

Question ID f962a28e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f962a28e

It would be a mistake to _____ the exhibit that artist and curator Joe Baker, who is a member of the Lenape (Delaware) people, has organized at the Brooklyn Public Library. The exhibit, which includes Lenape beadwork from the 1850s as well as modern works that use traditional patterns, is essential viewing.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. complicate
- B. amplify
- C. overlook
- D. assemble

ID: f962a28e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of an exhibit at the Brooklyn Public Library. In this context, "overlook" means to ignore or to miss. The text states that artist and curator Joe Baker organized an exhibit that features Lenape beadwork in historical and modern works. The text describes the exhibit as "essential viewing," suggesting that it’s an important exhibit that people should make an effort to visit; this context conveys that it would be a mistake to overlook the exhibit.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "complicate" would mean to add difficulty, and there’s no reason to think the text would need to directly caution against complicating Baker’s exhibit; the text focuses on the idea that the exhibit is "essential viewing," not on the idea of a potential difficulty that could be raised. Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "amplify" means to increase, and there’s no reason to believe the text would indicate that it would be a mistake to increase an exhibit the text describes as "essential viewing." Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to say that it would be a mistake to "assemble," or put together, Baker’s exhibit: the text makes it clear that the exhibit has already been put together and, further, praises the exhibit as "essential viewing."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 642b20a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 642b20a5

The following text is from Jhumpa Lahiri’s 2003 novel *The Namesake*. Gogol, a child, is at a beach in Massachusetts with his father.

On the beach Gogol collects rocks, digs tunnels in the sand. He and his father wander barefoot, their pant legs rolled halfway up their calves.

©2003 by Jhumpa Lahiri

As used in the text, what does the word “collects” most nearly mean?

- A. Increases
- B. Makes
- C. Ignores
- D. Gathers

ID: 642b20a5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "collects" most nearly means gathers or accumulates. In the text, Gogol "collects" (or gathers) rocks and digs in the sand while strolling the beach with his father. Thus, "gathers" is the best answer.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "increases" would mean expands or inflates, which is not something a child could logically do to rocks. Rather, the text indicates that Gogol "collects" or gathers rocks while strolling the beach with his father. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "makes" would suggest that Gogol is creating or manufacturing rocks, which doesn't make sense. Rather, the text indicates that Gogol "collects" or gathers rocks while strolling the beach with his father. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "ignores" would mean disregards or avoids, but in the text Gogol "collects rocks," which indicates that he's engaging with the rocks, not ignoring them.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8d3810bf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 8d3810bf

Botanist Al Kovaleski has pointed out that maple trees already thrive in a wide variety of climates and thus may _____ changes in climate better than some other tree species do. The alterations maples may undergo in response to a changing climate are likely to be relatively small and easily achieved.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. relocate from
- B. refer to
- C. originate from
- D. adapt to

ID: 8d3810bf Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how maple trees may respond to changes in climate. As used in this context, "adapt to" means to adjust to new conditions. The text first notes that maple trees already thrive in a wide variety of climates and then goes on to say that alterations maples may undergo are likely to be relatively small and easily achieved. This context supports the idea that maple trees will more easily adjust or adapt to a changing climate.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text discusses how maple trees adjust to change, the trees do not "relocate from," or physically move from one place to another. Choice B is incorrect because "refer to" means to mention or allude to something, and the trees are not doing either of these actions. Choice C is incorrect because the text is discussing how maple trees may respond to changes in climate, not where they "originate from," or came from originally.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 27c0fc5c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 27c0fc5c

The following text is adapted from John Matheus’s 1925 short story “Fog.”

The fog extended its tentacles over city and river, gradually obliterating traces of familiar landscapes. At five-thirty the old Panhandle bridge, supported by massive sandstone pillars, stalwart, as when erected fifty years before to serve a generation now passed behind the portals of life, had become a spectral outline against the sky.

As used in the text, what does the word “supported” most nearly mean?

- A. Held up
- B. Encouraged
- C. Improved on
- D. Defended

ID: 27c0fc5c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "supported" most nearly means held up or sustained physically. The sentence describes the physical structure of the Panhandle bridge, stating it was "supported by massive sandstone pillars." This clearly refers to the structural relationship between the bridge and its pillars—the pillars physically hold up the bridge and keep it standing. The text further emphasizes the physical nature of this support by describing the pillars as "stalwart" (strong and sturdy) and noting they've been performing this function for fifty years.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "supported" can mean "encouraged," the sandstone pillars and bridge described in the text are all inanimate objects that can't provide or receive encouragement. The text clearly describes a structural relationship between the elements of the bridge, not an emotional one. Choice C is incorrect. Although in some contexts "supported" has a meaning similar to "improved on," the text doesn't suggest that the sandstone pillars have enhanced or made the bridge better; rather, they simply provide the necessary physical foundation to keep the bridge standing. Thus, the sentence describes the structural elements of the bridge, not improvements made to it. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts "supported" can mean "defended," the text doesn't present a situation in which the sandstone pillars are defending the bridge from a threat. Instead, the description focuses on the physical structure of the bridge, in which the pillars hold the bridge up and ensure its stability.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 98cb9c5a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 98cb9c5a

Ancient Inca inhabiting the Andes Mountains used terraces, rows of flattened land with built-in irrigation systems, to grow crops at different altitudes. This method of farming proved to be highly _____, as evidenced by the great number and variety of crops grown at that time.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. chaotic
- B. uniform
- C. effective
- D. burdensome

ID: 98cb9c5a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the ancient Inca farming method. In this context, “effective” means successful in producing a desired result. The text describes how the Inca used terraces with built-in irrigation systems to grow crops at different altitudes and then indicates that this farming method produced positive results “as evidenced by the great number and variety of crops grown at that time.” The context clearly suggests that the terraced farming approach was highly productive, or effective.

Choice A is incorrect because to describe the Inca farming method as “chaotic” contradicts the text’s description of a systematic approach using deliberately constructed terraces with built-in irrigation systems. Moreover, the “great number and variety of crops” yielded by this method seems unlikely to result from a disorganized, or chaotic, approach. Choice B is incorrect because “uniform” means consistent or the same throughout. It does not make sense in this context to describe a farming method as highly uniform if it produced a “great number and variety of crops.” Moreover, the text indicates that Inca terrace farming was specifically designed to accommodate different crops at different altitudes, highlighting the diversity rather than uniformity of this approach. Choice D is incorrect because the success of the method, “as evidenced by the great number and variety of crops grown,” does not support the claim that the Inca farming method was “burdensome,” or difficult to implement or maintain. In fact, the context clearly emphasizes the advantages, rather than the burdens, of Inca terrace farming.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 182ef9b0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 182ef9b0

Taking photographs in the mid-1800s was complicated and expensive, but this changed with the 1854 invention of the *carte de visite*, a small photo that cost little to make. *Carte de visite* photos helped to _____ photography: they made it easy and enjoyable for everyday people to have their pictures taken, and people at the time loved exchanging these small photos with friends and family.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. weaken
- B. praise
- C. popularize
- D. isolate

ID: 182ef9b0 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of *carte de visite* photos. To "popularize" a technology is to allow it to be used and appreciated widely. The text explains that unlike the photos produced by earlier forms of photographic technology, *carte de visite* photos were inexpensive and could easily be obtained by "everyday people," who enjoyed exchanging the images. Therefore, *carte de visite* photos helped popularize photography.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that instead of weakening the emerging technology of photography, *carte de visite* photos allowed it to be more widely accessed and enjoyed by people. Choice B is incorrect. The text establishes that large numbers of people enjoyed using *carte de visite* photos, so it can be inferred that these photos caused photography to be praised, or celebrated. However, it wouldn’t make sense to say that inanimate objects—in this case, photos—had praised photography; instead, *carte de visite* consumers themselves would have praised it. Choice D is incorrect because the text explains that rather than isolating photography, or limiting its availability, *carte de visite* technology made photography more widely accessible to people.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 775cfbc8

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 775cfbc8

According to statistician Nassim Nicholas Taleb, the best way to predict the amount of time a nonperishable entity (such as a building or a technology) will continue to exist is to examine how long it has survived so far. In this view, an item’s age is the strongest _____ how much longer it will last.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. uncertainty about
- B. indicator of
- C. motivation for
- D. criticism of

ID: 775cfbc8 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. “Indicator” means “something that shows or suggests,” which matches Taleb’s argument that an item’s age can suggest how much longer it will last.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage tells us that examining an item’s age is the best way to predict how much longer it will last. Therefore, according to Taleb’s theory, an item’s age should add more certainty about how much longer it will last. Choice C is incorrect. A “motivation” is “a reason for doing.” Items don’t have feelings and motivations, so it wouldn’t make sense to say that their age is a motivation for how much longer they will last. Choice D is incorrect. “Criticism” can mean “describing faults or problems” or “an analysis of an artistic work.” Neither of these definitions makes sense here. An item’s age can’t criticize how much longer it will last.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e90dd7ce

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: e90dd7ce

In the 1990s, conservationists began planting more than 500,000 native trees in the habitat of the Azores bullfinch to boost the bird’s numbers. This approach was apparently ____: the Azores bullfinch’s population size increased from as few as 100 birds at the end of the 1980s to around 1,300 in 2023.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. amusing
- B. costly
- C. successful
- D. disastrous

ID: e90dd7ce Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the conservationists’ efforts to increase Azores bullfinch’s numbers. In this context, "successful" means accomplishing a goal or purpose. According to the text, conservationists planted more than 500,000 native trees in an Azores bullfinch habitat in order to boost the bird’s population size. The text then indicates that the population size did indeed grow as a result of the planted trees. Thus, in this context, the conservationists’ approach of planting native trees was successful because it achieved the goal of increasing the bird’s population size.

Choice A is incorrect because the text gives no indication that the conservationists’ approach of planting native trees to increase Azores bullfinch’s numbers was "amusing," or comical or entertaining. Instead, the approach was seriously undertaken and ultimately accomplished. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t address how much it cost to achieve the goal of planting native trees to increase Azores bullfinch’s numbers. The text indicates that the approach was beneficial and successful rather than "costly," or expensive or harmful. Choice D is incorrect. According to the text, the conservationists’ approach of planting native trees to increase Azores bullfinch’s numbers was beneficial and successful rather than "disastrous," or damaging or unsuccessful.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 130e12c6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 130e12c6

Scientists previously thought that all electric eels belong to a single species, but a team of researchers led by zoologist C. David de Santana proved this idea wrong by _____ that there are in fact three distinct species of electric eels.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. pretending
- B. complaining
- C. requiring
- D. demonstrating

ID: 130e12c6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Demonstrating” means “showing,” and the text describes how de Santana disproved a previous belief in only one species of electric eel by showing that three electric eel species actually exist.

Choice A is incorrect. Pretending that there are three species of electric eel might be a fun game for marine biologists, but it wouldn’t prove the existence of more than one species. Choice B is incorrect. Complaining won’t prove anything about eels, so de Santana could not have proved wrong the idea of only one species of electric eel by complaining about it. Choice C is incorrect. “Requiring” means “needing.” It wouldn’t make sense to say that de Santana “needed” there to be three distinct species of electric eel.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID cc2c5c31

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: cc2c5c31

US traffic signals didn’t always contain the familiar three lights (red, yellow, and green). Traffic lights only _____ red and green lights until the three-light traffic signal was developed in the 1920s.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. avoided
- B. featured
- C. appreciated
- D. disregarded

ID: cc2c5c31 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of traffic signals. The text indicates that while US traffic signals now have lights of three different colors (red, yellow, and green), before some point in the 1920s they had only red and green lights. This context conveys that before three-color signals were developed, traffic lights “featured,” or had as a characteristic, just two colors.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that traffic signals could have ever “avoided,” or stayed away from, certain colors of lights. The people who made the traffic signals might have chosen not to use certain colors, but signals themselves can’t make choices. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, “appreciated” would mean valued or recognized with gratitude, and it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that traffic signals could have ever valued or recognized anything. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, “disregarded” would mean ignored or treated as unworthy, and it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that traffic signals could have ever ignored something or had an opinion of something’s worth.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ea040600

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: ea040600

The general store was essential to daily life in the rural United States during the 1800s because it provided the supplies that the people living in nearby communities needed. Also, the store was a _____ of information. People socializing at the general store would share news and help spread it throughout their communities.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. source
- B. rival
- C. condition
- D. waste

ID: ea040600 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the role of the general store in US rural communities during the 1800s. In this context, "source" means a place where something originates or is obtained. The text states that people would share news while socializing at the general store. This context supports the idea that the store served as a source of information in rural communities.

Choice B is incorrect because "rival" would mean competitor or opponent. The text doesn’t indicate that the general store was a rival of anything. Instead, the text describes the general store as a place that enabled the sharing of information within rural communities. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "condition" would mean state, circumstance, or requirement. Although the text implies that visiting the store was helpful for acquiring information since people shared news there, it wouldn’t make sense to say that the general store was a condition of information. Choice D is incorrect because "waste" would mean something that is unused, discarded, or spent unnecessarily, which would not make sense in context. The text describes the general store as an essential part of daily life and a place for socializing and information sharing. The store was therefore a source, not a waste, of information.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d744412d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: d744412d

The following text is from the 1913 story “The King’s Coin” by Emily Pauline Johnson, a Kanienkahagen (Mohawk) writer also known as Tekahionwake. Fox-Foot, a young Ojibwe man, is guiding a group of fur traders who are traveling by canoe and suspects that they are being followed.

At supper time, Fox-Foot would allow no fire to be built, no landing to be made, no trace of their passing to be left. They ate canned meat and marmalade, drank again of the stream and pushed on, until just at dusk they reached the edge of a long, still lake, with shores of granite and dense fir forest.

As used in the text, what does the word “trace” most nearly mean?

- A. Evidence
- B. Blemish
- C. Amount
- D. Sketch

ID: d744412d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because the text indicates that Fox-Foot doesn’t let the group build a fire or create a canoe landing when it’s time for supper. This context suggests that he doesn’t want anyone who might be following the group to see any sign of them or their activities. In other words, Fox-Foot doesn’t want there to be any trace, or evidence, of the group’s movements (“their passing”) through the area.

Choice B is incorrect because the text conveys that Fox-Foot doesn’t want the group to be detected, not that he doesn’t want their presence to create a blemish, or a spoiling flaw, in the area; human activity could disturb a natural environment, but the context emphasizes that Fox-Foot is instead focused on avoiding giving any sign of the group’s movements through a place (“their passing”) to anyone who might be following them. Choice C is incorrect because the text focuses on Fox-Foot’s desire to avoid detection by those who might be following the group. This context conveys that Fox-Foot doesn’t want to create any signs or evidence of the group moving through a place (“their passing”), not that he doesn’t want to leave behind some quantity of their presence; indeed, it isn’t clear what an amount of a group’s movement would be. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the group has a sketch, or rough drawing, of their movements through that area (“their passing”) that might be left behind. Rather, the context emphasizes that Fox-Foot is focused on ensuring that the group doesn’t give any kind of indication of their presence, as he wants to avoid detection by anyone who might be following the group.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID aa32794f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: aa32794f

Painter Alma W. Thomas was fascinated by the colors and shapes found in nature. The flowers and trees in the garden at her home in Washington, DC, _____ her work. For example, Thomas’s use of broken brushstrokes was inspired by the way that light would shine through the leaves of a tree in front of her house.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. restricted
- B. announced
- C. distracted
- D. influenced

ID: aa32794f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of painter Alma W. Thomas’s work. In this context, "influenced" means to have had an effect on something’s development. The text indicates that there is a connection between Thomas’s work and the flowers and trees in her home’s garden, giving the example of Thomas’s brushstrokes being inspired by light shining through the leaves of a tree in front of her house. This context conveys that Thomas’s work was influenced by the flowers and trees in the garden.

Choice A is incorrect because the text conveys that Thomas drew inspiration for her work from the plants in her garden, which suggests that the flowers and trees contributed positively to her work, not that they "restricted," or limited, her work. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn’t make sense to suggest that flowers and trees in a garden could have "announced," or made known, a painter’s work. Choice C is incorrect because the text conveys that Thomas drew inspiration for her work from the plants in her garden, which suggests that the flowers and trees contributed positively to her work, not that they were a distraction. Further, it’s not clear how an artist’s work could itself be "distracted."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID b82697bf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: b82697bf

The following text is from Booth Tarkington’s 1921 novel *Alice Adams*.

Mrs. Adams had always been fond of vases, she said, and every year her husband’s Christmas present to her was a vase of one sort or another—whatever the clerk showed him, marked at about twelve or fourteen dollars.

As used in the text, what does the word “marked” most nearly mean?

- A. Staged
- B. Priced
- C. Stained
- D. Watched

ID: b82697bf Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text suggests that Mrs. Adam’s typical Christmas present from her husband was a vase that cost, or was "priced at," about twelve or fourteen dollars.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn’t the meaning of "marked" as used here. It wouldn’t make sense to say that a vase was "staged at twelve or fourteen dollars." Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t the meaning of "marked" as used here. It wouldn’t make sense to say that a vase was "stained at twelve or fourteen dollars." Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t the meaning of "marked" as used here. It wouldn’t make sense to say that a vase was "watched at twelve or fourteen dollars."

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d919f97f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: d919f97f

The following text is adapted from Mercedes de Acosta’s 1921 poem “Spring and You.”

Now, Love and April, and the gold of your
hair,
Are all mingled together
Like the blending of an exotic dream plant
With the fragrant perfume of a strange, frail
flower.

As used in the text, what does the word “mingled” most nearly mean?

- A. Identified
- B. Combined
- C. Remembered
- D. Celebrated

ID: d919f97f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, "mingled" most nearly means combined. In the text, the speaker refers to several concepts mingling together and then compares this to "the blending of" two other things (an exotic plant and the fragrance of a strange flower). This comparison conveys that the speaker views the concepts of love, April, and the gold of someone’s hair as being blended together, or combined.

Choice A is incorrect because "mingled" means combined, not identified. The speaker names several concepts (love, April, and the gold color of someone’s hair) and then moves to a comparison of their mingling together to "the blending of" a plant and the scent of a flower, conveying the idea that the speaker views the concepts as blended together, or combined. Choice C is incorrect. The text as a whole may refer to a memory, but the comparison of the mingling of several concepts (love, April, and the gold color of someone’s hair) to "the blending of" a plant and the scent of a flower conveys that the speaker views those concepts as actually blended together, or combined, and not simply remembered at the same time. Choice D is incorrect. The speaker refers to several concepts (love, April, and the gold color of someone’s hair) and then compares the mingling together of those concepts to "the blending of" a plant and the scent of a flower; rather than suggesting that the concepts are celebrated, this comparison conveys that the speaker views the concepts as blended together, or combined.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4777ca40

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 4777ca40

Urban planning expert Francisco Lara-Valencia and colleagues have argued that managing environmental matters along the US-Mexico border _____ coordination between the two countries’ governments. Since ecosystems extend across the border, actions taken on one side can have environmental effects on the other side, making international cooperation essential.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. requires
- B. praises
- C. reports
- D. advises

ID: 4777ca40 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of environmental management along the US and Mexican border. In this context, "requires" means needs in order to perform a task. The text indicates that because ecosystems span the border, actions taken by the government on one side of the border can affect the environment in the nation on the other side of the border, which makes international cooperation crucial. In other words, because actions on one side of the US and Mexican border can affect the other side of the border, managing environmental matters along the border requires coordination between the two governments.

Choice B is incorrect because "praises" in this context would mean to express a favorable judgment, but the text doesn’t describe approval expressed by anyone, and it wouldn’t make sense to say that environmental management itself praises intergovernmental coordination. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "reports" would mean gives an account. Although coordination between the US and Mexican governments likely would involve some sort of reporting, the text doesn’t describe any such practice. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "advises" would mean recommends a course of action, and although governments can advise one another, it wouldn’t make sense to say that environmental management itself makes recommendations.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 86e238a1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 86e238a1

One challenge of generating electricity from ocean waves is that wave power isn't ____: it varies in unpredictable ways that pose technological and planning problems for electricity generation.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. accidental
- B. confident
- C. expensive
- D. consistent

ID: 86e238a1 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the challenge of generating electricity from ocean waves. In this context, "consistent" means steady or unchanging over time. The text introduces a challenge and then explains that wave power varies, or changes, unpredictably in ways that cause problems for electricity generation. This context conveys that the challenge being described is a lack of consistency.

Choice A is incorrect because the text introduces a challenge and then elaborates on it by emphasizing that the unpredictable nature of variations in ocean waves causes problems, which doesn’t indicate that wave power isn’t "accidental," or isn’t happening unintentionally. It wouldn’t make sense to describe waves—a natural occurrence—as happening intentionally. Choice B is incorrect because "confident" means having a feeling of self-assurance, and it wouldn’t make sense to describe wave power itself in terms of either having or lacking a sense of confidence. Choice C is incorrect because the text introduces a challenge and then elaborates on it by emphasizing that the unpredictable nature of variations in ocean waves causes problems, which doesn’t indicate that wave power isn’t "expensive," or isn’t costly. If anything, technological and planning problems might actually increase the expense of generating electricity from waves.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f9c76849

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f9c76849

A team of paleontologists has found a rich fossil deposit near Gulgong, Australia. The fossils are so well preserved that the team has been able to _____ detailed information about the life forms that left them behind, such as color patterns and how they interacted with other species.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. occupy
- B. hoard
- C. reserve
- D. obtain

ID: f9c76849 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the fossil deposit. In this context, "obtain" means gain or acquire. According to the text, a team of paleontologists has found fossils that are very well preserved. For this reason, the text suggests, the paleontologists have been able to gain detailed information from the fossils, such as the color patterns of the life forms that left them behind.

Choice A is incorrect because "occupy" means engage or inhabit, neither of which would make sense in context. It’s unclear what it would mean for detailed information revealed by fossils to be engaged or inhabited. Choice B is incorrect because the text gives no indication that the paleontologists wanted to "hoard," or collect and hide, the detailed information revealed by the well-preserved fossils. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that the paleontologists wanted to "reserve," or withhold, the detailed information revealed by the well-preserved fossils.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID e1dd712b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: e1dd712b

Predatory animals differ widely in how they _____ food for their young. Some leave dead prey nearby for their young to consume, some bring live prey to their young, and some feed their young directly from their own mouths.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. avoid
- B. guess
- C. provide
- D. describe

ID: e1dd712b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how predators feed their young. As used in this context, "provide" means supply or make something that’s needed available. The text indicates that some predators supply prey for their young by either leaving dead prey nearby or by bringing live prey to them. Other predators, the text states, feed their young directly from their own mouths. This context supports the idea that predatory animals have various ways to provide food for their young.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "avoid" would mean keep away from or refrain from, neither of which would make sense in context. Nothing in the text suggests that predators refrain from food for their young. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "guess" would mean speculate or suppose, and it’s unclear what it would mean for predators to speculate food for their young. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "describe" would mean explain, and it’s unclear what it would mean for predators to explain food for their young.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 5ff87c7a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 5ff87c7a

The works of Chicana artist Ester Hernandez are now _____ in museums both in the United States and abroad, but the murals she contributed to as a member of Las Mujeres Muralistas early in her artistic career were displayed in outdoor public spaces across San Francisco.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. invented
- B. adjusted
- C. featured
- D. recommended

ID: 5ff87c7a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ester Hernandez’s art. In this context, "featured" means shown prominently. The text focuses on where Hernandez’s works have been and continue to be displayed, explaining that her early works, which consisted of murals, could be viewed in outdoor spaces in San Francisco. The central contrast developed in the text is between where her early works could be viewed and where her works can be viewed now, which is in museums across the United States and around the world. The context therefore supports the idea that Hernandez’s works are now shown, or featured, in museums globally.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context "invented" would mean created something for the first time, which isn’t supported since the text doesn’t discuss where Hernandez creates her works or whether they’re original or innovative. Choice B is incorrect because "adjusted" in this context would mean adapted. Although the text mentions that many of Hernandez’s early works were outdoor murals and thus it may be reasonable to infer that Hernandez altered her approach to creating art so that her works could be displayed in indoor venues instead, the text makes no mention of how Hernandez’s works might have been adapted for such venues. The text focuses on where Hernandez’s works have been and continue to be displayed, not on how she or anyone else may have adapted, or adjusted, her works. Choice D is incorrect because "recommended" in this context would mean endorsed or put forth as a suggestion for something that is worth seeing. Although it may be reasonable to say that in choosing to display certain works, museum curators believe such works are worth seeing, the text doesn’t discuss the reasons why museums display Hernandez’s works. Instead, the text mainly develops a contrast between where Hernandez’s early works could once be viewed and where her work can be viewed now.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8596e73e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 8596e73e

The Appalachian Trail is a hiking path in the eastern United States. Much of the 2,000 mile trail passes through wilderness areas. In order to _____ those areas, the United States Congress passed the National Trails System Act in 1968, ensuring that the trail would not be sold or commercially developed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. borrow
- B. postpone
- C. protect
- D. decorate

ID: 8596e73e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Protect" means "preserve" or "keep safe from." By ensuring that the wilderness areas along the Appalachian Trail can't be sold or developed, the National Trails System Act protects them.

Choice A is incorrect. "Borrow" means "to take something with intent to return it." The text doesn't say anything about taking and returning the wilderness that surrounds the Appalachian Trail. Choice B is incorrect. "Postpone" means "to put off until later." Nothing in the passage suggests that Congress wants to "postpone" the wilderness areas (and that doesn't make sense anyway—they can postpone doing something to the wilderness areas, but they can't postpone the areas themselves). Choice D is incorrect. "Decorate" means "to adorn" or "add extra items or pictures to make more attractive." No details in the text suggest that Congress wishes to make the trail fancier or more attractive.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8c760c1a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 8c760c1a

The following text is from Yann Martel’s 2001 novel *Life of Pi*. The narrator’s family owned a zoo when he was a child.

It was a huge zoo, spread over numberless acres, big enough to require a train to explore it, though it seemed to get smaller as I grew older, train included.

©2001 by Yann Martel

As used in the text, what does the word “spread” most nearly mean?

- A. Hidden
- B. Discussed
- C. Extended
- D. Coated

ID: 8c760c1a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, “spread” most nearly means extended. The text states that the zoo is “huge,” that it covers “numberless acres,” and that it is large enough that a train is needed to explore it. Thus, the text’s emphasis on the zoo’s size suggests that the zoo extended, or stretched, over a large area of land.

Choice A is incorrect because if the zoo covers “numberless acres,” then it could not reasonably be described as hidden, or concealed from view. Choice B is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to suggest that the zoo was discussed, or talked about. Rather, the text focuses on the zoo’s large size. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts “spread” can mean coated, it doesn’t have that meaning in this context because to coat something means to apply a thin layer of a liquid substance, such as oil or paint, to a surface. Therefore, it would not be accurate to say that the zoo coated the acres on which it sits.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4e2353a4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 4e2353a4

The following text is adapted from Lewis Carroll’s 1871 novel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There*. Alice, a child, is talking to her cat.

“Do you hear the snow against the window-panes, Kitty? How nice and soft it sounds! Just as if someone was kissing the window all over outside.”

As used in the text, what does the word “soft” most nearly mean?

- A. Gentle
- B. Sensitive
- C. Shapeless
- D. Bland

ID: 4e2353a4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "soft" most nearly means gentle. The text portrays Alice speaking about the snow falling against the window, describing it as sounding "nice" and similar to someone "kissing the window." These details most strongly suggest that Alice thinks the sound made by the snow falling against the window is gentle.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "gentle" can mean sensitive, or caring about others’ feelings, that isn’t the meaning in this context; it doesn’t make sense to say that Alice thinks the sound of the snow cares about anything. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Alice thinks the sound of the snow is shapeless, or lacks a definite shape; she isn’t indicating how anything looks or feels but, rather, is describing how "nice" and gentle the snow sounds. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Alice thinks the sound of the snow is bland, or uninteresting; rather, she notices the sound and comments on how "nice" it is.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID ec46d490

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: ec46d490

Art scholars have noted that some colors seem to be more _____ viewers than others. For example, people tend to find paintings featuring blues and greens more appealing than paintings featuring yellows and oranges.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. confusing for
- B. attractive to
- C. corrected by
- D. similar to

ID: ec46d490 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best completes the text’s discussion of how viewers respond to colors. The text presents something art scholars have noted and gives the example of people tending to find paintings with blues and greens more appealing than those with yellows and oranges. This context conveys that certain colors are more "attractive to" viewers than other colors are.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates only that people tend to find some colors more appealing than others and gives no indication that certain colors are ever "confusing for," or puzzling to, viewers. Choice C is incorrect because the text discusses the relative appeal of certain colors in paintings but gives no indication that any colors would ever be "corrected by" viewers, or somehow fixed or improved by them. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn’t make much sense to say that some colors are more "similar to" viewers than others, which would suggest that colors and viewers are alike to different degrees. Further, the text primarily emphasizes a difference, not a similarity, in how appealing paintings tend to be based on the colors they contain.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 52a89edd

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 52a89edd

The following text is from Alice Kaplan’s 1993 memoir *French Lessons*.

When I started to talk on my own, I couldn’t be stopped. When I was in first grade, my sister’s friends could hardly stand to ride to school with me in the car. I was loud and unrelenting.

©1993 by The University of Chicago

As used in the text, what does the author most nearly mean by “I couldn’t be stopped”?

- A. She had a hard time sitting still.
- B. She often changed her mind.
- C. She was well liked as a child.
- D. She seemed to talk all the time.

ID: 52a89edd Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, “I couldn’t be stopped” most nearly means the author seemed to talk all the time. The text establishes that the author is discussing her early speaking habits, stating, “When I started to talk on my own, I couldn’t be stopped.” The following sentences provide context that clarifies the significance of this statement: her sister’s friends “could hardly stand to ride to school” with the author because she “was loud and unrelenting.” This suggests that once the author began speaking, she talked all the time—to the point of annoying others.

Choice A is incorrect because although the phrase “I couldn’t be stopped” could potentially refer to physical movement, the context clearly establishes that the author is discussing her talking habits, not her inability to sit still. The text specifically mentions that she “was loud and unrelenting” and that her sister’s friends disliked riding in the car with her, suggesting that the issue was excessive talking, not physical restlessness. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the author was fickle or frequently changed her mind. In this context, the phrase “I couldn’t be stopped” refers to the author’s persistent talking, as signaled by her characterization as “loud and unrelenting.” Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the author was popular or well liked as a child. In fact, it suggests the opposite by stating that her sister’s friends “could hardly stand” to ride in the car with her. Because of her excessive talking, in other words, people found the author annoying as a child.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 18e5996b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 18e5996b

The following text is adapted from Frances Hodgson Burnett’s 1905 novel *A Little Princess*. Sara is a young student at a school in London.

Sara not only could tell stories, but she adored telling them. When she sat or stood in the midst of a circle and began to invent wonderful things, her green eyes grew big and shining, her cheeks flushed, and, without knowing that she was doing it, she began to act and made what she told lovely or alarming by the raising or dropping of her voice.

As used in the text, what does the word “invent” most nearly mean?

- A. Mislead
- B. Disguise
- C. Create
- D. Discover

ID: 18e5996b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, "invent" most nearly means create or make up. The text begins by stating that Sara likes to tell stories and thoroughly enjoys telling them. The rest of the text describes how she looks and acts when she invents, or creates, "wonderful things" in her stories ("what she told").

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text suggests that Sara makes up "wonderful things," nothing suggests that she does so to mislead, or intentionally deceive, others; there is no reason to assume that Sara’s listeners don’t know that she’s creating the stories she shares. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Sara is disguising, or trying to cover up or conceal, "wonderful things" when she tells stories; rather, she is creating them and presenting them in ways that make them "lovely or alarming" for her listeners. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Sara is discovering, or unexpectedly finding, "wonderful things" in the stories she loves to tell; rather, that she is making things up as she tells the stories.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4849b011

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 4849b011

Dance choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar aims to give people the opportunity to be _____ her creative process. For example, live performances of her dance *HairStories*, which debuted in 2001, featured videos of people across the United States talking about their hair and audience members sharing pictures of their interesting hairstyles.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. nervous about
- B. completed by
- C. delayed by
- D. involved in

ID: 4849b011 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. “Involved in” means “playing an active role in.” This fits the context clues describing how Zollar includes the audience in her shows by incorporating their stories and pictures.

Choice A is incorrect. “Nervous” means “worried or anxious about.” Nothing in the text suggests that people would be nervous about Zollar’s creative process. Choice B is incorrect. “Completed by” means “made whole by.” It doesn’t make sense to say that Zollar’s shows would make her audience complete. Choice C is incorrect. “Delayed by” means “made late by.” Nothing in the text suggests that people would be delayed by Zollar’s creative process.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 49fce8ad

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 49fce8ad

On the basis of extensive calculations and models, astronomers in the 1990s predicted that the collision of two neutron stars or a neutron star and a black hole could release a massive burst of gamma rays in an event called a kilonova. This _____ was confirmed with observations in 2017.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. theory
- B. evidence
- C. constant
- D. experiment

ID: 49fce8ad Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of a prediction about a kilonova. In this context, a "theory" is an explanation that is considered scientifically acceptable. The text states that astronomers predicted in the 1990s that a collision between a black hole and a neutron star or between two neutron stars could release a massive gamma ray burst called a kilonova, explaining that they determined this possibility based on their extensive work with existing data and simulations ("calculations and models"). In other words, the prediction was a theory—a well-supported explanation—that, as the text indicates, was later confirmed with observations in 2017.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017, and a prediction of an event isn’t "evidence," or proof, of that event’s existence, even when the prediction is based on extensive study. Further, there would be no need for later confirmation of something that was already recognized as evidence. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, a "constant" is a situation or factor that doesn’t change. The text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017, and there is no reason to describe the prediction as a constant because the text doesn’t suggest that the prediction was completely unchanged over time—it addresses only the making of the prediction and its later confirmation. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that it is the prediction made by astronomers in the 1990s that was confirmed in 2017; although a prediction might be informed by an "experiment," or a controlled test, a prediction is an idea rather than a test.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 47a8acb5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 47a8acb5

The following text is adapted from Charles Chesnutt’s 1899 story “The Wife of His Youth.” Mr. Ryder is hosting a formal gathering where he will propose marriage to the woman he has been courting.

[A] younger and less cautious man would long since have spoken. But he had made up his mind, and had only to determine the time when he would ask her to be his wife. He decided to give a ball in her honor, and at some time during the evening of the ball to offer her his heart and hand.

As used in the text, what does the word “determine” most nearly mean?

- A. Choose
- B. Influence
- C. Demonstrate
- D. Measure

ID: 47a8acb5 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "determine" most nearly means choose or decide. The text indicates that Mr. Ryder "had made up his mind" to ask a woman to marry him but had not yet "spoken"—that is, he had not yet asked her. The text also indicates that Mr. Ryder "decided" to throw a party for the woman and ask her during it. This context conveys that after making up his mind to propose, what Mr. Ryder had to do was determine, or choose, the time to do it.

Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "determine" doesn’t mean influence, or affect or control. The text isn’t indicating that Mr. Ryder is controlling time itself; such a thing isn’t possible. Rather, the text conveys that after making up his mind to ask a woman to marry him, Mr. Ryder had to make another decision about his own actions by selecting a time to propose. Choice C is incorrect. The text focuses on Mr. Ryder’s plan to ask a woman to marry him and his decision about when to ask her. This context conveys that after making up his mind to propose, Mr. Ryder had to choose the time, not that he had to demonstrate, or show, the time; it’s not clear what it would mean to demonstrate a time. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "determine" doesn’t mean measure, or control with careful restraint. The text isn’t indicating that Mr. Ryder is carefully controlling time itself; such a thing isn’t possible. Rather, the text conveys that after making up his mind to ask a woman to marry him, Mr. Ryder had to make another decision about his own actions by selecting a time to propose; it’s Mr. Ryder’s decision that is measured, not the time he eventually chooses.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 1faacb62

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 1faacb62

Bioluminescent beetles called fireflies may seem to create flashes of light randomly, but each species of firefly actually has its own special series of repeated flashes and pauses. These unique _____ allow fireflies of the same species to find each other.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. quantities
- B. decorations
- C. patterns
- D. agreements

ID: 1faacb62 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the flashes created by fireflies. In this context, “patterns” means distinct and predictable sequences. The text indicates that although the flashes that fireflies produce appear to occur randomly—that is, without any particular sequence or rhythm—each species actually produces its own special series of flashes and pauses. Indeed, these series of flashes are so unique that fireflies can use them to find other members of their species. Therefore, this context supports the idea that fireflies produce flashes in distinct and recognizable patterns.

Choice A is incorrect because “quantities” means certain amounts or numbers of something. Although the text discusses how different firefly species produce flashes and pauses in unique sequences that help other members of their species to find them, it doesn’t mention the number of flashes that are used in these sequences. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “decorations” would mean things that make an object more beautiful. Although it may be reasonable to say that firefly flashes are beautiful, the text focuses on the fact that fireflies use these unique sequences of flashes to find other members of their own species, not that the flashes make fireflies more beautiful. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, “agreements” would refer to deals that individuals have discussed and come to a consensus about. Since fireflies aren’t capable of making such agreements, it wouldn’t make sense to use this word to refer to the signals they send each other with their flashes.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID fec04ce2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: fec04ce2

The following text is adapted from Elizabeth von Arnim’s 1922 novel *The Enchanted April*. Mrs. Wilkins and her friend Rose are traveling in Italy.

“I’m going to have one of these gorgeous oranges,” said Mrs. Wilkins, staying where she was and reaching across to a black bowl piled with them. “Rose, how can you resist them. Look—have this one. Do have this beauty—” And she held out a big one.

As used in the text, what does the phrase “reaching across to” most nearly mean?

- A. Joining with
- B. Gaining on
- C. Stretching toward
- D. Arriving at

ID: fec04ce2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text "reaching across to" most nearly means stretching toward. The text begins with Mrs. Wilkins stating that she wants to have one of the oranges that she’s admiring. The text then indicates that Mrs. Wilkins, staying where she is, holds out a big orange to her friend. This context suggests that when the text describes Mrs. Wilkins as reaching across to the bowl of oranges, it means that she is stretching toward the bowl.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never suggests that Mrs. Wilkins is joining with, or becoming attached to, the bowl of oranges. Rather, the text indicates that she is stretching toward the bowl so she can pick out oranges for herself and her friend Rose to eat. Choice B is incorrect because the text never suggests that Mrs. Wilkins is gaining on, or overtaking in a competition or race, the bowl of oranges. The text suggests instead that the bowl is sitting still on a surface and that Mrs. Wilkins is extending her arm toward the bowl so she can pick out oranges for herself and her friend Rose to eat. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that Mrs. Wilkins is arriving at the bowl of oranges. In fact, the text states that Mrs. Wilkins stays where she is when reaching across to the bowl, meaning that she remains at a distance from it.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID d0e0693d

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: d0e0693d

When marine biologist Brittany Williams played different ocean recordings to groups of oyster larvae, groups that heard sounds of a healthy oyster reef were the most _____. They were twice as likely as other groups to show signs of making a permanent home. This suggests that playing recordings of a healthy ocean reef may encourage oysters to create such a reef.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. responsive
- B. inactive
- C. liked
- D. distressed

ID: d0e0693d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of oysters and ocean recordings. As used in this context, "responsive" means reacting positively. The text presents a finding and describes it as suggesting that healthy ocean sounds may encourage oyster larvae to establish a reef (a permanent home): groups of oyster larvae that heard recorded sounds of a healthy oyster reef were two times more likely to show signs of forming their own reef than groups that heard different ocean recordings were. This context conveys that the groups that heard healthy reef sounds had a more positive reaction than the other groups did—that is, they were the most responsive.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that hearing sounds of a healthy oyster reef caused some groups of oyster larvae to become "inactive," or to stop engaging in work or activity. Instead, the text conveys that the groups that heard those sounds were observed engaging in activity: they were two times more likely to create a reef (a permanent home) than groups that heard different ocean sounds were. Choice C is incorrect because describing the groups of oyster larvae that heard sounds of a healthy oyster reef as most "liked," or regarded with pleasure, wouldn’t make sense in context. The text focuses on the idea that a study found that healthy reef sounds may encourage groups of oyster larvae to form reefs (permanent homes), not on the idea that some of the groups in the study were liked more than others. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that hearing sounds of a healthy oyster reef caused some groups of oyster larvae to be "distressed," or to experience difficulty or begin to decline. Instead, the text indicates that the sounds increased the likelihood that groups of larvae would establish a reef (a permanent home), suggesting that the sounds had a positive effect on the larvae.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f9663707

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f9663707

Many ancient sculptures of people’s heads are missing their noses. This is because the nose is the most _____ part of a sculpture of a person’s head. It is delicate and sticks out from the rest of the sculpture, making it especially easy to break.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. recognizable
- B. fragile
- C. common
- D. sophisticated

ID: f9663707 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of noses on ancient sculptures. In this context, "fragile" means weak or delicate. This matches the text’s description of noses on ancient sculptures, which are often missing from sculptures’ heads because they are "especially easy to break." Therefore, this context indicates that noses on ancient sculptures are the most fragile part of the sculptures’ heads.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "recognizable" would mean identifiable, and since the text indicates that noses are often missing from ancient statues, they therefore cannot be the most recognizable part of the statue. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that many ancient statues are missing noses, so noses wouldn’t be "common," or frequent, aspects of ancient statues; they would conversely be uncommon. Choice D is incorrect because the text only indicates that noses on ancient statues often stick out and end up missing from the heads, which doesn’t relate to the noses being "sophisticated," or knowledgeable or refined.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 8452e60b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 8452e60b

Charles “Teenie” Harris was a photographer for the *Pittsburgh Courier* from 1936 to 1975. During his career he took over 70,000 photographs documenting everyday life in Pittsburgh’s Black communities. The Carnegie Museum of Art maintains thousands of his photographs, carefully _____ them so that audiences can continue to view them well into the future.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. replacing
- B. inventing
- C. preserving
- D. counting

ID: 8452e60b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. "Preserving" means "maintaining" or "keeping in good condition," so preserving the photographs means that audiences should be able to view them for a long time.

Choice A is incorrect. "Replacing" means "putting something new in place of" the photographs. Replacing the photos will make it so that audiences can’t view them at all. Choice B is incorrect. "Inventing" means "creating a new idea, process, or thing." The museum can’t invent photographs that already exist. Choice D is incorrect. Counting the photographs will not help audiences view them well into the future.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 3cbff2ab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 3cbff2ab

The following text is adapted from Ida B. Wells’s 1970 autobiography *A Crusade for Justice*. Mr. Watts is a reference to George Frederic Watts, an English painter.

[Manchester’s] art galleries are so arranged that the name of every picture is plainly seen and one has no need of a catalogue to pick out the name and the artist. This is a convenience to the general public, which other art galleries, which shall be nameless, might copy to advantage. To her treasure of art Manchester has added Mr. Watts’ latest picture, the Good Samaritan.

©1970 by the University of Chicago Press

As used in the text, what does the word “arranged” most nearly mean?

- A. Organized
- B. Ranked
- C. Scheduled
- D. Discussed

ID: 3cbff2ab Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "arranged" most nearly means "organized." The text states that a welcome feature of Manchester’s art galleries (as opposed to others) is that the titles of the paintings are easy to see and that a catalogue is therefore unneeded while visitors browse the art galleries. This suggests that the paintings are displayed in a systematic, or organized, way.

Choice B is incorrect. "Ranked" might mean either classified or placed in orderly rows. Neither of these meanings would necessarily imply that the names of the paintings are easy to see (even if the paintings are placed in rows, their labels might be obscured). Choice C is incorrect because it would not make sense in context to describe the paintings as "scheduled," or planned to take place at a certain time. Choice D is incorrect because if the paintings were "discussed," or talked about, this would have no bearing on whether the names of the paintings could be easily seen.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID 4b26f60a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: 4b26f60a

Ezra Pound’s poetry can be hard to _____. it is dense, experimental, and so full of references and allusions that many readers have a difficult time even identifying the poems’ subjects.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. comprehend
- B. dislike
- C. interrupt
- D. overlook

ID: 4b26f60a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Ezra Pound’s poetry. In this context, “comprehend” would mean to understand or grasp the meaning of something. The text describes Pound’s poetry as “dense” and “experimental,” with many references that readers may not understand. The text also states that many readers may not even be able to identify a poem’s subject. This context clearly suggests that readers struggle to understand Pound’s poetry as a result of its complexity and obscure references.

Choice B is incorrect. To say that Pound’s poetry is “hard to dislike” would suggest that people generally like it, but the text doesn’t focus on how likeable or enjoyable the poems are; rather, it focuses on how challenging many readers find it to understand them. Choice C is incorrect. To say that Pound’s poetry is “hard to interrupt” would mean that it is hard to stop or break into it while it’s being read or recited, but the text doesn’t discuss any such breaks; instead, the text focuses on the challenge of understanding the content of Pound’s poems. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, “overlook” would mean look past or fail to notice, so to say that Pound’s poetry is “hard to overlook” would mean that it is very likely to be noticed. The text focuses on the difficulty people have in understanding Pound’s poems when reading them, not how noticeable his poetry is in the first place.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID c69db835

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: c69db835

The following text is from Anita Desai’s 2011 novella *Translator Translated*. While working on her translation of a novel written in Odia (a language of India) into English, the narrator looks out her window at night to clear her mind.

I tried to distract myself with these sights of the ordinary world, but in my mind it was the lines I had been translating and the lines that I had been writing that remained in the forefront. I longed for sleep to obliterate them but it eluded me. Perhaps everything would be normal again once I had sent off the manuscript, I thought, and looked forward to completing the work.

©2011 by Anita Desai

As used in the text, what does the word “completing” most nearly mean?

- A. Destroying
- B. Finishing
- C. Advertising
- D. Rejecting

ID: c69db835 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, "completing" most nearly means finishing. In the text, the narrator conveys that the task of translating a novel has been an all-consuming one and that she hopes things will "be normal again" once she has "sent off the manuscript." In other words, the narrator is looking forward to finishing her work on the manuscript and returning to other things.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "completing" doesn’t mean destroying, or ruining. The narrator addresses her desire to send off the manuscript she’s focused on and her hope that things will be "normal again" once she does, conveying that she is looking forward to finishing the work, not to ruining it. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "completing" doesn’t mean advertising, or publicly promoting. The narrator addresses her complete focus on the translation and her hope that things will be "normal again" once she has "sent off the manuscript," conveying that she is looking forward to finishing the task, not to promoting the resulting manuscript. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "completing" doesn’t mean rejecting, or refusing or repelling. The narrator makes it clear that she is absorbed in working on the translation and plans to send off the manuscript, suggesting that instead of refusing to do the work, she is continuing to do it (even if she looks forward to things being "normal again" when she’s done).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Question ID f2171e11

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Words in Context	

ID: f2171e11

The unique *subak* water management system used to irrigate the rice paddy fields of the Indonesian island of Bali has a rich cultural, philosophical, and historical significance dating back to the ninth century. The many elements of *subak*—terraces, canals, and water temples—are _____. they are joined together into a single cohesive unit.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. outmoded
- B. informal
- C. interconnected
- D. optional

ID: f2171e11 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Bali’s *subak* water management system. In this context, “interconnected” would mean joined or linked together. The text describes the various components of the *subak* system—“terraces, canals, and water temples”—and then states that they are “joined together into a single cohesive unit.” This context indicates that these elements are connected with one another in an integrated system.

Choice A is incorrect because “outmoded” would mean outdated or no longer in use. While the text does indicate that the *subak* system has “rich cultural, philosophical, and historical significance,” the text doesn’t suggest that the *subak* system is obsolete or not currently used. Choice B is incorrect because “informal” would suggest that the *subak* system lacks structure or organization. The text contradicts this by describing a complex system with specific components (“terraces, canals, and water temples”) that are “joined together into a single cohesive unit,” indicating formal organization rather than informality. Choice D is incorrect because “optional” would suggest that the various elements of the *subak* system are not necessary or required. The text indicates the opposite by stating that these elements are “joined together into a single cohesive unit,” suggesting that each component plays a necessary role in the functioning of the integrated system.

Question Difficulty: Easy