins were made of a wood other than maple or spruce, they likely would sound as good as Cremonese violins.
- D. the current process of making violins is the same process that was used centuries ago by Cremonese craftspeople.

Question ID bdb9673a

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

ID: bdb9673a

Belonging to neither the minimalist nor the abstract art movements but heavily influencing both, Constantin Brâncuși spent his sculpting career returning to the same few themes—a kiss, a sleeping head, and a bird in flight—each rendered in pristine, simple, almost abstract forms. Perhaps the most famous example is *Bird in Space* (1923), a tall, slender bronze sculpture that arcs upward in a manner suggestive of flight but that otherwise lacks any identifiable characteristics of a bird. Despite the seeming simplicity of his works, the exacting standards to which Brâncuși held his work meant that he produced relatively few pieces over his career. There is thus something of a disparity between _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the nature of much of Brâncuși’s work and the abstraction of *Bird in Space*.
- B. Brâncuși’s relatively limited productivity and the diversity of his sculptures.
- C. the themes Brâncuși explored and the themes favored by artists he inspired.
- D. Brâncuși’s importance to the history of art and his total artistic output.

Question ID c7bdc78a

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

ID: c7bdc78a

Archaeologists and historians used to believe that the Maya civilization during its Classic period (roughly 250–900) lacked agricultural marketplaces. One reason for this belief was that these scholars misunderstood the ecology of the regions the Maya inhabited. Marketplaces typically emerge because different individuals or groups want to trade resources they control for resources they don’t control. Scholars seriously underestimated the ecological diversity of the Maya landscape and thus assumed that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. marketplaces likely would not have attracted many traders from outside the regions controlled by the Maya.
- B. farming practices would have been largely the same throughout Maya lands even if the crops people produced varied significantly.
- C. marketplaces would not have enabled Maya people to acquire many products different from those they already produced.
- D. farmers would trade agricultural products only if they had already produced enough to meet their own needs.

Question ID 7df74f02

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

ID: 7df74f02

One recognized social norm of gift giving is that the time spent obtaining a gift will be viewed as a reflection of the gift’s thoughtfulness. Marketing experts Farnoush Reshadi, Julian Givi, and Gopal Das addressed this view in their studies of norms specifically surrounding the giving of gift cards, noting that while recipients tend to view digital gift cards (which can be purchased online from anywhere and often can be redeemed online as well) as superior to physical gift cards (which sometimes must be purchased in person and may only be redeemable in person) in terms of usage, 94.8 percent of participants surveyed indicated that it is more socially acceptable to give a physical gift card to a recipient. This finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. gift givers likely overestimate the amount of effort required to use digital gift cards and thus mistakenly assume gift recipients will view them as less desirable than physical gift cards.
- B. physical gift cards are likely preferred by gift recipients because the tangible nature of those cards offers a greater psychological sense of ownership than digital gift cards do.
- C. physical gift cards are likely less desirable to gift recipients than digital gift cards are because of the perception that physical gift cards require unnecessary effort to obtain.
- D. gift givers likely perceive digital gift cards as requiring relatively low effort to obtain and thus wrongly assume gift recipients will appreciate them less than they do physical gift cards.

Question ID 6b61d665

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

ID: 6b61d665

Tatiana R. Feuerborn and colleagues analyzed the genomes of more than a hundred domesticated dogs from sites in Siberia dating from 11,000 years ago to the present. They found that the dogs constituted a genetically isolated population of Arctic breeds until approximately 2,000 years ago, at which point there was substantial interbreeding with Near Eastern dog breeds. Furthermore, beginning around 2,000 years ago, some sites contain artifacts consistent with a Near East origin, like glass beads, but the people show no evidence of having traveled extensively outside Siberia. From this, Feuerborn and colleagues concluded that around 2,000 years ago _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. dogs and artifacts like glass beads began to be transported from the Near East to Siberia.
- B. people from Siberia began to reach the Near East, where they acquired dogs and artifacts such as glass beads.
- C. glass beads and other artifacts from the Near East began to be exchanged for dogs from Siberia.
- D. dogs from the Near East began to be exchanged for glass beads and other artifacts from Siberia.

Question ID c90b7952

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

ID: c90b7952

The Cretaceous pterosaur *Tupandactylus navigans* is known for having an anomalously oversized head crest. Until an almost complete fossil skeleton was found in Brazil, paleontologists had been able to study only skull specimens from *T. navigans*, though it was presumed that, like other pterosaurs, the species’s primary form of locomotion was powered flight. Examining the fuller skeleton in 2016, Victor Beccari and his team determined that *T. navigans* had long hind legs, short wings, and an unusually long neck—characteristics that, combined with the creature’s large-crested head, would have made sustained flight difficult and walking upright relatively comfortable. Based on these findings the team suggests that *T. navigans* likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. flew for longer distances than did other pterosaur species that had oversized head crests.
- B. had longer wings than other pterosaur species considered to have been comfortable walking.
- C. had a smaller head than researchers expected based on the earlier *T. navigans* skull specimens.
- D. flew for shorter distances and spent more time walking than researchers previously thought.

Question ID cc624ec6

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

ID: cc624ec6

The *Mammillaria* cactus *M. boolii* occurs naturally only in the state of Sonora in Mexico, and the smallness of its range makes it especially vulnerable to extinction. The traditional single-species approach to conservation emphasizes the need to focus on individual species most at risk, like *M. boolii*, but recently, conservationists have argued that an ecosystem-based approach that incorporates the many interactions between the climate, terrain, and various species of a given geographical area may lead to better outcomes for all the species in a given location. If this view is correct, the single-species approach to the conservation of *M. boolii* could thus _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. lead to a better understanding of how the distribution of *Mammillaria* species throughout Mexico has affected their survival.
- B. allow conservationists to better consider how climatic changes affecting Sonora may reduce the number of species competing with *M. boolii*.
- C. erroneously shift the focus of conservation efforts away from *M. boolii* itself.
- D. fail to consider the ways in which the survival of *M. boolii* may be influenced by changes in the populations of other species that inhabit Sonora.

Question ID a8df7c91

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

ID: a8df7c91

It’s common for jazz musicians and fans to refer to certain songs as having “swing,” indicating that the songs provoke a strong feeling, like the impulse to tap one’s foot or dance. The exact acoustic properties that give a song swing, however, have long been thought to be undefinable. To investigate swing, a team led by physicist Corentin Nelias delayed the downbeats and synchronized the offbeats in jazz piano solos and asked jazz musicians to compare the intensity of swing in each modified piece with the intensity of swing in the original piece. They found that participants were more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. synchronized offbeats tend to give a song swing regardless of whether downbeats are delayed.
- B. the acoustic properties that give a song swing are not easy for jazz musicians to manipulate.
- C. jazz songs that feature the piano are more likely to have swing than are jazz songs that do not feature the piano.
- D. the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.

Question ID 1ce182dd

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

ID: 1ce182dd

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA) examines trends in economic well-being among 25,000 people in Australia unfolding over many years. As is true of most longitudinal studies, this need for years of data collection results in high costs. By contrast, a relatively straightforward fitness study, such as one that is merely trying to identify the percentage of regular exercisers in a city who do weight training, may not need a large budget because _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. longitudinal methods are probably suitable for the fitness study.
- B. it would be easy for HILDA researchers to add questions to their economic well-being study.
- C. 25,000 people is more than enough for HILDA to find trends in economic well-being.
- D. the fitness study can be done well without years of data collection.

Question ID 84c64ba3

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

ID: 84c64ba3

Outi Tervo and team studied the effect of human-caused noise on narwhals (*Monodon monoceros*), arctic marine mammals that are sensitive to acoustic changes in their environment. Hypothesizing that elevated sound levels affect foraging among narwhals, Tervo’s team compared narwhal diving behaviors in natural sound conditions with those behaviors in two human-caused sound exposure conditions—ship sounds and ship sounds coupled with sonic pulses. Both exposure conditions resulted in significant decreases in the number and target depth of deep dives (associated with foraging) relative to natural conditions. However, differences between diving behaviors in the two exposure types were negligible, a finding that could be attributed to the fact that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. sonic pulses can be heard at significantly greater ocean depths than ship sounds can.
- B. ship sounds contribute so much to the overall sound level that the addition of sonic pulses has little effect on the narwhals’ auditory environment.
- C. narwhals forage at shallower depths in the presence of ship sounds alone than in the presence of ship sounds coupled with sonic pulses.
- D. the narwhals weren’t as sensitive to human-caused sounds as the researchers had predicted.

Question ID 255d7d1b

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

ID: 255d7d1b

In dialects of English spoken in Scotland, the “r” sound is strongly emphasized when it appears at the end of syllables (as in “car”) or before other consonant sounds (as in “bird”). English dialects of the Upland South, a region stretching from Oklahoma to western Virginia, place similar emphasis on “r” at the ends of syllables and before other consonant sounds. Historical records show that the Upland South was colonized largely by people whose ancestors came from Scotland. Thus, linguists have concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the English dialects spoken in the Upland South acquired their emphasis on the “r” sound from dialects spoken in Scotland.
- B. emphasis on the “r” sound will eventually spread from English dialects spoken in the Upland South to dialects spoken elsewhere.
- C. the English dialects spoken in Scotland were influenced by dialects spoken in the Upland South.
- D. people from Scotland abandoned their emphasis on the “r” sound after relocating to the Upland South.

Question ID ad6e3cac

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

ID: ad6e3cac

To address the susceptibility of materials used in components of high-performance machinery, such as aircraft engines, to creep (deformation that is induced by persistent mechanical stress and that often occurs at elevated temperatures), materials researchers have developed silicon carbide (SiC) fibers for producing aerospace composites. Testing the thermomechanical properties of several commercially available SiC fibers, Ramakrishna T. Bhatt et al. found that in comparison with two polymer-derived SiC fibers, a nitrogen-treated SiC fiber exhibited a lower minimum creep rate, a measure of the rate at which a stress-exposed material deforms at a constant temperature and uniaxial load. The finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. unlike the two polymer-derived SiC fibers, the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber can substantially inhibit creep, provided that temperatures and loads are consistent.
- B. the two polymer-derived SiC fibers likely hold similar potential for reducing the creep resistance of materials exposed to stress and elevated temperatures, thus prolonging the life span of aerospace machinery.
- C. composites based on the two polymer-derived SiC fibers have chemical properties that may improve the mechanical and thermal stability of aerospace equipment to a greater extent than do composites based on the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber.
- D. aerospace composites containing the nitrogen-treated SiC fiber may have the ability to withstand mechanical stress for a longer period of time than can aerospace composites containing either of the two polymer-derived SiC fibers.

Question ID 271de70a

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

ID: 271de70a

In the early nineteenth century, some Euro-American farmers in the northeastern United States used agricultural techniques developed by the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people centuries earlier, but it seems that few of those farmers had actually seen Haudenosaunee farms firsthand. Barring the possibility of several farmers of the same era independently developing techniques that the Haudenosaunee people had already invented, these facts most strongly suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. those farmers learned the techniques from other people who were more directly influenced by Haudenosaunee practices.
- B. the crops typically cultivated by Euro-American farmers in the northeastern United States were not well suited to Haudenosaunee farming techniques.
- C. Haudenosaunee farming techniques were widely used in regions outside the northeastern United States.
- D. Euro-American farmers only began to recognize the benefits of Haudenosaunee farming techniques late in the nineteenth century.

Question ID 00020651

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

ID: 00020651

Indigenous cultures possess unique knowledge of the medicinal uses of plants. According to a 2021 study, 73 percent of the medicinal uses of plants native to North America are reflected in the vocabulary of a single Indigenous language. However, as more and more Indigenous people exclusively speak a globally dominant language, such as English, their ancestral languages fade from daily use. These facts lend added importance to tribal nations’ efforts to preserve their languages. By ensuring the continued use of Cherokee, Ojibwe, and the hundreds of other Indigenous languages in what is now the United States, tribal nations are also _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. increasing the number of medicinal plants represented in the vocabularies of Indigenous languages.
- B. transmitting terms for medicinal plants from Indigenous languages to globally dominant languages.
- C. preserving knowledge about the medicinal value of plants native to the tribal nations’ lands.
- D. ensuring that citizens of tribal nations have physical access to medicinal plants.

Question ID 4edbe1d5

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

ID: 4edbe1d5

Henry Ossawa Tanner’s 1893 painting *The Banjo Lesson*, which depicts an elderly man teaching a boy to play the banjo, is regarded as a landmark in the history of works by Black artists in the United States. Scholars should be cautious when ascribing political or ideological values to the painting, however: beliefs and assumptions that are commonly held now may have been unfamiliar to Tanner and his contemporaries, and vice versa. Scholars who forget this fact when discussing *The Banjo Lesson* therefore _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. risk judging Tanner’s painting by standards that may not be historically appropriate.
- B. tend to conflate Tanner’s political views with those of his contemporaries.
- C. forgo analyzing Tanner’s painting in favor of analyzing his political activity.
- D. wrongly assume that Tanner’s painting was intended as a critique of his fellow artists.

Question ID 82812541

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

ID: 82812541

Some ethicists hold that the moral goodness of an individual’s actions depends solely on whether the actions themselves are good, irrespective of the context in which they are carried out. Philosopher L. Sebastian Purcell has shown that surviving works of Aztec (Nahua) philosophy express a very different view. Purcell reveals that these works posit an ethical system in which an individual’s actions are judged in light of how well they accord with the individual’s role in society and how well they contribute to the community. To the extent that these works are representative of Aztec thought, Purcell’s analysis suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the Aztecs would have disputed the idea that the morality of an individual’s actions can be assessed by appealing to standards of behavior that are independent of the individual’s social circumstances.
- B. the Aztecs would not have accepted the notion that the morality of an individual’s actions can be fairly evaluated by people who do not live in the same society as that individual.
- C. actions by members of Aztec society who contributed a great deal to their community could be judged as morally good even if those actions were inconsistent with behaviors the Aztecs regarded as good in all contexts.
- D. similar actions performed by people in different social roles in Aztec society would have been regarded as morally equivalent unless those actions led to different outcomes for the community.

Question ID 02401fe2

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

ID: 02401fe2

Geoglyphs are large-scale designs of lines or shapes created in a natural landscape. The Nazca Lines were created in the Nazca Desert in Peru by several Indigenous civilizations over a period of many centuries. Peruvian archaeologist Johnny Isla specializes in these geoglyphs. At a German exhibit about the Nazca Lines, he saw an old photograph of a large geoglyph of a whalelike figure and was surprised that he didn't recognize it. Isla returned to Peru and used a drone to search a wide area, looking for the figure from the air. This approach suggests that Isla thought that if he hadn't already seen it, the whalelike geoglyph _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. must represent a species of whale that went extinct before there were any people in Peru.
- B. is actually located in Germany, not Peru, and isn't part of the Nazca Lines at all.
- C. is probably in a location Isla hadn't ever come across while on the ground.
- D. was almost certainly created a long time after the other Nazca Lines geoglyphs were created.

Question ID be7d64d5

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

ID: be7d64d5

In a study of the mechanisms underlying associative memory—or the ability to learn and remember connections between inherently unrelated things—neuroscientists Kei Igarashi, Jasmine Chavez, and others presented mice with memory tests. The team discovered that fan cells, a type of cell found in the medial temporal lobe of the brain, are necessary for the acquisition of new associative memories. They also found that fan cell activity requires dopamine, a chemical the brain produces in response to pleasure and rewards. Consequently, receiving a reward should likely help to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. decrease an individual’s capacity to utilize dopamine.
- B. increase an individual’s capacity to recognize differences between unrelated things.
- C. increase an individual’s capacity to form associative memories.
- D. decrease an individual’s capacity to create fan cells.

Question ID 1cf854a4

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

ID: 1cf854a4

For its 1974 work *Instant Mural*, the Chicano art collective Asco taped members Patssi Valdez and Humberto Sandoval to an outdoor wall in East Los Angeles. The work is manifestly a commentary on constraint, but many critics focus on Valdez and the social constraints women faced at the time, which is understandable but leaves the presence of Valdez’s male collaborator Sandoval unexplained. We should instead consider that in 1974, the art establishment’s recognition of Chicano artists was (and had long been) restricted to sociohistorical muralists, leaving nonmuralist Chicano artists—like Asco’s members—struggling to even exhibit their work; attending to this context opens an interpretation that accounts for all the evidence, allowing us to conclude that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. while Valdez’s presence in *Instant Mural* represents the social constraints placed on women at the time, Sandoval’s presence represents Chicano muralists’ frustration at their lack of recognition by the art establishment.
- B. the main subject of *Instant Mural* is female Chicano artists’ experience of being doubly constrained by gender-role expectations and the marginalization of certain types of art.
- C. *Instant Mural* is a reflection on the constraining aesthetic expectations placed on Chicano artists in general rather than on the social constraints placed on women specifically.
- D. *Instant Mural* is best understood not as a critique of the social constraints placed on women but rather as a critique of sociohistorical muralists’ depictions of Chicano culture.

Question ID dda5a31a

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

ID: dda5a31a

Parthenogenesis is a form of reproduction in which a female reproduces without mating. She produces an egg containing a single offspring whose DNA, or genetic material, comes entirely from its mother. Among birds, parthenogenesis has been found in a handful of species, including pigeons and turkeys. When scientists at the San Diego Zoo analyzed the DNA of the zoo’s California condors (a species of vulture), they discovered that two individuals weren’t genetically similar enough to any of the males in the condor enclosure to be their offspring. However, both had hatched from eggs laid by females in the enclosure. Thus, the scientists concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. at least one of those individuals’ mothers was born as a result of parthenogenesis.
- B. California condors may reproduce through parthenogenesis in zoos but not in the wild.
- C. the mothers of the two individuals probably reproduced through parthenogenesis.
- D. California condors reproduce through parthenogenesis only if females lack sufficient access to males.

Question ID 98f84996

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

ID: 98f84996

Tides can deposit large quantities of dead vegetation within a salt marsh, smothering healthy plants and leaving a salt panne—a depression devoid of plants that tends to trap standing water—in the marsh’s interior. Ecologist Kathryn Beheshti and colleagues found that burrowing crabs living within these pannes improve drainage by loosening the soil, leading the pannes to shrink as marsh plants move back in. At salt marsh edges, however, crab-induced soil loosening can promote marsh loss by accelerating erosion, suggesting that the burrowing action of crabs _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. can be beneficial to marshes with small pannes but can be harmful to marshes with large pannes.
- B. may promote increases in marsh plants or decreases in marsh plants, depending on the crabs’ location.
- C. tends to be more heavily concentrated in areas of marsh interiors with standing water than at marsh edges.
- D. varies in intensity depending on the size of the panne relative to the size of the surrounding marsh.

Question ID 6d8d4143

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

ID: 6d8d4143

Many animals, including humans, must sleep, and sleep is known to have a role in everything from healing injuries to encoding information in long-term memory. But some scientists claim that, from an evolutionary standpoint, deep sleep for hours at a time leaves an animal so vulnerable that the known benefits of sleeping seem insufficient to explain why it became so widespread in the animal kingdom. These scientists therefore imply that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. prolonged deep sleep is likely advantageous in ways that have yet to be discovered.
- B. most traits perform functions that are hard to understand from an evolutionary standpoint.
- C. it is more important to understand how widespread prolonged deep sleep is than to understand its function.
- D. many traits that provide significant benefits for an animal also likely pose risks to that animal.

Question ID bc155e61

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

ID: bc155e61

In 2022, Crystal Reeck and colleagues studied whether the decision-making modes that guide consumers influence their choice between nonenvironmentally friendly standard electricity plans and environmentally friendly green plans that cap electricity usage. Study participants who self-reported using either an Affect Mode or Role Mode—which prioritize choices that have a stronger positive emotional or social impact, respectively—were more likely to select a green plan. Conversely, participants using a Calculation Mode—which aims to minimize both financial cost and personal inconvenience—were more likely to select a standard plan, even when the green option was cheaper. This finding suggests that participants using a Calculation Mode _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. were equally unlikely to factor the financial savings of the green plan into their decision-making as were participants using either the Affect or Role Modes.
- B. may have been less strongly motivated to appear socially responsible with their choice of plan than they realized.
- C. may have determined that the green plan imposed additional burdens on them that were not sufficiently offset by the potential financial savings.
- D. were less likely to believe that the green plan was truly cost-effective than were participants using either the Affect or Role Modes.

Question ID 8355499a

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

ID: 8355499a

Scholars are increasingly exploring the communication and preservation of ecological knowledge through Indigenous songs (e.g., Sakha songs about local ecosystems and those of the Kaluli people about rainforest sounds). In one study, ethnobiologist Dana Lepofsky et al. received insight from Kwaxsistalla Wathl'thla, a song keeper for the Kwakwaka'wakw people in Canada, into songs referencing the people's use of terraced gardens in intertidal zones along the Pacific Northwest coast for the cultivation of clams for consumption. Archaeological evidence of significant increases in clam size and abundance in that area concurrent with the documented past implementation of the method described in the songs supports the conclusion that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the practice used by ancestors of modern Kwakwaka'wakw people not only effectively maintained a food source but also promoted its robustness.
- B. non-Indigenous people around the Pacific Northwest coast adopted the practice developed by the Kwakwaka'wakw people after observing its efficacy.
- C. there is greater corroboration in the archaeological record of ecological practices described in Kwakwaka'wakw songs than of those described in Sakha and Kaluli songs.
- D. although contemporary Kwakwaka'wakw people have a deep understanding of and appreciation for the fishing and farming practices used by their ancestors, they no longer implement those methods.

Question ID a7d957af

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

ID: a7d957af

The ancient Sumerian civilization formed around 4000 BCE between two large rivers in an area that is now Iraq and Syria. The extremely hot and sunny weather in that area helped crops grow very quickly, but it also made it hard to keep the crops from drying up and dying. So, the Sumerians used water from the rivers in their farming. That method worked so well that they often could harvest even more crops than they needed in a season. As a result, the Sumerians _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. harvested crops only on the hottest days of each season.
- B. found ways to shield their crops from the sun.
- C. did not begin farming until long after 4000 BCE.
- D. were able to store extra crops for later use.

Question ID c2b96fc4

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

ID: c2b96fc4

Several artworks found among the ruins of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii depict a female figure fishing with a cupid nearby. Some scholars have asserted that the figure is the goddess Venus, since she is known to have been linked with cupids in Roman culture, but University of Leicester archaeologist Carla Brain suggests that cupids may have also been associated with fishing generally. The fact that a cupid is shown near the female figure, therefore, _____

- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. is not conclusive evidence that the figure is Venus.
 - B. suggests that Venus was often depicted fishing.
 - C. eliminates the possibility that the figure is Venus.
 - D. would be difficult to account for if the figure is not Venus.

Question ID 895a4635

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

ID: 895a4635

Aptamers—synthetic DNA or RNA molecules that bind to target molecules—can be used to test for foodborne bacterial pathogens, though their specificity (the probability of returning a negative result in the absence of the focal pathogen) in real-world foods has been unclear. Sandeep Somvanshi et al. fabricated test paper incorporating aptamers targeting strain O157:H7 of the bacteria *Escherichia coli*; the paper shifts from pink to purple as the aptamers bind to target molecules. Somvanshi et al. tested the paper in store-bought pear juice they treated with *E. coli* O157:H7, other strains of *E. coli*, or other bacteria species. Following exposure, the paper from the O157:H7 test was purple while papers from the other tests were pink, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. aptamer-based tests in real-world foods are more likely to show a high degree of specificity if the focal pathogen is *E. coli* O157:H7 than if the focal pathogen is another strain of *E. coli* or another species.
- B. uncertainty about the specificity of aptamer-based tests for pathogens in real-world foods may be due to the similarity between *E. coli* O157:H7 and other *E. coli* strains.
- C. the specificity of the tests in a real-world food was unaffected by the aptamers’ tendency to bind to different strains of *E. coli*.
- D. the aptamers successfully bound to *E. coli* O157:H7 and the tests displayed a high degree of specificity in a real-world food.

Question ID 59d1258c

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

ID: 59d1258c

Astronomers investigated the Arabia Terra region of Mars because it appears to contain irregularly shaped craters that may have been caused by massive volcanic explosions. In their investigations of Arabia Terra, the researchers found remnants of ash deposits in an amount and thickness that would result from a massive volcanic eruption. However, erosion and past resurfacing events could have modified the surface of the planet. Therefore, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the current makeup of the Arabia Terra region might not accurately reflect the volcanic activity of Mars’s past.
- B. eruptions from Mars’s volcanoes were likely not as massive as astronomers previously believed.
- C. ash was most likely expelled from multiple different volcanoes on Mars’s surface.
- D. the craters found in the Arabia Terra region were necessarily created by events other than volcanic eruptions.

Question ID ff32171e

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

ID: ff32171e

Even with the widespread adoption of personal computers, many authors still choose to write and revise their novels by hand and only then transcribe the final version on a computer. It may be tempting to speculate about how a novel written this way would be affected if it had been exclusively typed instead, but each novel is a unique entity resulting from a specific set of circumstances. Therefore, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. in order to increase their efficiency, authors who currently write their novels largely by hand should instead work only on a computer.
- B. authors who do most of their drafting and revising by hand likely have more success than those who work entirely on a computer.
- C. novels written by hand take less time to produce, on average, than novels written on a computer do.
- D. there is no way to reasonably evaluate how a work would be different if it had been written by other means.

Question ID 1161fc95

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

ID: 1161fc95

Although military veterans make up a small proportion of the total population of the United States, they occupy a significantly higher proportion of the jobs in the civilian government. One possible explanation for this disproportionate representation is that military service familiarizes people with certain organizational structures that are also reflected in the civilian government bureaucracy, and this familiarity thus _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. makes civilian government jobs especially appealing to military veterans.
- B. alters the typical relationship between military service and subsequent career preferences.
- C. encourages nonveterans applying for civilian government jobs to consider military service instead.
- D. increases the number of civilian government jobs that require some amount of military experience to perform.

Question ID 7647566a

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

ID: 7647566a

Zines are small-scale, self-printed magazines. They have been around since the Black literary zine *Fire!!* was created in the 1920s. Since then, zines have appealed to creators looking for an inexpensive form of expression to share with a select audience. Zine creators often mix art with social commentary and challenge mainstream culture. At first, the internet appeared to replace the zine, but this old form persists. Today, there are enough zines in the United States to support annual zine festivals. This suggests that _____

- Which choice most logically completes the text?
- A. creators can reach a larger audience by posting online.
 - B. zines are still a meaningful form of expression.
 - C. creators can continue to explore new art forms.
 - D. zines are good sources of mainstream culture.

Question ID 5efce7b9

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

ID: 5efce7b9

In documents called judicial opinions, judges explain the reasoning behind their legal rulings, and in those explanations they sometimes cite and discuss historical and contemporary philosophers. Legal scholar and philosopher Anita L. Allen argues that while judges are naturally inclined to mention philosophers whose views align with their own positions, the strongest judicial opinions consider and rebut potential objections; discussing philosophers whose views conflict with judges’ views could therefore

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. allow judges to craft judicial opinions without needing to consult philosophical works.
- B. help judges improve the arguments they put forward in their judicial opinions.
- C. make judicial opinions more comprehensible to readers without legal or philosophical training.
- D. bring judicial opinions in line with views that are broadly held among philosophers.

Question ID a75d5582

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

ID: a75d5582

During their larval phase, numerous species of coral reef fish are drawn toward areas where light is present. To better understand how artificial light at night (ALAN) might affect some coral reef fish, researchers explored the effect of exposure to low levels of ALAN on the reproductive success of the common clownfish (*Amphiprion ocellaris*). While exposure to low levels of ALAN had no significant effect on spawning frequency and egg fertilization in *A. ocellaris*, incubation in the presence of ALAN completely inhibited hatching. These findings suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. *A. ocellaris* that settle in areas with low levels of ALAN have significantly higher rates of successful egg fertilization than *A. ocellaris* that settle in areas without ALAN do.
- B. the reproductive success of *A. ocellaris* would be at risk if they were to selectively settle in regions that are regularly exposed to low levels of ALAN.
- C. the reproductive success of *A. ocellaris* is more greatly affected by the presence of low levels of ALAN during incubation than the reproductive success of other species of coral reef fish is.
- D. the spawning frequency of *A. ocellaris* was more strongly affected by the presence of low levels of ALAN than egg fertilization was, though both were less affected than incubation.

Question ID d72f15f3

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

ID: d72f15f3

If some artifacts recovered from excavations of the settlement of Kuulo Kataa, in modern Ghana, date from the thirteenth century CE, that may lend credence to claims that the settlement was founded before or around that time. There is other evidence, however, strongly supporting a fourteenth century CE founding date for Kuulo Kataa. If both the artifact dates and the fourteenth century CE founding date are correct, that would imply that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. artifacts from the fourteenth century CE are more commonly recovered than are artifacts from the thirteenth century CE.
- B. the artifacts originated elsewhere and eventually reached Kuulo Kataa through trade or migration.
- C. Kuulo Kataa was founded by people from a different region than had previously been assumed.
- D. excavations at Kuulo Kataa may have inadvertently damaged some artifacts dating to the fourteenth century CE.

Question ID 80c9672a

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

ID: 80c9672a

Microbes that live in shallow lakes and ponds produce methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. Ecologist Ralf Aben and his team wanted to see how different types of shallow-water plants might affect the amount of methane that escapes into the atmosphere. Aben’s team set up some water tanks with soil and microbes from local ponds. Some tanks had a type of underwater plant that grows in the soil called watermilfoil. Other tanks had either duckweed, a type of plant that floats on the water’s surface, or algae. Aben and his team found that tanks with duckweed and algae released higher levels of methane than tanks with watermilfoil did. This finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the presence of some kinds of underwater plants like watermilfoil helps prevent methane from escaping shallow lakes and ponds.
- B. shallow lakes and ponds release more methane than deeper bodies of water because shallow bodies of water usually have more plants than deep bodies of water do.
- C. shallow lakes and ponds are more likely to contain algae than to contain either watermilfoil or duckweed.
- D. having a mix of algae, underwater plants, and floating plants is the best way to reduce the amount of methane in shallow lakes and ponds.

Question ID d2ff44b7

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

ID: d2ff44b7

In a three-year study of parasitic infections by *Anomotaenia brevis* tapeworms in *Temnothorax nylander* ants, entomologist Susanne Foitzik and colleagues found something unexpected: rather than reducing its host’s fitness, as is typical of parasites, *A. brevis* greatly extends the lifespan of a *T. nylander* worker ant and seems to halt the effects of aging. Furthermore, those infected receive special treatment, ceasing their share of labor to sustain the colony and remaining in the nest as uninfected workers feed, groom, and transport them. By contrast, the researchers observed that uninfected workers in parasitized colonies have shortened lifespans, most likely because the _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. uninfected workers are at high risk for direct exposure to *A. brevis* in the course of providing social care to the infected workers in the nest.
- B. need to compensate for reduced contributions within the colony while also caring for infected workers is burdensome to the uninfected workers.
- C. high level of activity maintained by the uninfected workers makes them better able than infected workers to quickly disperse when the nest is attacked by a predator.
- D. average lifespan of *T. nylander* worker ants in colonies without parasitic activity typically falls well below three years, the range covered by the study.

Question ID 784aaed8

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

ID: 784aaed8

Overgrazing by purple sea urchins has caused many kelp forests along North America’s west coast to be replaced by urchin barrens—areas stripped of vegetation and covered in purple sea urchins. Urchins in barrens persist in a state of starvation that lessens their nutritional value—and thus their appeal—to many predators. Sarah Gravem and colleagues placed sunflower sea stars, a once-abundant predator species suffering massive population declines in recent years, in aquariums that each contained a nutritionally poor and a nutritionally rich purple sea urchin. The researchers found that the sea stars selected the nutritionally rich urchin in 42.7% of trials and the nutritionally poor urchin in 37.5% of trials, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. sunflower sea stars are willing to hunt sea urchins, but if given a choice, they will prey on other more nutritious marine animals instead.
- B. sunflower sea stars are reluctant to feed on both nutritionally poor and nutritionally rich sea urchins and are therefore unlikely to thrive in kelp forests.
- C. sunflower sea stars are less likely to consume sea urchins in barrens than other species of sea stars are, putting sunflower sea stars at a high risk of extinction.
- D. sunflower sea stars do not always avoid foraging on nutritionally poor sea urchins, making sunflower sea star population recovery a potentially important tool for controlling urchin barrens.

Question ID f82b50bf

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

ID: f82b50bf

One challenge when researching whether holding elected office changes a person’s behavior is the problem of ensuring that the experiment has an appropriate control group. To reveal the effect of holding office, researchers must compare people who hold elected office with people who do not hold office but who are otherwise similar to the office-holders. Since researchers are unable to control which politicians win elections, they therefore _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. struggle to find valid data about the behavior of politicians who do not currently hold office.
- B. can only conduct valid studies with people who have previously held office rather than people who presently hold office.
- C. should select a control group of people who differ from office-holders in several significant ways.
- D. will find it difficult to identify a group of people who can function as an appropriate control group for their studies.

Question ID d169ac6c

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

ID: d169ac6c

Biologist Natacha Bodenhausen and colleagues analyzed the naturally occurring bacterial communities associated with leaves and roots of wild *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a small flowering plant. The researchers found many of the same bacterial genera in both the plants’ leaves and roots. To explain this, the researchers pointed to the general proximity of *A. thaliana* leaves to the ground and noted that rain splashing off soil could bring soil-based bacteria into contact with the leaves. Alternatively, the researchers noted that wind, which may be a source of bacteria in the aboveground portion of plants, could also bring bacteria to the soil and roots. Either explanation suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. bacteria carried by wind are typically less beneficial to *A. thaliana* than soil-based bacteria are.
- B. some bacteria in *A. thaliana* leaves and roots may share a common source.
- C. many bacteria in *A. thaliana* leaves may have been deposited by means other than rain.
- D. *A. thaliana* leaves and roots are especially vulnerable to harmful bacteria.

Question ID 65daa4cd

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

ID: 65daa4cd

An analysis by Alain Elayi and colleagues of coins minted in Sidon in the fifth and fourth centuries BCE reveals a change in their composition over time: while a coin from circa 450 BCE contains about 98% silver and 1% copper, a coin from 367 BCE (the end of Ba'alšillem II's reign) contains 74.2% silver and 24.7% copper, giving it a relatively yellowish appearance that traders would have noticed. Because coins with a silver content below 80% were widely considered unsuitable for trade, Elayi et al. speculate that a crisis in confidence in the currency occurred in Sidon around 367 BCE, which was likely relieved—despite Sidon's persistent oppressive financial obligations—as a result of Ba'alšillem II's successor Abd'aštar I's decision to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. proclaim that the percentage of silver in coins suitable for trade would be raised to a threshold higher than 80%.
- B. keep the amount of silver in Sidonian coins consistent with that in coins minted in 367 BCE but decrease their weight.
- C. begin minting heavier coins with a proportion of silver to copper similar to that in coins minted in 367 BCE.
- D. fund the mining of some copper deposits that were not available to Ba'alšillem II.

Question ID 35d91a72

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

ID: 35d91a72

In 2016 biological anthropologist Heather F. Smith and her team investigated the evolution of the appendix, an intestinal organ that is present in some mammals, including humans, but is generally thought to have no function. Studying 533 mammal species, the team found that the appendix has emerged independently across multiple lineages in separate instances and, significantly, hasn't disappeared after emerging in specific lineages. Moreover, the team determined that species with the organ tend to have higher concentrations of lymphoid tissue, which supports immune responses, in the cecum, the organ the appendix is attached to. Therefore, the team hypothesized that the appendix likely _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. was once present in many nonmammal species but has since disappeared from those lineages.
- B. has been preserved in certain mammal species because it benefits their immune systems.
- C. will emerge in a greater number of mammal species because it may serve a necessary function in the immune system.
- D. produced higher concentrations of lymphoid tissue in mammals in the past than it does currently.

Question ID 74b61b13

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

ID: 74b61b13

The morphological novelty of echinoderms—marine invertebrates with radial symmetry, usually starlike, around a central point—impedes comparisons with most other animals, in which bilateral symmetry on an anterior-posterior (head to tail) axis through a trunk is typical. Particularly puzzling are sea stars, thought to have evolved a headless layout from a known bilateral origin. Applying genomic knowledge of *Saccoglossus kowalevskii* acorn worms (close relatives of sea stars, and thus expected to have similar markers for corresponding anatomical regions) to the body patterning genes of *Patiria miniata* sea stars, Laurent Formery et al. observed activity only in anterior genes across *P. miniata*’s entire body and some posterior genes limited to the edges, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. despite the greater prevalence of anterior genes in sea stars’ genetic makeup, posterior genes active at the body’s perimeter are primarily responsible for the starlike layout that distinguishes sea stars’ radial symmetry from that of other echinoderms.
- B. contrary to the belief that they evolved from early ancestors with the bilateral form typical of many other animals, sea stars instead originated with an atypical body layout that was neither bilaterally nor radially symmetrical.
- C. although the two species are closely related, there is only minimal correspondence in the genetic markers for head, tail, and trunk region development in *P. miniata* sea stars and *S. kowalevskii* acorn worms.
- D. rather than undergoing changes resulting in the eventual elimination of a head region in their radial body plan, as previously assumed, sea stars’ morphology evolved to completely lack a trunk and consist primarily of a head region.

Question ID 3fe84e8d

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

ID: 3fe84e8d

Dutch painters in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries often showed tables filled with large wheels of cheese or carved shards of butter. Some art historians, noting that dairy products were a major component of the Dutch diet, interpret these depictions as reflections of everyday Dutch eating habits. However, a group of researchers recently reviewed hundreds of food-related paintings and found that lemons—which could only be acquired in the Netherlands at great cost, since they had to be imported from warmer climates—feature in Dutch paintings of the period more than three times as frequently as dairy products do, thereby casting doubt on the idea that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. dairy products were a more significant component of the Dutch diet of the period than lemons were.
- B. food was a more popular subject among Dutch painters than it was among painters from other countries at the time.
- C. depictions of food in Dutch paintings of the period should be taken as realistic representations of Dutch eating habits.
- D. Dutch painters of the period may have depicted foods for symbolic reasons rather than to show what Dutch people typically ate.

Question ID 1db72916

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

ID: 1db72916

The widespread use of social media enables linguists to study changes in language usage in real time. A notable recent example is the proliferation of the affix *meng-* among speakers of Bahasa Indonesia, the official language of Indonesia. Linguists observed *meng-* originate as an onomatopoetic tag that social-media users applied to images of cats they posted; over time, users increasingly applied it as a prefix to existing words (e.g., *mengsedih* affixes *meng-* to the word for *sad*) in text that they posted. From there, it has begun to move into spoken Bahasa Indonesia. Linguists have noted many similar examples of this phenomenon occurring in other languages, suggesting that social media _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. is more useful for studying informal language than for studying formal or official language.
- B. appears to be exerting an exceptionally strong influence on the evolution of Bahasa Indonesia.
- C. may give linguists a somewhat misleading sense of how languages are changing.
- D. does not merely register changes in language usage but can facilitate such changes.

Question ID 5edac13a

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

ID: 5edac13a

The Haitian Declaration of Independence was issued in 1804, bringing to an end the revolution against colonial France that began in 1791. Written in French, which was not the first language of most Haitians but which was used throughout Europe as the language of international diplomacy, the declaration notes that Haiti will not bring rebellion to other Caribbean nations, promises to respect the sovereignty of its neighbors—widely understood as a reassurance to the United States—and sets up Haiti as an example for future struggles against colonizers (an implicit reference to the many colonies then found in the Americas). So even though the declaration is explicitly addressed to the Haitian people, it’s reasonable to conclude that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. aspects of the declaration were modeled on similar documents from other countries.
- B. the French government may have been surprised by the declaration.
- C. many Haitian people opposed the revolution and the declaration.
- D. the declaration actually had several intended audiences.

Question ID 0fd4f04f

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

ID: 0fd4f04f

Many mosquito repellents contain natural components that work by activating multiple odor receptors on mosquitoes’ antennae. As the insects develop resistance, new repellents are needed. Ke Dong and her team found that EBF, a molecular component of a chrysanthemum-flower extract, can repel mosquitoes by activating just one odor receptor—and this receptor, Or31, is present in all mosquito species known to carry diseases. Therefore, the researchers suggest that in developing new repellents, it would be most useful to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. identify molecular components similar to EBF that target the activation of Or31 receptors.
- B. investigate alternative methods for extracting EBF molecules from chrysanthemums.
- C. verify the precise locations of Or31 and other odor receptors on mosquitoes’ antennae.
- D. determine the maximum number of different odor receptors that can be activated by a single molecule.

Question ID 61ee12f6

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

ID: 61ee12f6

Whistler waves are low-frequency plasma waves that on Earth are typically generated by lightning. Numerous recordings of whistler waves on Venus have led many scientists to suggest that the planet’s atmosphere is host to extensive amounts of lightning, and, in fact, Venusian whistler waves have similar energy signatures to those of whistler waves generated by lightning on Earth. The majority of Venusian whistler wave data come from two spacecraft missions—the Pioneer Venus Orbiter (PVO) and the Venus Express (VEX)—which have included few observations of other phenomena consistent with lightning occurrences (such as flashes of light), leading other scientists to suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. similarities in the energy signatures of Venusian and Earth whistler waves may reflect imprecisions in the PVO and VEX data.
- B. the purported Venusian whistler waves must actually be some other type of atmospheric activity than whistler waves.
- C. Venusian lightning has properties that make it unlikely to generate whistler waves.
- D. there are geophysical characteristics of Venus not shared with Earth that promote the generation of whistler waves.

Question ID db2238c5

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

ID: db2238c5

Many linguists have claimed that the lyricism of Alexander Pushkin’s Russian novel in verse *Eugene Onegin* makes the work incapable of being faithfully translated, especially into English. The original work is written much like a long poem, featuring linguistic patterns and flourishes specific to the Russian language. Rather than striving to portray each scene of the novel literally, John Cranko, in his ballet adaptation of *Eugene Onegin*, opted to let the essence of the work’s emotions inspire the passion of the dancers. Critic Emma Golden writes that Cranko’s “choreography uses the poetry of the human body to summon the parts of Pushkin’s novel that were deemed untranslatable—its commitments to rhythm, cadence, symmetry.” It seems, then, that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. Cranko’s loose adaptation of *Eugene Onegin* into a different medium may have preserved fundamental elements of the source material better than a strictly literal written translation of the text would have.
- B. though written works are frequently adapted into other formats, ballets are rarely considered to be faithful adaptations of texts.
- C. English is a particularly difficult language into which to translate poetic works, as its rhythms differ from those of many other languages.
- D. most critics believe that, like other English translations of *Eugene Onegin*, Cranko’s ballet adaptation fails to capture the essence of the original’s meaning.

Question ID d38a5a5d

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

ID: d38a5a5d

In a 2017 article, historian Jasmine Kilburn-Toppin explains that in early modern London, members of the city’s guilds (trade and artisanal associations) were participants in a civic culture in which gift giving both signaled and conferred social status. Research on this phenomenon has tended to focus on philanthropic gifting by London’s largest guilds; for her part, Kilburn-Toppin focuses on the gifting of handmade objects and fixtures (such as decorative paneling or plasterwork) within the craft guilds, which were “composed of highly discerning producers and consumers of material cultures.” Given this characterization, it can reasonably be inferred that the gifting of such objects may have _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. ensured that knowledge of the materials and techniques used by members of the craft guilds stayed within the craft guilds.
- B. emphasized ostentatious offerings in the case of the largest guilds and prosaic objects in the case of the craft guilds.
- C. functioned as a way for craft guild members to maintain and enhance their professional reputations among their peers.
- D. conferred greater social status when the recipient belonged to one of London’s largest guilds than when the recipient belonged to a craft guild.

Question ID 09e79e74

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

ID: 09e79e74

When the Vinland Map, a map of the world purported to date to the mid-1400s, surfaced in 1957, some scholars believed it demonstrated that European knowledge of the eastern coast of present-day North America predated Christopher Columbus’s 1492 arrival. In 2021, a team including conservators Marie-France Lemay and Paula Zyats and materials scientist Anikó Bezur performed an extensive analysis of the map and the ink used. They found that the ink contains titanium dioxide, a compound that was first introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. Therefore, the team concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. mid-1400s Europeans could not have known about the eastern coast of present-day North America.
- B. the Vinland Map could not have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.
- C. mapmakers must have used titanium compounds in their ink in the 1400s.
- D. there isn’t enough information to determine when the ink was created.

Question ID e937ffa0

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

ID: e937ffa0

Colonized by Spain in the 1600s, New Mexico is home to a dialect of Spanish that differs significantly from dialects spoken in Spain’s other former colonies in the Americas. Most notably, the New Mexican dialect retains older features of the language that other dialects lost in later centuries. But why would it have done so? New Mexico was so distant from population centers in Spain’s other colonies that it attracted few colonists after its initial colonization. Geographical isolation in turn would have limited the exposure of New Mexican colonists to changes occurring to Spanish grammar and vocabulary elsewhere in the empire. Thus, the present-day uniqueness of the New Mexican dialect suggests the extent to which _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. a language can protect itself from being influenced by other languages.
- B. the grammar and vocabulary of any given language change from one generation to the next.
- C. geographical isolation can influence how a language develops.
- D. speakers of one dialect of a language can understand speakers of another dialect of that language.

Question ID bc4402c6

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

ID: bc4402c6

Pablo Picasso famously subverted the norms of traditional painting: in his cubist paintings he refused to let his expression be constrained, fragmenting objects and figures to present multiple perspectives simultaneously. Though less widely known, Picasso—who once lamented that writers of his time had “limited themselves to moving around words somewhat while respecting the syntax”—also wrote poetry that defied conventional grammar, semantic relationships, and text structure. Thus, the paintings and poems are linked in that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the poems present many of the same subjects as the paintings but with different thematic approaches.
- B. the poems are intended to be understood as explanations of the artistic inclinations reflected in the paintings.
- C. both types of work are characterized by the simultaneous representation of multiple points of view that Picasso is known for.
- D. both exhibit Picasso’s prioritization of creative expression over the standard rules of the art forms.

Question ID 6ffab70c

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

ID: 6ffab70c

Narwhals are shy whales that live in the remote Arctic Ocean. Some of them have a long tusk, like a unicorn horn, with sensitive nerves. Narwhals are known for this tusk, but many actually don't have one and its purpose is unknown. One group of scientists came up with a possible purpose in 2014. The scientists suggested that the tusk may help narwhals determine when water around them is likely to start freezing and become dangerous for them. Marine biologist Kristin Laidre disagrees with that idea, though. She reasons that if the narwhal's tusk serves such an important purpose, then it's most likely that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. some narwhals would seek a new habitat.
- B. fewer marine animals would also have tusks.
- C. more narwhals would have a tusk.
- D. narwhals would become less shy over time.

Question ID 91907c32

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

ID: 91907c32

Alice Guy-Blaché directed hundreds of films between 1896 and 1920. She wanted audiences to feel like they were watching real people on screen. She would encourage actors in her films to behave naturally. Guy-Blaché even hung a large sign reading “Be Natural” in the studio where she made her films. At the time, films lacked sound, so actors needed to rely solely on their bodies and facial expressions to convey emotions. As a result, actors tended to highly exaggerate their actions and expressions. The style of acting in Guy-Blaché’s films was therefore _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. copied by many of Guy-Blaché’s peers.
- B. familiar to actors who had worked on other directors’ films.
- C. very unusual for the period.
- D. better than film acting today.

Question ID 0aa4d565

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

ID: 0aa4d565

Conventional theories of rhetoric hold that presenting information as coming from credentialed experts increases that information’s credibility. When communications researcher Sungkyoung Lee and her colleagues tested messages seeking volunteers for clinical trials, however, they found that participants in their study judged recruitment messages from former trial volunteers as significantly more credible than messages from doctors (i.e., credentialed experts). One reason for this may be that the doctors’ status as credentialed experts wasn’t ignored but rather was outweighed by participants’ views of the experiential relevance of the two types of messengers; that is, participants may have reacted the way they did because _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. messages from former trial volunteers depicted clinical trials as being more positive experiences than did messages from doctors.
- B. participants did not have enough experience to evaluate the credibility of the doctors’ messages but did have enough experience to evaluate the credibility of former trial volunteers’ messages.
- C. the fact that former trial volunteers went through the same experience that participants were contemplating while doctors did not was more important to participants than the doctors’ status as credentialed experts was.
- D. participants regarded the experiences of both the doctors and former trial volunteers as relevant to the subject of clinical trials but were skeptical of the doctors’ status as credentialed experts.

Question ID 2e6501f6

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

ID: 2e6501f6

Some businesses believe that when employees are interrupted while doing their work, they experience a decrease in energy and productivity. However, a team led by Harshad Puranik, who studies management, has found that interruptions by colleagues can have a social component that increases employees’ sense of belonging, resulting in greater job satisfaction that benefits employees and employers. Therefore, businesses should recognize that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the interpersonal benefits of some interruptions in the workplace may offset the perceived negative effects.
- B. in order to maximize productivity, employers should be willing to interrupt employees frequently throughout the day.
- C. most employees avoid interrupting colleagues because they don't appreciate being interrupted themselves.
- D. in order to cultivate an ideal workplace environment, interruptions of work should be discouraged.

Question ID ccc8dc53

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

ID: ccc8dc53

Duckweed is a small freshwater plant that is often exposed to zinc pollution. Sofia Vámos and colleagues collected samples of four duckweed ecotypes (genetically and geographically distinct populations within a species), along with water from each ecotype’s habitat. Hypothesizing that each ecotype is adapted to its local conditions in ways that bolster its growth and resistance to pollutants, the researchers grew each ecotype in all four water samples and with three levels of zinc (none, low, high). (The researchers did not replicate local differences in light or temperature.) They found that the ecotypes grew equally well in all four water samples and that adding zinc consistently enhanced growth, regardless of concentration, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. while the ecotypes are genetically and geographically distinct, those differences do not represent adaptations to local environmental conditions.
- B. there may not be significant differences in the water that each ecotype inhabits, but there are significant differences in each ecotype’s resistance to zinc pollution.
- C. if each ecotype is indeed locally adapted as the researchers hypothesized, those adaptations are to other environmental conditions than the water each ecotype inhabits.
- D. although the researchers’ hypothesis does not appear to be supported, this may be because the levels of zinc exposure the plants in the experiment received did not match their exposure in their natural environments.

Question ID 61d91e79

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

ID: 61d91e79

Many of William Shakespeare’s tragedies address broad themes that still appeal to today’s audiences. For instance, *Romeo and Juliet*, which is set in the Italy of Shakespeare’s time, tackles the themes of parents versus children and love versus hate, and the play continues to be read and produced widely around the world. But understanding Shakespeare’s so-called history plays can require a knowledge of several centuries of English history. Consequently, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. many theatergoers and readers today are likely to find Shakespeare’s history plays less engaging than the tragedies.
- B. some of Shakespeare’s tragedies are more relevant to today’s audiences than twentieth-century plays.
- C. *Romeo and Juliet* is the most thematically accessible of all Shakespeare’s tragedies.
- D. experts in English history tend to prefer Shakespeare’s history plays to his other works.

Question ID e0c5997f

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

ID: e0c5997f

Aerogels are highly porous foams consisting mainly of tiny air pockets within a solidified gel. These lightweight materials are often applied to spacecraft and other equipment required to withstand extreme conditions, as they provide excellent insulation despite typically being brittle and eventually fracturing due to degradation from repeated exposure to high heat. Now, Xiangfeng Duan of the University of California, Los Angeles, and colleagues have developed an aerogel with uniquely flexible properties. Unlike earlier aerogels, Duan’s team’s material contracts rather than expands when heated and fully recovers after compressing to just 5% of its original volume, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. the aerogel’s remarkable flexibility results from its higher proportion of air pockets to solidified gel as compared to other aerogels.
- B. the aerogel’s overall strength is greater than that of other insulators but its ability to withstand exposure to intense heat is lower.
- C. the aerogel will be more effective as an insulator for uses that involve gradual temperature shifts than for those that involve rapid heat increases.
- D. the aerogel will be less prone to the structural weakness that ultimately causes most other aerogels to break down with use.

Question ID 1133a54e

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

ID: 1133a54e

To investigate the history of plate subduction—when one of Earth’s tectonic plates slides beneath another—Sarah M. Aarons and colleagues compared ancient rocks from the Acasta Gneiss Complex in Canada to modern rocks. Using isotope analysis, the researchers found that Acasta rocks dating to about 4.02 billion years ago (bya) most strongly resemble modern rocks formed in a plume setting (an area in which hot rocks from Earth’s mantle flow upward into the crust). By contrast, they found that Acasta rocks dating to about 3.75 bya and 3.6 bya have an isotope composition that is similar to that of modern rocks formed in a subduction setting. Aarons’s team therefore concluded that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. subduction-like processes began occurring in some locations no later than 3.75 bya.
- B. subduction replaced mantle plume formation as the most common geological process by about 4.02 bya.
- C. the majority of the rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex formed through subduction.
- D. the rocks in the Acasta Gneiss Complex are of a more recent origin than scientists previously thought.

Question ID 3a32dba8

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

ID: 3a32dba8

With the ongoing expansion of e-commerce, consumers are expecting faster and faster delivery of goods, but delivery companies continue to struggle with last-mile logistics (the final step in delivery to consumers) due to challenges such as complex and inefficient delivery routes. Innovations to mitigate these challenges have been emerging—the use of aerial drones, for example—but these innovations tend to engender their own complications (e.g., regulations on the use of drones in residential airspace), leading researchers to conclude that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. consumers’ expectations for reduced delivery times may be outstripping what is viable for delivery companies to provide.
- B. a better understanding of consumers’ expectations for delivery is needed so that companies can better plan for fluctuations in delivery volume.
- C. rapid delivery is a leading factor in consumer satisfaction, and therefore delivery companies would benefit from investing resources in reducing delivery times.
- D. there may not be sufficient incentive for delivery companies to attempt to solve the problems associated with last-mile logistics.

Question ID 48bc5a17

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

ID: 48bc5a17

The single origin hypothesis of iron metallurgy posits that the craft originated in Anatolia (West Asia) circa 2200–2000 BCE before diffusing to other parts of the world, including Africa. Some proponents of the hypothesis argue that iron production technologies first arrived in North Africa through Carthage, where the earliest evidence of ironworking dates to approximately 800–600 BCE, before these technologies spread to sub-Saharan Africa over the following centuries. However, excavation of multiple sites on the Adamawa plateau in Central Africa conducted by Étienne Zangato and Augustin Holl uncovered evidence of iron workshops that may have been in operation as late as 900–750 BCE in Gbabari and as early as 2300–1900 BCE in Ôbouï and Gbatoro. These findings suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. iron production may have developed independently and relatively simultaneously in Anatolia and parts of Central Africa.
- B. iron production technologies found in Gbabari likely derived directly from technologies transmitted from Anatolia, but those found in Ôbouï and Gbatoro did not.
- C. iron production technologies were likely transmitted from Anatolia to Central Africa via an alternate route than the one suggested by some proponents of the single origin hypothesis.
- D. iron production may have originated in Anatolia much earlier than the available evidence currently indicates.