Question ID f762105f

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

ID: f762105f

Nigerian American author Teju Cole's _____ his two passions—photography and the written word—culminates in his 2017 book, *Blind Spot*, which evocatively combines his original photographs from his travels with his poetic prose.

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

A. indifference to

B. enthusiasm for

C. concern about

D. surprise at

ID: f762105f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Cole's book *Blind Spot*. In this context, "enthusiasm for" means excitement about. The text explains that *Blind Spot* consists of original photographs as well as poetic prose—two elements that correspond to Cole's passions, identified in the text, for photography and the written word. This context suggests that Cole's excitement about photography and writing led him to create a book that successfully combines the two mediums.

Choice A is incorrect because describing Cole as feeling "indifference to" his two passions wouldn't make sense in context. If Cole is indifferent to his passions, that would mean he doesn't care about photography or writing—in which case they wouldn't be his passions at all. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that Cole feels "concern about," or uneasiness about, his passions. The text's use of the word "culminates" indicates that *Blind Spot* represents a triumphant climax of Cole's passions, not a work that results from his sense of discomfort with photography and writing. Choice D is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that Cole feels "surprise at," or astonished by, his passions. The text indicates that Cole's feeling about his passions "culminates" in a book that "evocatively" combines photographs and writing, suggesting that Cole has a long-standing and skillful relationship to his passions, not that he is startled by them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d0c1dbe2

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

ID: d0c1dbe2

Though not closely related, the hedgehog tenrecs of Madagascar share basic _____ true hedgehogs, including protective spines, pointed snouts, and small body size—traits the two groups of mammals independently developed in response to equivalent roles in their respective habitats.

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

A. examples of

B. concerns about

C. indications of

D. similarities with

ID: d0c1dbe2 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because in context, sharing "similarities with" means having some resemblance to. The text establishes a comparison between two groups of mammals, stating that although they aren't closely related, hedgehog tenrecs and true hedgehogs play similar roles in their habitats, a circumstance that has resulted in the independent development of some of the same physical traits. This context supports the idea that hedgehog tenrecs resemble, or share basic similarities with, true hedgehogs in some respects.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that hedgehog tenrecs are "examples of," or representative of, true hedgehogs. The text states that despite some shared physical traits, the two groups of mammals aren't closely related; therefore, hedgehog tenrecs can't be examples of true hedgehogs. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "concerns about" would mean worries about or interests in. The text focuses on the various physical traits that hedgehog tenrecs and true hedgehogs share. There's nothing in the text to suggest why hedgehog tenrecs would be worried about true hedgehogs, or why they would be interested in them. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "indications of" would mean evidence of. By listing a set of traits that hedgehog tenrecs share with true hedgehogs, the text establishes a comparison between the two groups of mammals, and saying that the traits shared within one group of mammals provide evidence of another group of mammals wouldn't be an effective way to establish the similarities between the two groups.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ede7d217

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

ID: ede7d217

In 1929 the *Atlantic Monthly* published several articles based on newly discovered letters allegedly exchanged between President Abraham Lincoln and a woman named Ann Rutledge. Historians were unable to _____ the authenticity of the letters, however, and quickly dismissed them as a hoax.

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

A. validate

B. interpret

C. relate

D. accommodate

ID: ede7d217 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of letters allegedly exchanged between President Lincoln and Rutledge. In this context, "validate" means to confirm that something is real or correct. According to the text, it was alleged, or claimed, that the newly discovered letters had been written by Lincoln and Rutledge. The text also indicates that historians ultimately decided the letters were a hoax, or fraudulent. This context suggests that the historians couldn't confirm that the letters were authentic.

Choice B is incorrect. The text focuses on the authenticity of the letters, which were claimed to have been written by Lincoln and Rutledge and were then quickly dismissed as fraudulent by historians. Rather than conveying that the historians simply weren't able to "interpret," or explain in an understandable way, the letters' authenticity, the text suggests that the historians decided the letters lacked authenticity altogether. Choice C is incorrect. The text states that the historians quickly dismissed the letters claimed to have been written by Lincoln and Rutledge as fraudulent; this suggests that rather than being unable to "relate," or tell others about, the letters' authenticity, the historians were able to share what they'd decided about the letters. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to suggest that the historians couldn't "accommodate," or give consideration to, the authenticity of the letters claimed to have been written by Lincoln and Rutledge; the text states that the historians decided that the letters were fraudulent, which indicates that they *did* consider whether the letters were authentic.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 601c3bf3

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

ID: 601c3bf3

The following text is from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*. The narrator is being driven in a carriage through a remote region at night.

> The baying of the wolves sounded nearer and nearer, as though they were closing round on us from every side. I grew dreadfully afraid, and the horses shared my fear. The driver, however, was not in the least disturbed; he kept turning his head to left and right, but I could not see anything through the darkness.

As used in the text, what does the word "disturbed" most nearly mean?

A. Disorganized

B. Alarmed

C. Offended

D. Interrupted

ID: 601c3bf3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, "disturbed" most nearly means alarmed. The text portrays the narrator traveling in a carriage as wolves howl in the surrounding darkness. The text contrasts the reaction of both the narrator and the horses pulling the carriage with that of the driver of the carriage: the narrator and horses are "dreadfully afraid," but the driver is "not in the least disturbed." In other words, the driver is not alarmed by the wolves nearby.

Choice A is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "disturbed" can mean disorganized, the text doesn't portray a character acting in a disorganized manner; instead, the driver continues to drive the carriage, even though the horses pulling it are alarmed. Choice C is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "disturbed" can mean offended, the text doesn't portray one character feeling offended, or upset, by another's actions; instead, it contrasts the fear felt by the narrator with another character's lack of fear. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "disturbed" can mean interrupted, the text doesn't portray an action being interrupted; indeed, the travel depicted in the scene continues despite the threat of the wolves outside the carriage.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a60dbdc2

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

ID: a60dbdc2

Research conducted by planetary scientist Katarina Miljkovic suggests that the Moon's surface may not accurately _____ early impact events. When the Moon was still forming, its surface was softer, and asteroid or meteoroid impacts would have left less of an impression; thus, evidence of early impacts may no longer be present.

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

A. reflect

B. receive

C. evaluate

D. mimic

ID: a60dbdc2 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the Moon's surface. In this context, "reflect" means show or make apparent. The text states that because the surface of the Moon was softer when the Moon was still forming than it is now, early asteroid and meteoroid impacts "would have left less of an impression" and, as a result, evidence of them may no longer exist. This context supports the idea that the surface of the Moon may not accurately show signs of early impact events.

Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the surface of the Moon may not accurately "receive," or acquire or experience, early impacts from asteroids or meteoroids. The text indicates that the impacts have already occurred, and it isn't clear how the Moon's surface could be accurate or inaccurate in experiencing them. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the surface of the Moon may not accurately "evaluate," or determine the significance or condition of, early impacts from asteroids or meteoroids, since that would suggest that it's possible for the Moon's surface to make a decision of any kind. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "mimic" would mean to deliberately simulate or closely imitate something. It wouldn't make sense to say that the surface of the Moon may not accurately mimic early asteroid and meteoroid impacts, since that would suggest that it's possible for the Moon to deliberately imitate something.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c881d24c

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

ID: c881d24c

British painter Peter Edwards has a _____ painting portraits of notable figures from a variety of different fields. These characteristic works include his esteemed portraits of poet Wendy Cope and soccer player and coach Ryan Griggs.

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

A. complaint about

B. reputation for

C. question about

D. requirement for

ID: c881d24c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Peter Edwards as a portrait painter. In this context, having a "reputation for" something means that one is widely recognized for being associated with a particular activity. The text indicates that Edwards has created "characteristic works" including "esteemed portraits" of notable figures, suggesting he is known and respected for this type of painting. This choice clearly indicates that Edwards has established recognition or fame specifically in connection with painting portraits of well-known individuals.

Choice A is incorrect because the text presents Edwards's portrait painting in a positive manner, describing his works as "esteemed." In this context, "complaint about" would mean dissatisfaction or grievance regarding the activity of painting portraits, which contradicts the positive characterization of Edwards's work. Nothing in the text suggests that Edwards has expressed any dissatisfaction with or objection to painting portraits of notable figures. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Edwards has a "question about" painting portraits, which in this context would mean uncertainty or doubt regarding this activity. Instead, the text presents Edwards as someone who has already created multiple portrait works described as "characteristic" and "esteemed," suggesting established practice rather than uncertainty. The mention of specific examples of his portrait work further demonstrates that he is not questioning his portrait painting. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not suggest that Edwards has a "requirement for" painting portraits, which in this context would mean a mandatory obligation or necessary condition. Instead, the text indicates that portrait painting is something Edwards is known for doing well, not something he is obligated to do. The text describes his portrait work as "characteristic," suggesting it's a defining feature of his artistic practice rather than an externally imposed requirement.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7043c279

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

ID: 7043c279

Beginning in the 1950s, Navajo Nation legislator Annie Dodge Wauneka continuously worked to promote public health; this _____ effort involved traveling throughout the vast Navajo homeland and writing a medical dictionary for speakers of *Diné bizaad*, the Navajo language.

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

A. impartial

B. offhand

C. persistent

D. mandatory

ID: 7043c279 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Annie Dodge Wauneka's work as a Navajo Nation legislator. As used in this context, "persistent" means existing continuously. The text states that Wauneka "continuously worked to promote public health," traveling extensively and authoring a medical dictionary; this indicates that Wauneka's effort was persistent.

Choice A is incorrect because describing Wauneka's effort related to public health as "impartial," or not partial or biased and treating all things equally, wouldn't make sense in context. The text suggests that Wauneka's continuous work was partial in one way, as she focused specifically on promoting public health throughout the Navajo homeland and to speakers of the Navajo language. Choice B is incorrect because the text emphasizes that Wauneka's effort to promote public health as a Navajo Nation legislator was continuous and extensive, involving wide travels and the authoring of a medical dictionary. Because this work clearly involved care and dedication, it wouldn't make sense to describe it as "offhand," or casual and informal. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Wauneka's effort to promote public health was "mandatory," or required by law or rule, even though Wauneka was a Navajo Nation legislator. Rather than suggesting that Wauneka's effort was required for any reason, the text emphasizes the continuous and extensive nature of her work.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3ee9d467

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

ID: 3ee9d467

Mônica Lopes-Ferreira and others at Brazil's Butantan Institute are studying the freshwater stingray species *Potamotrygon rex* to determine whether biological characteristics such as the rays' age and sex have _____ effect on the toxicity of their venom—that is, to see if differences in these traits are associated with considerable variations in venom potency.

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

A. a disconcerting

B. an acceptable

C. an imperceptible

D. a substantial

ID: 3ee9d467 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the research that Lopes-Ferreira and her colleagues are conducting on the stingray species *Potamotrygon rex.* As used in this context, "a substantial" effect means an effect that is sizable or noteworthy. The text indicates that the researchers are seeking to determine whether there are "considerable variations" in the potency of stingray venom that are associated with variation in the stingrays' age and sex. This context suggests that the researchers want to find out whether stingray age and sex have a substantial effect on venom toxicity.

Choice A is incorrect because there's nothing in the text that suggests that the researchers have been studying whether the stingrays' age and sex have "a disconcerting," or an unsettling and disturbing, effect on the stingrays' venom. The text indicates that the researchers wish to determine if stingray age and sex cause large variations in the toxicity of stingray venom, not if the effect of age and sex is disconcerting. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that researchers want to find out whether differences in stingray age and sex produce differences in stingray venom, not that the researchers want to find out whether age and sex have "an acceptable," or a satisfactory, effect on venom. The text makes no mention of what would make an effect on venom toxicity acceptable and gives no indication that the researchers are interested in that question. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context for the researchers to be looking for "an imperceptible," or an unnoticeable, effect of age and sex on stingray venom. The text says that the researchers are trying to determine if there are "considerable variations" in venom toxicity linked to age and sex, not that the researchers are trying to find effects that they can't perceive.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 304c377b

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

ID: 304c377b

As an architect in Los Angeles in the 1950s, Helen Liu Fong became known for avoiding _____ designs in her buildings. Instead of using standard shapes and colors, she typically explored innovative forms and daring hues.

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

A. creative

B. bold

C. traditional

D. understandable

ID: 304c377b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Helen Liu Fong's architectural designs. In this context, "traditional" means conventional. The text states that rather than use "standard shapes and colors," Fong pursued "innovative" and "daring" design choices in her work. Fong's style is depicted as inventive, so it therefore makes sense in this context that she avoided mainstream, traditional designs in her buildings.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that Fong's work is innovative and experimental. Thus, Fong's design choices could reasonably be considered creative, or original. She likely would have pursued creative designs, not avoided them. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that Fong used "daring" hues in her designs. Thus, Fong likely would have pursued bold, or brave and vivid design choices; she wouldn't have avoided them. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't address whether Fong's designs are understandable, or reasonable or expected. The text focuses on certain characteristics of Fong's designs, not on how people received or understood them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 842b6f7c

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

ID: 842b6f7c

Osage Nation citizen Randy Tinker-Smith produced and directed the ballet *Wahzhazhe*, which vividly chronicles Osage history and culture. Telling Osage stories through ballet is _____ choice because two of the foremost ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage: sisters Maria and Marjorie Tallchief.

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

A. a suitable

B. a determined

C. an arbitrary

D. an unpredictable

ID: 842b6f7c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. “Suitable” means “appropriate for a particular purpose.” Since the text indicates that two of the best ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage, we can infer that the author believes that ballet is a very suitable artform for telling Osage stories.

Choice B is incorrect. The text never suggests that Tinker-Smith’s choice was determined. That would imply that Tinker-Smith initially faced some kind of obstacle or opposition, and nothing like that is mentioned in the passage. Choice C is incorrect. The text implies the opposite of this. “Arbitrary” means “based on random choice or whim rather than reason.” But the text does give us a good reason behind the choice to tell Osage stories through ballet: two of the best ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage. Choice D is incorrect. The text never suggests that Tinker-Smith’s choice was “unpredictable.” Rather, the fact that two of the best ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage makes ballet especially appropriate for telling Osage stories.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3b3a2ba7

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

ID: 3b3a2ba7

As Mexico's first president from an Indigenous community, Benito Juarez became one of the most _____ figures in his country's history: among the many significant accomplishments of his long tenure in office (1858–1872), Juarez consolidated the authority of the national government and advanced the rights of Indigenous peoples.

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

A. unpredictable

B. important

C. secretive

D. ordinary

ID: 3b3a2ba7 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Juarez. In this context, "important" means marked by significant work or consequence. The text indicates that Juarez, who was the first president of Mexico from an Indigenous community, became a certain kind of figure in Mexico's history. It then supports that claim by describing some of the "many significant accomplishments" from Juarez's long tenure in office. This context conveys that Juarez is a significant and consequential figure in Mexico's history.

Choice A is incorrect because the text focuses on Juarez's role as the first president of Mexico from an Indigenous community and on his many major accomplishments during his lengthy time in office; nothing in the text suggests that Juarez was "unpredictable," or tended to behave in ways that couldn't be predicted. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Juarez was a particularly "secretive" figure, or that he tended to keep things private or hidden from others. Instead, the text focuses on things that are known about Juarez: that he was the first president of Mexico from an Indigenous community, that he had a lengthy tenure, and that his many major accomplishments included consolidating the national government's authority and advancing Indigenous rights. Choice D is incorrect because the text focuses on the idea that Juarez, who was the first president of Mexico from an Indigenous community, had many major accomplishments during his lengthy time in office. Rather than suggesting that Juarez was an "ordinary," or common and typical, figure in Mexico's history, this context conveys that Juarez was instead a notable figure.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6a71e97e

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

ID: 6a71e97e

Cucurbits, a group of plants that includes squash and melons, relied on mastodons to spread their seeds in the Ice Age. When these animals died out, cucurbits faced extinction in turn, having lost their means of seed dispersal. Around this time, however, the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America began raising cucurbits as crops, thus _____ the plants' survival.

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

A. verifying

B. multiplying

C. comforting

D. ensuring

ID: 6a71e97e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of cucurbits. In this context, "ensuring" means guaranteeing, or making sure of, the cucurbits' survival. The text states that cucurbits faced extinction in the past because their means of seed dispersal disappeared, but the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America began farming cucurbits around that same time, so the crops were no longer threatened. Therefore, the context supports the idea that the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America helped with ensuring the cucurbits' survival.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context verifying means making sure that something is accurate. In the text, the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America were ensuring the survival, not the accuracy of, the cucurbits. Choice B is incorrect. Although the cucurbit crops themselves were multiplying, or growing in number, as a result of the work of the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America, it wouldn't make sense in context to say that the survival of the plants was multiplying. Choice C is incorrect because according to the text, in raising cucurbits as crops, the ancestors of Indigenous peoples in North America were attempting to help the plants grow and survive; they weren't attempting to comfort, or free the plants from pain.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b102eb22

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

ID: b102eb22

The following text is adapted from Sadakichi Hartmann's 1894 short story "Magnolia Blossoms." The narrator is standing on the deck of a boat.

> What a night it was! My soul had left its body to lose itself in the wild unrestrained beauty around me—from where it came—and only left a trembling suggestion of its existence within me. The other passengers moved around me like shadows, and again and again my eyes drank in all the glory and wealth of that night.

As used in the text, what does the word "suggestion" most nearly mean?

A. Trace

B. Opinion

C. Dispute

D. Command

ID: b102eb22 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "suggestion" most nearly means trace. The text portrays the narrator standing on the deck of a boat, admiring the view of nature afforded by this position: "My soul had left its body to lose itself in the wild unrestrained beauty around me," says the narrator, "and only left a trembling suggestion of its existence within me." This intense response to beauty is such that the narrator's soul seems to disengage from its body, leaving behind only a barely detectible indication of its presence there. In other words, the narrator senses only a trace of soul left in the body.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "suggestion" can refer to an implied or indirectly expressed opinion, the text doesn't portray the narrator expressing an opinion; instead, the narrator is explaining an experience of intense emotion. Choice C is incorrect. While "suggestion" might be used in some contexts to refer to the tactful expression of a differing viewpoint, it doesn't refer to the dispute or difference of opinion itself. Moreover, the text doesn't portray a dispute between characters with differing viewpoints. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "suggestion" might be used to refer to a politely worded command, the text doesn't portray a scenario in which someone receives such a command.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0ffff3a3

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

ID: 0ffff3a3

Sumerian civilization (which lasted from around 3300 to 2000 BCE) _____ many concepts that persist into present-day civilizations: for example, the first description of the seven-day week appears in the Sumerian *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

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

A. transformed

B. introduced

C. inherited

D. overlooked

ID: 0ffff3a3 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the contributions of the Sumerian civilization. In this context, "introduced" means brought into practice or use. The text states that the first reference to a seven-day week appears in the Sumerian *Epic of Gilgamesh*. The text presents this information about the seven-day week as an example of a concept introduced by the Sumerian civilization that persists into present-day civilizations.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the Sumerian civilization "transformed," or changed the nature of, concepts that persist into present-day civilizations. Instead, the text's presentation of a Sumerian literary work that contains the first description of the seven-day week is an example of the phenomenon described in the first half of the sentence, suggesting that the Sumerians invented many concepts that still persist. Choice C is incorrect because the information that a Sumerian literary work includes the first description of the seven-day week suggests that Sumerian civilization may have originated the seven-day week and other concepts that persist into present-day civilizations, not that it "inherited" the concepts, or received them from an ancestral figure or culture. Choice D is incorrect because the information that Sumerian civilization produced the first description of the seven-day week is presented as an example of the phenomenon described in the first half of the sentence, suggesting that Sumerian civilization originated this and other concepts that still persist, not that the Sumerians "overlooked," or failed to notice or consider, such concepts.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7b8061a6

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

ID: 7b8061a6

The Mule Bone, a 1930 play written by Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes, is perhaps the best-known of the few examples of _____ in literature. Most writers prefer working alone, and given that working together cost Hurston and Hughes their friendship, it is not hard to see why.

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

A. characterization

B. interpretation

C. collaboration

D. commercialization

ID: 7b8061a6 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it logically and precisely completes the text's discussion of *The Mule Bone*, a play that Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes wrote together. In this context, "collaboration" means working together with someone to write a literary work. The text indicates that most writers prefer to work alone and that working together destroyed the friendship between Hurston and Hughes. This establishes that *The Mule Bone* is a relatively rare example of collaboration in literature.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "characterization" would mean a literary work's portrayal of characters' psychological experiences and motivations, but the text doesn't discuss characterization in *The Mule Bone* specifically or in collaborative works more generally. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "interpretation" would mean the explanation of a literary work's meaning or significance, but the text doesn't discuss how readers or critics have interpreted *The Mule Bone*; instead, the text discusses how the play was written collaboratively and how the writing process affected the two authors. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "commercialization" would mean writing a literary work in such a way as to ensure its commercial appeal, but the text never discusses commercial appeal as a factor in the writing of *The Mule Bone* specifically or the writing of collaborative works more generally.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8d4a0fcf

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

ID: 8d4a0fcf

Latro, the main character of Gene Wolfe's novel *Soldier of the Mist*, is a man in ancient Greece. He completely loses his memory whenever he sleeps. So, before sleeping, Latro records the important experiences of each day on a scroll, carefully choosing which ones to _____.

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

A. suspect

B. preserve

C. suggest

D. imagine

ID: 8d4a0fcf Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text about Latro, the main character in Gene Wolfe's novel *Soldier of the Mist*. In this context, "preserve" means save or keep from destruction or loss. The text describes Latro as a character who loses his memory whenever he sleeps. The text goes on to explain that before going to sleep, Latro records his most important memories to prevent him from forgetting, or losing, them. The context therefore supports the idea that Latro records his most important experiences in an effort to save, or preserve, his memory of them from loss.

Choice A is incorrect because "suspect" would mean mistrust, which wouldn't make sense in this context. The text emphasizes that in writing down his experiences, Latro carefully chooses those which are most important to him and thus worth remembering later, not that he is mistrustful or has reason to doubt the experiences he records. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "suggest" would mean propose for consideration. The text emphasizes the fact that Latro actually records those experiences that he has decided are most important to him, not that he merely proposes which experiences to consider for inclusion in his scroll. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "imagine" would either mean form a mental image of or fabricate, neither of which would logically complete the text. Although it's possible that reviewing records from previous days might enable Latro to reconstruct mental images of what has happened to him in the past, the text emphasizes the fact that Latro carefully selects and writes down his experiences so he will remember them in the future, not so that he can form mental pictures of them as he writes them down. In a similar vein, the text emphasizes that Latro is recording experiences that have actually happened to him, not that he's fabricating the experiences he records.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d62247df

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

ID: d62247df

The following text is from John Muir's 1913 autobiography *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*. Muir describes being on a boat.

> The water was so clear that it was almost invisible, and when we floated slowly out over the plants and fishes, we seemed to be miraculously sustained in the air while exploring a veritable fairyland.

As used in the text, what does the word "clear" most nearly mean?

A. Simple

B. Understandable

C. Obvious

D. Transparent

ID: d62247df Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "clear" most nearly means transparent, or see-through. Muir states that the water beneath the boat "was so clear that it was almost invisible," suggesting that those on the boat were able to see through the water and easily observe plants and fish below the surface.

Choice A is incorrect. In some contexts "clear" can mean "simple," or uncomplicated, but Muir is describing the water, and water isn't typically described as either simple or complicated. Muir emphasizes the water's transparency, not its simplicity. Choice B is incorrect. In some contexts "clear" can mean "understandable," or reasonable or easily comprehended, but Muir is describing the water, and it doesn't make much sense to describe water as understandable. Muir emphasizes the water's transparency, not how easily the water can be understood. Choice C is incorrect. Although "clear" can mean "obvious," or easily seen or understood, in some contexts, Muir's description emphasizes that the water "was almost invisible" and that the boat seemed to be "sustained in the air," suggesting that the water was almost impossible to see, not that it was obvious.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bdb5802d

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

ID: bdb5802d

In 2008 a complete set of ancient *pessoi* (glass game pieces) was uncovered from beneath a paving stone in modern-day Israel. Due to their small size, *pessoi* were easily misplaced, making a whole set a rare find. This has led some experts to suggest that the set may have been buried intentionally; however, without clear evidence, archaeologists are left to _____ what happened.

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

A. speculate about

B. dismiss

C. expand on

D. catalog

ID: bdb5802d Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Speculate" means "to form a theory or guess without any clear evidence." This makes sense because, due to the lack of "clear evidence," the archaeologists can only guess how the *pessoi* set might have come to be there.

Choice B is incorrect. "Dismiss" can mean "send away" or "treat as unworthy of consideration." The text implies that the archaeologists are trying to figure out the truth—they wouldn't "dismiss" what really happened. Choice C is incorrect. "Expand on" means "give more details about," but there aren't any details to give. Without any "clear evidence," the archaeologists can't give any more details. Choice D is incorrect. "Catalog" means "carefully record" or "make a list of." However, there's no "clear evidence," so there's no real information to "catalog."

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8bb5f557

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

ID: 8bb5f557

Bing Xie and her team have discovered that plains zebras make at least four types of vocalizations: “snorts,” “soft snorts,” “squeals,” and “quagga quagga” calls. The researchers used machine-learning algorithms to _____ recorded vocalizations according to type, finding that snorts vary across individual zebras, while squeals are more uniform across zebra populations.

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

A. categorize

B. extend

C. collapse

D. suppress

ID: 8bb5f557 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of how Bing Xie and her team analyzed plains zebra vocalizations. In this context, “categorize” means to sort into groups based on shared characteristics. The text states that Xie and her team discovered that the vocalizations of plains zebras can be grouped into at least four distinct types: “snorts,” “soft snorts,” “squeals,” and “quagga quagga” calls. According to the text, the team also found that whereas snorts vary from zebra to zebra, squeals are more consistent across zebra populations. The text indicates that the researchers used machine-learning algorithms to arrive at these findings. This context supports the idea that the researchers used the algorithms to categorize recorded vocalizations.

Choice B is incorrect because in this context, “extend” would mean to make longer or greater in size. The text discusses the researchers’ use of machine-learning algorithms to study recorded zebra vocalizations and identify patterns among the different types of calls that the researchers had recorded, not to lengthen or increase the size of the recordings. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, “collapse” would mean to break down or combine into a smaller form. The text indicates that the researchers used machine-learning algorithms as part of a process that yielded findings about distinct types of zebra vocalizations, suggesting that the researchers used the algorithms to distinguish among vocalization types, not to combine them. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, “suppress” would mean to hold back or eliminate. The text indicates that the researchers used machine-learning algorithms as part of a process that yielded findings that zebra vocalizations can be classified into four distinct types, not that the researchers used the algorithms to hold back or eliminate the vocalizations themselves.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 71cb23e6

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

ID: 71cb23e6

Archaeologist Erika Karuzas works with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana to preserve culturally significant sites. In 2015 they decided that creating a new national trail connecting many of these sites would _____ their preservation efforts, because the US government provides some protections to national trails that aren't given to other areas.

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

A. inspire

B. ignore

C. promote

D. reduce

ID: 71cb23e6 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the preservation efforts undertaken by Erika Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana. In this context, "promote" means play a part in the success or growth of something or someone. The text indicates that Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes work to preserve culturally important sites. It goes on to say that their decision to create a national trail connecting the sites was motivated by the fact that such a trail would receive protections from the US government that the sites wouldn't otherwise receive. Thus, such a decision would promote the preservation efforts.

Choice A is incorrect because "inspire" means motivate or influence, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text establishes that Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana work to preserve culturally significant sites and that their decision to create a new national trail occurred as a result of a desire to add protections to the sites that they wouldn't otherwise receive. Thus, creating the trail wouldn't inspire the efforts to preserve the sites; instead, it would promote the efforts. Choice B is incorrect because "ignore" means overlook, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana work to preserve culturally significant sites and that they decided to create a national trail connecting the sites because such a trail would receive protections from the US government that the sites wouldn't otherwise receive. Thus, the creation of the trail would promote, not ignore, the preservation efforts. Choice D is incorrect because "reduce" means decrease or restrict, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that Karuzas and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana work to preserve culturally significant sites and that they decided to create a national trail connecting the sites because such a trail would receive protections from the US government that the sites wouldn't otherwise receive. The decision would therefore promote, not reduce, the preservation efforts.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b214319a

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

ID: b214319a

Researcher Lucy Salazar is using radiocarbon dating to study Machu Picchu, an ancient Incan fortress in the Andes Mountains. She and her colleagues have found that the site's age differs from the _____ estimate: it is approximately 20 years older than scholars thought when first encountering Machu Picchu in 1911.

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

A. genuine

B. intentional

C. independent

D. original

ID: b214319a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the dating of Machu Picchu. In this context, "original" means first or initial. The text indicates that Lucy Salazar and her colleagues have determined the age of Machu Picchu and that the age differs from another estimate of the site's age, explaining that the site is about 20 years older than scholars thought in 1911 when they initially encountered Machu Picchu. In other words, Salazar and her team found that the site's age differs from the first estimate.

Choice A is incorrect. The text's structure indicates that the missing word describes the estimate made by scholars when they first encountered Machu Picchu in 1911 in relation to the age determined by Salazar and her colleagues. It wouldn't make sense to suggest that the estimate by earlier scholars was "genuine," or actual and true, while the one by Salazar's team wasn't, since the text treats the finding by Salazar's team as true and as invalidating the earlier estimate ("it is approximately 20 years older than scholars thought"). Choice B is incorrect. The text's structure indicates that the missing word describes the estimate made by scholars when they first encountered Machu Picchu in 1911 in relation to the age determined by Salazar and her colleagues. It wouldn't make sense to suggest that the estimate by earlier scholars was "intentional," or done on purpose, while the one by Salazar's team wasn't; the text indicates that Salazar and her colleagues were deliberately using radiocarbon dating to study Machu Picchu. Choice C is incorrect. The text's structure indicates that the missing word describes the estimate made by scholars when they first encountered Machu Picchu in 1911 in relation to the age determined by Salazar and her colleagues. There's no reason to suggest that the estimate by earlier scholars was "independent," or not controlled by or affiliated with others, while the one by Salazar's team wasn't; there's no mention of any outside influence on the work by Salazar and her team or by scholars in 1911.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5da786ee

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

ID: 5da786ee

The Menominee and Anishinaabe peoples have been growing wild rice—known as *manoomin* in the Ojibwe language—in the Great Lakes region of North America for centuries, but climatic changes are causing lakes to get deeper, thereby threatening wild rice. These plants are extremely _____ to water depth during the “floating leaf” stage of development, and if the water is too deep, the buoyancy of the young wild-rice plants can literally uproot them from the lake bottom, destroying them.

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

A. immune

B. sensitive

C. limited

D. receptive

ID: 5da786ee Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of wild rice. As used in this context, "sensitive" means vulnerable or easily affected. The text indicates that climate change is causing the lakes to get deeper, which consequently threatens the wild rice that grows in the area. The text goes on to state that deep water can cause young wild-rice plants to uproot from the bottom of the lake. This context supports the idea that the plants are sensitive to water depth during early stages of development.

Choice A is incorrect because "immune" means protected or shielded, which wouldn’t make sense in this context. The text explains that deep water can cause young wild-rice plants to become uprooted and destroyed, indicating that these plants are harmed by deep water, not protected from it. Choice C is incorrect because "limited" means confined or restrained, which wouldn’t make sense in this context. The text explains that water depth can negatively affect young wild-rice plants but doesn’t suggest that water depth limits or restrains the plants. Choice D is incorrect because "receptive" means open or tolerant, which wouldn’t make sense in this context. The text doesn’t indicate that the wild-rice plants are open to or tolerant of an increase in water depth but rather the opposite: an increase in water depth can harm young wild-rice plants.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 24058b0f

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

ID: 24058b0f

Particle physicists like Ayana Holloway Arce and Aida El-Khadra spend much of their time _____ what is invisible to the naked eye: using sophisticated technology, they closely examine the behavior of subatomic particles, the smallest detectable parts of matter.

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

A. selecting

B. inspecting

C. creating

D. deciding

ID: 24058b0f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the work of particle physicists. In this context, "inspecting" means viewing closely in order to examine. The text indicates that as particle physicists, Arce and El-Khadra's work involves using advanced technology to "closely examine" subatomic particles. In other words, they use technology to inspect small parts of matter that can't be seen by the naked eye.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Arce and El-Khadra spend time "selecting," or choosing, subatomic particles for some purpose; the text simply states that the particle physicists use advanced technology to see and study the behavior of those tiny parts of matter. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that Arce and El-Khadra spend time "creating" subatomic particles, or bringing them into existence; the text simply states that the particle physicists use advanced technology to see and study the behavior of those tiny parts of matter. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "deciding" would mean making a final choice or judgment about something. It wouldn't make sense to say that particle physicists get to choose what is and isn't visible to the naked eye, especially when the text presents it as fact that subatomic particles are "the smallest detectable parts of matter" and would therefore be invisible. The text focuses on Arce and El-Khadra's close observation of those particles, not on any decisions they might make.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8026b7ca

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

ID: 8026b7ca

The invention in 1958 of the integrated circuit (or microchip) radically altered the semiconductor industry. In fact, some historians argue that it fundamentally _____ the industry by enabling it to take advantage of mass production methods for the first time.

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

A. overwhelmed

B. bypassed

C. obstructed

D. transformed

ID: 8026b7ca Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the invention of the integrated circuit. As used in this context, "transformed" means substantially changed in some way. The text states that the invention radically altered the semiconductor industry, with some historians claiming that it had a fundamental effect on the industry by allowing for mass production for the first time. This context conveys that the invention of the integrated circuit transformed the semiconductor industry.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that the invention of the integrated circuit significantly affected ("radically altered") the semiconductor industry, it doesn't indicate that the invention "overwhelmed" the industry, which in this context would mean that it overcame the industry such that the industry struggled or was defeated. Instead, the text conveys that the invention's effect was positive, since it allowed the semiconductor industry to begin making use of mass production methods. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to say that the invention of the integrated circuit "bypassed" the semiconductor industry, which would mean it intentionally avoided the industry. The text indicates that the invention directly affected the semiconductor industry, since it made it possible for the industry to begin engaging in mass production methods. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that the invention of the integrated circuit "obstructed" the semiconductor industry, which would mean that it blocked or hindered the industry in some way. Instead, the text indicates that the invention's effect was positive, since it made it possible for the semiconductor industry to begin engaging in mass production methods.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 037cbc3e

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

ID: 037cbc3e

The following text is from Frances Hodgson Burnett's 1911 novel *The Secret Garden*. Mary, a young girl, is outside trying her new jump rope.

> The sun was shining and a little wind was blowing—not a rough wind, but one which came in delightful little gusts and brought a fresh scent of newly turned earth with it. She skipped round the fountain garden, and up one walk and down another.

As used in the text, what does the word "rough" most nearly mean?

A. Harsh

B. Scratchy

C. Basic

D. Vague

ID: 037cbc3e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "rough" most nearly means harsh, or forceful and unpleasant. The text describes Mary's surroundings as she plays: the sun is out and there's "a little wind." To further illustrate the wind, the narrator contrasts the word "rough" with a description of the wind blowing in "delightful little gusts," suggesting that the wind is not unpleasant or harsh at all.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "rough" objects, or objects with irregular surfaces, can sometimes be scratchy, rough doesn't mean scratchy in this context. The text explains that the wind is not rough but rather gentle, "delightful little gusts," which suggests that the use of "rough" here is referring to the degree of force of the wind. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that the wind wasn't "basic," or simple and uncomplicated. Instead, the text describes the wind as blowing not roughly or harshly but in "delightful little gusts." Choice D is incorrect because the word "vague" means not clearly expressed or seen. Nothing in the text indicates that the wind was barely noticeable to Mary as she played outside, but rather the text states that it was delightful.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2c1b2b47

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

ID: 2c1b2b47

The following text is from Nella Larsen's 1928 novel *Quicksand*.

> The trees in their spring beauty sent through her restive mind a sharp thrill of pleasure. Seductive, charming, and beckoning as cities were, they had not this easy unhuman loveliness.

As used in the text, what does the word "beckoning" most nearly mean?

A. Demanding

B. Signaling

C. Inviting

D. Shifting

ID: 2c1b2b47 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, "beckoning" most nearly means "inviting," or attractive. The text portrays a woman who is looking at "trees in their spring beauty." She compares them to cities, which have their own pleasures even if they do not have the "easy unhuman loveliness" of trees: she thinks of cities as "seductive" and "charming," both adjectives that signify something that is enticing, or attractive. Therefore, cities that are seductive and charming would also be described as inviting people closer to them.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no indication in this context that cities are "demanding," or requiring effort. Choice B is incorrect. Though "signaling," or communicating something, might be considered a key feature of the act of "beckoning," in the context here, "beckoning" suggests that cities have attractive qualities that naturally draw people to them. Such attractive qualities are not described by the word "signaling" alone. Therefore, "signaling" is an incorrect answer because it is insufficiently precise. Choice D is incorrect because there is no reason to think in this context that the cities are "shifting," or changing shape.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID aa2a3759

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

ID: aa2a3759

Former astronaut Ellen Ochoa says that although she doesn't have a definite idea of when it might happen, she _____ that humans will someday need to be able to live in other environments than those found on Earth. This conjecture informs her interest in future research missions to the moon.

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

A. demands

B. speculates

C. doubts

D. establishes

ID: aa2a3759 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Ochoa's prediction that humans will one day need to live in places other than Earth. As used in this context, "speculates" would mean puts forward an idea without firm evidence. The text states that Ochoa "doesn't have a definite idea" about when humans might need to live in other environments and characterizes Ochoa's prediction as a "conjecture," or a conclusion presented without convincing evidence. This context indicates that Ochoa speculates when she makes this prediction.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that Ochoa "demands," or insists or requires, that humans will one day need to live in other environments than Earth's would not make sense in context. The text indicates that she's unsure about the timing but hypothesizes that it will someday happen. Choice C is incorrect because saying that Ochoa "doubts," or questions or disbelieves, that humans will one day need to live in other environments than Earth's would not make sense in context. The text indicates that although Ochoa is unsure about the timing, she hypothesizes that humans will need to live in places other than Earth and encourages research into future travel to the moon. Choice D is incorrect because saying that Ochoa "establishes," or proves, that humans will one day need to live in other environments than Earth's would not make sense in context. Rather than stating that Ochoa discusses her idea with certainty and supports it with evidence, the text indicates that Ochoa is unsure about when humans might need to live in other environments.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d17eb637

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

ID: d17eb637

The following text is adapted from Mary Seacole's 1857 autobiography *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands*.

> That journey across the Isthmus [of Panama], insignificant in distance as it was, was by no means an easy one. It seemed as if nature had determined to throw every conceivable obstacle in the way of those who should seek to join the two great oceans of the world.

As used in the text, what does the word "conceivable" most nearly mean?

A. Obvious

B. Imaginable

C. Straightforward

D. Uninterrupted

ID: d17eb637 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, "conceivable" most nearly means capable of being thought of or imagined. The text describes a journey that, despite being "insignificant in distance," was "by no means an easy one" because of the variety of obstacles that "nature had determined to throw…in the way." To emphasize the difficulty of the journey, the author portrays nature as actively scheming to present travelers with every obstacle that can be thought of—i.e., every imaginable obstacle.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "conceivable" does not mean obvious, or evident. Instead, by referring to "every conceivable obstacle," the text suggests a wide variety of challenges by evoking all the potential difficulties nature could present, not just those that the travelers might reasonably expect or foresee. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "conceivable" does not mean straightforward, or easy to negotiate. The text is not indicating that the obstacles were simple to respond to and overcome. Rather, the text suggests that a wide range of obstacles made the journey difficult. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "conceivable" does not mean uninterrupted. Although the text suggests that the obstacles were frequent and numerous, it does not emphasize the obstacles' continuity; instead, the text conveys their unexpected variety and range.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2c9979bb

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

ID: 2c9979bb

Although the playwrights hoped that their play would be _____ when performed live, critics generally agreed that the production and performances had the opposite effect, wearying audiences instead of energizing them.

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

A. multifaceted

B. realistic

C. rousing

D. subtle

ID: 2c9979bb Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the play's effect on audiences. As used in this context, "rousing" means exciting or energizing. The text indicates that critics found the play to have "the opposite effect" on audiences of what the playwrights hoped for. The critics, the text says, thought the play was wearying rather than energizing to viewers. This context supports the idea that the playwrights hoped live performances of the play would be energizing, or rousing, to audiences.

Choice A is incorrect because there's no information in the text suggesting that the playwrights hoped live performances of the play would be "multifaceted," or be varied or have many aspects. The text indicates that critics found the play to be wearying to audiences and that this was the opposite of what the playwrights hoped for. Multifaceted is not the opposite of wearying, but rousing is, which suggests that the playwrights hoped the play would be rousing. Choice B is incorrect because there's no information in the text suggesting that the playwrights hoped live performances of the play would be "realistic," or lifelike or sensible. The text says that critics found the play to be wearying to audiences and that this was the opposite of what the playwrights hoped for. Realistic is not the opposite of wearying, but rousing is, which suggests that the playwrights hoped the play would be rousing. Choice D is incorrect because there's no information in the text suggesting that the playwrights hoped live performances of the play would be subtle, or complex or understated. The text says that critics found the play to be wearying to audiences and that this was the opposite of what the playwrights hoped for. Subtle is not the opposite of wearying, but rousing is, which suggests that the playwrights hoped the play would be rousing.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 8e4934f0

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

ID: 8e4934f0

The following text is adapted from Mohsin Hamid's 2017 novel *Exit West*. Saeed lives with his mother and father.

On cloudless nights after a daytime rain, Saeed's father would sometimes bring out the telescope, and the family would sip green tea on their balcony, enjoying a breeze, and take turns to look up at objects whose light, often, had been emitted before any of these three viewers had been born—light from other centuries, only now reaching Earth.

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As used in the text, what does the word "reaching" most nearly mean?

A. Arriving at

B. Consulting with

C. Running to

D. Clinging to

ID: 8e4934f0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The word "reaching" in this text means "to arrive" at Earth. Before, the light had been traveling across space; now, it had arrived at Earth.

Choice B is incorrect. "Consulting with" means "seeking advice or information from someone." Light is not alive, so it can't consult with Earth. Choice C is incorrect. It's confusing to say that starlight is "only now running to Earth," both because light doesn't literally "run" and because the text is describing the moment the light touches Earth, not the period of time when it's traveling to Earth. Choice D is incorrect. This might be tempting, as "clinging to" has a connotation of "sticking to." It wouldn't make sense to say that the light was "only now" clinging to Earth.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0c53d286

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

ID: 0c53d286

Scholars long thought that the initial spread of silk beyond China occurred in the second century CE, but this view has been _____ by new archaeological evidence from South Asia that reveals that the people of the Indus Civilization made use of silk at least 1,000 years earlier.

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

A. investigated

B. misinterpreted

C. anticipated

D. contradicted

ID: 0c53d286 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the initial spread of silk beyond China. In this context, "contradicted" means opposed or challenged. The text indicates that new archaeological evidence about silk use in South Asia has done something to a long-held thought about the initial spread of silk. According to the text, the new evidence reveals that people used silk in South Asia 1,000 years before the second century CE, which directly challenges the previous belief that silk first spread beyond China in the second century CE.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that an archaeological finding about silk use has done something to a long-held thought about the initial spread of silk, and it wouldn't make sense to suggest that the finding could have "investigated," or examined, a belief; evidence can't examine anything. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that an archaeological finding about silk use has done something to a long-held thought about the initial spread of silk, and it wouldn't make sense to suggest that the finding could have "misinterpreted," or incorrectly understood, a belief; evidence can't try to understand anything. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "anticipated" would mean expected or predicted. The text indicates that a new archaeological finding about silk use has done something to a long-held thought about the initial spread of silk, and a new finding can't predict a belief that is already established.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d6a24fa0

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

ID: d6a24fa0

In the mid-nineteenth century, some abolitionist newspapers _____ westward migration in the United States; by printing a letter that described the easy fortunes and high salaries miners could make in California during the Gold Rush, Frederick Douglass's newspaper *North Star* was one such publication that inspired readers to relocate.

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

A. stimulated

B. assigned

C. opposed

D. disregarded

ID: d6a24fa0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Stimulated" means "encouraged interest or increased activity in." Because the newspapers discussed the benefits of westward migration and "inspired readers to relocate," we can infer that they encouraged people to move west.

Choice B is incorrect. "Assigned" means "gave a job or duty." Newspapers do not have the power to assign people to move west, although they can encourage it. Choice C is incorrect. "Opposed" means "disapproved of." We can tell that this isn't the case, because the newspapers discussed "the easy fortunes and high salaries miners could make in California" and "inspired readers to relocate." Choice D is incorrect. "Disregarded" means "ignored." If the newspapers are writing about the west and "inspir[ing] readers to relocate," they can't be ignoring it at the same time.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d2263fb0

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

ID: d2263fb0

Researchers and conservationists stress that biodiversity loss due to invasive species is _____. For example, people can take simple steps such as washing their footwear after travel to avoid introducing potentially invasive organisms into new environments.

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

A. preventable

B. undeniable

C. common

D. concerning

ID: d2263fb0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how biodiversity loss due to invasive species can be avoided. As used in this context, "preventable" means able to be stopped or kept from happening. The text indicates that "people can take simple steps" to avoid bringing possible invasive species into new environments. It presents these steps as an example of how biodiversity loss due to invasive species is preventable.

Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that a simple step like washing your shoes after traveling is an example of biodiversity loss due to invasive species being "undeniable," or something that can't be proved to be wrong. Although the text may suggest that biodiversity loss due to invasive species is something that really happens, the word that completes the text must make the first sentence into an assertion that is illustrated by the second sentence, and the second sentence illustrates the idea that biodiversity loss due to invasive species is preventable, not undeniable. Choice C is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that a simple step like washing your shoes after traveling is an example of biodiversity loss due to invasive species being "common," or something that happens regularly. Additionally, the text doesn't provide any information about how frequently invasive species cause biodiversity loss. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that a simple step like washing your shoes after traveling is an example of biodiversity loss due to invasive species being "concerning," or something that is troubling or causes worry. Although the text implies that the phenomenon of biodiversity loss due to invasive species is itself a concerning phenomenon, the word that completes the text must make the first sentence into an assertion that is illustrated by the second sentence, and the second sentence illustrates the idea that biodiversity loss due to invasive species is preventable, not concerning.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7b80f8e9

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

ID: 7b80f8e9

Some people have speculated that two helmets with attached horns discovered in Denmark in 1942 belonged to Vikings, but scholars have long been skeptical. Archaeologist Helle Vandkilde and colleagues recently provided radiocarbon dates for the helmets, and their findings _____ scholars' skepticism: the helmets date to the Nordic Bronze Age, centuries before the Vikings existed.

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

A. anticipate

B. inspect

C. reveal

D. justify

ID: 7b80f8e9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the helmets found in Denmark. In this context, "justify" means confirm or give reasons for. The text indicates that scholars have long been skeptical about the supposed Viking origin of two helmets found in Denmark. The radiocarbon dating of the helmets conducted by Vandkilde and colleagues demonstrates that the helmets date from the Nordic Bronze Age, making the helmets too old to have belonged to Vikings. This context supports the idea that the scholars' skepticism is justified.

Choice A is incorrect because "anticipate" means expect or come before, neither of which would make sense in context. The text indicates that scholars have long been skeptical of the idea that the helmets belonged to Vikings. Because the skepticism has existed for a long time, Vandkilde and colleagues' research couldn't be said to anticipate it. Instead, the radiocarbon dating results justify or confirm the scholar's skepticism. Choice B is incorrect because "inspect" means examine or review, which wouldn't make sense in this context. Research findings are inanimate and therefore unable to inspect scholars' skepticism. The text focuses on the origin of two helmets, which some people believe belonged to Vikings. Vandkilde and colleagues found that the helmets are from the Nordic Bronze Age and therefore much older than the Vikings. This context suggests that the researchers' findings justify, not inspect, the scholars' skepticism. Choice C is incorrect because "reveal" means uncover or report, which wouldn't make sense in context. The text focuses on the origin of two helmets, which some people believe belonged to Vikings. Vandkilde and colleagues tested the helmets and found that they date to the Nordic Bronze Age and therefore are much older than the Vikings. This context suggests that the researchers' findings confirm or justify the scholars' skepticism, which was already known so didn't need to be revealed.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 798a57a3

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

ID: 798a57a3

Like other tribal nations, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is self-governing; its National Council generates laws regulating aspects of community life such as land use and healthcare, while the principal chief and cabinet officials _____ those laws by devising policies and administering services in accordance with them.

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

A. implement

B. presume

C. improvise

D. mimic

ID: 798a57a3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of self-government among the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. In this context, "implement" means to carry out or put into effect. The text states that the National Council generates laws, while the principal chief and cabinet officials are responsible for "devising policies and administering services in accordance with" those laws. This context suggests that the principal chief and cabinet officials implement the laws: they put the laws into effect by creating policies and administering services that accord with those laws.

Choice B is incorrect because "presume" in this context would mean to assume based on incomplete information, and the text does not suggest that the principal chief and cabinet officials either made assumptions about the content of the laws or had incomplete information about them. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "improvise" would mean to create something without preparation, and the text does not suggest that the principal chief and cabinet officials create policies and administer services without advance preparation. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the principal chief and cabinet officials "mimic," or imitate, the laws generated by the National Council. To mimic laws would mean to generate new laws that are imitations of existing laws, but the text indicates that the National Council, not the principal chief and cabinet officials, is responsible for generating laws. Instead of generating laws, the principal chief and cabinet officials put laws into effect by "devising policies and administering services in accordance with" the laws.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID beeacc85

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

ID: beeacc85

Zygomorphic (bilaterally symmetric) flowers remain open and functional on average 1.1 days longer than actinomorphic (radially symmetric) flowers do. Ruby E. Stephens and colleagues claim that this extended period could be _____ the relatively small pool of potential pollinators available to zygomorphic flowers and the greater chance at successful pollination that remaining open affords them.

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

A. analogous to

B. converted by

C. attributed to

D. magnified by

ID: beeacc85 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of why zygomorphic flowers (those with bilateral symmetry) remain open longer than actinomorphic flowers (those with radial symmetry). In this context, "attributed to" means explained as a consequence of. The text indicates that compared with actinomorphic flowers, zygomorphic flowers have a small pool of potential pollinators and that remaining open therefore increases their chances of being pollinated successfully. This would be a reasonable explanation for why zygomorphic flowers remain open on average 1.1 days longer than actinomorphic flowers do. Thus, in context it would be most logical to say that zygomorphic flowers' extended opening period can likely be attributed to the factors discussed in the text.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that the extended period in which zygomorphic flowers remain open could be "analogous to," or comparable to, these flowers' limited pollinator pool and the fact that remaining open increases their chances of pollination wouldn't make sense in context. The text presents these factors as a possible explanation for the extended period, not as something that the extended period resembles in some way. Choice B is incorrect because saying that the extended period could be "converted by," or transformed by, the limited pollinator pool and the increased pollination chances wouldn't make sense in context. The text presents these factors as a possible cause of the extended period, not as forces that change the period into something else. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "magnified by" would mean exaggerated by or made more extreme or intense by, neither of which would make sense. The text presents zygomorphic flowers' limited pollinator pool and the fact that this might require remaining open for longer to increase chances of pollination as factors that could explain why these flowers remain open for extended periods; nothing in the text suggests these are factors that could exaggerate an already-extended period (that is, make the period seem greater or more important than it actually is), or that the extended period is in some way extreme or intense.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 77c6058b

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

ID: 77c6058b

When Mexican-American archaeologist Zelia Maria Magdalena Nuttall published her 1886 research paper on sculptures found at the ancient Indigenous city of Teotihuacan in present-day Mexico, other researchers readily _____ her work as groundbreaking; this recognition stemmed from her convincing demonstration that the sculptures were much older than had previously been thought.

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

A. acknowledged

B. ensured

C. denied

D. underestimated

ID: 77c6058b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Nuttall's 1886 research paper. In this context, "acknowledged" means recognized as having a certain status. The text indicates that other researchers recognized Nuttall's work as groundbreaking because of its "convincing demonstration" related to the age of the ancient sculptures. In other words, the researchers recognized the groundbreaking status of Nuttall's work.

Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "ensured" would mean to have guaranteed or made sure something was the case. The text states that other researchers gave Nuttall's work recognition after it was published, but there's no indication that they contributed to the work or had any involvement that would have allowed them to make sure the work would be groundbreaking. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that other researchers "denied," or refused to admit or accept, that Nuttall's work was groundbreaking; on the contrary, it indicates that researchers praised the work, recognizing it as groundbreaking due to its "convincing demonstration" related to the age of the ancient sculptures. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that other researchers "underestimated," or undervalued, Nuttall's work; on the contrary, it indicates that researchers praised the work, recognizing it as groundbreaking due to its "convincing demonstration" related to the age of the ancient sculptures.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 2f3e82e3

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

ID: 2f3e82e3

In the early 1800s, the Cherokee scholar Sequoyah created the first script, or writing system, for an Indigenous language in the United States. Because it represented the sounds of spoken Cherokee so accurately, his script was easy to learn and thus quickly achieved _____ use: by 1830, over 90 percent of the Cherokee people could read and write it.

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

A. widespread

B. careful

C. unintended

D. infrequent

ID: 2f3e82e3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the writing system created by Sequoyah. In this context, "widespread" means widely accepted or practiced. The text indicates that because Sequoyah's script accurately represented the spoken sounds of the Cherokee language and was easy to learn, nearly all Cherokee people were able to read and write it soon after it was created. This context demonstrates that the script was widely used by the Cherokee people.

Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "careful" would mean exercised with care and attentive concern. Although the work of creating a writing system likely involved great care, the text indicates that the system was "easy to learn," which conflicts with the idea that using this system requires a noteworthy amount of care. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "unintended" means not deliberate. The idea that using Sequoyah's script was unintentional conflicts directly with the claim that it was easy to learn and used by "over 90% of the Cherokee people" by 1830. In fact, because one had to learn this system, it's not clear how one could use it unintentionally. Choice D is incorrect because in this context "infrequent" means rare or not occurring often, which conflicts directly with the claim that "over 90% of the Cherokee people" were using Sequoyah's script by 1830.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b1a78c29

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

ID: b1a78c29

The following text is from Darcie Little Badger's 2021 novel *A Snake Falls to Earth*. Nina is looking at old family photographs.

> Nina couldn't stop looking at the sepia-toned photograph in an oak frame. Propped on the window ledge, it featured a portrait of Great-Great-Grandmother Rosita as a young woman.

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As used in the text, what does the word "featured" most nearly mean?

A. Displayed

B. Questioned

C. Approved

D. Ignored

ID: b1a78c29 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "featured" most nearly means displayed. The text describes Nina's fascination with a framed photograph. It then goes on to describe what the photograph showed, or displayed, which is a portrait of Nina's great-great-grandmother Rosita as a young woman. Thus, the text indicates that the photograph displayed a portrait of Rosita.

Choice B is incorrect because the text identifies the person shown in the photograph as Nina's great-great-grandmother; it gives no indication that the contents of the photograph were questioned, or asked about. Choice C is incorrect because approved means expressed a favorable opinion of, and there's nothing to suggest that the photograph of Nina's great-great-grandmother has received approval or been viewed favorably, only that Nina is unable to stop looking at it. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the photograph Nina is fascinated with ignored, or refused to take notice of, Nina's great-great-grandmother Rosita. Rather, the text indicates that the photograph was a portrait of Rosita.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 500b7f7f

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

ID: 500b7f7f

In 1877, 85% of California's railways were already controlled by the Southern Pacific Railroad. The company further solidified its _____ in rail access to the state's Pacific coast when it completed the Sunset Route in 1883: running from Louisiana to Southern California, the route established the first transcontinental rail line across the southern United States.

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

A. dominance

B. creativity

C. insignificance

D. neutrality

ID: 500b7f7f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically and precisely completes the text's discussion of the Southern Pacific Railroad. As used in this context, "dominance" means the state of being more successful than others. The text states that the Southern Pacific Railroad already controlled 85% of California's railways in 1877, and that the Sunset Route it constructed in 1883 was the first transcontinental rail line across the southern United States. Therefore, the Southern Pacific Railroad would be more successful than other railroads in the area, and the construction of the Sunset Route would further solidify its dominance in rail access to California's coast.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the construction of the Sunset Route must have required some creativity, or use of imagination, the word "creativity" would not also encompass the fact that the Southern Pacific Railroad already controlled 85% of California's railways. The text is more focused on the railroad's control of the field and overall success rather than its imaginative thought processes. Choice C is incorrect because if the Southern Pacific Railroad controlled the majority of California's railways, it would not make sense to refer to its "insignificance," or the state of being unimportant. Rather, the opposite would be true. Choice D is incorrect because in context it would not make sense to refer to the Southern Pacific Railroad's "neutrality," or absence of strong opinion on a matter, since no opinions are mentioned. Nor would "neutrality" in the sense of impartiality in a conflict be a logical or precise choice since no conflict is explicitly described. There might be an implied conflict between the Southern Pacific Railroad and other railroads doing business in California, but that is not a conflict in which the Southern Pacific Railroad would take an impartial position.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e1abed96

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

ID: e1abed96

The following text is adapted from José Martí's 1891 poem "At the Salon" (translated by Cecil Charles in 1898). The speaker describes a painting featuring a female figure.

> From the sterile soil no ray
> Of hope in a blade of green,
> Nor sheltering roof is seen—
> Though the skies are heavy and gray.
>
> Ah, this is the woman fair
> Who stole away my heart
> In the splendid halls of art
> Yester-e'en as I wandered there!

As used in the text, what does the word "sheltering" most nearly mean?

A. Protective

B. Restrictive

C. Affectionate

D. Suspicious

ID: e1abed96 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "sheltering" most nearly means protective. In the text, the speaker describes a painting featuring a female figure. The speaker ultimately confesses to falling in love with the woman in the painting, who has "stole[n] away" the speaker's heart, but first the speaker describes elements of the painting's setting. These include sterile soil, barren fields with "no ray / Of hope in a blade of green"—a description that conveys a mood of melancholy and forlornness, possibly reflecting the speaker's own sadness at falling in love with an image that can't return the speaker's love. The text continues by stating that there's no "sheltering roof" in the painting, even though the "skies are heavy and gray," showing signs of an impending storm. Generally, a roof's intended purpose is to provide protection from the elements, and in this context, a roof would offer shelter and protection from the gathering storm.

Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that a roof would be restrictive—that is, that it would limit or restrain something in some way. Although a roof would provide some cover from stormy winds and rain, it wouldn't limit the wind and rain, only deflect them. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that if a "sheltering roof" were present in the painting, it would be affectionate, or loving and tender. In the text, the immediate context in which the word "sheltering" appears refers to the absence of a roof that would provide protection from the oncoming storm depicted in the painting, not to the idea that such a shelter would be loving and tender if it were present. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, suspicious would

mean questionable or dubious, and there's nothing in the text to suggest that if any roofs were present in the painting, they would be questionable or cause any suspicion.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d703db66

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

ID: d703db66

According to botanists, a viburnum plant experiencing insect damage may develop erineum—a discolored, felty growth—on its leaf blades. A _____ viburnum plant, on the other hand, will have leaves with smooth surfaces and uniformly green coloration.

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

A. struggling

B. beneficial

C. simple

D. healthy

ID: d703db66 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of damage to viburnum plants. In this context, "healthy" would mean not distressed or diseased. The text states that insect damage may cause viburnum plants to be discolored and have abnormal growths. In the next sentence, the phrase "on the other hand" indicates a contrast with the description of plants suffering from damage. Thus, the context contrasts the appearance of healthy, undamaged plants with the appearance of damaged plants.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "struggling" would mean working against difficulties. The text first describes viburnum plants experiencing damage by insects, and the phrase "on the other hand" then establishes a contrast with that description. It wouldn't make sense to contrast struggling viburnum plants with those being damaged by insects, because in both cases the plants would be experiencing difficulties. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, "beneficial" would mean producing good or helpful effects. The text doesn't discuss how viburnum plants affect other things or suggest that the plants are helpful in some way; rather, it focuses on how viburnum plants are affected by certain conditions. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "simple" would mean plain or uncomplicated. The text doesn't discuss whether certain viburnum plants are complicated or uncomplicated; rather, it focuses on how viburnum plants are affected by certain conditions.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5bfba12b

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

ID: 5bfba12b

The recent discovery of a carved wooden figure dating to around 2,000 years ago in a ditch in England was truly surprising. Wooden objects _____ survive for so long due to their high susceptibility to rot, but archaeologists suspect layers of sediment in the ditch preserved the figure by creating an oxygen-free environment.

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

A. sturdily

B. carelessly

C. rarely

D. simply

ID: 5bfba12b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the discovery of a carved wooden figure dating to around 2,000 years ago. In this context, "rarely" means infrequently. The text states that the discovery of the figure was "truly surprising" and notes that wooden objects are highly prone to rot. This context conveys the idea that wooden objects infrequently survive for as long as the carved figure has survived.

Choice A is incorrect because "sturdily" means strongly, which wouldn't make sense in context. If wooden objects in general could strongly survive for long periods of time, then the discovery of a wooden figure that's around 2,000 years old wouldn't be surprising. Choice B is incorrect because "carelessly" means accidentally. The text conveys the idea that wooden objects in general don't survive for very long because they rot, not that wooden objects in general accidentally survive despite this. Choice D is incorrect because the text conveys the idea that wooden objects in general don't survive for very long because they rot, not that wooden objects in general "simply," or merely, survive for long periods of time. If wooden objects in general could merely survive for as long as the figure has survived, then the discovery of the figure wouldn't have been surprising.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7758e7d1

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

ID: 7758e7d1

Radar and sonar can detect objects or people through walls, but they are too costly for consumer use. Researchers Fadel Adib and Dina Katabi have shown, however, that there may be a comparatively _____ alternative: small changes to the Wi-Fi technology used in smartphones can give users a cheap way to count people or even identify their gestures through walls.

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

A. infrequent

B. inexpensive

C. unmistakable

D. impractical

ID: 7758e7d1 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of ways to detect people through walls. In this context, "inexpensive" means less costly or low in price. The passage describes two kinds of methods that can be used to "detect objects or people through walls": radar and sonar, and changes to the Wi-Fi technology used in smartphones. The word "comparatively" before the blank indicates that the best answer would be one that helps to describe a comparison between the two. Radar and sonar are described as "costly," while the method that uses Wi-Fi technology is described as "cheap"; therefore, it would be comparatively affordable, or inexpensive.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that a small modification to the smartphones that many consumers already own would presumably result in consumers using that technology to detect objects or people through walls more regularly, or frequently; therefore, it would not be true that such technology would be comparatively infrequent, or uncommon. Choice C is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to indicate that either radar and sonar or changes to smartphone Wi-Fi technology are capable of being misunderstood or mistaken for something else; therefore, it would not make sense to describe changes to Wi-Fi smartphone technology as comparatively unmistakable, or indisputable. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that a small modification to the smartphones that many consumers already own and carry with them would be more functional or practical than radar and sonar, not more impractical, or unrealistic.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 734b320a

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

ID: 734b320a

Manul cats are small, shy felines. They live mostly alone in out-of-the-way parts of Asia, such as on Mount Everest. These cats have been difficult to research because their habitats are so _____ large populations of humans.

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

A. full of

B. drawn to

C. responsible for

D. distant from

ID: 734b320a Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of manul cats. The text states that manul cats live in "out-of-the-way parts of Asia" (citing the famously remote Mount Everest as an example) and indicates that it is difficult to research the cats because of the location of their habitats. By emphasizing that the habitats are remote in relation to humans, the text conveys that being "distant from," or far from, large groups of humans makes manul cats challenging to study.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that the habitats of manul cats are "full of large populations of humans" would indicate that the cats cohabitate with many humans, which would directly contradict the text's claim that the cats live in "out-of-the-way" areas. Choice B is incorrect because the missing words describe an aspect of manul cats' habitats, or the areas where they live, and it wouldn't make sense to say that areas could be "drawn to," or attracted by, large groups of humans. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "responsible for" would mean either having an obligation to care for something or being the cause of something, and it wouldn't make sense to say that the habitats of manul cats (the areas where the cats live) would need to care for humans or that the habitats somehow created large human populations.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3da50cff

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

ID: 3da50cff

Shoppers can help keep money cycling within a community by making purchases at small local businesses instead of large retailers. Some cities are _____ programs to encourage this behavior, establishing reward points and other incentives for shopping at small businesses.

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

A. instituting

B. occupying

C. underestimating

D. encountering

ID: 3da50cff Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of programs that encourage money to cycle within a community. In this context, "instituting" means initiating. The text indicates that making purchases at small local businesses can help keep money cycling within a community. The text goes on to state that some cities are establishing incentives to promote small business shopping. This context supports the idea that some cities are instituting programs to encourage this consumer behavior.

Choice B is incorrect because saying that some cities are "occupying," or forcibly holding possession or control of, programs that encourage shoppers to make purchases at small local businesses wouldn't make sense in context. The text doesn't discuss who controls these programs but instead indicates that some cities are establishing incentives that encourage shoppers to make purchases at small local businesses. Furthermore, it wouldn't make sense to say that a city is occupying a program. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that cities are "underestimating," or failing to understand the value of, programs that encourage consumers to shop at small local businesses. The text indicates that some cities are establishing incentives to encourage small business shopping, which suggests that these cities understand the value of such programs. Choice D is incorrect because saying that some cities are "encountering," or coming into contact with, programs that encourage consumers to shop at small local businesses wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that some cities are already establishing incentives to encourage shoppers to make purchases at small businesses. This context suggests that the cities are instituting the programs, not that they are encountering them.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7166b1e5

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

ID: 7166b1e5

Arturo A. Schomburg was dedicated to preserving books, art, and other materials from peoples of African descent around the world. To get these items, Schomburg _____ friends and colleagues, whom he asked to bring back rare and valuable objects from their international travels. Now, Schomburg's collection is a valuable resource for scholars of Black history and culture.

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

A. admired

B. disagreed with

C. warned

D. depended on

ID: 7166b1e5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Arturo A. Schomburg's collection. In this context, the phrase "depended on" means relied on. The text explains that Schomburg, wanting to preserve "books, art, and other materials" created by peoples of African descent from around the world, built a large collection of these objects. The text also states that in order to obtain these items, Schomburg asked friends and colleagues who were traveling internationally to bring them back for him. This implies that he wouldn't have been able to create his collection without help. Thus, the context supports the idea that Schomburg relied on, or depended on, friends and colleagues to build his collection.

Choice A is incorrect because "admired" means respected and approved of. Although it's reasonable to expect that Schomburg respected his friends and colleagues, the text doesn't discuss any such aspect of their relationships. The text focuses instead on what Schomburg asked his friends and colleagues to do to help build his collection. Choice B is incorrect because "disagreed with" means held an opposing belief, and nothing in the text suggests that Schomburg and his friends or colleagues held opposing views on any subject. In fact, the text strongly implies that Schomburg's friends and colleagues supported him in his goal of preserving objects of importance for Black history and culture by bringing him such objects from around the world. Choice C is incorrect because "warned" means informed someone in advance about something dangerous, which wouldn't make sense in this context. Nothing in the text suggests that Schomburg thought his friends and colleagues were in any danger, let alone that he warned them of danger.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 64819e98

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

ID: 64819e98

Ronyoung Kim creatively captures the Korean American immigrant experience in her novel *Clay Walls* by writing about a family from three _____ perspectives. The first section of the novel is from the mother Haesu's perspective, the second is from the father Chun's perspective, and the last is from the daughter Faye's perspective.

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

A. distinct

B. required

C. unintended

D. unknown

ID: 64819e98 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Ronyoung Kim's novel *Clay Walls*. In this context, "distinct" means clearly separate and different. The text indicates that the novel consists of three sections and that each section is narrated from the perspective of a different character. This context supports the idea that Kim's novel features three distinct perspectives.

Choice B is incorrect because describing the three perspectives in Kim's novel as "required," or demanded as necessary to be done or provided, wouldn't make sense in context. When writing a novel, a novelist is free to choose to narrate the story from any number of perspectives. There's nothing in the text to indicate that providing three perspectives was demanded of Kim. Instead, the text focuses on identifying the three different perspectives featured in Kim's novel. Choice C is incorrect because describing the three perspectives in Kim's novel as "unintended," or not planned as a purpose or goal, wouldn't make sense in context. Authors make deliberate choices about the perspectives they feature in their works, and the text indicates that Kim chose to incorporate three different perspectives in her novel. Choice D is incorrect because describing the three perspectives in Kim's novel as "unknown," or not revealed, wouldn't make sense in context. The text directly identifies the three perspectives that appear in her novel as those of Faye and her two parents, Haesu and Chun, which indicates that the novel's perspectives are in fact known.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 668e2e94

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

ID: 668e2e94

In recommending Bao Phi's collection *Sông I Sing*, a librarian noted that pieces by the spoken-word poet don't lose their _____ nature when printed: the language has the same pleasant musical quality on the page as it does when performed by Phi.

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

A. scholarly

B. melodic

C. jarring

D. personal

ID: 668e2e94 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. Based on the text, we're looking for a word that means something similar to "pleasant musical quality." That's exactly what "melodic" means.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't a logical word choice. Based on the text, we're looking for a word that means something similar to "pleasant musical quality." "Scholarly" would suggest something that is academic or well-researched, which doesn't match the meaning we're looking for. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't a logical word choice. Based on the text, we're looking for a word that means something similar to "pleasant musical quality." "Jarring" would suggest the opposite: something unpleasant or discordant. Choice D is incorrect. This isn't a logical word choice. Based on the text, we're looking for a word that means something similar to "pleasant musical quality." "Personal" would suggest something that is expressive or intimate, which doesn't match the meaning we're looking for.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 479577da

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

ID: 479577da

The following text is adapted from Sui Sin Far's 1912 short story "Mrs. Spring Fragrance." Mr. and Mrs. Spring Fragrance immigrated to the United States from China.

> Mrs. Spring Fragrance was unaware that Mr. Spring Fragrance, tired with the day's business, had thrown himself down on the bamboo settee on the veranda, and that although his eyes were engaged in scanning the pages of the *Chinese World*, his ears could not help receiving the words which were borne to him through the open window.

As used in the text, what does the word "receiving" most nearly mean?

A. Denying

B. Entering

C. Carrying

D. Hearing

ID: 479577da Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "receiving" most nearly means hearing, or perceiving sound. The text describes Mr. Spring Fragrance as he reads a newspaper, focusing on his eyes and ears. While his eyes look at the newspaper, he is unwillingly distracted by words coming through a nearby open window (that is, "his ears could not help receiving the words"). The words are being perceived specifically by his ears and not his eyes, and ears are the organs of sense with which one hears, so therefore Mr. Spring Fragrance is hearing the words through the open window.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no indication in the text that Mr. Spring Fragrance is denying, or refusing the truth of, the words coming to him through the window. He is merely distracted by them. Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that Mr. Spring Fragrance's ears couldn't help entering, or coming into, the words coming to him through the window. Instead, the text indicates that the opposite occurs: that is, when Mr. Spring Fragrance hears the words, they enter his ears, but his ears don't enter the words. Choice C is incorrect because it doesn't make sense in this context to think of Mr. Spring Fragrance as carrying the words coming to him through the window, even though the word "carry" can have a number of different meanings depending on context: for example, he is not lifting them, he is not supporting them, and he is not accepting blame for them (as one "carries the blame" for a mistake).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 01d91a01

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

ID: 01d91a01

Kelp forests grow underwater along the eastern Pacific Coast. These underwater forests are important to fish and other marine animals. Ocean currents can be powerful and rough, making it difficult for animals to find safe places to hide from predators. The underwater forests slow down the currents. This creates a more _____ environment with calmer waters where animals can take shelter.

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

A. tranquil

B. dangerous

C. imaginative

D. surprising

ID: 01d91a01 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how kelp forests help marine animals. In this context, "tranquil" means free from disturbance, or calm. The text indicates that ocean currents are powerful and make it difficult for marine animals to hide from predators and that kelp forests slow currents down to create calmer areas. In other words, kelp forests create a more tranquil environment.

Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that kelp forests provide shelter for marine animals, meaning they create environments that are safer, not more "dangerous." Choice C is incorrect because the text discusses how kelp forests affect currents in the ocean, and it isn't clear how an ocean environment could be "imaginative," or full of imagination. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that kelp forests create a calm and safe environment, and an environment that is "surprising" would be characterized by unexpected occurrences, not calmness.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f2c8ccac

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

ID: f2c8ccac

The following text is from Claude McKay's 1922 poem "Morning Joy." The speaker is looking out a window and observing a wold, or large area of land.

> At night the wide and level stretch of wold,
> Which at high noon had basked in quiet gold,
> Far as the eye could see was ghostly white;
> Dark was the night save for the snow's weird light.
>
> I drew the shades far down, crept into bed;
> Hearing the cold wind moaning overhead
> Through the sad pines, my soul, catching its pain,
> Went sorrowing with it across the plain.

As used in the text, what does the word "drew" most nearly mean?

A. Pulled

B. Drained

C. Inspired

D. Sketched

ID: f2c8ccac Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "drew" most nearly means pulled. In the text, the speaker stands at a window, looking out on a landscape at night. The speaker then "drew the shades far down, crept into bed." That is, the speaker pulled down, or lowered, the shades until they were completely shut before going to sleep.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "drew" can refer to draining or removing liquid, especially water, as when someone draws water from a well, in this context it refers to the speaker pulling down window shades for the night. Choice C is incorrect. In some contexts, "drew" can be used to describe how a person or thing inspires, or elicits, a response from someone, as when a performer draws applause from an audience. But in this context it refers to the speaker pulling down window shades for the night. Choice D is incorrect. Although "drew" has several meanings, including sketched, or illustrated with a pen or pencil, in this context it refers to the speaker pulling down window shades for the night.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 07f9a579

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

ID: 07f9a579

Sueño de Familia is an exhibition of drawings, paintings, and ceramics that explores the artistic heritage of US-based artist Yolanda González. The exhibition _____ five generations, featuring works by González's great-grandfather, grandmother, mother, and niece as well as González herself.

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

A. borrows

B. spans

C. judges

D. neglects

ID: 07f9a579 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the *Sueño de Familia* art exhibition. In this context, "spans" means extends across or covers. The text states that the exhibition explores González's artistic heritage and features artwork by her great-grandfather, grandmother, mother, and niece. This context conveys the idea that the exhibition spans, or extends across, five generations of González's family.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense to say that the exhibition "borrows," or acquires, five generations of González's family. The text indicates that the exhibition features artwork by family members from five generations, not that the five generations themselves have been acquired for inclusion in the exhibition. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that the purpose of the exhibition is to highlight artwork, not to "judge," or give an opinion on, five generations of the artist's family. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that the exhibition "neglects," or gives little attention to, five generations of González's family. On the contrary, the text indicates that the exhibition is dedicated to exploring González's artistic heritage and therefore designed to bring attention to her family members and their artwork.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fce64c1f

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

ID: fce64c1f

The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1844 short story "Drowne's Wooden Image." Drowne, a young man, is carving a wooden figure to decorate the front of a ship.

> Day by day, the work assumed greater precision, and settled its irregular and misty outline into distincter grace and beauty. The general design was now obvious to the common eye.

As used in the text, what does the word "assumed" most nearly mean?

A. Acquired

B. Acknowledged

C. Imitated

D. Speculated

ID: fce64c1f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because as used in the text, "assumed" most nearly means acquired, or came to possess. The text portrays a character named Drowne carving a figure out of wood. At first "irregular and misty," or haphazard and indistinct, the figure's outline gradually showed "distincter grace and beauty" until the general design of the carved object "was now obvious to the common eye," or plainly recognizable to anyone. In other words, as Drowne continued to carve, the wooden object came to possess, or acquired, greater precision, changing from an indistinct outline or shape into a graceful, beautiful, and clearly recognizable form.

Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "assumed" can mean acknowledged, or recognized, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because an inanimate object like the wooden figure can't acknowledge its own precision. Choice C is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that the wooden figure merely imitated, or mimicked, precision. Rather, the text suggests that as Drowne carved his wooden figure, it gradually became more precise. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts "assumed" can mean speculated, or supposed based on incomplete information, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because an inanimate object like the wooden figure can't speculate about its own precision.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 3029266d

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

ID: 3029266d

The equipment from the Apollo Moon landings (1969–1972), such as radiation detectors and temperature probes, remains there to this day, but the data from these missions were mostly inaccessible until a recent data-transfer project made them _____. This project has allowed researcher Seiichi Nagihara to make use of the information in investigating temperature changes on the Moon.

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

A. predictable

B. complicated

C. representative

D. available

ID: 3029266d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how a data-transfer project affected data from equipment from the Apollo Moon landings. In this context, "available" means accessible or able to be used. The text explains that the Apollo equipment is still on the Moon, but the data it collected "were mostly inaccessible" until a data-transfer project was undertaken. The text then states that this project allowed a researcher to use the information that has been collected. This context makes it clear that the project made previously inaccessible data available, or accessible.

Choice A is incorrect because saying that a project made data from the Apollo equipment on the Moon "predictable" would mean that the data could be known or declared in advance, and it's not clear how that would be achieved, particularly with data that had been "mostly inaccessible" before the project. Rather than suggesting that the data-transfer project made the data predictable, the text conveys that it made the data available to be used as sources of information. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence indicates that data from the Apollo equipment on the Moon were "mostly inaccessible" until a recent data-transfer project did something to them, after which a researcher was able to make use of the data. This context conveys that the project made the data accessible and usable, not that it made them "complicated," or complex or difficult to understand. Choice C is incorrect. In this context, "representative" would mean either standing as a symbol of something or serving as a typical example from a group, and the text gives no indication that data retrieved from the Apollo equipment on the Moon was merely an example or symbolic. Rather, the text focuses on the availability and usefulness of the data, indicating that a data-transfer project enabled a researcher to use data that had previously been "mostly inaccessible."

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID eb751f58

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

ID: eb751f58

Researchers studying how consumers develop their attitudes toward brands have found that the shapes of the logos used to present brand names are _____. Brand names presented using rounded logos, for example, were found to lead consumers to view brands as significantly more approachable than the same names did when presented using angular logos.

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

A. a contributing factor

B. an analogous case

C. an overlooked effect

D. a surprising paradox

ID: eb751f58 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how logo shapes affect consumer attitudes toward brands. In this context, "a contributing factor" means an element that helps produce a particular outcome. The text indicates that researchers studied how consumers develop attitudes toward brands and found that logo shape affects those attitudes: rounded logos led consumers to view brands as "significantly more approachable" than angular logos did, even when the brand names were the same. This context supports the idea that logo shape is a contributing factor to consumer attitudes toward brands—that is, it helps influence how consumers perceive brands.

Choice B is incorrect because describing logo shapes as "an analogous case," or an instance comparable to another instance, wouldn't make sense in this context. The text doesn't mention any factor other than logo shape, and thus the text doesn't provide another case (analogous or otherwise) against which to compare the effect of logo shape. Choice C is incorrect because describing logo shapes as "an overlooked effect," or a result that has been disregarded, wouldn't make sense in this context. The text is focused on describing observations about the effect of logo shape on consumer attitudes toward brands, but at no point does it suggest that this effect has been overlooked or disregarded. Choice D is incorrect because describing logo shapes as "a surprising paradox," or a self-contradictory finding, wouldn't make sense in this context. The finding that different logo shapes produce different consumer attitudes is straightforward and doesn't exhibit any internal contradiction.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a1064618

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

ID: a1064618

Biologist Jane Edgeloe and colleagues have located what is believed to be the largest individual plant in the world in the Shark Bay area of Australia. The plant is a type of seagrass called *Posidonia australis*, and it _____ approximately 200 square kilometers.

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

A. acknowledges

B. produces

C. spans

D. advances

ID: a1064618 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. “Spans” means “extends over a distance of” or “encompasses.” Since we’re talking about the world’s largest plant, it makes sense to say that it “spans” about 200 square kilometers.

Choice A is incorrect. “Acknowledges” means “recognizes” or “admits the truth of.” Either way, it doesn’t make sense here: a plant can’t “acknowledge” a distance. Choice B is incorrect. “Produces” can mean “makes,” “causes,” or “presents.” But none of those definitions make sense here: a plant can’t make, cause, or present a distance. Choice D is incorrect. This doesn’t fit the logic of the text. “Advances” means “moves forward” or “progresses.” But the plant isn’t necessarily moving forward. Rather, the text suggests that it already covers a distance of 200 square kilometers.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID dfe42e93

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

ID: dfe42e93

A musician and member of the Quechua of Peru, Renata Flores Rivera was eager to promote the Quechua language in her music, but she was _____ speaking it. She met this challenge by asking her grandmother, a native speaker of Quechua, to help her pronounce words in her song lyrics and also by taking classes in the language.

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

A. prepared for

B. inexperienced with

C. skilled in

D. excited about

ID: dfe42e93 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Renata Flores Rivera's use of Quechua in her music. In this context, "inexperienced with" means not accustomed to. The text indicates that Flores Rivera wanted to promote the Quechua language in her music and overcame a challenge by seeking help with pronunciation from her grandmother and by taking language classes. This context conveys the idea that Flores Rivera was not sufficiently familiar with Quechua to use it in her music without help. Thus, she was inexperienced with speaking the language, which she addressed by seeking help.

Choice A is incorrect because describing Flores Rivera as "prepared for"—or ready for—speaking Quechua wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that speaking Quechua presented a challenge, but if she were ready to speak the language, then there would be no challenge. Choice C is incorrect because describing Flores Rivera as "skilled in"—meaning good at or capable of—speaking Quechua wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that speaking Quechua presented a challenge, but if she were capable of speaking the language, then there would be no challenge. Choice D is incorrect. Flores Rivera was likely "excited about"—or thrilled or delighted with—speaking Quechua, but this wouldn't make sense in context. The text indicates that speaking Quechua presented a challenge, but if she were delighted with speaking the language, then there would be no challenge.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID db3ebec5

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

ID: db3ebec5

The following text is adapted from Oscar Wilde's 1895 play *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

CECILY: Have we got to part?

ALGERNON: I am afraid so. It's a very painful parting.

CECILY: It is always painful to part from people whom one has known for a very brief space of time. The absence of old friends one can endure with equanimity. But even a momentary separation from anyone to whom one has just been introduced is almost unbearable.

As used in the text, what does the word "endure" most nearly mean?

A. Regret

B. Persist

C. Tolerate

D. Encourage

ID: db3ebec5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, "endure" most nearly means tolerate. In the text, Cecily and Algernon discuss parting, or saying goodbye. Cecily remarks on the deep pain of saying goodbye to people whom one has only known briefly and then comments on the equanimity, or calm steadiness, one experiences when separated from old friends. The text sets up an ironic contrast: one can easily tolerate, or put up with, the absence of close friends, but even a very short separation from a new acquaintance is unbearable.

Choice A is incorrect. Nothing in the text suggests that Cecily associates regret, or a feeling of sorrow, with the absence of old friends. Rather, the text sets up an ironic contrast between the feeling of calm steadiness one feels when separated from old friends and the unbearable pain of being separated from new acquaintances. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "endure" can mean persist, or proceed stubbornly, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because what is being endured is the absence of old friends. Whereas one can persist *despite* the absence of someone else, one can't persist the absence itself. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't convey that Cecily encourages, or urges, old friends to be absent. Although it may be that Cecily prefers new acquaintances to friends she has known for a long time, the text focuses on her feelings as a result of others' absences, not on her treatment of others.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 5dfc640c

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

ID: 5dfc640c

Anthropologist Kristian J. Carlson and colleagues examined the fossilized clavicle and shoulder bones of a 3.6-million-year-old early hominin known as “Little Foot.” They found that these bones were _____ the clavicle and shoulder bones of modern apes that are frequent climbers, such as gorillas and chimpanzees, suggesting that Little Foot had adapted to life in the trees.

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

A. surpassed by

B. comparable to

C. independent of

D. obtained from

ID: 5dfc640c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the fossilized bones of the hominin known as Little Foot. As used in this context, “comparable to” would mean similar to. The text indicates that the relationship between the fossilized clavicle and shoulder bones of Little Foot and the clavicle and shoulder bones of “frequent climbers,” such as chimpanzees and gorillas, suggests that Little Foot had adapted to moving around in trees. This context suggests that the relationship between the fossilized bones of Little Foot and the bones of chimpanzees and gorillas is one of similarity—the Little Foot fossils are likely comparable to the modern ape bones.

Choice A is incorrect because if the fossilized bones of Little Foot were “surpassed by,” or exceeded by or made inferior to, the bones of modern apes that are frequent climbers, it wouldn’t suggest, as the text says, that Little Foot was adapted to moving around in trees. If anything, learning that Little Foot’s clavicle and shoulder bones were surpassed by those of chimpanzees and gorillas would suggest that Little Foot was poorly adapted to climbing. Choice C is incorrect because if Little Foot’s fossilized clavicle and shoulder bones were “independent of,” or not influenced by or affiliated with, the bones of modern apes that climb often, it wouldn’t suggest, as the text says, that Little Foot was adapted to moving around in trees. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates that Little Foot’s fossilized bones date to 3.6 million years ago, so they couldn’t have been “obtained from,” or acquired from, the bones of modern apes.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID afaca770

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

ID: afaca770

Animal researcher Amalia P.M. Bastos led a 2021 study about a wild kea parrot that used small stones as tools to preen its feathers. Skeptical colleagues had initially suggested to Bastos that the kea's interactions with the stones might simply be _____, but Bastos and her team showed that the kea was using the stones deliberately.

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

A. intriguing

B. obvious

C. accidental

D. observable

ID: afaca770 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Bastos's study of a wild kea parrot. In this context, "accidental" means unplanned or unintentional. The text first describes Bastos's study, which concerns a kea that is observed using small stones to preen its feathers. The text then mentions colleagues who are skeptical (that is, they have doubt) about Bastos's findings, and finally describes how Bastos and her team responded to the skepticism of those colleagues. Given that the colleagues mentioned in the text expressed skepticism regarding Bastos's findings, the best answer choice must be one that completes the text in a manner such that the skeptics' opinion regarding the kea's use of stones disagrees with that held by Bastos and her team. Since Bastos and her team showed that the kea's use of stones was deliberate (that is, intentional), the skeptics' opinion in this context must be that the kea's use of stones was unintentional, or accidental.

Choice A is incorrect because the best answer choice is one that portrays skepticism, or doubt, of Bastos's claim that the kea's usage of stones was deliberate, or intentional. If the skeptics found the kea's usage of stones "intriguing," or fascinating, this would not be at odds with the position of Bastos and her team; in fact, it is reasonable to believe that someone who agreed that the kea's stone usage was deliberate would also find it intriguing. Choice B is incorrect because if the skeptics believed that the kea's usage of small stones was "obvious," or evident, this would not be contrary to the observation of Bastos and her team that the kea's usage of stones was deliberate: in fact, these opinions would be consistent with each other. Choice D is incorrect because if the skeptics believed that the kea's usage of small stones was "observable," or visible, this would not conflict with the claim of Bastos and her team that the kea's usage of stones was deliberate: instead, these positions would agree.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 1decd7ae

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

ID: 1decd7ae

Since the Hubble Space Telescope was launched into space in 1990, astronauts have needed to complete regular missions to repair the telescope and keep it working smoothly. Researchers hope that robots will soon be able to make these repairs. Employing robots instead of humans to make repairs will be helpful, as _____ astronauts to maintain the telescope can be expensive.

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

A. straightening

B. forgetting about

C. relying on

D. reducing

ID: 1decd7ae Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of repairing the Hubble Space Telescope. In this context, "relying on" means depending on. The text states that astronauts have regularly had to go on missions to repair the Hubble Space Telescope but that robots might soon be able to make the repairs, which would be helpful because involving astronauts in the process is expensive. It is most reasonable to assume that it is the need to send astronauts on missions that is expensive; thus, the context suggests that employing robots for repairs will be helpful because depending on repeatedly sending humans to space is costly.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "straightening" would mean physically aligning or removing curves and bends. It's not clear how astronauts would be physically straightened to maintain the telescope or why that would be expensive. Choice B is incorrect because the text suggests that it is the ongoing involvement of astronauts—the need to send them to space regularly—that is expensive. Nothing in the text indicates that astronauts have been forgotten about or that forgetting about them would be expensive. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "reducing" would most likely mean lowering in status, and nothing in the text suggests that astronauts are diminished in any way by repairing the telescope (indeed, they have regularly done repairs for years). Further, it isn't clear how a decrease in status would be expensive.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ce5f2442

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

ID: ce5f2442

The National Heritage Fellowship was created to publicly _____ exceptional folk and traditional artists in the United States. In 2015, the fellowship was given to the circus aerialist (mid-air acrobat) Dolly Jacobs to celebrate her lifetime contributions to the arts.

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

A. startle

B. recognize

C. familiarize

D. convey

ID: ce5f2442 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the purpose of the National Heritage Fellowship. In this context, "recognize" means acknowledge or honor someone officially for their achievements. The text states that the fellowship was created for "exceptional folk and traditional artists." It then provides an example of one recipient of the fellowship, circus aerialist Dolly Jacobs, who was given the fellowship "to celebrate her lifetime contributions to the arts." The fact that the fellowship is given to celebrate exceptional artists for their achievements therefore suggests that its purpose is to publicly honor, or recognize, them.

Choice A is incorrect because "startle" would mean alarm or surprise, and there's nothing in the text to suggest that Jacobs and other artists who received the National Heritage Fellowship didn't expect to receive it or were alarmed by it. It therefore wouldn't make sense to say the fellowship was created to publicly alarm or surprise exceptional artists. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "familiarize" would mean make known or familiar, but the text gives no indication that Jacobs or other recipients of the National Heritage Fellowship were unknown or unfamiliar before receiving the fellowship or that the fellowship was intended to make them familiar to the public. In fact, the text describes recipients as "exceptional" and notes that Jacobs received the award "to celebrate her lifetime contributions to the arts," both of which suggest that Jacobs and other recipients were already well known in the arts world. Choice D is incorrect because "convey" would mean either transport or communicate something, neither of which would be logical in this context. The fellowship doesn't transport artists, and though the process of awarding the fellowship might communicate something about the artists to the general public, it would be illogical to state that the fellowship communicates the artists themselves. Rather, the fellowship honors artists for their contributions.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bf63e81d

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

ID: bf63e81d

The fashion resale market, in which consumers purchase secondhand clothing from stores and online sellers, generated nearly $30 billion globally in 2019. Expecting to see continued growth, some analysts _____ that revenues will more than double by 2028.

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

A. produced

B. denied

C. worried

D. predicted

ID: bf63e81d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the fashion resale market's continued growth. As used in this context, "predicted" means forecast, or indicated that something would happen in the future. The text indicates that the fashion resale market made a lot of money in 2019 and that some analysts expected the market to continue to grow. This context suggests that the analysts believed that the fashion resale market was going to make more money than it had already made, with the analysts indicating that revenues would more than double by 2028.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to say that some analysts "produced," or manufactured or brought about, the increase in future revenues of the fashion resale market. The analysts themselves couldn't have brought about the future revenue growth, since, as the text suggests, they were merely in the position of drawing conclusions about future fashion resale market revenue based on 2019 revenue. Choice B is incorrect because the text indicates that some analysts expected the fashion resale market to continue to grow in the future, not that they "denied," or rejected, this notion. Nothing in the text supports the idea that these analysts thought the revenues wouldn't grow. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that some analysts expected the fashion resale market to continue to grow in the future, not that they "worried," or felt concerned, that revenue would significantly increase by 2028. Nothing in the text suggests that the analysts felt concerned about the increase; rather, the text suggests that the increase would represent a favorable outcome, since it would mean that the fashion resale market grew to generate even more revenue.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 15bf50bd

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

ID: 15bf50bd

Studying how workload affects productivity, Maryam Kouchaki and colleagues found that people who chose to do relatively easy tasks first were less _____ compared to those who did hard tasks first. Finishing easy tasks gave participants a sense of accomplishment, but those who tackled hard tasks first actually became more skilled and productive workers over time.

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

A. secretive

B. efficient

C. outgoing

D. unsympathetic

ID: 15bf50bd Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion about Kouchaki and colleagues' research into how workload affects productivity. In context, "efficient" means effective or well organized. The text indicates that, according to Kouchaki and colleagues' research, people who worked on hard tasks first were "more skilled and productive" than those who did easy tasks first. This context conveys the idea that despite their sense of accomplishment, the people who chose to do the easy tasks first were less efficient or productive than those who tackled hard tasks first.

Choice A is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that workers who do easy tasks first are less "secretive," or uncommunicative or silent, than those who do hard tasks first. Rather, the text suggests that people are less skillful or efficient if they tackle easy tasks before the hard ones. Choice C is incorrect because "outgoing" means openly friendly, which wouldn't make sense in this context. The text focuses on Kouchaki and colleagues' research in which people who worked on hard tasks first were "more skilled and productive" than those who did easy tasks first and were therefore less efficient. Choice D is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that workers who do easy tasks first are less "unsympathetic," or insensitive or unkind, than those who do hard tasks first. Rather, the text suggests that people are less skillful or efficient if they tackle easy tasks before the hard ones.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 02c4418e

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

ID: 02c4418e

The printing of Virginia Woolf's novels featured a creative _____ between Woolf and her sister Vanessa Bell: a talented painter, Bell worked closely with Woolf to create original cover art for most of the novels.

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

A. rebellion

B. partnership

C. discovery

D. disagreement

ID: 02c4418e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the cover art of Virginia Woolf's novels. In this context, "partnership" means collaboration or joint effort. The text states that Woolf's sister Vanessa Bell was a talented painter and that Bell worked with Woolf to provide the cover art for most of Woolf's novels. Thus, this context suggests that Woolf and Bell pursued a creative partnership in order to produce several of Woolf's novels.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no indication that Woolf or Bell were undergoing a "rebellion," or revolt, against anything in particular. Instead, the text focuses on how they worked together in some aspects of the production of Woolf's novels. Choice C is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to indicate that Woolf or Bell made a "discovery," or encountered anything new for the first time as they worked together. The text suggests that Woolf had already written her novels and that Bell then assisted Woolf with the cover art for many of them. Choice D is incorrect because the text implies that Woolf and Bell had a positive relationship. According to the text, the sisters "worked closely" together to produce the cover art for many of Woolf's novels; the text doesn't mention whether while working together, Woolf and Bell had a "disagreement," or conflict.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 96a207ae

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

ID: 96a207ae

A brief book review cannot fully convey the _____ of Olga Tokarczuk's novel *The Books of Jacob*, with its enormous cast of characters, its complicated, wandering plot, and its page numbers that count backward (beginning at 965 and ending at 1).

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

A. accuracy

B. inactivity

C. complexity

D. restraint

ID: 96a207ae Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Olga Tokarczuk's novel *The Books of Jacob*. As used in this context, "complexity" means having many complicated parts that when taken as a whole are difficult to follow or explain. The text indicates that *The Books of Jacob* has a large cast of characters, a complicated and wandering plot (that is, a plot that is difficult to follow), and reverse page numbering. Together, these features make up a novel that's challenging to read and summarize. This context supports the idea that a brief book review can't do justice to the novel's complexity.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the word "accuracy," or being free from error or falsehood, can sometimes be used to describe a novel, the text doesn't discuss whether Tokarczuk's novel has this quality. Instead, the text describes the novel as having a large cast of characters, a difficult-to-follow plot, and reverse page numbering. These features suggest complexity, not accuracy. Choice B is incorrect because "inactivity" means being in a state of idleness or doing nothing, neither of which would make sense in this context. The text describes Tokarczuk's novel, and although it's possible the novel could portray its characters as inactive, it wouldn't make sense to describe the novel itself as such. Choice D is incorrect because in this context "restraint" would mean holding back or showing self-control, and the text doesn't indicate that Tokarczuk's novel has either of these qualities. In fact, the features of the novel that the text describes, such as a large cast of characters, a complicated and wandering plot, and reverse page numbering, suggest excess and complexity, not restraint.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID ac97428c

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

ID: ac97428c

Archaeologists studying an ancient amphitheater in Switzerland believe that it dates back to the fourth century CE. Their discoveries of a coin made between 337 and 341 CE and era-appropriate building materials _____ evidence for this theory.

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

A. dismiss

B. provide

C. regulate

D. refuse

ID: ac97428c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the archaeologists' study of the ancient amphitheater in Switzerland. In this context, "provide" means make available or supply. The text states that the archaeologists believe that the amphitheater dates to the fourth century CE. The text goes on to say that the archaeologists discovered a coin made between 337 and 341 CE (that is, made during the fourth century CE) and building materials appropriate to the era in question. This context suggests that these discoveries provide evidence for the archaeologists' theory about the dating of the amphitheater.

Choice A is incorrect because the archaeologists' discoveries are presented as supplying evidence in favor of their theory about the dating of the amphitheater, not something that would "dismiss," or reject serious consideration of, evidence for that theory. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the archaeologists' discoveries would "regulate," or govern or bring order to, evidence for the archaeologists' theory about the dating of the amphitheater. The discoveries are presented as supplying evidence for the archaeologists' theory, not as changing how evidence for the theory is controlled or ordered. Choice D is incorrect because the archaeologists' discoveries are presented as supplying evidence in favor of their theory about the dating of the amphitheater, not something that would "refuse," or be unwilling to accept, evidence for the archaeologists' theory.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 03c86797

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

ID: 03c86797

Although critics believed that customers would never agree to pay to pick their own produce on farms, such concerns didn't _____ Booker T. Whatley's efforts to promote the practice. Thanks in part to Whatley's determined advocacy, farms that allow visitors to pick their own apples, pumpkins, and other produce can be found throughout the United States.

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

A. enhance

B. hinder

C. misrepresent

D. aggravate

ID: 03c86797 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Booker T. Whatley. In this context, "hinder" means hold back or obstruct. The text explains that Whatley encouraged farms to allow customers on site to pick their own produce for a fee. He did so despite critics' concerns that the customers would never pay to do so. This context establishes that the critics' concerns didn't hinder Whatley's efforts to promote the practice.

Choice A is incorrect. The text indicates that critics' skepticism of the idea that customers would pay to pick their own produce didn't have some effect on Whatley's promotion of the practice. The text illustrates this assertion by describing Whatley's "determined advocacy" for the practice. This context suggests that critics' concerns didn't obstruct Whatley's efforts, not that critics' concerns didn't "enhance," or increase or improve, Whatley's efforts. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "misrepresent" would mean portray inaccurately, and the text includes no information relevant to the issue of how Whatley's efforts were portrayed by critics of the practice of charging customers to pick their own produce. Choice D is incorrect. The text indicates that critics' skepticism of the idea that customers would pay to pick their own produce didn't have some effect on Whatley's promotion of the practice. The text illustrates this assertion by describing Whatley's "determined advocacy" for the practice. This context suggests that critics' concerns didn't obstruct Whatley's efforts, not that critics' concerns didn't "aggravate," or irritate or make more severe, Whatley's efforts.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID bfe26c5d

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

ID: bfe26c5d

The following text is from Mark Oshiro's 2018 novel *Anger Is a Gift*. In the novel, Moss and his friends are on a subway train in Northern California.

> Lights from the outside world then filled the train car as it rose out of the ground and climbed the elevated track. As long as Moss had lived in West Oakland, he'd never tired of this specific view, so he pointed toward the windows. "Check it," he said, and the Port of Oakland began to pass by them.

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As used in the text, what does the word "specific" most nearly mean?

A. Imaginary

B. Energetic

C. Correct

D. Particular

ID: bfe26c5d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "specific" most nearly means particular. The text is referring to the particular view of the Port of Oakland as seen from a subway train as it rises from underground. This specific, or particular, view has always been special to Moss, a lifetime resident of West Oakland.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text itself is a work of fiction, the view is something Moss can point out to his companions on the train, so the view itself is presumably not imaginary. Choice B is incorrect. Although this view of the Port of Oakland is significant to Moss, nothing in the text describes the view as particularly energetic as opposed to calming, for example. Choice C is incorrect. The point of the text is that the view of the Port of Oakland from the subway train as it rises from underground is significant to Moss, not whether it is described as being correct, which the text does not address.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID b728b849

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

ID: b728b849

Cat and Plum Blossoms is an important work of *Nihonga*, or classical Japanese painting. Unlike Kuroda Seiki, who adopted traditional European methods such as painting with oil on canvas, Hishida Shunsō _____ traditional Japanese approaches. For instance, Hishida produced *Cat and Plum Blossoms* by applying color pigments to a silk scroll.

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

A. distrusted

B. embraced

C. released

D. overlooked

ID: b728b849 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Hishida Shunsō's painting *Cat and Plum Blossoms*. In this context, "embraced" means accepted or adopted readily. The text begins by identifying *Cat and Plum Blossoms* as an example of *Nihonga*, or classical (that is, traditional) Japanese painting. The text continues by drawing a contrast between Hishida's work and Kuroda Seiki's work, which differs from that of Hishida in its use of the traditional European method of using oil paints on canvas rather than using traditional Japanese approaches. The text then concludes with an example of one such traditional Japanese painting technique exemplified by Hishida's *Cat and Plum Blossoms*—applications of color pigments to a silk scroll—to further develop the contrast between the two artists' approaches. This context supports the idea that Hishida adopted, or embraced, traditional Japanese approaches.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context "distrusted" would mean that Hishida was skeptical of or lacked confidence in traditional Japanese approaches to painting. The text begins by stating that Hishida's painting *Cat and Plum Blossoms* is an example of *Nihonga*, or traditional Japanese painting, and then cites Hishida's application of color pigments to a silk scroll as an instance of a traditional Japanese painting technique. It therefore wouldn't make sense to say that Hishida's use of traditional Japanese painting techniques indicates his distrust, or skepticism, of them. Rather, it suggests that he embraced those techniques. Choice C is incorrect because saying that Hishida "released" traditional Japanese approaches to painting in this context would mean that he freed them from any restrictions. In using Hishida's application of color pigments to a silk scroll in *Cat and Plum Blossoms* as an example of a traditional Japanese approach to painting found in *Nihonga*, the text strongly implies that Hishida followed these approaches, not that he removed them from any restrictions. Choice D is incorrect because in this context "overlooked" would mean ignored or failed to notice. The text establishes that Hishida's painting *Cat and Plum Blossoms* is a notable work of *Nihonga*, or classical Japanese painting, that features the traditional technique of applying color pigments to a silk scroll. It wouldn't make sense to say that Hishida's use of a traditional Japanese approach to painting indicates that Hishida failed to notice those approaches.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7baf9031

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

ID: 7baf9031

The Cambrian explosion gets its name from the sudden appearance and rapid diversification of animal remains in the fossil record about 541 million years ago, during the Cambrian period. Some scientists argue that this _____ change in the fossil record might be because of a shift in many organisms to body types that were more likely to be preserved.

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

A. catastrophic

B. elusive

C. abrupt

D. imminent

ID: 7baf9031 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically and precisely completes the text's discussion of the fossil record from the Cambrian period. In this context, "abrupt" means sudden. The text explains that the fossil record reflects the unexpected appearance and rapid diversification, or increase in variety, of animal remains during the Cambrian period. This context establishes that these remains' entry into the fossil record was sudden.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the word "explosion" appears in the name of the event marked by the fossil record change, the text never suggests that the change was "catastrophic," or disastrous. In context, "explosion" refers to the rapid diversification, or the swift increase in variety, of animal remains in the fossil record—a phenomenon that the text presents in a relatively neutral manner, without commenting on whether it was negative or positive. Choice B is incorrect because the text never suggests that the change toward greater diversification is "elusive," or difficult to locate, in the fossil record. Rather, the text notes that the change occurred about 541 million years ago, suggesting that scientists have indeed been able to locate it. Choice D is incorrect because it wouldn't make sense in context to describe the change in the fossil record as "imminent," or about to occur, since the text indicates that the change already occurred millions of years ago.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 7e978078

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

ID: 7e978078

The following text is adapted from Amy Lowell's 1912 poem "Summer."

> It is summer, glorious, deep-toned summer,
> The very crown of nature's changing year
> When all her surging life is at its full.
> To me alone it is a time of pause,
> A void and silent space between two worlds,
> When inspiration lags, and feeling sleeps,
> Gathering strength for efforts yet to come.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "a void" most nearly mean?

A. A useless

B. An empty

C. A forgotten

D. An incomplete

ID: 7e978078 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because as used in the text, a span of time is described as "a void" space, which most nearly means an empty or vacant one. In the text, the speaker describes summertime in counterintuitive terms: although nature's "surging life is at its full" during the season, the speaker feels summer to be "a time of pause, / A void and silent space between two worlds." The speaker says further that during summer, "feeling sleeps / Gathering strength" for future efforts. Thus, the speaker regards summer as an empty stretch of time, to be followed by a period of greater activity.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text does present summer as a time of inactivity, it doesn't characterize that inactivity as useless, or as having no purpose; in fact, the speaker regards summer as a time when "feeling" gathers "strength for efforts yet to come." Choice C is incorrect. Although the text characterizes summer as a time "when inspiration lags, and feeling sleeps," it doesn't discuss the season's relationship to the speaker's memory or suggest that summer can easily be forgotten. Choice D is incorrect. In some contexts, "void" can mean devoid of, or lacking, a particular element, and such a lack could be conceived of as incompleteness. However, the text doesn't portray summer as not being complete or whole; instead, it characterizes vacancy or inactivity as being an essential quality of the season, as experienced by the speaker.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 6fe8721a

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

ID: 6fe8721a

Logically, a damaged fossil should provide less information than an intact one, but for paleontologist Brigitte Schoenemann, a broken area on a fossilized trilobite (a crustacean-like creature) _____ fresh insight, allowing her to view the inner structure of the organism's eye.

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

A. resolved

B. adjusted

C. offered

D. directed

ID: 6fe8721a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion about how, for Schoenemann, a damaged trilobite fossil was informative. In context, "offered" means provided or gave. The text suggests that although it may seem counterintuitive, a broken fossilized trilobite allowed Schoenemann to observe more details of the trilobite's eye than an intact fossilized trilobite would. This context conveys the idea that a damaged fossil offered, or provided, fresh insight into the structure of a trilobite's eye.

Choice A is incorrect because "resolved" means determined or figured out, which wouldn't make sense in this context. The text focuses on how Schoenemann was able to get more information from a broken fossil than an intact one. Although the damaged fossil may have allowed her to determine certain information, as an inanimate object the fossil isn't capable of resolving anything. Choice B is incorrect because saying that the broken part of a trilobite fossil "adjusted," or changed or modified, fresh insight wouldn't make sense in this context. The text focuses on how Schoenemann was able to get more information from a broken fossil than an intact one. This context suggests that the fossil offered fresh insight, or understanding, not that it adjusted fresh insight. Choice D is incorrect because "directed" means managed or instructed, which wouldn't make sense in this context. The text focuses on how Schoenemann was able to get more information from a broken fossil than an intact one. This context suggests that the fossil offered fresh insight, or understanding, not that it directed fresh insight.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID cf9a6203

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

ID: cf9a6203

The spacecraft OSIRIS-REx briefly made contact with the asteroid 101955 Bennu in 2020. NASA scientist Daniella DellaGiustina reports that despite facing the unexpected obstacle of a surface mostly covered in boulders, OSIRIS-REx successfully _____ a sample of the surface, gathering pieces of it to bring back to Earth.

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

A. attached

B. collected

C. followed

D. replaced

ID: cf9a6203 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft's contact with the asteroid 101955 Bennu. In this context, "collected" means acquired and took away. The text indicates that although the boulders on the asteroid's surface caused some unforeseen problems, OSIRIS-REx was able to gather a sample to return to Earth. This context suggests that OSIRIS-REx successfully collected a sample of 101955 Bennu.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context "attached" means connected or affixed. The text indicates that OSIRIS-REx gathered pieces of 101955 Bennu to bring to Earth; it doesn't suggest that the spacecraft attached anything to the asteroid. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "followed" means tracked or traveled behind and the text discusses OSIRIS-REx's brief encounter with 101955 Bennu during which the spacecraft gathered a sample to bring to Earth. The text doesn't suggest that the spacecraft tracked the sample, and it's not clear what it would mean for the spacecraft to travel behind the sample it collected. Choice D is incorrect because in this context "replaced" means put back or returned. The text indicates that OSIRIS-REx gathered pieces of 101955 Bennu to bring to Earth but doesn't suggest that anything was returned to the asteroid.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID cc4b887a

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

ID: cc4b887a

Ofelia Zepeda's contributions to the field of linguistics are _____: her many accomplishments include working as a linguistics professor and bilingual poet, authoring the first Tohono O'odham grammar book, and co-founding the American Indian Language Development Institute.

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

A. pragmatic

B. controversial

C. extensive

D. universal

ID: cc4b887a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of how Ofelia Zepeda has contributed to the field of linguistics. As used in this context, "extensive" means having a wide or considerable extent. The text indicates that Zepeda's many accomplishments in linguistics are varied, including teaching linguistics, writing poetry in more than one language, creating a grammar book, and co-founding a language institute. This context supports the idea that Zepeda's contributions to the field are extensive.

Choice A is incorrect because the sentence presents Zepeda's accomplishments as examples to support the claim made in the first part of the sentence. It wouldn't make sense to say that achievements as a professor, poet and author, and co-founder of a language institute demonstrate that Zepeda's contributions in her field are "pragmatic," or related to practical matters and not involving intellectual or artistic matters. Choice B is incorrect because the sentence presents Zepeda's accomplishments as a professor, poet and author, and co-founder of a language institute as examples to support the claim made in the first part of the sentence. There's no reason to believe that the positive achievements listed demonstrate that Zepeda's contributions in her field are "controversial," or have caused disputes and opposing viewpoints. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, "universal" would mean including or covering everything in a group. The sentence presents Zepeda's accomplishments as examples to support the claim made in the first part of the sentence, and it wouldn't make sense to say that these specific achievements—particularly as the author of a grammar book specific to the Tohono O'odham language—demonstrate that Zepeda's contributions relate to everything in the field of linguistics.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 195ff99f

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

ID: 195ff99f

Visual artist Gabriela Alemán states that the bold colors of comics, pop art, and Latinx culture have always fascinated her. This passion for the rich history and colors of her Latinx community translates into the _____ artworks she produces.

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

A. vivid

B. unknown

C. definite

D. reserved

ID: 195ff99f Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. "Vivid" can mean "colorful" or "bright-colored." This definition fits the context clues about Alemán's fascination with and passion for bold colors.

Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. Nothing in the text indicates that Alemán's artworks are "unknown." Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. "Definite" means "certain" or "decided." It wouldn't make sense to describe artwork as "definite." Choice D is incorrect. This doesn't fit the logic of the text. "Reserved" can either mean "slow to reveal emotions" or "booked." But the clues suggest that Alemán's artworks are boldly colorful—almost the opposite of "reserved."

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID accf9d48

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

ID: accf9d48

The early British postal system required the cost of mail delivery to be paid upon receipt, a system which encouraged inventive strategies by the intended recipient to avoid payment. To improve this system, _____ were proposed in 1837, including the use of a postage stamp, a small receipt pasted to the mail indicating that delivery costs had been paid by the sender.

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

A. investigations

B. expansions

C. reforms

D. possessions

ID: accf9d48 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the early British postal system. In this context, "reforms" most nearly means attempts at improving something. The text indicates that the pay-upon-delivery postage method led to fee avoidance on the part of recipients. It then says that action was taken to improve the postal system, giving examples such as the move to having the sender pay and affixing stamps to indicate payment had been received. These represent revisions to the system intended to improve its functioning; therefore, "reforms" most logically completes the text.

Choice A is incorrect. In this context, "investigations" most nearly means attempts to understand something. And although it is plausible that an attempt to improve the postal system would involve investigations, nothing in the text provides a logical basis for understanding the example of changes like affixing stamps to letters as an investigation. Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "expansions" most nearly means additions to something. Although the text indicates that some new policies were adopted, nothing in the text suggests that the overall number of policies increased, which expansions would seem to entail. Choice D is incorrect. In this context, "possessions" most nearly means items of personal property or things that otherwise belong to, or are part of, something. The text provides no logical context for understanding changes like affixing stamps to letters as possessions.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0bb77e6b

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

ID: 0bb77e6b

A unique dialect, or regional variety, of Spanish is spoken in Puerto Rico. It contains many words borrowed from the language of the Taínos, the Indigenous people of Puerto Rico. African languages also made important contributions to the Puerto Rican dialect. For example, the way certain vowel sounds are pronounced in it can be _____ to how they are pronounced in Yoruba, a West African language.

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

A. traced

B. surrendered

C. announced

D. offered

ID: 0bb77e6b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the origins of the unique dialect of Spanish spoken in Puerto Rico. In this context, "traced" means tracked back to. The text notes that the regional variety of Spanish spoken in Puerto Rico has its roots in the language of the Taínos and in the West African language of Yoruba. This context supports the idea that the way certain vowel sounds are pronounced in the Puerto Rican dialect can be traced back to Yoruba.

Choice B is incorrect because the text presents the statement about the relationship between vowel pronunciation in the Puerto Rican dialect of Spanish and in Yoruba as an example to support the claim that African languages have contributed to the Puerto Rican dialect. It therefore wouldn't make sense to say that the pronunciation of certain vowel sounds in the Puerto Rican dialect can be "surrendered," or handed over on demand, to the pronunciation in Yoruba. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that the way certain vowel sounds are pronounced in the Puerto Rican dialect of Spanish has been "announced," or officially declared or proclaimed. According to the text, elements of the dialect have been inherited or borrowed from African languages, and the relationship between the pronunciation of certain vowels in the Puerto Rican dialect and in Yoruba is an example of this inheritance, suggesting that the pronunciation in the Puerto Rican dialect can be traced to Yoruba. Choice D is incorrect because the text presents the statement about the relationship between vowel pronunciation in the Puerto Rican dialect of Spanish and in Yoruba as an example to support the claim that African languages have contributed to the Puerto Rican dialect. It therefore wouldn't make sense to say that the pronunciation of certain vowel sounds in the Puerto Rican dialect can be "offered," or presented as a gift, to the pronunciation in Yoruba.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID e883e4c4

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

ID: e883e4c4

The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston's 1921 short story "John Redding Goes to Sea." John wants to travel far beyond the village where he lives near his mother, Matty.

> [John] had on several occasions attempted to reconcile his mother to the notion, but found it a difficult task. Matty always took refuge in self-pity and tears. Her son's desires were incomprehensible to her, that was all.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "reconcile his mother to" most nearly mean?

A. Get his mother to accept

B. Get his mother to apologize for

C. Get his mother to match

D. Get his mother to reunite with

ID: e883e4c4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The expression "reconcile to" means "to cause (a person) to accept something difficult or disagreeable." The text suggests that John wants his mother to accept his desire to travel, even though she doesn't like that idea.

Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't make sense. John doesn't want his mother to apologize for his own desire to travel—he wants her to accept his desire to travel. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn't suggest that John wants his mother to match his desire to travel. Rather, he wants her to accept his desire to travel even though she doesn't like it. Choice D is incorrect. This is tempting, because it seems to pick up on the idea of people "reconciling" after a fight, but it actually doesn't make sense. The text never suggests that John's mother was "united with" the idea of him traveling in the past—if anything, it seems like she's always been against it. Besides, it would be strange to say that a person "reunites with" a notion.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 730e81d2

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

ID: 730e81d2

The following text is adapted from Karel Čapek's 1920 play *R.U.R. (Rossum's Universal Robots*), translated by Paul Selver and Nigel Playfair in 1923. Fabry and Busman are telling Miss Glory why their company manufactures robots.

FABRY: One Robot can replace two and a half *workmen*. The human machine, Miss Glory, was terribly *imperfect*. It had to be removed sooner or later.

BUSMAN: It was too expensive.

FABRY: It was not *effective*. It no longer answers the requirements of *modern engineering*. Nature has no idea of keeping pace with *modern labor*.

As used in the text, what does the word "answers" most nearly mean?

A. Explains

B. Rebuts

C. Defends

D. Fulfills

ID: 730e81d2 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because as used in the text, "answers" most nearly means fulfills. In the text, Fabry and Busman claim that the robots manufactured by their company are more efficient than human workers, which they refer to as "the human machine." Fabry observes that the human machine "no longer answers the requirements of *modern engineering*." That is, human workers are incapable of meeting the rigorous needs of modern, industrialized workplaces.

Choice A is incorrect. Although in some contexts "answers" can mean explains, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because the topic under discussion is human beings' inability to perform labor efficiently, not their inability to engage in discussion or explanation. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "answers" can mean rebuts, or proves a claim or argument to be false, it wouldn't make sense to speak of proving requirements to be false; requirements might or might not be reasonable, but they can't be verified as truthful or untruthful, as claims or accusations can. Choice C is incorrect. Although in some contexts, "answers" can mean defends against criticism, or justifies, it doesn't have that meaning in this context because the opinion that Fabry expresses is that human workers can no longer fulfill the requirements of modern workplaces, not that they have ceased to justify those requirements or to defend them against criticism; indeed, there is no suggestion in the text that workers ever defended those requirements.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c9fd695f

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

ID: c9fd695f

In the 1960s, Sam Gilliam, a Black painter from the southern United States, became the first artist to drape painted canvases into flowing shapes. He later explored a different style, _____ quilt-like paintings inspired by the patchwork quilting tradition of Black communities in the South.

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

A. predicting

B. refusing

C. hiding

D. creating

ID: c9fd695f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Sam Gilliam's artworks. As used in this context, "creating" means producing or bringing something into existence. The text indicates that Gilliam is an artist who made draped canvases and, later, quilt-like paintings. This context supports the idea that Gilliam explored different styles in his art by creating special types of paintings.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that Gilliam actually explored and pursued the creation of quilt-like paintings; he wasn't just "predicting," or declaring in advance, the existence of these paintings. Choice B is incorrect because in this context "refusing" would mean rejecting, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that Gilliam rejected his quilt-like paintings. Instead, the text indicates that he was exploring and pursuing a new art style in these paintings. Choice C is incorrect because in this context "hiding" would mean concealing from view, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that Gilliam attempted to conceal his quilt-like paintings. Instead, the text indicates that he was exploring and pursuing a new art style in these paintings.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID f0c994ba

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

ID: f0c994ba

Physicist Joseph Weber performed _____ work in gravitational wave research in the 1960s and 1970s, conducting key experiments that scientists later used as the basis for their own investigations that led to the first verified detection of a gravitational wave in 2015.

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

A. foundational

B. supplementary

C. repetitive

D. ineffective

ID: f0c994ba Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of physicist Joseph Webster's research on gravitational waves. In this context "foundational" means the basis on which something else develops. The text indicates that Webster's experiments in the 1960s and 1970s were earlier than, and "key" to, the work of later scientists in the field; thus, Webster's work was foundational to the later scientists' experiments and the eventual detection of a gravitational wave in 2015.

Choice B is incorrect because the text does not suggest that Webster's work was supplementary, or an additional element of an existing, larger project, but rather it was "the basis for" later experiments. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not assert that Webster's work was repetitive, or involved doing something the same way many times. Rather, the text indicates that Webster's work formed the basis for later investigations in the field of gravitational wave research. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not state that Webster's work was ineffective, or failed to produce the desired outcome. Rather, the text strongly implies that Webster's work was productive and extremely important to later work in the field of gravitational wave research.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID c36d4aca

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

ID: c36d4aca

Artist Marilyn Dingle's intricate, coiled baskets are _____ sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Following a Gullah technique that originated in West Africa, Dingle skillfully winds a thin palm frond around a bunch of sweetgrass with the help of a "sewing bone" to create the basket's signature look that no factory can reproduce.

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

A. indicated by

B. handmade from

C. represented by

D. collected with

ID: c36d4aca Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Marilyn Dingle's baskets. In this context, to say that Dingle's baskets are "handmade from" particular plants means that Dingle creates baskets herself using those plants but without using machines. The text says that Dingle "skillfully winds" parts of palmetto palm plants around sweetgrass plants to make baskets with an appearance that "no factory can reproduce." This context suggests that Dingle's baskets are handmade from sweetgrass and palmetto palm.

Choice A is incorrect because the text describes how Dingle uses sweetgrass and palmetto palm to create her baskets, not how her baskets are "indicated by," or signified by, sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Choice C is incorrect. Although Dingle's baskets are described as being made using sweetgrass and palm, there's nothing in the text to suggest that the baskets are "represented by," or exemplified or portrayed by, sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Instead, the focus of the text is on Dingle's use of sweetgrass and palmetto palm and the impossibility of replicating the appearance of her baskets using machines. Choice D is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that Dingle's baskets are "collected with," or brought together in a group with, sweetgrass and palmetto palm. Instead, the text describes how Dingle uses those plants to make her baskets.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a358cf61

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

ID: a358cf61

For painter Jacob Lawrence, being _____ was an important part of the artistic process. Because he paid close attention to all the details of his Harlem neighborhood, Lawrence's artwork captured nuances in the beauty and vitality of the Black experience during the Harlem Renaissance and the Great Migration.

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

A. skeptical

B. observant

C. critical

D. confident

ID: a358cf61 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Jacob Lawrence's artistic process. In this context, "observant" means watchful and perceptive. The text emphasizes that the "close attention" Lawrence paid to "all the details" of his neighborhood allowed him to reflect subtle elements of "the beauty and vitality of the Black experience" in his artwork. This context indicates that being observant of his surroundings was an important part of Lawrence's work as an artist.

Choice A is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Lawrence was "skeptical," or had an attitude of doubt in general or about particular things, let alone that skepticism was important to him as an artist. Rather than indicating that he was skeptical, the text focuses on how Lawrence paid careful attention to everything around him and reflected his observations in his artwork. Choice C is incorrect because the text gives no indication that Lawrence was "critical," which in this context would mean inclined to criticize harshly or unfairly. Rather than indicating that Lawrence found fault in things, the text suggests that he paid careful attention to everything around him and that his artwork reflects this careful attention. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that Lawrence was "confident," or self-assured. Rather than addressing how Lawrence felt about himself and how that feeling affected his artistic process, the text emphasizes the careful attention Lawrence paid to everything around him—attention that allowed him to capture subtle elements of a particular place and time in his artwork.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID a86fd241

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

ID: a86fd241

Although the government of the Soviet Union attempted to _____ Georgi Vladimov's novel *Faithful Ruslan*, copies of the book circulated in secret among readers in several parts of the country.

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

A. replicate

B. critique

C. import

D. suppress

ID: a86fd241 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Georgi Vladimov's novel *Faithful Ruslan*. In this context, "suppress" means to prevent something, such as a book, from being accessed by the public. The text indicates that the novel was circulated secretly within the Soviet Union, a stratagem that was necessary because of the government's efforts to suppress the book, or prevent it from being circulated and read.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "replicate" would mean to copy or reproduce a book, and this meaning wouldn't make sense in the text's discussion of *Faithful Ruslan*. If the Soviet government had attempted to replicate Vladimov's novel, there would be no reason for copies to circulate "in secret," since the government would be actively making more copies available, not restricting access. Choice B is incorrect. Although a repressive government might well "critique" a novel, or evaluate it negatively, simply critiquing one wouldn't necessarily lead to copies of it circulating "in secret." Instead, the text suggests that the Soviet government took decisive action against *Faithful Ruslan* that necessitated its underground circulation and did not merely offer criticism of the novel. Choice C is incorrect because "import" means to bring a product, such as a book, into a country from elsewhere. However, the text suggests that copies of *Faithful Ruslan* were already present in the Soviet Union and that the government was trying to restrict their circulation rather than increasing access to the novel by importing copies from another country.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID d8c5c1d9

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

ID: d8c5c1d9

The following text is adapted from Lewis Carroll's 1865 novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

> "The second thing is to find my way into that lovely garden. I think that will be the best plan." It sounded like an excellent plan, no doubt, and very neatly and simply arranged; the only difficulty was, that Alice had not the smallest idea how to set about it.

As used in the text, what does the word "simply" most nearly mean?

A. Faintly

B. Hastily

C. Easily

D. Foolishly

ID: d8c5c1d9 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because as used in the text, "simply" most nearly means easily, or involving minimal difficulty or effort. The text first provides Alice's reflections on her plan to gain access to a garden and then offers commentary on her plan by the novel's narrator. The text indicates that a reason Alice likes her plan despite not being fully thought through is that she nonetheless believes it can be efficiently arranged. In other words, the text indicates that one of the supposed benefits of Alice's plan is that it can be easily arranged.

Choice A is incorrect because the text describes how Alice's plan can be arranged, and it wouldn't make sense to say that it can be arranged "faintly," or with little strength or not strongly. Instead, the text indicates that the plan can be arranged with little difficulty. Choice B is incorrect. Although in some contexts "simply" can mean quickly, hastily, or hurriedly, the word "hastily" indicates that something is done too quickly. Although it may be true that Alice's plan was made in haste, the text doesn't focus on this aspect of her plan. Instead, the text focuses on the plan's seemingly good qualities, saying that Alice thinks of it as "the best," and the narrator refers to it as "excellent" and "neatly," or efficiently, arranged. Choice D is incorrect. Although in some contexts "simply" can mean foolishly, or lacking good sense, it doesn't have this meaning in this context. Although the text says that Alice doesn't know how to go about her plan, it begins by presenting her plan in a positive light: Alice describes her plan as "the best," and the narrator refers to the plan as "excellent" and "neatly," or efficiently, arranged.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 0093980a

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

ID: 0093980a

In the 1970s, video cameras became increasingly affordable for ordinary consumers and gave Ulysses Jenkins and other artists capabilities that were previously unavailable except to television broadcasters. Jenkins recognized and took full advantage of this _____ access to powerful technology to create groundbreaking works of video art, such as *Mass of Images* (1978).

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

A. newfound

B. delicate

C. inevitable

D. habitual

ID: 0093980a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Ulysses Jenkins's video art. As used in this context, "newfound" means recently discovered or established. The text indicates that in the 1970s, video cameras became cheaper and therefore more widely available than they had been in the past. The text goes on to say that this development provided Jenkins and other artists with capabilities that they previously didn't have. As a result, Jenkins began producing groundbreaking works of video art. This context supports the idea that Jenkins took advantage of newfound access to video cameras.

Choice B is incorrect because "delicate" means fine in texture or structure or easily broken, neither of which would make sense in this context. The text doesn't focus on describing what video art looks like or whether it's breakable. Choice C is incorrect because "inevitable" means impossible to avoid, which wouldn't make sense in this context. The text doesn't discuss the likelihood of artists, or anyone else, gaining access to video cameras. Choice D is incorrect because "habitual" means doing something regularly or repeatedly. Although the text does suggest that Jenkins created multiple pieces of video art, its focus is on the fact that video cameras had only just become widely available to artists in the 1970s. Jenkins's ability to take advantage of video cameras to make art was therefore newfound, not habitual, at the time.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID aae4c8ef

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

ID: aae4c8ef

During film's early years, those who worked in the industry had a vested interest in convincing the public to embrace the new medium. As Sumiko Higashi argues, some filmmakers relied on film critics to influence the public's _____ the world of cinema. Critics who drew similarities between film and traditional art forms, like drama, could help legitimize film as an art form.

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

A. reproduction of

B. contribution to

C. application to

D. perception of

ID: aae4c8ef Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of the early years of film. In this context, "perception of" means understanding of or view of. The text states that people in the film industry had a personal stake ("a vested interest") in getting the public to embrace film when the medium was new and indicates that some film critics helped legitimize film as an art form—that is, that they helped to make film something people accepted as a type of art. This context conveys that it was the critics' ability to influence the public's view of the world of cinema that some early filmmakers relied on.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, "reproduction of" would refer to a copy of something or the act of copying something, and it wouldn't make sense to describe the general public as reproducing the world of cinema, or copying film as an entire art form. Choice B is incorrect. In this context, "contribution to" would refer to playing a significant part in causing something to happen. Although the text indicates that people in the early film industry had reasons to want the public to embrace film, it wouldn't make sense to suggest that filmmakers relied on film critics to influence how the public contributed to the world of cinema; the text focuses on the public's view of film once the world of cinema existed (embracing it, regarding it as legitimate art) and doesn't suggest the general public was responsible for the medium's existence. Choice C is incorrect because in this context, "application to" would refer to putting something to direct use, and it wouldn't make sense to say that the general public needed to be used in a practical way in the world of cinema. The text focuses on the importance of the public's view of film when the medium was new but not on the idea that the public needed to be directly involved in film.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID fe7975d7

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

ID: fe7975d7

Novelist Leon Forrest admired William Faulkner's writing style. Forrest's novel *Divine Days* contains a long passage in tribute to Faulkner that is a perfect _____ of Faulkner's style: anyone familiar with Faulkner's writing would see the resemblance.

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

A. forgetting

B. rejection

C. imitation

D. opinion

ID: fe7975d7 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of novelist Leon Forrest's admiration of William Faulkner's writing style. In this context, "imitation" means something that resembles or reproduces something else. The text states that Forrest admired Faulkner's style and that anyone familiar with Faulkner's style would be able to see the stylistic similarities between a particular passage in Forrest's novel *Divine Days* and Faulkner's writing, a fact that supports the idea that Forrest's novel pays tribute to Faulkner by reproducing, or imitating, Faulkner's style.

Choice A is incorrect because in this context, a "forgetting" would mean an instance in which something is overlooked or not remembered. The text emphasizes Forrest's admiration for Faulkner's style and the fact that Forrest's writing in some instances closely resembles Faulkner's stylistically. It therefore wouldn't make sense to say that in trying to pay tribute to Faulkner's style, Forrest failed to remember it. Choice B is incorrect because in this context, a "rejection" would mean a dismissal of something as unworthy. The text emphasizes Forrest's admiration for Faulkner's writing style, stating that parts of Forrest's writings indicate efforts to copy that style. It wouldn't make sense therefore to suggest that Forrest had rejected or dismissed Faulkner's style as unworthy. Choice D is incorrect because in this context, an "opinion" would mean a view or judgment. Although the text focuses on Forrest's admiration of Faulkner, which suggests that Forrest had formed a positive judgment of Faulkner's style, the word opinion wouldn't make sense in this sentence: the sentence doesn't say that the passage from Forrest's novel expresses his view of Faulkner's style; rather, it suggests that stylistically, the passage closely resembles, or imitates, Faulkner's writing.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 38b05299

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

ID: 38b05299

Whether Carmen Lomas Garza is creating small paintings and illustrations or large public artworks—such as *Baile*, a copper cutout of traditional Mexican dance in the San Francisco International Airport—she is _____ direct experience, drawing from memories of her childhood in Texas or details of her current surroundings in California.

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

A. complimented by

B. uncertain about

C. unbothered by

D. inspired by

ID: 38b05299 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Carmen Lomas Garza's artistic process. In this context, "inspired by" means influenced by or motivated by. The text refers to how, regardless of the scale of the work, Garza uses her memories of Texas and details from California to create her art. If Garza is basing her work on her direct experiences, then they play a part in her artistic process. This context thus suggests that Garza's art is inspired by the experiences of her childhood in Texas and her current life in California.

Choice A is incorrect because it wouldn't make logical sense to indicate that Garza is "complimented by"—or praised by—something inanimate such as direct experience. Choice B is incorrect because describing Garza as "uncertain about"—or unsure or doubtful of—direct experience would suggest that she had misgivings about it. If Garza were unsure of her experiences, that would suggest that she couldn't recall them, and Garza wouldn't be able to represent direct experience in her art if she were uncertain of the memories or details. Choice C is incorrect because describing Garza as "unbothered by"—or uninterested in—her experience would imply the opposite of what the text suggests about Garza's artistic process. The text indicates that Garza's art comes from memories of her childhood in Texas and details of her surroundings in California.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID 430ed0c0

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

ID: 430ed0c0

Researchers have struggled to pinpoint specific causes for hiccups, which happen when a person's diaphragm contracts _____. However, neuroscientist Kimberley Whitehead has found that these uncontrollable contractions may play an important role in helping infants regulate their breathing.

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

A. involuntarily

B. beneficially

C. strenuously

D. smoothly

ID: 430ed0c0 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of diaphragm contractions and hiccups. In this context, "involuntarily" means done without any control, or by reflex. The text explains that when a person's diaphragm repeatedly contracts and results in hiccups (which may be beneficial for infants), those muscle contractions are "uncontrollable." This context indicates that the diaphragm contractions occur without the person's control.

Choice B is incorrect because it wouldn't support the logical relationship established in the text's discussion of diaphragm contractions and hiccups. The text indicates that although specific causes for hiccups haven't been identified, it may be the case that the muscle contractions that occur have an important purpose in infants. It wouldn't make sense to say that even though the contractions occur "beneficially," or with a good or helpful effect, they might play a positive role in infants' breathing regulation. Choice C is incorrect because the text indicates that the diaphragm contractions that result in hiccups are "uncontrollable." Because those muscle contractions are described as happening automatically and without the person's control, it wouldn't make sense to describe them as occurring "strenuously," or in a way that requires great effort or energy. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't describe the quality of the diaphragm contractions that result in hiccups beyond stating that they are "uncontrollable." Nothing in the text indicates that those muscle contractions occur "smoothly," or evenly and continuously.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID cd3a509b

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

ID: cd3a509b

As a young photographer in the 1950s, William Klein _____ the conventions of photography by creating images that were high contrast and included blurred and distorted elements—features generally seen as flaws. So unorthodox was Klein's work that he had difficulty finding a publisher for his now-iconic 1956 photo book *Life is Good & Good for You in New York*.

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

A. reviewed

B. defied

C. respected

D. prevented

ID: cd3a509b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. "Defied" means "resisted" or "deliberately disobeyed," which matches the way Klein broke from the conventions of photography in his time by including features that were generally seen as flaws.

Choice A is incorrect. "Reviewed" means "analyzed" or "evaluated," but that doesn't really fit the context here. Klein isn't directly providing any thoughtful examination of the conventions of photography: he's just breaking all the rules. Choice C is incorrect. "Respected" can mean "admired" or "followed" (as in the case of conventions). It's clear that Klein didn't respect conventions, given his use of photographic features that were generally considered "flaws." Choice D is incorrect. "Prevented" means "stopped," and Klein did not stop the conventions—they still existed. Instead, he made images that were seen as "flawed" under those conventions.

Question Difficulty: Medium