

Question ID 219a4af1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 219a4af1

A team of researchers discovered that Matabele ants can identify an infected wound in a member of the colony and then treat the infection by covering the wound with antimicrobial secretions that the ants produce. The team found that the mortality rate for Matabele ants with infected injuries was reduced by 90% with this treatment, and they are hopeful that this discovery could aid in the development of new antibiotics for human use.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It summarizes research findings on Matabele ants and then identifies an area for further research.
- B. It introduces a study of Matabele ants and then explains the research methods used in the study.
- C. It describes unique properties of Matabele ants and then speculates on how those properties evolved.
- D. It identifies an issue concerning Matabele ants and then proposes a solution to address the issue.

Question ID e50852ec

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e50852ec

The following text is from Reyna Grande’s 2012 memoir *The Distance Between Us*. In the text, Grande reflects on a time when she and her older sister Mago were children. A Barbie is a type of doll.

I begged Mago to come play with me. She wasn’t as interested in my Barbie as she had been just two months before, which made me sad because that was the only thing Mago had envied me for. Usually, it was me doing the envying. After I pestered her relentlessly, she finally put her notebook down and came over to me.

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Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text?

- A. It indicates Grande’s unhappiness over Mago’s disinterest in Grande’s doll.
- B. It expresses Grande’s anger over Mago’s refusal to spend time with her.
- C. It presents an example of how Mago and Grande generally played together as children.
- D. It provides a reason for why Mago is unwilling to play with Grande.

Question ID 203a7c39

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 203a7c39

Animals use many objects as tools to achieve goals more easily. Such goals include grooming, finding food, and protecting themselves. For a long time, people thought tool use was unique to primates. Dolphins and other animals, though, have busted the myth that tool use requires hands. Inventively, dolphins use sponges to protect their noses from scratches when foraging on the seafloor. Palm cockatoos also get creative. They use leaves to pad their beaks when opening nuts.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To question the belief that birds are intelligent
- B. To compare tool use in humans with tool use in palm cockatoos
- C. To establish that tool use doesn't indicate intelligence
- D. To argue that a variety of animals use tools

Question ID e3a42bdf

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e3a42bdf

Following the eradication of the gray wolf in Yellowstone National Park in 1926, the population of elk—a primary prey of the gray wolf—exceeded a healthy size for the park’s ecosystem. Elk overpopulation led to overgrazing of areas that a multitude of other animals relied on for food and shelter. As scientists began to see how essential the gray wolf was to the Yellowstone food chain, ecological restoration strategies were employed to reintroduce the gray wolf to the park in 1996. The rebound effect in the park’s natural ecosystem was noticed almost immediately.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It summarizes a problem that developed in Yellowstone National Park in the 1920s and then offers potential solutions to that problem.
- B. It mentions the elimination of the gray wolf from Yellowstone National Park and then explains why the wolf was eventually restored to the park.
- C. It presents a claim about the health of the Yellowstone National Park gray wolf population and then gives specific examples to support that claim.
- D. It explains why Yellowstone National Park allowed the eradication of the gray wolf and then discusses the consequences of reintroducing the wolf to the park.

Question ID fbc9cfd2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fbc9cfd2

The following text is from Srimati Svarna Kumari Devi’s 1894 novel *The Fatal Garland* (translated by A. Christina Albers in 1910). Shakti is walking near a riverbank that she visited frequently during her childhood.

She crossed the woods she knew so well. The trees seemed to extend their branches like welcoming arms. They greeted her as an old friend. Soon she reached the river-side.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It suggests that Shakti feels uncomfortable near the river.
- B. It indicates that Shakti has lost her sense of direction in the woods.
- C. It emphasizes Shakti’s sense of belonging in the landscape.
- D. It conveys Shakti’s appreciation for her long-term friendships.

Question ID 59de69ca

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 59de69ca

In the early days of television in the 1940s, many people thought that US television programs would rely on the financial support of ad agencies and commercial sponsors, much like radio did. But advertisers hesitated to jump into a new space, particularly at a time when the manufacturing of new television sets was stalled due to the US’s involvement in World War II. Broadcasters, like the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), needed to persuade advertisers to support their programming despite not knowing whether there would be a robust television audience to begin with.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined phrase in the text as a whole?

- A. It compares the beginnings of radio programming with the beginnings of television programming in the United States.
- B. It identifies a specific reason behind some advertisers’ hesitance to support television.
- C. It describes how broadcasters attempted to convince advertisers to support television.
- D. It explains why a type of television programming was popular at the time.

Question ID 425ac6bb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 425ac6bb

Streams and rivers carry soil and rocks from one location to another. But there is another way for these geological materials to move. Scientists call this process “aeolian transport.” In aeolian transport, winds move small particles of soil or rock over potentially great distances. Geologist Melisa Diaz and her team studied dust in Antarctica to find out if it was moved by aeolian transport. They discovered that the dust matched geological material in Australia. Aeolian transport had carried it from one continent to another, across thousands of miles of open ocean.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It presents Melisa Diaz’s remarks about difficulties that her team encountered.
- B. It introduces a scientific term that is used in the discussion that follows.
- C. It emphasizes the surprising nature of the findings that are presented.
- D. It explains the difference between two kinds of geological material.

Question ID 359e639f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 359e639f

Hiroshi Senju is known worldwide for his paintings of waterfalls. These paintings are large and tend not to show the entire waterfall. Instead, Senju focuses on just the point where the falling water reaches the pool below, keeping the top of the waterfall out of view. While Senju’s paintings are rooted in art movements originating in the United States, the artist uses traditional Japanese techniques and materials that make his work instantly recognizable.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It introduces an artist and then explains some common characteristics of well-known paintings by that artist.
- B. It explains a specific painting technique and then provides examples of artists who use the technique.
- C. It describes a famous painting and then compares it to a lesser-known painting from the same time period.
- D. It gives an opinion on an artist and then suggests multiple reasons why the artist’s work has been largely overlooked.

Question ID 10546279

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 10546279

Researchers have found a nearly 164,000-year-old molar from a member of the archaic human species known as Denisovans in a cave in Laos, suggesting that Denisovans lived in a wider range of environments than indicated by earlier evidence. Before the discovery, Denisovans were thought to have lived only at high altitudes in relatively cold climates in what are now Russia and China, but the discovery of the tooth in Laos suggests that they may have lived at low altitudes in relatively warm climates in Southeast Asia as well.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It dismisses as untrue the research presented in the previous sentence.
- B. It defines a term used in the description that follows in the rest of the sentence.
- C. It emphasizes the main goal of the research introduced in the previous sentence.
- D. It provides context that clarifies the significance of the information that follows in the rest of the sentence.

Question ID b49d3ef2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b49d3ef2

Genetic studies have led researchers to suggest that turtles are most closely related to the group that includes modern crocodiles. But studies of fossils have suggested instead that turtles are most closely related to other groups, such as the one that contains modern snakes. However, many of the fossil studies have relied on incomplete data sets. For a 2022 investigation, biologist Tiago R. Simões and colleagues examined more than 1,000 reptile fossils collected worldwide. From this large data set, they found clear agreement with the results of the genetic studies.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It offers an overview of the tools scientists use to examine fossils.
- B. It describes a limitation of some studies about the origin of turtles.
- C. It summarizes previous research on the evolution of crocodiles.
- D. It criticizes a widely held belief about genetic studies of reptiles.

Question ID 6260b469

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6260b469

Using NASA’s powerful James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), Mercedes López-Morales and colleagues measured the wavelengths of light traveling through the atmosphere of WASP-39b, an exoplanet, or planet outside our solar system. Different molecules absorb different wavelengths of light, and the wavelength measurements showed the presence of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in WASP-39b’s atmosphere. This finding not only offers the first decisive evidence of CO₂ in the atmosphere of an exoplanet but also illustrates the potential for future scientific breakthroughs held by the JWST.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It discusses a method used by some researchers, then states why an alternative method is superior to it.
- B. It describes how researchers made a scientific discovery, then explains the importance of that discovery.
- C. It outlines the steps taken in a scientific study, then presents a hypothesis based on that study.
- D. It examines how a group of scientists reached a conclusion, then shows how other scientists have challenged that conclusion.

Question ID 051da3ba

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 051da3ba

Built in the 1970s, Raccoon Mountain is a pumped-storage hydropower facility (a “water-battery”) located in the United States along the Tennessee River. When energy demand is low, excess power from the regional electric utility’s nuclear plants is used to pump water (from a lower reservoir filled from the Tennessee River) up a shaft to the summit lake, where the water is stored as gravitational potential energy. When energy demand peaks, the water drains down from the summit lake, spinning turbines and generating upward of 1,700 megawatts of power—enough to power one million homes for twenty hours.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To point out the differences between two methods of energy generation
 - B. To explain the basics of how a specific energy technology works
 - C. To encourage regional electric utilities to build energy storage facilities
 - D. To discuss the benefits of a new energy technology

Question ID c7556aea

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c7556aea

Many films from the early 1900s have been lost. These losses include several films by the first wave of Black women filmmakers. We know about these lost movies only from small pieces of evidence. For example, an advertisement for Jennie Louise Touissant Welcome’s documentary *Doing Their Bit* still exists. There’s a reference in a magazine to Tressie Souders’s film *A Woman’s Error*. And Maria P. Williams’s *The Flames of Wrath* is mentioned in a letter and a newspaper article, and one image from the movie was discovered in the 1990s.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The text identifies a complex problem, then presents examples of unsuccessful attempts to solve that problem.
- B. The text summarizes a debate among researchers, then gives reasons for supporting one side in that debate.
- C. The text describes a general situation, then illustrates that situation with specific examples.
- D. The text discusses several notable individuals, then explains commonly overlooked differences between those individuals.

Question ID bec1326e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bec1326e

Were penguins always flightless? Theresa Cole and her team argue that penguins could fly at some point, but that they lost that ability more than 60 million years ago as they adapted to marine life. After examining various penguin fossils and genetic information, the researchers concluded that over time penguins developed underwater vision, blood oxygenation, and bone density better suited for swimming than flying. Thus, environmental conditions might have driven penguins to change from flyers to swimmers.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It defines a scientific term used in the sentence that follows.
- B. It contradicts a description in the sentence that follows.
- C. It provides an answer to the question in the previous sentence.
- D. It notes that the question in the previous sentence has not been researched.

Question ID 3d6311a3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3d6311a3

The following text is adapted from Charles Chesnutt’s 1899 short story “Mars Jeems’s Nightmare.” The narrator and his wife have recently moved to the southern United States, and Julius is their carriage driver.

Julius [was] very useful when we moved to our new residence. He had a thorough knowledge of the neighborhood, was familiar with the roads and the watercourses, knew the qualities of the various soils and what they would produce, and where the best hunting and fishing were to be had. He was a marvelous hand in the management of horses and dogs.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare the narrator’s reaction to a new home with his wife’s reaction
- B. To give an example of Julius’s knowledge about soil
- C. To show that the narrator and Julius often hunt and fish together
- D. To explain different ways in which Julius was helpful

Question ID 30423a62

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 30423a62

The following text is from Georgia Douglas Johnson’s 1922 poem “Benediction.”

Go forth, my son,
Winged by my heart’s desire!
Great reaches, yet unknown,
Await
For your possession.
I may not, if I would,
Retrace the way with you,
My pilgrimage is through,
But life is calling you!

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To express hope that a child will have the same accomplishments as his parent did
- B. To suggest that raising a child involves many struggles
- C. To warn a child that he will face many challenges throughout his life
- D. To encourage a child to embrace the experiences life will offer

Question ID 77324174

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 77324174

Jackie Ormes’s *Torchy Brown in Dixie to Harlem* (1937–38) was the first comic strip by a Black woman to appear in a widely read newspaper. The strip tells the story of Torchy, a young woman who leaves Mississippi to become a performer in New York City. Torchy’s story reflects the experience of the Great Migration (1910–1970), when millions of Black Americans left the South in search of opportunities in other parts of the United States. *Torchy Brown* thus shows how Ormes used comics to comment humorously on issues affecting Black Americans, which she continued to do throughout her career.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To show how Ormes’s *Torchy Brown* inspired other Black women to write comic strips in the 1930s
- B. To illustrate how the subjects Ormes addressed in her comic strips changed over the course of her career
- C. To give an example of how Ormes presented the experiences of Black Americans in her comic strips
- D. To claim that several characters in *Torchy Brown* were based on people that Ormes knew personally

Question ID 9ea52bc6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9ea52bc6

Why do sand cats purr but lions roar? Researchers hypothesize that this difference between the two feline species may be partly due to a U-shaped bone in their throats called the hyoid. Sand cats, which are much smaller than lions, have a rigid hyoid that rumbles when the cat’s larynx vibrates, resulting in a purr. By contrast, lions have a somewhat flexible hyoid, and the bone is attached to the skull with a stretchy ligament that sand cats lack. These traits allow lions and most other species of big cats to produce powerful roars. The same traits may also prevent most big cats from purring.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The text presents a theory about two species, then discusses facts that weaken it.
- B. The text compares the habitats of two species, then explains how those habitats are changing.
- C. The text describes a behavior shared by two species, then discusses other behaviors shared by them.
- D. The text poses a question about two species, then presents a possible answer.

Question ID 98fa8721

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 98fa8721

Archaeologists studying the ancient city of Pompeii in Italy recently discovered a well-preserved food shop known as a *thermopolium*. The site contains food remains, artworks, and decorations. These items give researchers a better understanding of what daily life in Pompeii may have been like. For example, the archaeologists found a ceramic jar that they believe likely contained a meat and seafood stew.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare ancient artworks with modern ones
- B. To discuss the political system of Italy
- C. To present a recent archaeological discovery
- D. To describe a region’s climate

Question ID 321ec155

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 321ec155

The following text is adapted from Akwaeke Emezi’s 2019 novel *Pet*. Jam is a teenager who lives with her father, Aloe, and her mother, Bitter, who is a painter.

Bitter finished the painting in the dark morning of a day—it was well past midnight when Jam heard the studio door creak open. She stared into the velvet black of her room and listened to her mother’s footsteps walking in her [mother] and Aloe’s bedroom. There was a weight thrumming through the floorboards in a low song, and that was how Jam knew the painting was done. Bitter’s feet were singing the news.

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Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It indicates that Jam is more interested in music than in art.
- B. It adds to the idea that Bitter’s footsteps reveal something to Jam.
- C. It indicates that Bitter always sings when working on a painting.
- D. It describes Aloe’s reaction upon seeing the painting for the first time.

Question ID a3ab04d5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a3ab04d5

The following text is adapted from Jason Reynolds’s 2016 novel *Ghost*. The narrator, who is in middle school, is at a bus stop.

I just go there [to the bus stop] to look at the people working out. See, the gym across the street has this big window—like the whole wall is a window—and they have those machines that make you feel like you walking up steps and so everybody just be facing the bus stop, looking all crazy like they’re about to pass out. And trust me, there ain’t nothing funnier than that. So I check that out for a little while like it’s some kind of movie: *The About to Pass Out Show*, starring stair-stepper person one through ten.

©2016 by Jason Reynolds

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To give a reason why the narrator is excited to start middle school
- B. To describe an activity that the narrator finds amusing
- C. To explain a problem that the narrator has overcome
- D. To discuss a movie that the narrator saw in a theater

Question ID 3bce724e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3bce724e

Understanding juvenile sea turtles’ migratory patterns is crucial for conservation efforts. While adult sea turtles are well studied, little is known about juveniles during their oceanic stage, when they spend most of their time in the open ocean. To learn about this stage, researchers tagged and released six juvenile green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) into the eastern Caribbean Sea. Their findings revealed that the majority of the turtles passively drifted with ocean currents throughout the region. However, two individuals swam against the currents, possibly in search of foraging grounds off the coast of South America.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe successful conservation efforts for sea turtles
- B. To summarize research on an understudied stage of sea turtle development
- C. To compare the behavior of adult and juvenile sea turtles during migration
- D. To suggest reasons why some juvenile sea turtles swim against the ocean currents

Question ID cdeef089

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: cdeef089

The following text is adapted from Charles Dickens’s 1854 novel *Hard Times*. Coketown is a fictional town in England. [Coketown] contained several large streets all very like one another, and many small streets still more like one another, inhabited by people equally like one another, who all went in and out at the same hours, with the same sound upon the same pavements, to do the same work, and to whom every day was the same as yesterday and tomorrow, and every year the counterpart of the last and the next.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To emphasize the uniformity of both the town and the people who live there
- B. To explain the limited work opportunities available to the town’s residents
- C. To reveal how the predictability of the town makes it easy for people lose track of time
- D. To argue that the simplicity of life in the town makes it a pleasant place to live

Question ID 28f22949

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 28f22949

Some bird species don’t raise their own chicks. Instead, adult females lay their eggs in other nests, next to another bird species’ own eggs. Female cuckoos have been seen quickly laying eggs in the nests of other bird species when those birds are out looking for food. After the eggs hatch, the noncuckoo parents will typically raise the cuckoo chicks as if they were their own offspring, even if the cuckoos look very different from the other chicks.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It introduces a physical feature of female cuckoos that is described later in the text.
- B. It describes the appearance of the cuckoo nests mentioned earlier in the text.
- C. It offers a detail about how female cuckoos carry out the behavior discussed in the text.
- D. It explains how other birds react to the female cuckoo behavior discussed in the text.

Question ID f6d04eff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f6d04eff

Jazz tap is a dance form that was first developed in African American communities. Jazz tap was heavily influenced by jazz music, which became widely popular in the United States in the 1920s. Tap dancers were inspired by jazz music’s quick rhythms and by the way jazz musicians would make up melodies as they played. As jazz music continued to develop in the 1930s and 1940s, jazz tap evolved with it. Because of jazz music’s influence, jazz tap quickly developed into a dance form that was very different from earlier kinds of tap dance.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It explains why audiences prefer some kinds of music over others.
- B. It discusses the development of a dance form.
- C. It describes how to play a musical instrument.
- D. It emphasizes the popularity of a famous dancer.

Question ID 9c89acdb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9c89acdb

San Francisco is known for the colorful murals painted on many of its buildings. The densest collection of murals is found on Balmy Alley in the Mission District neighborhood. In the 1970s, Latina artists painted vivid scenes of community life on walls along this block. As the original murals have faded, later generations of artists have painted new ones over them. As a result, Balmy Alley has become a living showcase of San Francisco’s artistic spirit, with its murals reflecting changes in the cultural life of the city.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To compare the Balmy Alley murals to other murals in San Francisco
- B. To offer an overview of the history and importance of the Balmy Alley murals
- C. To urge people to protect the murals of San Francisco from decay
- D. To describe the rise of mural painting in San Francisco beginning in the 1970s

Question ID af0752b0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: af0752b0

Oral histories—whether they consist of interviews or recordings of songs and stories—can offer researchers a rich view of people’s everyday experiences. For her book about coal mining communities in Kentucky during the twentieth century, Karida Brown therefore relied in part on interviews with coal miners and their families. By doing so, she gained valuable insights into her subjects’ day-to-day lives.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It provides a little-known geographical fact about Kentucky.
- B. It argues that Karida Brown is an expert on United States politics.
- C. It presents a major historical event that took place in the twentieth century.
- D. It describes how Karida Brown benefited from incorporating oral history in her book.

Question ID 0c7cd365

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0c7cd365

The following text is adapted from George Bernard Shaw’s 1912 play *Pygmalion*. Henry Higgins has just arrived at the house of his mother (Mrs. Higgins). She is expecting her friends to visit soon.

MRS. HIGGINS: I’m serious, Henry. You offend all my friends: they stop coming whenever they meet you.

HIGGINS: Nonsense! I know I have no small talk; but people don’t mind.

MRS. HIGGINS: Oh! don’t they? Small talk indeed! What about your large talk? Really, dear, you mustn’t stay.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe what Henry’s mother does when she goes out with her friends
- B. To show that Henry’s mother wants him to leave
- C. To present a detailed account of what Henry’s home looks like
- D. To explain why Henry often visits his mother

Question ID 4ff963a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4ff963a5

The following text is from Ameen Rihani’s 1921 poem “The Wanderer.”

I wander among the hills of alien lands
Where Nature her prerogative resigns
To Man; where Comfort in her shack reclines
And all the arts and sciences commands.
But in my soul
The eastern billows roll—
I hear the voices of my native strands.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined lines in the text as a whole?

- A. It establishes that the speaker’s enthusiasm about current travels conflicts with the growing urge to return home.
- B. It illustrates the speaker’s uncertainty about maintaining strong links with relatives in distant places.
- C. It conveys the speaker’s sense of feeling a pull toward home while traveling in an unfamiliar place.
- D. It reveals that upon returning after an extended absence, the speaker longs for the way a location once felt.

Question ID 1c471abc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1c471abc

The following text is adapted from Jean Webster’s 1912 novel *Daddy-Long-Legs*. The narrator is a young college student writing letters detailing her weekly experiences.

[The college is] organizing the Freshman basket-ball team and there’s just a chance that I shall make it. I’m little of course, but terribly quick and wiry and tough. While the others are hopping about in the air, I can dodge under their feet and grab the ball.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To compare basketball with other sports
 - B. To provide details of how to play basketball
 - C. To state how players will be chosen for the basketball team
 - D. To explain why the narrator thinks she might make the basketball team

Question ID 6ac06e61

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6ac06e61

Companies are providing consumers with more opportunities to purchase customized products than ever before. Whether buying customized sneakers, jewelry, or clothing, consumers can participate in the design of products to meet their specific needs and tastes. In turn, companies profit too: studies have shown that consumers are willing to pay more and wait longer for a customized product. Still, it can be difficult for companies to offer customization while keeping costs low, as the standard methods of mass production may not be able to accommodate making a unique product each time.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It discusses several recent innovations in product manufacturing and then suggests some potential applications of those innovations.
- B. It describes a company’s recent success with new products and then explains multiple factors that may have contributed to that success.
- C. It introduces a trend in consumer products and then explains how the trend both benefits and poses a challenge to companies.
- D. It presents two contrasting product-marketing techniques and then provides examples of one of those techniques.

Question ID 9696008b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9696008b

In the past, historians who wanted to examine Frederick Douglass’s diary and other personal papers had to visit the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, to view them on microfilm (film containing scaled-down reproductions of documents). But traveling to the library often added time and costs to research projects. Now, by going to the library’s website, researchers can access digitized versions of Douglass’s papers without physically going anywhere.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It gives information about a famous person.
- B. It explains the meaning of a word.
- C. It describes a debate among historians.
- D. It summarizes an unexpected finding.

Question ID 0f5535c2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0f5535c2

The following text is adapted from Cynthia Kadohata’s 2004 novel *Kira-Kira*.

[Uncle Katsuhisa] was as loud as my father was quiet. Even when he wasn’t talking, he made a lot of noise, clearing his throat and sniffing and tapping his fingers.

©2004 by Cynthia Kadohata

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It lists the kinds of topics Uncle Katsuhisa enjoys discussing.
- B. It suggests that Uncle Katsuhisa dislikes meeting new people.
- C. It contrasts Uncle Katsuhisa with the narrator’s father.
- D. It describes a conversation between the narrator and the narrator’s father.

Question ID 381e6b39

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 381e6b39

The following text is adapted from Louisa May Alcott’s 1869 novel *An Old-Fashioned Girl*. Polly, a teenager, is visiting her friend Fanny.

Fanny’s friends did not interest Polly much; she was rather afraid of them [because] they seemed so much older and wiser than herself, even those younger in years. They talked about things of which she knew nothing and when Fanny tried to explain, she didn’t find them interesting; indeed, some of them rather shocked and puzzled her.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To portray Polly’s reaction to Fanny’s friends
- B. To identify the topics Polly talks about with Fanny’s friends
- C. To explain how Fanny met some of her friends
- D. To illustrate how Fanny’s friends feel about Polly

Question ID 7c1d25bb

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7c1d25bb

The following text is adapted from Oscar Wilde’s 1897 nonfiction work *De Profundis*.

People whose desire is solely for self-realisation never know where they are going. They can’t know. In one sense of the word it is of course necessary to know oneself: that is the first achievement of knowledge. But to recognise that the soul of a man is unknowable, is the ultimate achievement of wisdom. The final mystery is oneself. When one has weighed the sun in the balance, and measured the steps of the moon, and mapped out the seven heavens star by star, there still remains oneself. Who can calculate the orbit of his own soul?

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole?

- A. It reinforces the text’s skepticism about the possibility of truly achieving self-knowledge.
- B. It speculates that some readers will share the doubts expressed in the text about the value of self-knowledge.
- C. It cautions readers that the text’s directions for how to achieve self-knowledge are hard to follow.
- D. It concedes that the definition of self-knowledge advanced in the text is unpopular.

Question ID d150b2a6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d150b2a6

Catherine L. Cardelús is a researcher who studies canopy soil. Canopy soil is formed in a tree’s branches (its canopy) when dead leaves and other falling things collect. This material breaks down, becoming canopy soil. Canopy soil helps preserve a healthy water cycle (how water moves through the environment) in rainforests. This benefit is one reason Cardelús is interested in the canopy soils in large choibá trees in rainforests in Costa Rica.

Which choice best describes the text’s overall structure?

- A. It explains a disagreement between researchers and how it was resolved.
- B. It presents an idea and mentions a researcher who disagrees with that idea.
- C. It compares the sizes of two types of trees over several years.
- D. It introduces a researcher and gives information about what she researches.

Question ID 6f2c83bc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6f2c83bc

In 1801, a Blackfoot chief named Ac Ko Mok Ki drew a finely detailed map of the Upper Missouri region. This work demonstrates a vast amount of topographic knowledge, as the map features specific names of mountains and rivers, as well as the first-known sketch of the drainage network of the Missouri River. The map is especially notable because Ac Ko Mok Ki also included details about the numerous tribes that lived in the area.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It emphasizes Ac Ko Mok Ki’s desire to represent other tribes on the map.
- B. It explains how Ac Ko Mok Ki developed an interest in mapmaking.
- C. It identifies some reasons why the map is impressive.
- D. It details how the map was used for hunting and trading purposes.

Question ID c96c862f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c96c862f

In 2007, computer scientist Luis von Ahn was working on converting printed books into a digital format. He found that some words were distorted enough that digital scanners couldn’t recognize them, but most humans could easily read them. Based on that finding, von Ahn invented a simple security test to keep automated “bots” out of websites. The first version of the reCAPTCHA test asked users to type one known word and one of the many words scanners couldn’t recognize. Correct answers proved the users were humans and added data to the book-digitizing project.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To discuss von Ahn’s invention of reCAPTCHA
- B. To explain how digital scanners work
- C. To call attention to von Ahn’s book-digitizing project
- D. To indicate how popular reCAPTCHA is

Question ID 90cb3be6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 90cb3be6

In the 1950s, scientists didn’t know much about the ocean floor. Many scientists at the time believed that the ocean floor was mostly flat. But geologist Marie Tharp and her research partner, Bruce Heezen, proved that this idea was wrong. Using sonar data collected from the Atlantic Ocean, Tharp and Heezen showed that the floor was filled with canyons, mountains, and valleys.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It identifies a scientific belief that Tharp and Heezen showed to be wrong.
- B. It describes the design of Tharp and Heezen’s experiment.
- C. It emphasizes a disagreement between Tharp and Heezen.
- D. It presents data to support a claim that Tharp and Heezen made.

Question ID 4684bcc4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4684bcc4

Historians Tiya Miles and Roy E. Finkenbine have both documented the assistance Indigenous peoples gave to Black freedom seekers leaving the South before the US Civil War. Much of the historical evidence of this help comes from Indigenous oral traditions and from autobiographies written by the freedom seekers. One such narrative is Jermain Loguen’s autobiography, which tells about how Neshnabé (Potawatomi) villagers offered him food, lodging, and directions during his 1835 journey from Tennessee to Canada.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. It provides an example of an autobiography that describes help given by an Indigenous people to a Black freedom seeker.
- B. It shows why Loguen decided to write in great detail about his experiences traveling from Tennessee to Canada in his autobiography.
- C. It argues that autobiographies are particularly important sources of information about geography in the United States before the Civil War.
- D. It suggests that most historians believe that Neshnabé villagers were more successful in assisting freedom seekers than other people were.

Question ID 0e6aaac4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0e6aaac4

The following text is from Bram Stoker’s 1911 novel *The Lair of the White Worm*. Adam is meeting his great-uncle Richard at a port.

The meeting so auspiciously begun proceeded well. Adam, seeing that the old man was interested in the novelty of the ship, suggested that he should stay the night on board, and that he would himself be ready to start at any hour and go anywhere that the other suggested. This affectionate willingness to fall in with his own plans quite won the old man’s heart. He warmly accepted the invitation, and at once they became not only on terms of affectionate relationship, but almost like old friends.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It states the reasons why Adam and his great-uncle Richard decide to sleep on the ship rather than finding lodging on land.
- B. It showcases how Adam’s flexibility and consideration strengthen his relationship with his great-uncle Richard.
- C. It describes why Adam and his great-uncle Richard are excited for their upcoming journey on the ship.
- D. It contrasts great-uncle Richard’s wary first impressions of Adam with his ultimate affection toward him.

Question ID 457e9af1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 457e9af1

The following text is from Joan Didion’s memoir *The Year of Magical Thinking*. In the text, the author discusses her home life.

[I]n California we heated our houses by building fires. We built fires even on summer evenings, because the fog came in. Fires said we were home, we had drawn the circle, we were safe through the night.

©2005 by Joan Didion

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It illustrates that a fire provides comfort beyond physical warmth.
- B. It summarizes the information that came before it in the text.
- C. It explains that the house remains cold even in summer.
- D. It suggests that the author feels comfortable in her home with or without a fire.

Question ID a38da03e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a38da03e

In 1973, poet Miguel Algarín started inviting other writers who, like him, were Nuyorican—a term for New Yorkers of Puerto Rican heritage—to gather in his apartment to present their work. The gatherings were so well attended that Algarín soon had to rent space in a cafe to accommodate them. Thus, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe was born. Moving to a permanent location in 1981, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe expanded its original scope beyond the written word, hosting art exhibitions and musical performances as well. Half a century since its inception, it continues to foster emerging Nuyorican talent.

Which choice best describes the overall purpose of the text?

- A. To explain what motivated Algarín to found the Nuyorican Poets Cafe
- B. To situate the Nuyorican Poets Cafe within the cultural life of New York as a whole
- C. To discuss why the Nuyorican Poets Cafe expanded its scope to include art and music
- D. To provide an overview of the founding and mission of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe

Question ID a24efb5b

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a24efb5b

Wakako Yamauchi is best known for *And the Soul Shall Dance*, her 1977 play about a Japanese American family in Southern California. The play is based on a short story Yamauchi had published three years earlier. Adapting the story wasn't easy. Theater relies on dialogue between characters, but the original story features little dialogue and instead describes its characters' silent thoughts. To transform the story into a play, Yamauchi created situations where characters reveal their thoughts by speaking them aloud during conversations with each other.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It offers information about how Yamauchi adapted her short story into a play.
- B. It argues that Yamauchi's play influenced later playwrights.
- C. It explains why Yamauchi's short story is better known than the play adaptation is.
- D. It describes how Yamauchi chose the actors who performed in the play.

Question ID f802f45c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f802f45c

Ordinary soap bubbles usually exist for a minute or less before popping due to either a rupture forced by gravity-induced drainage or the evaporation of the liquid from which the bubble is composed. But physicist Aymeric Roux and colleagues discovered ways to mitigate these factors, resulting in bubbles that can last for a year or more. For example, glycerol tends to adhere to water molecules, so a bubble with a shell that contains both water and glycerol is able to draw additional water molecules from the surrounding air and thereby compensate for evaporation.

Which choice best states the purpose of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A. It describes the effects of a process devised by researchers that increases the longevity of an object discussed in the text.
- B. It details the circumstances that prompted the research discussed in the text.
- C. It presents a reason why the phenomenon discussed in the text that the researchers wanted to avoid will inevitably occur.
- D. It mentions a method discussed in the text that researchers intend to test in future experiments.

Question ID 184d73d1

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 184d73d1

The following text is from Louise Erdrich’s 1986 novel *The Beet Queen*. The narrator discusses her relationship with her young niece, Dot. Celestine, the narrator’s sister-in-law, is Dot’s mother.

Dot was as impatient with babyhood as I. She tried at once to grow out of it. Celestine never saw that, because she, and only she, took pleasure in Dot’s helpless softness. Only Celestine was saddened by her daughter’s fierce progress. Day by day, Dot grew stronger. In her shopping-cart stroller she exercised to exhaustion, bouncing for hours to develop her leg muscles.

©1986 by Louise Erdrich

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A. It offers a detail that shows how Dot is growing stronger.
- B. It expresses hope that Celestine will mature psychologically.
- C. It explores some of the narrator’s psychological characteristics.
- D. It indicates how sad Celestine is by describing a behavior she engages in.

Question ID 2bada265

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2bada265

The majority of plastics today wind up in landfills or are, at best, recycled into materials that have a very limited range of applications. To address this problem, chemist Guoliang Liu and colleagues designed a reactor that melts polyethylene and polypropylene—two widely used plastics—into a wax. The wax can then be transformed into a surfactant (a chemical compound usable as a detergent). With this promising new method, plastic waste could be turned into a range of useful cleaning products.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined portion of the text?

- A. It clarifies the meaning of a scientific term.
- B. It describes an environmental concern.
- C. It explains the significance of a scientific discovery.
- D. It identifies a result that confused the team.

Question ID 197e1e76

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
PSAT 8/9	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Text Structure and Purpose	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 197e1e76

In most building demolitions, the building materials are destroyed and sent to landfills. City officials in Portland, Oregon, wanted to reduce this waste. The officials passed a law requiring demolition companies to deconstruct some buildings instead. Deconstruction involves carefully taking buildings apart piece by piece. Damage to the materials is avoided so that they can be reused in new constructions. A 2019 study found that 27 percent of materials from deconstructions in Portland were able to be reused. The remaining materials were processed for recycling instead of going to a landfill.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To explain an effort made by the city of Portland to reduce demolition waste and some results of that effort
- B. To show that popular support for measures that reduce demolition waste has increased since 2019
- C. To argue that building deconstruction is not as effective as other measures at reducing demolition waste
- D. To discuss laws aimed to reduce demolition waste in Portland and compare them to similar laws in other cities