

Question ID dce4ff99

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: dce4ff99

The people of medieval Europe have traditionally been seen as uninterested in cleanliness and hygiene, but modern research has shown that this is largely a myth. According to historian Eleanor Janega, most medieval towns in Europe had at least one public bathhouse, which often offered both full-immersion baths and—more affordably—steam baths. While such amenities were available mainly to town dwellers, regular bathing in rivers and streams or daily sponge baths at home were common practices throughout medieval Europe.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion?

- A. It asserts that in medieval Europe steam baths were more popular in rural areas than in urban ones.
- B. It describes a limitation of earlier historians’ studies of medieval European bathing habits.
- C. It concedes that not all people in medieval Europe had access to public bathhouses.
- D. It explains why Janega decided to study the popularity of public bathhouses in medieval Europe.

ID: dce4ff99 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most effectively describes the function of the underlined portion. The text discusses the long-standing misconception that people in medieval Europe were uninterested in cleanliness and hygiene. As evidence that this idea is false, the text cites historian Eleanor Janega’s assertion that in medieval Europe, towns usually had at least one bathhouse, where people could take immersion baths or steam baths for a fee. The underlined portion then notes that mainly town dwellers had access to these bathhouses. The remainder of the text explains that those who lacked such access were nonetheless able to bathe in outdoor waterways or take sponge baths at home. Therefore, the underlined portion concedes that some people in medieval Europe lacked access to public bathhouses.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined portion establishes that amenities such as steam baths were mainly available to town dwellers, which suggests in turn that steam baths were largely unavailable to people in rural areas. Thus, the distinction made by the underlined portion is not between the popularity of steam baths in towns versus their lack of popularity in rural areas but instead between their presence in towns and absence in rural areas. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text does explain that recent historians have disproved the idea that medieval Europeans rarely bathed, it doesn’t attribute that misconception to earlier historians of medieval Europe or suggest that their research was subject to limitations. Moreover, the underlined portion addresses a limitation of life in medieval Europe, not of historical research. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn’t address why historian Eleanor Janega decided to study the popularity of public bathhouses in medieval Europe—nor does any portion of the text. The text mentions Janega in passing, but it doesn’t go into detail about why she decided to study the popularity of public bathhouses in medieval Europe.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8c1987a2

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: 8c1987a2

Industrial activity is often assumed to be a threat to wildlife, but that isn’t always so. Consider the silver-studded blue butterfly (*Plebejus argus*): as forest growth has reduced grasslands in northern Germany, many of these butterflies have left meadow habitats and are now thriving in active limestone quarries. In a survey of multiple active quarries and patches of maintained grassland, an ecologist found silver-studded blue butterflies in 100% of the quarries but only 57% of the grassland patches. Moreover, butterfly populations in the quarries were four times larger than those in the meadows.

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

- A. It challenges a common assumption about the species under investigation in the research referred to in the text.
- B. It introduces discussion of a specific example that supports the general claim made in the previous sentence.
- C. It suggests that a certain species should be included in additional studies like the one mentioned later in the text.
- D. It provides a definition for an unfamiliar term that is central to the main argument in the text.

ID: 8c1987a2 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence presents the general claim that industrial activity is not always a threat to wildlife. The underlined portion of the sentence that follows suggests that the silver-studded blue butterfly is an example of wildlife thriving in areas of industrial activity: active limestone quarries. Thus, the function of the underlined portion is to introduce a specific example in support of the general claim in the previous sentence.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the first sentence indicates that “industrial activity is often assumed” to harm wildlife, in the case of the silver-studded blue butterfly the text mentions neither an assumption about this species nor any challenge to such an assumption. Choice C is incorrect because the text mentions only one study: the “survey.” Additional studies are not mentioned in the text. Choice D is incorrect because neither the underlined portion nor any other portion of the text provides a definition for any of the terms used in the text’s argument.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f8bd8f20

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: f8bd8f20

Historians have argued that a crucial component of the Civil Rights Movement’s success in the 1960s was the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Citizen Education Program (CEP), which invited promising activists from across the South to its one-week training sessions in Dorchester, Georgia. Led by experienced organizers such as Dorothy Cotton and Septima Clark, CEP attendees—more than 7,000 in all—participated in workshops on topics ranging from public speaking to legal doctrine before returning home and using their newly acquired knowledge to spearhead local civil rights initiatives.

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

- A. It underscores the extent of the CEP’s impact on the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.
- B. It illustrates the CEP organizers’ efforts to educate participants on a wide variety of topics.
- C. It suggests that CEP attendees held a diverse array of opinions about the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s political philosophy.
- D. It establishes that criticism of the CEP was limited to a few individuals in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

ID: f8bd8f20 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text states that the CEP had a positive impact on the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. The next sentence explains that the CEP organized workshops for attendees, who later used the knowledge they gained to lead civil rights initiatives. And the underlined portion indicates the number of activists—more than 7,000—who participated in the workshops. Thus, the underlined portion provides a number that underscores the extent of the CEP’s impact on the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the sentence that contains the underlined portion mentions some CEP workshop topics, the underlined portion itself addresses the number of participants in the CEP workshops, not the number of topics covered. Choice C is incorrect. Although the underlined portion refers to attendees of the CEP workshops, nothing in the underlined portion or the text as a whole addresses the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s philosophy or the attendees’ opinions thereof. Choice D is incorrect because neither the underlined portion nor the text as a whole mentions any criticism of the CEP by members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7d1c488c

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: 7d1c488c

The following text is adapted from Susan Glaspell’s 1912 short story “Out There.” An elderly shop owner is looking at a picture that he recently acquired and hopes to sell.

It did seem that the picture failed to fit in with the rest of the shop. A persuasive young fellow who claimed he was closing out his stock let the old man have it for what he called a song. It was only a little out-of-the-way store which subsisted chiefly on the framing of pictures. The old man looked around at his views of the city, his pictures of cats and dogs, his flaming bits of landscape. “Don’t belong in here,” he fumed.

And yet the old man was secretly proud of his acquisition. There was a hidden dignity in his scowling as he shuffled about pondering the least ridiculous place for the picture.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To reveal the shop owner’s conflicted feelings about the new picture
 - B. To convey the shop owner’s resentment of the person he got the new picture from
 - C. To describe the items that the shop owner most highly prizes
 - D. To explain differences between the new picture and other pictures in the shop

ID: 7d1c488c Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text begins by stating that the new picture “failed to fit in” with the other items that the shop owner has. The text goes on to illustrate that point by describing the other pictures the shop owner has, indicating that the shop owner is fuming because he doesn’t think the new picture belongs in the store. In the second paragraph, however, the text indicates that the shop owner is “secretly proud of his acquisition.” The main purpose of the text is thus to reveal the shop owner’s conflicted feelings about the new picture.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that the shop owner resents the young man who sold him the new picture; in fact, the text gives no indication of the owner’s feelings about the young man at all. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text indicates that the new picture is different from the other items in the shop, there’s no suggestion that the shop owner prizes either the new picture or the pictures of the city, pets, and landscapes more than he prizes any other items. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t describe what the new picture looks like; rather, the text identifies some of the other kinds of images that the shop owner has and states that they’re different from the new picture without explaining how they’re different.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID dc2426df

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: dc2426df

Today composer Scott Joplin is mainly celebrated for his catchy ragtime pieces “Maple Leaf Rag” and “The Entertainer.” However, by overlooking his less famous works, listeners will miss the full range of Joplin’s creativity. For instance, his waltz “Pleasant Moments” and his opera *Treemonisha* skillfully blend ragtime and classical music. These masterpieces deserve as much fame as Joplin’s biggest hits.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe the similarities and differences between ragtime music and opera
- B. To argue that more attention should be given to Joplin’s lesser-known works
- C. To encourage music lovers to listen to music by many different composers
- D. To explain how Joplin learned to compose and perform ragtime music

ID: dc2426df Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best states the main purpose of the text, which is to make a case for the importance of Scott Joplin’s less famous works. The text begins by introducing Joplin’s most popular works and then goes on to assert that gaining a full understanding of Joplin’s creativity requires a consideration of his lesser-known pieces as well. The text concludes by characterizing the lesser-known works "Pleasant Moments" and *Treemonisha* as masterpieces that deserve to be famous. These details indicate that the text’s main purpose is to argue that more attention should be given to Joplin’s lesser-known works.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text discusses some of the ragtime music and an opera that Joplin composed, it does not compare the two types of music in general. Instead, the text argues that Joplin’s lesser-known works, including his opera, deserve as much attention as his more famous ragtime pieces receive. Choice C is incorrect because the text discusses only Joplin’s music and does not ask music lovers to listen to a variety of composers. Instead, the text encourages listeners to pay attention to Joplin’s lesser-known works in order to gain a full understanding of his creativity. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not discuss how Joplin learned to compose and perform ragtime music. Instead, the text focuses on Joplin’s less famous works and makes a case for their importance.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c49185b9

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: c49185b9

The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston’s 1921 short story “John Redding Goes to Sea.” John is a child who lives in a town in the woods.

Perhaps ten-year-old John was puzzling to the folk there in the Florida woods for he was an imaginative child and fond of day-dreams. The St. John River flowed a scarce three hundred feet from his back door. On its banks at this point grow numerous palms, luxuriant magnolias and bay trees. On the bosom of the stream float millions of delicately colored hyacinths. [John Redding] loved to wander down to the water’s edge, and, casting in dry twigs, watch them sail away down stream to Jacksonville, the sea, the wide world and [he] wanted to follow them.

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

- A. It provides an extended description of a location that John likes to visit.
- B. It reveals that some residents of John’s town are confused by his behavior.
- C. It illustrates the uniqueness of John’s imagination compared to the imaginations of other children.
- D. It suggests that John longs to experience a larger life outside the Florida woods.

ID: c49185b9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The text establishes that John has a strong imagination and then goes on to describe the St. John River near John’s home in the Florida woods. The underlined sentence depicts John sending twigs sailing down the river while he imagines them reaching “Jacksonville, the sea, the wide world,” where he wishes he could follow. This suggests that John longs to expand his life experiences beyond the Florida woods.

Choice A is incorrect because the second and third sentences of the text provide an extended description of the riverbank where John likes to go, whereas the underlined sentence describes what John does at that location. Choice B is incorrect because the first sentence of the text suggests that John’s behavior “was puzzling” to others around him, whereas the underlined sentence concerns the content of John’s imaginings. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence elaborates on John’s imagination but doesn’t mention any other children to whom John could be compared.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID dfca4e97

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: dfca4e97

The following text is from Lucy Maud Montgomery’s 1908 novel *Anne of Green Gables*. Anne, an eleven-year-old girl, has come to live on a farm with a woman named Marilla in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Anne reveled in the world of color about her.
“Oh, Marilla,” she exclaimed one Saturday morning, coming dancing in with her arms full of gorgeous boughs, “I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn’t it? Look at these maple branches. Don’t they give you a thrill—several thrills? I’m going to decorate my room with them.”
“Messy things,” said Marilla, whose aesthetic sense was not noticeably developed. “You clutter up your room entirely too much with out-of-doors stuff, Anne. Bedrooms were made to sleep in.”

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To demonstrate that Anne has a newly developed appreciation of nature
 - B. To describe an argument that Anne and Marilla often have
 - C. To emphasize Marilla’s disapproval of how Anne has decorated her room
 - D. To show that Anne and Marilla have very different personalities

ID: dfca4e97 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text begins by noting that Anne “reveled in the world of color about her”—that is, she takes great delight in colorful things. It then relates a scene when she enthusiastically enters the house with autumn foliage and announces that she will decorate her room with it. The focus of the text then shifts to Marilla, who has an undeveloped “aesthetic sense,” or appreciation of beauty, as can be seen when she dismisses the maple leaves as “messy things” and criticizes Anne for cluttering her room with objects from outside. This episode thus illustrates that Anne and Marilla differ in their appreciation of beauty and, more generally, in their basic character: Anne is exuberant and joyful, while Marilla is stern and critical. Therefore, the purpose of the text is to show that Anne and Marilla have very different personalities.

Choice A is incorrect because the text presents Anne’s appreciation of nature as a basic personality trait, not as a newfound enthusiasm, and never indicates how recently she developed that appreciation. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text portrays Anne and Marilla as having different personalities and attitudes toward natural beauty and home decoration, it doesn’t show them engaging in an argument about this difference or suggest that they often argue about it. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text does indicate that Marilla disapproves of how Anne plans to decorate her room, Marilla’s disapproval is a supporting detail that serves to develop her personality, which the text as a whole contrasts with Anne’s personality.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID fe9111d0

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: fe9111d0

A study by Dr. Paul Hanel and colleagues concluded that people are more likely to behave politely when listening to ideas they disagree with if they think about values before they engage in a discussion. Study participants were assigned to one of two groups. The experimental group spent a few minutes writing about one of their personal values before they had a group discussion on a controversial topic. And the control group spent a few minutes writing about a drink (tea, milk, etc.) before their group discussion on that topic. Hanel and colleagues found that the experimental group’s discussion was more civil than the control group’s discussion was.

Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. To describe a widely held belief and how a study’s results support that belief
- B. To argue that researchers were surprised by the results of a certain study
- C. To suggest ways to improve a certain study’s experimental design
- D. To explain a study’s conclusion and how a research team arrived at that conclusion

ID: fe9111d0 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to explain a study’s conclusion and how researchers involved in the study arrived at that conclusion. The text begins by summarizing the main conclusion of the study conducted by Paul Hanel and colleagues: when confronted with ideas they disagree with in discussions about controversial topics, people are more likely to respond politely if they think about their personal values before engaging in such discussions. The text then goes on to describe the design of Hanel and colleagues’ experiment. By comparing interactions between members of an experimental group (who had been prompted to write about their personal values beforehand) to those between members of a control group (who had been prompted to write about a beverage), the team found that people in the experimental group behaved more civilly, or politely, than people in the control group did during discussions about a controversial topic. This finding led to the conclusion described at the beginning of the text.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text discusses the results of a study, it doesn’t provide any indication that the conclusion the study supported—that when facing disagreement, people behave more politely when they have thought about their values—is a belief that is widely held. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the researchers found the results of their study to be surprising, or contrary to what they expected. In fact, there’s no indication provided in the text about how the researchers felt about the study’s results or that the results should be considered surprising. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text discusses the experimental design of a study, it doesn’t suggest any improvements to that design; instead, it focuses on how the design enabled the researchers to draw a particular conclusion.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ebeb11f8

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: ebeb11f8

Chile’s Atacama Desert is one of the driest places on Earth. Mary Beth Wilhelm and other astrobiologists search for life, or its remains, in this harsh place because the desert closely mirrors the extreme environment on Mars. The algae and bacteria found in Atacama’s driest regions may offer clues about Martian life. By studying how these and other microorganisms survive such extreme conditions on Earth, Wilhelm’s team hopes to determine whether similar life might have existed on Mars and to develop the best tools to look for evidence of it.

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

- A. To contrast the conditions in the Atacama Desert with those on Mars
- B. To explain why many life-forms cannot survive in the Atacama Desert
- C. To indicate why astrobiologists choose to conduct research in the Atacama Desert
- D. To describe certain limitations to conducting scientific study in the Atacama Desert

ID: ebeb11f8 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence describes a unique location on Earth, the Atacama Desert. The next sentence, which is the underlined sentence, states that the reason why astrobiologists study life, or its remains, in this unique location is that Atacama is a harsh environment that closely resembles the extreme environment of Mars. The remainder of the text explains that the researchers hope their work in Atacama will support inquiry into life on Mars. Thus, the underlined portion functions mainly to indicate why astrobiologists choose to conduct research in the Atacama Desert.

Choice A is incorrect because to contrast two things means to show the differences between them, and the phrase "closely mirrors" in the underlined sentence indicates that the extreme environment in the Atacama Desert is similar to, not different from, that on Mars. This similarity is why, according to the underlined sentence, astrobiologists conduct research in Atacama. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn’t address forms of life that are unable to survive the harsh environment of the Atacama Desert. Instead, the underlined sentence explains why astrobiologists study life, or its remains, in this environment. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn’t suggest that the scientific research in the Atacama Desert is limited in any way; instead, the sentence explains that the similarity between the environments of Atacama and Mars is the reason why astrobiologists search for life, or its remains, in Atacama.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 01c2bbd4

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: 01c2bbd4

For his 1986 album *Keyboard Fantasies*, Beverly Glenn-Copeland wrote songs grounded in traditional soul and folk music, then accompanied them with futuristic synthesizer arrangements featuring ambient sounds and complex rhythms. The result was so strange, so unprecedented, that the album attracted little attention when first released. In recent years, however, a younger generation of musicians has embraced the stylistic experimentation of *Keyboard Fantasies*. Alternative R&B musicians Blood Orange and Moses Sumney, among other contemporary recording artists, cite the album as an influence.

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

- A. It urges contemporary musicians to adopt the unique sound of *Keyboard Fantasies*.
- B. It responds to criticism of *Keyboard Fantasies* by some younger musicians.
- C. It offers examples of younger musicians whose work has been impacted by *Keyboard Fantasies*.
- D. It contrasts *Keyboard Fantasies* with the recordings of two younger musicians.

ID: 01c2bbd4 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole. The text’s subject is Beverly Glenn-Copeland’s 1986 album *Keyboard Fantasies*, notable for its innovative, experimental arrangements. According to the text, the album was not initially admired, but in recent years it has become popular among younger musicians. The underlined portion of the text mentions two of those musicians, Blood Orange and Moses Sumney, who “cite the album as an influence.” Therefore, the underlined portion of the text offers examples of younger musicians whose work has been impacted by *Keyboard Fantasies*.

Choice A is incorrect because even though the underlined sentence states that Blood Orange and Moses Sumney were influenced by *Keyboard Fantasies*, it doesn’t say that all other musicians should also embrace the album’s experimental style. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that *Keyboard Fantasies* was not admired on its first release, the text doesn’t present any criticism of the album by younger musicians: it only presents two younger musicians who cite it as an influence. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn’t mention any differences between *Keyboard Fantasies* and the work of Blood Orange and Moses Sumney.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0df72554

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: 0df72554

By combining Indigenous and classical music, Cree composer and cellist Cris Derksen creates works that reflect the diverse cultural landscape of Canada. For her album *Orchestral Powwow*, Derksen composed new songs in the style of traditional powwow music that were accompanied by classical arrangements played by an orchestra. But where an orchestra would normally follow the directions of a conductor, the musicians on *Orchestral Powwow* are led by the beat of a powwow drum.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To examine how Derksen’s musical compositions blend cultures
- B. To argue that Derksen should be recognized for creating a new style of music
- C. To describe the difficulties Derksen encountered when producing her album
- D. To establish a contrast between Derksen’s classical training and her Cree heritage

ID: 0df72554 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to discuss how Derksen’s compositions incorporate elements from both Indigenous and classical music. After introducing Derksen, the text describes how the songs Derksen composed for her album *Orchestral Powwow* feature aspects of the two musical traditions. Specifically, the text notes that Derksen wrote songs in the style of traditional powwow music but accompanied them with classical arrangements played by an orchestra that followed the beat of a powwow drum rather than the directions of a conductor. In this way, Derksen’s compositions blend different cultures.

Choice B is incorrect because although the text suggests that Derksen’s songs contain innovative elements since they blend styles from two different musical traditions, it doesn’t discuss whether her compositions constitute a new style of music, let alone whether Derksen should be recognized for creating a new style of music. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention any difficulties Derksen encountered when producing her album. Rather, the text describes how the songs on the album exemplify how Derksen combines music from two different cultures. Choice D is incorrect because although the text mentions Derksen’s Cree heritage and suggests that she relies on knowledge of both Indigenous and classical music when she composes her songs, it doesn’t discuss her musical training. Additionally, the text is primarily focused on how Derksen combines different cultural traditions, not on contrasting Derksen’s training with her heritage.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID bbac1dbd

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: bbac1dbd

The following text is from H.D.'s 1916 poem "Mid-Day." In the poem, the speaker is on a path in an outdoor setting.

A slight wind shakes the seed-pods—
my thoughts are spent
as the black seeds.
My thoughts tear me,
I dread their fever.
I am scattered in its whirl.
I am scattered like
the hot shrivelled seeds.

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

- A. It illustrates a change in the natural environment that the speaker implies is responsible for the growing misgivings described in the text.
- B. It establishes an example of consistency in the natural landscape that the speaker then contrasts with the unpredictability of human emotions.
- C. It presents an observation of an occurrence in the natural world that the speaker then expands on to convey a sense of a turbulent interior state.
- D. It evokes the ordinariness of an event in nature to suggest that the critical self-evaluation the speaker engages in is a common pursuit.

ID: bbac1dbd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. In the text, the speaker mentions the occurrence in nature of seedpods being shaken by a slight wind. The speaker then goes on to compare the black seeds to thoughts, using language that indicates that the speaker's state of mind is unsettled (e.g., "my thoughts are spent"; "My thoughts tear me, I dread their fever"). The text concludes with a comparison between the speaker's "scattered" state of mind and the "hot shrivelled seeds." Thus, the underlined portion of the text presents an observation of an occurrence in the natural world that the speaker then expands on to convey a sense of a turbulent interior state.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not indicate that the seedpods are the cause of the speaker's state of mind; thus, they could not be responsible for any misgivings the speaker has. Choice B is incorrect because the text does not contrast the natural landscape with the speaker's state of mind or describe the wind shaking the seedpods as consistent; rather, the text suggests that the state of the natural world and the speaker's state of mind are similar in that both are unsettled. Choice D is incorrect because

there is no indication in the text that the speaker regularly engages in critical self-evaluation, only that in this particular instance the speaker's state of mind is turbulent.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 32afead8

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: 32afead8

In the *Here and Now Storybook* (1921), educator Lucy Sprague Mitchell advanced the then controversial idea that books for very young children should imitate how they use language, since toddlers, who cannot yet grasp narrative or abstract ideas, seek reassurance in verbal repetition and naming. The most enduring example of this idea is Margaret Wise Brown’s 1947 picture book *Goodnight Moon*, in which a young rabbit names the objects in his room as he drifts off to sleep. Scholars note that the book’s emphasis on repetition, rhythm, and nonsense rhyme speaks directly to Mitchell’s influence.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The text outlines a debate between two authors of children’s literature and then traces how that debate shaped theories on early childhood education.
- B. The text summarizes an argument about how children’s literature should be evaluated and then discusses a contrasting view on that subject.
- C. The text lists the literary characteristics that are common to many classics of children’s literature and then indicates the narrative subjects that are most appropriate for young children.
- D. The text presents a philosophy about what material is most suitable for children’s literature and then describes a book influenced by that philosophy.

ID: 32afead8 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text starts by introducing Mitchell’s philosophy about using simple, repetitive language in books for young children. Then it describes a book influenced by that philosophy, *Goodnight Moon*.

Choice A is incorrect. Although two authors are mentioned in the text, they both agree about the type of language that should be contained in books for young children. Choice B is incorrect. The text never discusses the evaluation of children’s literature. It does provide one view of how children’s books should be written, but never introduces a competing view. Choice C is incorrect. The text doesn’t mention “many classics of children’s literature.” Instead, it describes an educational theory and identifies one example of a famous children’s book that was influenced by that theory.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d78da2b3

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: d78da2b3

Individual elephants and Arctic herbivores such as caribou tend to have fixed geographic ranges throughout their lifetimes, which had prompted some researchers to speculate that the Arctic woolly mammoth, an extinct elephantid, might have exhibited similar behavior. Mammoth tusks grew in sequential layers, incorporating ingested minerals and organics, and so each ivory stratum reflects the ratio of strontium isotopes ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$) in the local environment; thus, the sequence of strata shows where the animal roamed during life. Recent analysis of the strontium ratios in the strata of one Arctic woolly mammoth tusk in relation to the geographic distribution of strontium ratios in the environment shows the animal's range begin to expand as it reached sexual maturity, only to contract again in its final 1.5 years.

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

- A. It discusses a characteristic shared by certain animals in order to explain why researchers raised a possibility that turned out not to be supported by data described later in the text.
- B. It illustrates a pattern of behavior among certain animals in order to present a theory about exceptions to that pattern that is weakened by a finding described later in the text.
- C. It describes a similarity in the behavior of certain animals in order to show why a method described later in the text did not reveal whether another animal also showed that behavior.
- D. It introduces a trait shared by certain animals in order to contextualize a hypothesis about the origin of that trait that is advanced later in the text.

ID: d78da2b3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined statement functions in the text as a whole. The underlined statement mentions a category of animals that have a feature in common: they tend to have fixed geographic ranges throughout their lifetimes. The text then presents the speculation of some researchers that the Arctic woolly mammoth might also share this characteristic. However, an examination of the content of strontium in the strata (or layers) of a woolly mammoth tusk indicated that contrary to the researchers' hypothesis, the mammoth had an expanding range in its environment that contracted in its last 1.5 years of life. Thus, the underlined statement discusses a characteristic shared by certain animals in order to explain why researchers raised a possibility that turned out not to be supported by data described later in the text.

Choice B is incorrect. Though the underlined statement presents a pattern of behavior (the habit of certain animals of staying within a fixed geographic range), the rest of the text does not present a theory of exceptions to that pattern; rather, the researchers are merely concerned with whether one particular animal has behavior consistent with the pattern. Choice C is incorrect. Though the underlined statement does describe a similarity in the behavior of certain animals (their tendency to stay within a fixed geographic range), this is not done in order to show why a method described later in the text failed to show whether another animal showed that behavior; rather, the method of analysis of strata of a woolly mammoth tusk showed that the mammoth's

behavior was different from that of the animals mentioned in the underlined statement. Choice D is incorrect. Though the underlined statement mentions a trait shared by a number of animals (their fixed geographic range), the rest of the text does not present a hypothesis regarding the origin of that trait; rather, the researchers are concerned with whether another particular animal shares that trait.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e8201a7b

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: e8201a7b

The following text is adapted from Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto’s 1925 memoir *A Daughter of the Samurai*. As a young woman, Sugimoto moved from feudal Japan to the United States.

The standards of my own and my adopted country differed so widely in some ways, and my love for both lands was so sincere, that sometimes I had an odd feeling of standing upon a cloud in space, and gazing with measuring eyes upon two separate worlds. At first I was continually trying to explain, by Japanese standards, all the queer things that came every day before my surprised eyes; for no one seemed to know the origin or significance of even the most familiar customs, nor why they existed and were followed.

Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey the narrator’s experience of observing and making sense of differences between two cultures she embraces
- B. To establish the narrator’s hope of forming connections with new companions by sharing customs she learned as a child
- C. To reveal the narrator’s recognition that she is hesitant to ask questions about certain aspects of a culture she is newly encountering
- D. To emphasize the narrator’s wonder at discovering that the physical distance between two countries is greater than she had expected

ID: e8201a7b Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The narrator asserts that she loves both her “own” country (Japan) and her “adopted country” (the United States) even though the two countries differ “widely.” She also indicates that, at first, she would try to explain unfamiliar experiences that she had in the United States using the standards ingrained in her from growing up in Japan. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to convey the narrator’s experience of observing and making sense of the differences between two cultures she embraces.

Choice B is incorrect because the text makes no reference to possible companions. Although the text does indicate that the narrator sometimes used the cultural framework she acquired growing up in Japan to explain some experiences she’s had, there is no suggestion that this was in service of making friends. And although “no one seemed to know” strongly implies that the narrator has interacted with other people in the United States, there is no indication that these conversations involved her discussing Japanese customs. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that the narrator was hesitant to ask questions. In fact, the narrator indicates that “no one seemed to know the origin” of various customs, which provides evidence that, rather than being hesitant, she sought information from several people. Choice D is incorrect because the text makes no reference to the physical distance between Japan and the United States. Although the narrator indicates that the two countries differ “widely” and likens them to “two separate worlds,” these descriptions relate to cultural aspects of the countries and the narrator’s feelings about the two countries, not the physical distance between them.

Question ID c1dad249

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: c1dad249

Archeological excavation of Market Street Chinatown, a nineteenth-century Chinese American community in San Jose, California, provided the first evidence that Asian food products were imported to the United States in the 1800s: bones from a freshwater fish species native to Southeast Asia. Jinshanzhuang—Hong Kong—based import/export firms—likely coordinated the fish’s transport from Chinese-operated fisheries in Vietnam and Malaysia to North American markets. This route reveals the (often overlooked) multinational dimensions of the trade networks linking Chinese diaspora communities.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?
- A. It explains why efforts to determine the country of origin of the items mentioned in the previous sentence remain inconclusive.
 - B. It provides information that helps support a claim about a discovery’s significance that is presented in the following sentence.
 - C. It traces the steps that were taken to locate and recover the objects that are described in the previous sentence.
 - D. It outlines a hypothesis that additional evidence discussed in the following sentence casts some doubt on.

ID: c1dad249 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The underlined sentence provides information about import/export firms, showing how Chinese communities across the world were connected by trade routes.

Choice A is incorrect. The underlined sentence never suggests that the countries of origin of the fish are in question—in fact, it tells us exactly where they came from. Choice C is incorrect. The passage never describes the steps taken to discover the fish bones described in the previous sentence. Choice D is incorrect. The underlined sentence doesn’t outline a hypothesis but instead provides evidence. And the following sentence agrees with the underlined sentence, so we could eliminate this choice just for saying that the following sentence "casts some doubt on" the underlined one—partly wrong is all wrong.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c200b94e

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: c200b94e

The following text is from Annie Dillard’s 1987 autobiographical novel *An American Childhood*. The narrator is a young girl living in Pittsburgh.

I walked. My mother had given me the freedom of the streets as soon as I could say our telephone number. I walked and memorized the neighborhood. I made a mental map and located myself upon it. At night in bed I rehearsed the small world’s scheme and set challenges: Find the store using backyards only. Imagine a route from the school to my friend’s house.

©1987 by Annie Dillard

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

- A. It describes the narrator trying to memorize her telephone number.
- B. It provides examples of what the narrator thinks about at night.
- C. It gives directions to the narrator’s favorite local store.
- D. It portrays the narrator’s relationship with her mother.

ID: c200b94e Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. In the text, the narrator explains that she walks around her neighborhood, making a "mental map" of the area that she imagines herself navigating through. She then states that she rehearses "the small world’s scheme"—that is, imagines moving through her mental map—and challenges herself to use the map in her mind while lying in bed at night. The underlined portion presents two such challenges (getting to the store through backyards and traveling from school to a friend’s house) and thus provides examples of what the narrator thinks about at night.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portion makes no mention of memorizing a telephone number. Although the narrator mentions that she had to learn the home telephone number before her mother would give her permission to walk around the neighborhood, there is nothing in the underlined portion or the rest of the text about memorizing the telephone number. Choice C is incorrect. Although the underlined portion refers to navigation tasks like finding a route to a store only through backyards, the text contains no specific directions to any store, nor is any store identified as the narrator’s favorite. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion makes no mention of the narrator’s mother and doesn’t address the narrator’s relationship with her. Although the narrator mentions that her mother gave her permission as a child to walk around the neighborhood, there is nothing in the underlined portion or the rest of the text about the mother or her relationship to her child.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9f4347fb

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: 9f4347fb

Curious about how people visually perceive objects in their dreams, Stephen LaBerge and team recruited lucid dreamers—people aware that they’re dreaming as it’s happening—for a research study. These participants were reliably able to signal when they had entered a dream state; the team then observed participants’ eye movements as they slept. The smoothness with which participants’ eyes tracked objects in their dreams closely matched how sighted people who are awake visually track objects around them, suggesting to the team that the brain perceives dream objects as the product of something other than pure imagination.

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

- A. To offer key evidence that undermines LaBerge and team’s initial hypothesis
- B. To show the unexpected result that led LaBerge and team to change the focus of their study
- C. To illustrate an important real-world implication of LaBerge and team’s main finding
- D. To identify a comparable circumstance that helps justify LaBerge and team’s conclusion

ID: 9f4347fb Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The text first establishes that in order to investigate visual perception of objects in dreams, LaBerge and team observed the eye movements of lucid dreamers (people who are aware of their dreaming as it occurs) when these participants signaled that they were in a dream state. The underlined portion then describes a finding that rests on a comparison: the way participants’ eyes tracked objects in dream states was very similar to how sighted people track real objects when awake. Finally, the text states that the team concluded from this finding that objects in dreams are perceived as more than just products of imagination—implying that the team thinks the eye movements are an indication that the brain treats dream objects as more real than imaginary. Thus, the function of the underlined portion is to identify a circumstance that is comparable to one in the study and that helps justify LaBerge and team’s conclusion, presenting the close similarity of visual tracking in wakeful and dreaming scenarios as support for the implicit idea that the brain perceives dream objects not as imaginary but as somewhat or fully real objects.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never presents LaBerge and team’s initial hypothesis, only what question they were interested in studying and what they found. So although the underlined portion does present evidence, that evidence doesn’t serve to undermine any hypothesis in the text. Choice B is incorrect because the text gives no indication that LaBerge and team changed the focus of their study at any point or that the finding described in the underlined portion (or any other finding) was unexpected or surprising. Choice C is incorrect. Rather than illustrating an implication of the main finding by LaBerge and team, the underlined portion only presents the finding itself, stating that the team found that the movements of lucid dreamers’ eyes while dreaming were very similar to those of sighted people visually tracking objects while awake. The next part of the text indicates what the finding implied to the team but still doesn’t offer a real-world example as illustration.

Question ID fa57fc2a

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: fa57fc2a

The following text is adapted from Herman Melville’s 1855 novel *Israel Potter*. Israel is a young man wandering through New England during the late eighteenth century.

He hired himself out for three months; at the end of that time to receive for his wages two hundred acres of land lying in New Hampshire. [...] His employer proving false to the contract in the matter of the land, and there being no law in the country to force him to fulfil it, Israel—who, however brave-hearted, and even much of a dare-devil upon a pinch, seems nevertheless to have evinced, throughout many parts of his career, a singular patience and mildness—was obliged to look round for other means of livelihood than clearing out a farm for himself in the wilderness.

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

- A. It implies that Israel treasures a particular characteristic of his personality when that characteristic should usually be regarded as a flaw.
- B. It suggests that if not for a certain aspect of his character, Israel might not have been as easily thwarted in his ambition to establish a farm.
- C. It shows why Israel would not have been able to undertake the enormous amount of labor necessary to run a farm even if he had owned the necessary property.
- D. It explains why, when the situation requires it, Israel is able to undertake courageous acts that others would generally avoid.

ID: fa57fc2a Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. The text describes the failed attempt of Israel Potter to establish a farm in New England during the late eighteenth century: according to his contract, he was to receive two hundred acres in exchange for three months’ work, but his employer then refused to fulfill the bargain and Israel had no recourse to law to obtain the land he was owed. Israel was therefore forced to find another means of supporting himself. To explain why Israel was particularly susceptible to his employer’s dishonesty, the underlined portion states that though Israel was "brave-hearted, and even much of a dare-devil upon a pinch," he also possessed "a singular patience and mildness." In other words, Israel could be courageous in certain circumstances, but he was usually meek and disinclined to argument, from which it is reasonable to infer that Israel was often taken advantage of. Thus, the underlined portion suggests that if not for a certain aspect of his character, Israel might not have been as easily thwarted in his ambition to establish a farm.

Choice A is incorrect because although the underlined portion describes aspects of Israel’s personality, it does not address how he feels about his own personality. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined portion addresses Israel’s occasional courage and frequent meekness but does not address whether he would have the skills and resolve necessary to operate a farm if he owned sufficient property. Choice D is incorrect. Though the underlined portion does indicate that Israel could be courageous in certain circumstances, it does not say that he undertook acts of courage that others avoided, but rather that he was habitually

meek. Even if the underlined portion did say that Israel was more courageous than most, this would not explain why he found himself under the circumstances described in the text—that is, as a consequence of his meek nature, cheated of the property to which he had a right.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 2af03d8f

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: 2af03d8f

The following text is from the 1923 poem “Black Finger” by Angelina Weld Grimké, a Black American writer. A cypress is a type of evergreen tree.

I have just seen a most beautiful thing,
Slim and still,
 Against a gold, gold sky,
 A straight black cypress,
Sensitive,
Exquisite,
A black finger
Pointing upwards.
Why, beautiful still finger, are you black?
And why are you pointing upwards?

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The speaker assesses a natural phenomenon, then questions the accuracy of her assessment.
- B. The speaker describes a distinctive sight in nature, then ponders what meaning to attribute to that sight.
- C. The speaker presents an outdoor scene, then considers a human behavior occurring within that scene.
- D. The speaker examines her surroundings, then speculates about their influence on her emotional state.

ID: 2af03d8f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. First, the speaker describes observing a “most beautiful” sight: a tree (“black cypress”) standing out from the golden sky behind it, looking like a person’s finger “pointing upwards” and appearing “sensitive” and “exquisite.” Then the speaker wonders about the image’s meaning, asking why the finger is black and why it’s pointing upward. Thus, the text moves from the speaker’s description of a distinctive sight in nature to her pondering about what meaning to attribute to that sight.

Choice A is incorrect because the speaker assesses a natural sight—a “black cypress” tree standing “against a gold, gold sky” like a pointed finger—but doesn’t question the accuracy of her own assessment. Although she wonders why the finger, which is really a tree, is black and why it’s pointing, the speaker doesn’t suggest that her belief that the tree resembles a finger is wrong. Choice C is incorrect. Although the speaker describes seeing a “black cypress” tree standing “against a gold, gold sky” like a pointed finger, she wonders about that natural image (asking why the finger, which is really a tree, is black and why it’s pointing) and doesn’t give any indication that any people are present in the scene. Choice D is incorrect. Although the speaker examines and wonders about

one thing in her surroundings—a “black cypress” tree standing “against a gold, gold sky” like a pointed finger—she doesn’t address her own emotional state or consider how it’s affected by her surroundings.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 1e3aeb67

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

ID: 1e3aeb67

The mimosa tree evolved in East Asia, where the beetle *Bruchidius terrenus* preys on its seeds. In 1785, mimosa trees were introduced to North America, far from any *B. terrenus*. But evolutionary links between predators and their prey can persist across centuries and continents. Around 2001, *B. terrenus* was introduced in southeastern North America near where botanist Shu-Mei Chang and colleagues had been monitoring mimosa trees. Within a year, 93 percent of the trees had been attacked by the beetles.

Which choice best describes the function of the third sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It states the hypothesis that Chang and colleagues had set out to investigate using mimosa trees and *B. terrenus*.
- B. It presents a generalization that is exemplified by the discussion of the mimosa trees and *B. terrenus*.
- C. It provides context that clarifies why the species mentioned spread to new locations.
- D. It offers an alternative explanation for the findings of Chang and colleagues.

ID: 1e3aeb67 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the third sentence within the overall structure of the text. The third sentence makes a generalization, asserting that evolutionary links between predators and prey can persist across great expanses of time and distance. This generalization is exemplified by the text’s discussion of the relationship between mimosa trees and *B. terrenus* beetles. When mimosa trees were introduced to North America in 1785, no *B. terrenus* beetles were present, so the relationship between the trees and the beetles that exists in their native East Asia was disrupted. When the beetles were introduced to North America more than 200 years later, however, they quickly attacked mimosa trees, illustrating the generalization that links between predators and prey "can persist across centuries and continents."

Choice A is incorrect because the third sentence doesn’t indicate that Chang and colleagues were investigating any hypothesis. According to the text, Chang and colleagues were simply monitoring mimosa trees when the beetles happened to be introduced to the area. Choice C is incorrect because the third sentence doesn’t discuss any particular species, let alone the species mentioned elsewhere in the text, nor does the sentence explain why species spread to new locations. Choice D is incorrect because the third sentence offers a generalization about the relationship between predators and prey, not an explanation for the findings by Chang and colleagues that’s an "alternative" to an explanation presented elsewhere in the text.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0b774080

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: 0b774080

People tend to assume that being happy is the ideal emotional state and should be an ongoing aspiration; recently, however, research has suggested that it is at times beneficial to embrace negative emotions. To test whether anger can contribute to problem-solving abilities, researcher Heather Lench led an experiment in which participants were randomly assigned to view images designed to create an emotional condition—either neutral or one of anger, amusement, desire, or sadness. When asked to then solve a series of challenging puzzles, the participants in the anger condition had greater success than those in the other conditions.

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

- A. It describes a general psychological tendency that the study discussed in the text was designed to explain.
- B. It explains an assumption underlying the hypothesis investigated in the study discussed in the text.
- C. It notes a generally accepted belief that is called into question by a finding of the experiment outlined in the text.
- D. It suggests a psychological basis for the behaviors of the participants in the experiment reported in the text.

ID: 0b774080 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. The underlined portion states that people commonly believe happiness is the ideal emotional state. However, the text then notes that recent research suggests that negative emotions can be beneficial, as demonstrated by an experiment by Heather Lench in which participants primed to feel anger did better at solving puzzles than did those primed to feel other emotions. This finding calls into question the belief that happiness is always the ideal state. Thus, the underlined portion notes a generally accepted belief that is called into question by a finding from the experiment.

Choice A is incorrect because the study does not address why people assume happiness is ideal. Rather, the text indicates the study was designed to test whether anger can contribute to problem-solving abilities. Choice B is incorrect because rather than underlying the study’s hypothesis that anger could be beneficial in some circumstances, the underlined portion presents the widely held belief that happiness is always preferable to negative emotions, which directly conflicts with that hypothesis. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion presents a common belief that happiness is the ideal emotional state, not an explanation for the participants’ behavior in the experiment. The text reports that participants in the anger condition performed better on the puzzles but does not explain the psychological reason for this outcome.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID a4e3914a

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: a4e3914a

The following text is from Betty Smith’s 1943 novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Francie, a young girl, visits the library often.

Francie thought that all the books in the world were in that library and she had a plan about reading all the books in the world. She was reading a book a day in alphabetical order and not skipping the dry ones. She remembered that the first author had been Abbott. She had been reading a book a day for a long time now and she was still in the B’s. Already she had read about bees and buffaloes, Bermuda vacations and Byzantine architecture. For all her enthusiasm, she had to admit that some of the B’s had been hard going. But Francie was a reader.

©1947 by Betty Smith

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To illustrate Francie’s enjoyment of an unusual topic
- B. To explain why Francie prefers reading over other activities
- C. To portray Francie’s determination to meet a goal
- D. To describe a book that Francie greatly admires

ID: a4e3914a Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to portray Francie’s determination to reach her goal of reading all the books in the world. The text indicates that to achieve this aim, Francie works systematically and persistently: she reads all the books in the library in alphabetical order and devotes much time and effort to the project, finishing one book per day over a long period of time. The text then suggests that even though she progresses slowly ("she was still in the B’s") and that she struggled with some books ("some of the B’s had been hard going"), she doesn’t give up because she thinks of herself as "a reader." These details show Francie’s resolve.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text mentions several topics (bees and buffaloes, Bermuda vacations, and Byzantine architecture) that Francie has read about, it doesn’t indicate that any of these topics are unusual or that she especially enjoyed reading about one of these topics in particular. If anything, the text suggests that she may have found some of these topics to be dull, saying that she even read the "dry ones"—that is, the boring books—and that some of the books were "hard going," meaning they were difficult to get through. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss Francie’s involvement in other activities, only her dedication to reading. Although it’s possible that Francie dedicates herself to reading because she prefers it to other activities, the text doesn’t indicate whether this is the case. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text mentions one author (Abbott) whose book Francie has read as well as several topics (bees and buffaloes, Bermuda vacations, and Byzantine architecture) she has encountered, the text doesn’t say whether Francie admires any of the books she’s read so far. Instead, the text focuses on the time and effort she devotes to reaching her goal of reading all the books in the world—even ones she doesn’t enjoy.

Question ID 3421742e

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: 3421742e

Alternative-history fiction is a subgenre of science fiction in which plots center on “what if?” questions. What if India had started the Industrial Revolution? What if Soviet cosmonauts had been first to land on the moon? Speculative counterfactuals like these can be great fodder for stories, but they’re also commonly deployed by academic historians to better understand factors influencing historical events. Well-realized and coherent alternative-history stories can thus complement historians’ speculations about the past.

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

- A. It illustrates how academic historians have influenced writers of alternative-history fiction.
- B. It acknowledges counterfactual questions that academic historians have largely overlooked.
- C. It provides examples of the types of scenarios addressed in alternative-history fiction.
- D. It indicates specific ideas that were first raised by writers of alternative-history fiction and that subsequently inspired scholarship by academic historians.

ID: 3421742e Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. The text begins by defining alternative-history fiction as a subgenre centered on “what if?” questions. The underlined portion then poses two such questions—one about India starting the Industrial Revolution and one about Soviet cosmonauts landing on the moon first. The sentence that follows refers to the two questions as “speculative counterfactuals like these,” confirming that the underlined questions serve as examples. Thus, the underlined portion provides examples of the types of scenarios addressed in alternative-history fiction.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portion provides examples of “what if?” scenarios, not evidence of a line of influence from academic historians to fiction writers; nothing in the text addresses such a relationship. The text mentions academic historians only in the context of how alternative-history stories can supplement their work. Choice B is incorrect because the text states that counterfactuals like the ones presented in the underlined portion are “commonly deployed by academic historians,” indicating engagement with such questions rather than neglect. Instead of acknowledging overlooked questions, the underlined portion provides examples of the types of scenarios addressed in alternative-history fiction. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in the text indicates that the specific questions in the underlined portion originated with fiction writers or that they subsequently inspired academic historians. Instead, the underlined portion simply illustrates the kind of “what if?” questions typical of the alternative-history fiction subgenre.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ff4e4dde

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: ff4e4dde

In 1154, Muhammad al-Idrisi completed a collection of maps of the lands known to medieval Arabic and European scholars. This collection was titled *Al-Kitāb al-Rujārī* (*The Book of Roger*), after the Norman king Roger II who hired him to create it. To create the collection, al-Idrisi consulted Arabic and Greek maps and interviewed travelers about the lands they visited. He included these travelers’ stories alongside the map illustrations.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To discuss the benefits of studying mapmaking
 - B. To explain how travelers created maps
 - C. To describe a collection of medieval maps and how it was created
 - D. To compare medieval Arabic and Greek mapmaking techniques

ID: ff4e4dde Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text, which is to describe a collection of medieval maps and how it was created. The text begins by mentioning Muhammad al-Idrisi’s collection of maps of lands known to medieval Arabic and European scholars. It then states that the Norman king Roger II hired al-Idrisi to create the collection and details al-Idrisi’s methods of creation: consulting Arabic and Greek maps and interviewing travelers. In short, the text presents a collection of medieval maps and then goes on to describe how that collection came to be.

Choice A is incorrect because the text describes a collection of maps and the process of creating that collection but does not discuss the benefits of studying mapmaking in general. Choice B is incorrect because though the text mentions that al-Idrisi interviewed travelers, the text does not describe how those travelers created maps. Choice D is incorrect because though the text mentions that al-Idrisi consulted Arabic and Greek maps, the text does not offer a comparison of Arabic and Greek mapmaking techniques.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5c5ab2a0

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: 5c5ab2a0

Though Chloé Zhao’s films are fictional, she incorporates real events into them in a documentary-like style and casts nonprofessional actors who reside in the places that she aims to portray. She also encourages these actors, whether they are teenagers living on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation or adults who travel the country for work, to put as much of themselves into their roles as possible. Her approach adds powerful resonance to films that explore the highly personal experiences of place and home, and often the difficult decision to stay or leave.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A.

To argue that Chloé Zhao’s films are best understood as documentaries
- B.

To discuss how Chloé Zhao’s background in documentary filmmaking has influenced her storytelling style in films
- C.

To emphasize that Chloé Zhao’s decisions during the filmmaking process reinforce the themes of her films
- D.

To summarize how Chloé Zhao’s style of filmmaking changed over the course of her career

ID: 5c5ab2a0 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text. The text begins by describing Zhao’s filmmaking decisions: incorporating real events, casting nonprofessional actors from the locations she portrays, and encouraging those actors to bring personal experiences to their roles. The text then states that this approach “adds powerful resonance” to films that explore themes of place, home, and the decision to stay or leave. Therefore, the main purpose of the text is to emphasize that Zhao’s filmmaking decisions reinforce the themes of her films.

Choice A is incorrect because the text explicitly states that Zhao’s films are fictional. Although the text states that Zhao uses a “documentary-like style,” it does not suggest that the films are best understood as documentaries, or nonfiction movies. Instead, the text describes how her approach strengthens her films’ themes. Choice B is incorrect because the text does not discuss whether Zhao has a background in documentary filmmaking. The text does not mention her background. Instead, the text describes Zhao’s filmmaking approach and its effect on her films’ themes. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not address changes in Zhao’s filmmaking style over time; instead, it describes her consistent approach and how that approach reinforces her films’ themes.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4dc31187

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: 4dc31187

When ancient oak planks were unearthed during subway construction in Rome, Mauro Bernabei and his team examined the growth rings in the wood to determine where these planks came from. By comparing the growth rings on the planks to records of similar rings in oaks from Europe, the team could trace the wood to the Jura region of France, hundreds of kilometers from Rome. Because timber could only have been transported from distant Jura to Rome by boat, the team’s findings suggest the complexity of Roman trade routes.

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

- A. It presents a conclusion about Roman trade routes based on the team’s findings.
- B. It questions how the team was able to conclude that the planks were used to build a boat.
- C. It explains why the planks were made from oak rather than a different kind of wood.
- D. It describes common methods used in Roman subway construction.

ID: 4dc31187 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence explains that Bernabei and his team studied growth rings to obtain information about the ancient oak planks found during a construction project in Rome. The next sentence presents what the researchers learned: the wood from the planks came from France’s Jura region, which is far from Rome. The underlined sentence then presents the implications of the findings about the planks: the wood must have been brought to Rome by boat, a difficult task that suggests Roman trade routes were complex. Thus, the underlined sentence mainly functions to present a conclusion about Roman trade routes based on the team’s findings.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that the team thought the ancient planks were used in the construction of a boat, nor does the underlined sentence question that conclusion. Instead, the text states that the wood could only have been transported from Jura to Rome in a boat. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence simply offers a conclusion drawn from the team’s findings about the likely place of origin of the ancient planks; the text never mentions why oak was chosen for the planks instead of other wood. Choice D is incorrect because neither the underlined sentence nor the text as a whole addresses any methods that Romans used in constructing subways. Instead, the underlined sentence offers a conclusion drawn from the team’s findings about the likely place of origin of the ancient wooden planks discovered.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c44555c6

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: c44555c6

On painter William H. Johnson’s return to the United States in 1938 after a decade in Europe, his style underwent an abrupt transformation. Turning away from landscapes painted in an expressionist style—a style that often involves using fluid, distorted shapes and thick, textured brushstrokes to express the artist’s subjective experience of reality—Johnson began painting portraits of Black Americans in a bold new way. Evocative of African sculpture and American and Scandinavian folk art, these portraits feature flat, deliberately oversimplified figures in a vibrant but limited color palette.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?
- A. It elaborates on the previous sentence’s statement about a transitional moment in Johnson’s artistic career.
 - B. It provides information about Johnson’s travels in support of a claim about his artistic influences, which is advanced in the following sentence.
 - C. It recounts a moment in Johnson’s personal life that enabled the success of his subsequent career, which is summarized in the following sentence.
 - D. It presents evidence that calls into question the previous sentence’s characterization of Johnson’s artistic development.

ID: c44555c6 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text indicates that Johnson returned to the US in 1938 at which time his painting style suddenly changed. The second sentence is underlined and gives more detail about this stylistic change, noting that his earlier work consisted largely of landscapes in an expressionist style and his new works were highly stylized portraits of Black Americans. In other words, the function of the underlined sentence is to elaborate on a transitional moment in Johnson’s painting career.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text does mention that Johnson spent a decade in Europe, it does not discuss what other travel Johnson might have done. Furthermore, although the text mentions African, American, and Scandinavian artistic elements in Johnson’s work, it does not indicate that he traveled to different locations to learn about these practices. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not focus on Johnson’s personal life nor does it address how successful his career was in general. Choice D is incorrect because, rather than call it into question, the underlined sentence continues the discussion of Johnson’s career by adding further relevant detail of Johnson’s artistic transformation.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 370978e2

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: 370978e2

The following text is from Paul Laurence Dunbar’s 1913 poem “The Poet and His Song.”

A song is but a little thing,
And yet what joy it is to sing!
In hours of toil it gives me zest,
And when at eve I long for rest;
When cows come home along the bars,
 And in the fold I hear the bell,
As Night, the shepherd, herds his stars,
 I sing my song, and all is well.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey how engaging in song makes the speaker feel
- B. To compare the speaker to a singing shepherd
- C. To portray the speaker’s excitement about farming
- D. To describe the pieces of music the speaker enjoys hearing

ID: 370978e2 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately states the main purpose of the text. The text begins by declaring that although a song is "but a little thing," or seemingly insignificant, singing it brings joy and gives the speaker of the text "zest," or excitement, in "hours of toil." The remainder of the text explores the idea that as night is falling, singing allows the speaker to feel that "all is well." Thus, the main purpose of the text is to convey how engaging in song makes the speaker feel.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions a shepherd, it neither indicates that the shepherd is singing nor does it compare the shepherd to the speaker. Choice C is incorrect. The text indicates that the speaker works hard, engaging in "hours of toil," and it can be inferred that the speaker likely lives in a rural area, since cows and a cowbell can be heard nearby. However, the text does not suggest that the speaker is a farmer or feels excited about farming. Moreover, the shepherd in the text is not a literal reference to someone who herds sheep but instead a figurative description of the moon as the shepherd of the stars. Choice D is incorrect because in the text, the speaker is singing a song, not listening to others sing one. Moreover, the text describes the feelings that the speaker has when singing a song, not the song itself.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 957ca592

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: 957ca592

During Rome’s republican period, which ended in the first century BCE, libraries were predominantly owned by wealthy individuals who tightly controlled access to their book collections. The first public library became available in Rome in 28 BCE and was soon followed by one commissioned by Emperor Augustus. As modern scholar Fabio Fernandes notes, however, these two traditions aren’t as distinct as they seem, as both the emperor and the private library owners viewed their libraries as extensions of their personal patronage, just on vastly differing scales.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To give a brief overview of public access to libraries throughout Rome’s republican period
- B. To contend that early imperial leaders in Rome wielded too much influence over libraries
- C. To assert that private and early public libraries in ancient Rome had an essential similarity
- D. To call into question the notion that private Roman libraries disappeared during the first century BCE

ID: 957ca592 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text describes two types of libraries in first-century BCE Rome—private libraries controlled by wealthy individuals, and the public libraries like that commissioned by Emperor Augustus—and then notes that "these two traditions aren’t as distinct as they seem." It explains that both private-library owners and the emperor saw their libraries as "extensions of their personal patronage, just on vastly differing scales," because the emperor’s patronage extended to the whole citizenry of Rome. Thus, both private and public libraries in ancient Rome were fundamentally tied to relevant principles of patronage.

Choice A is incorrect because the text mentions that Rome’s republican period only to say that it "ended in the first century BCE," thus it doesn’t support any conclusions about possible occurrences "throughout Rome’s republican period." Choice B is incorrect. The text neither discusses "early imperial leaders in Rome," nor whether their level of influence was appropriate. Rather it discusses the end of "Rome’s republican period" in relation to libraries, who created them, and who got to use them without passing judgment on propriety. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that Rome’s republican period "ended in the first century BCE," a period that also saw the first public library come into use (28 BCE), nothing in the text suggests that private libraries disappeared at that time.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c9f90667

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: c9f90667

The following text is from John Dryden’s 1697 translation of Virgil’s poem the *Aeneid*, written in the first century BCE. Queen Dido has just heard the Trojan hero Aeneas recount a sad tale.

But anxious cares already seiz’d the queen:
She fed within her veins a flame unseen;
The hero’s valor, acts, and birth inspire
Her soul with love, and fan the secret fire.
His words, his looks, imprinted in her heart,
Improve the passion, and increase the smart.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To indicate that Dido is hiding her skepticism of Aeneas’s account
 - B. To emphasize that Dido has been deeply affected by Aeneas’s story
 - C. To imply that Dido engages both emotionally and intellectually with Aeneas
 - D. To suggest that Dido is worried that Aeneas might discover a secret she is keeping from him

ID: c9f90667 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to foreground Queen Dido’s strong emotional response to Aeneas’s story. Throughout, the text emphasizes how deeply the queen is affected by both Aeneas’s tale and persona. At the outset, the speaker explicitly states that "anxious cares...seiz’d the queen" and then uses the metaphor of fire ("within her veins a flame unseen" and "secret fire") to evoke the warmth of Dido’s feelings for Aeneas. In addition, the line "His words, his looks, imprinted in her heart" suggests the deep impression that Aeneas’s story makes on Dido, eliciting passion for him ("improv[ing] the passion") and empathy for his suffering ("increas[ing] the smart").

Choice A is incorrect because there’s no indication in the text that Dido is skeptical of Aeneas’s account, much less that she’s trying to conceal that skepticism. On the contrary, the text shows her being moved by his words and developing feelings for him. Choice C is incorrect. While the text mentions that Dido is impressed by Aeneas’s "valor, acts, and birth," which might suggest (but doesn’t necessarily entail) intellectual engagement, the text doesn’t represent Dido’s engagement with Aeneas in a manner that suggests a balance between emotion and intellect. Rather, the text primarily emphasizes her emotional response—specifically her attraction to Aeneas and her emotional investment in his story, indicating that his "valor, acts, and birth inspire / Her soul with love, and fan the secret fire" and that his words and looks elicit passion and empathy. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Dido is worried about Aeneas discovering a secret she is concealing from him. Though the text begins by mentioning Dido’s "anxious cares," this refers to her growing passion for Aeneas and pity for his suffering, not to worry about a secret she is concealing. The text’s reference to a "flame unseen" and "secret fire" points to Dido’s growing feelings for Aeneas

that develop as he recounts his tale, not to a secret that existed before their encounter; moreover, the text provides no indication that Dido is worried Aeneas might discover these feelings.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9ca1b434

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: 9ca1b434

Many archaeologists assume that large-scale engineering projects in ancient societies required an elite class to plan and direct the necessary labor. However, recent discoveries, such as the excavation of an ancient canal near the Gulf Coast of Alabama, have complicated this picture. Using radiocarbon dating, a team of researchers concluded that the 1.39-kilometer-long canal was most likely constructed between 576 and 650 CE by an Indigenous society that was relatively free of social classes.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes a common view among archaeologists, then discusses a recent finding that challenges that view.

B. It outlines a method used in some archaeological fieldwork, then explains why an alternative method is superior to it.

C. It presents contradictory conclusions drawn by archaeologists, then evaluates a study that has apparently resolved that contradiction.

D. It identifies a gap in scientific research, then presents a strategy used by some archaeologists to remedy that gap.

ID: 9ca1b434 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by introducing an assumption held by some archaeologists that in the past large-scale engineering projects would have needed an elite class to organize the projects and the labor. Next, the text indicates that there have been some discoveries that complicate this assumption and provides an ancient canal near the Alabama Gulf Coast as an example. Finally, the text presents research findings that an ancient canal—a large-scale project—was most likely made by an Indigenous society that didn’t have an elite class. Thus, the text describes a common view held by archaeologists and then presents a recent finding that challenges that view.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions that researchers used radiocarbon dating, this occurs in the last sentence and there are no other methods mentioned or evaluated. Instead, the text presents an assumption about large-scale engineering projects and then introduces research into an ancient canal off the coast of Alabama that challenges the assumption. Choice C is incorrect because the study doesn’t present multiple contradictions that are later resolved; instead, it introduces an assumption about a society’s need for elite classes to oversee large-scale engineering projects and then later challenges that assumption by introducing a study that found that a large-scale engineering project was successfully undertaken by an Indigenous society known to have been “relatively free of social classes.” Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention a gap in scientific research. Instead, it identifies an assumption made by many archaeologists about the conditions needed for societies to undertake large-scale engineering projects and then presents an example of an ancient project that undermines that assumption.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 41de2117

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: 41de2117

Very little is known about the role nocturnal insects, such as moths, play in flower pollination because it is difficult to monitor insects at night. To address this problem, a team of scientists used time-lapse cameras to record pollinator visits to red clover all day and night. The recordings showed that while most pollinator visits were by bumblebees, one-third of visits were by moths. Additionally, flowers that were visited by both moths and bees produced more seeds than flowers that were only visited by bees.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence?

- A. To describe an approach a team of scientists used to study pollinators
- B. To question a claim scientists make about pollinators
- C. To explain why moths prefer red clover to other flowers
- D. To announce an unexpected research finding about red clover

ID: 41de2117 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined sentence. The sentence indicates that scientists used time-lapse photography during both day and night to detect pollinators visiting red clover. Therefore, the underlined sentence has the function of describing an approach scientists used in the pollinator study discussed in the text.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence discusses equipment the scientists used to conduct their study, and the text provides nothing to suggest these elements of their experimental design could, by themselves, question claims resulting from the study. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in either the underlined sentence or the rest of the text addresses whether moths have a preference for red clover or any other flowers. Choice D is incorrect. Although the sentences that follow the underlined sentence discuss research findings, nothing in the text suggests that these findings were unexpected. Moreover, the underlined sentence describes part of the scientists' experimental design (day and night time-lapse photography), not a finding of the scientists' study.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d23c1bc9

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: d23c1bc9

The following text is from the 1895 poem “Marshlands” by Emily Pauline Johnson, a Kanienkahlen (Mohawk) writer also known as Tekahionwake.

Among the wild rice in the still lagoon,
In monotone the lizard shrills his tune.
The wild goose, homing, seeks a sheltering,
Where rushes grow, and oozing lichens cling.
Late cranes with heavy wing, and lazy flight,
Sail up the silence with the nearing night.
And like a spirit, swathed in some soft veil,
Steals twilight and its shadows o’er the swale.
Hushed lie the sedges, and the vapours creep,
Thick, grey and humid, while the marshes sleep.

- Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?
- A. It names animal species found in a place, then names plant species there.
 - B. It sketches a setting by presenting a series of images of nature.
 - C. It makes an extended comparison of nature to human emotions.
 - D. It identifies a location, then refers to a person living there.

ID: d23c1bc9 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes the overall structure of the text. The text first establishes the setting, a "still lagoon," and then goes on to provide more details about the lagoon by presenting several descriptive images of nature, including a lizard that "shrills his tune," "oozing lichens," and "thick, grey and humid" vapors.

Choice A is incorrect. Instead of simply naming species, the text presents descriptive images of nature; further, instead of naming animals and then moving on to name plants, the text refers first to a plant ("the wild rice"), then to two animals ("the lizard," "the wild goose"), then to another plant ("rushes"), and so on. Choice C is incorrect because the text does not draw any comparison between nature and human emotions; it does not refer to human emotions at all. Choice D is incorrect. While the text does begin by identifying a specific location, a "still lagoon," it makes no mention of a person living there.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3466d05b

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: 3466d05b

In the late 1800s, Spanish-language newspapers flourished in cities across Texas. San Antonio alone produced eleven newspapers in Spanish between 1890 and 1900. But El Paso surpassed all other cities in the state. This city produced twenty-two newspapers in Spanish during that period. El Paso is located on the border with Mexico and has always had a large population of Spanish speakers. Thus, it is unsurprising that this city became such a rich site for Spanish-language journalism.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A.

To compare Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas today with ones published there during the late 1800s
- B.

To explain that Spanish-language newspapers thrived in Texas and especially in El Paso during the late 1800s
- C.

To argue that Spanish-language newspapers published in El Paso influenced the ones published in San Antonio during the late 1800s
- D.

To explain why Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas were so popular in Mexico during the late 1800s

ID: 3466d05b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The text begins by stating that there were many Spanish-language newspapers in cities across Texas in the late 1800s, citing San Antonio as a city that produced eleven such newspapers. The text then goes on to note that in El Paso, there were twenty-two newspapers published in Spanish in the late 1800s, more than any other Texas city. The text then concludes by explaining that the reason for this large number of Spanish-language newspapers was likely El Paso’s location near Mexico and its large population of Spanish speakers. Therefore, the main purpose of the text is to explain that Spanish-language newspapers thrived in Texas cities, especially in El Paso, in the late 1800s.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas today, let alone compare them with newspapers that were published in the 1800s. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text characterizes El Paso as a particularly rich site for Spanish-language journalism in the late 1800s, the text doesn’t discuss whether newspapers published in El Paso influenced the newspapers published in other cities across Texas, including San Antonio. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t mention whether Spanish-language newspapers published in Texas were also widely read in Mexico. The text only focuses on the popularity of Spanish-language newspapers within Texas, and especially in El Paso.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 23425557

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: 23425557

The following text is adapted from *Indian Boyhood*, a 1902 memoir by Ohiyesa (Charles A. Eastman), a Santee Dakota writer. In the text, Ohiyesa recalls how the women in his tribe harvested maple syrup during his childhood.

Now the women began to test the trees—moving leisurely among them, axe in hand, and striking a single quick blow, to see if the sap would appear. The trees, like people, have their individual characters; some were ready to yield up their life-blood, while others were more reluctant. Now one of the birchen basins was set under each tree, and a hardwood chip driven deep into the cut which the axe had made. From the corners of this chip—at first drop by drop, then more freely—the sap trickled into the little dishes.

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

- A. It portrays the range of personality traits displayed by the women as they work.
- B. It foregrounds the beneficial relationship between humans and maple trees.
- C. It demonstrates how human behavior can be influenced by the natural environment.
- D. It elaborates on an aspect of the maple trees that the women evaluate.

ID: 23425557 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text’s overall portrayal of how the women in Ohiyesa’s tribe harvested maple syrup. The text states that the women used an axe to strike the maple trees in order to find out which ones would produce sap. The underlined sentence compares the trees to people, with the sap described as the trees’ “life-blood.” Some of the trees are ready to give out their sap, while others are unwilling to do so. Using personification, the sentence provides greater detail about the aspect of the maple trees—their potential to give sap—that the women are evaluating.

Choice A is incorrect because the personalities of the women are not discussed in the text. Although the underlined sentence does mention “individual characters,” this reference is not to the women in the text but rather to the maple trees, which the sentence compares to people with individual character traits. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence focuses on the trees’ willingness or refusal to yield sap, not on the beneficial relationship between the women and the trees. Additionally, although the text does suggest that the women and their tribe benefit from the maple trees since the trees allow the women to harvest syrup, there is nothing in the text to suggest that the trees benefit from this relationship in turn. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence is comparing maple trees to humans, not addressing the influence of the natural environment on how the actual humans in the text, the women, behave.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 2e1e2e4b

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: 2e1e2e4b

Changes to vegetation cover and other human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in soil, though how deep these effects extend is unclear. Hypothesizing that differences in land use lead to differences in carbon and nitrogen levels that are not restricted to the topsoil layer (0–30 cm deep), Chukwuebuka Okolo and colleagues sampled soils across multiple land-use types (e.g., grazing land, cropland, forest) within each of several Ethiopian locations. They found, though, that across land-use types, carbon and nitrogen decreased to comparably low levels beyond depths of 30 cm.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes a phenomenon that scientists do not fully understand, explains a research team’s hypothesis about that phenomenon, and then describes a finding that led the team to refine the hypothesis.
- B. It introduces an unresolved scientific question, presents a research team’s hypothesis pertaining to that question, and then describes an observation made by the team that conflicts with that hypothesis.
- C. It discusses a process that scientists are somewhat unclear about, introduces competing hypotheses about that process, and then explains how a research team concluded that one of those hypotheses is likely correct.
- D. It explains a hypothesis that has been the subject of scientific debate, discusses how a research team tested that hypothesis, and then presents data the team collected that validate the hypothesis.

ID: 2e1e2e4b Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by explaining that human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in soil, but how deeply these effects are seen in the soil remains an unresolved question. Next, the text summarizes Okolo and colleagues’ hypothesis regarding this question—which is that the different effects on carbon and nitrogen levels associated with different types of land use would also be observed below the topsoil layer—and then briefly explains the methods they used to test this hypothesis. Finally, the text states that the researchers found that at depths below the topsoil layer, carbon and nitrogen decreased to similarly low levels across all land-use types, a finding that conflicts with the team’s hypothesis presented earlier in the text. Thus, the text introduces an unresolved scientific question, presents a research team’s hypothesis pertaining to that question, and then describes an observation that the team made that conflicted with their hypothesis.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text introduces a phenomenon (the fact that human activities influence carbon and nitrogen levels in the soil) that isn’t fully understood by scientists and explains a research team’s hypothesis about the phenomenon, the text doesn’t describe how the team refined their hypothesis when a research finding contradicted it. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss a process at all; rather, it poses an unsolved scientific question and presents a hypothesis that Okolo and colleagues tested to answer that question. Moreover, the text only describes one hypothesis; it doesn’t mention any competing hypotheses, nor does it suggest that Okolo’s team was able to determine which hypothesis was correct. Choice D is incorrect

because the text doesn't begin by presenting a hypothesis that is under scientific debate; rather, it presents a question that scientists have been unable to answer and then introduces a hypothesis formulated by Okolo and colleagues. While the text does explain how Okolo's team tested their hypothesis, the text goes on to say that their data conflicted with their hypothesis, not that the data validated, or supported, their hypothesis.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5de76872

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: 5de76872

Asteroid 6478 Gault has experienced intermittent mass loss since at least 2013, but in contrast to some other asteroids with repeated mass-loss episodes, 6478 Gault has not lost mass at its perihelion (the closest point of its orbit to the Sun), and thus the loss is not attributable to solar energy–driven ice vaporization. And as Jane X. Luu et al. point out, the singular nature of impact ejection makes it untenable as an account of multiple loss episodes of similar duration over several years. Instead, Luu et al. are likely correct that 6478 Gault is shedding mass due to rotational instability.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents a scientific observation, describes a contrast between that observation and other observations, and then explains why those other observations should not be considered credible.
- B. It describes an astronomical finding, discusses competing theories about that finding that the author regards as flawed, and then describes new evidence that supports an alternative theory.
- C. It introduces a natural phenomenon, refutes two potential explanations for that phenomenon, and then presents a third explanation for that phenomenon that the author regards as plausible.
- D. It discusses a physical process, evaluates possible causes of that process, and then states that a persuasive account of the process has yet to be put forward.

ID: 5de76872 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by introducing the natural phenomenon of intermittent mass loss with regard to Asteroid 6478 Gault and notes that it curiously has not lost mass at its perihelion like other asteroids typically do. The text then refutes "solar energy–driven ice vaporization" and "the singular nature of impact ejection" as two possible explanations for Asteroid 6478 Gault’s intermittent mass loss. Finally, the text presents Luu et al.’s explanation that "6478 Gault is shedding mass due to rotational instability," which the author says is "likely correct." Thus, the overall structure of the text is that it introduces a natural phenomenon, refutes two potential explanations for that phenomenon, and then presents a third explanation for that phenomenon that the author regards as plausible.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t distinguish between multiple observations. It focuses on the single observation that Asteroid 6478 Gault is losing mass and evaluates multiple explanations for the phenomenon. The text also asserts that Luu et al.’s explanation is credible and "likely correct." Choice B is incorrect because the text describes a natural phenomenon, not a specific astronomical finding. In addition, although the text does note flawed reasons for Asteroid 6478 Gault’s intermittent mass loss, it doesn’t mention that Asteroid 6478 Gault’s intermittent mass loss is based on new evidence. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text does evaluate explanations for the cause of Asteroid 6478 Gault’s intermittent mass loss, the text also asserts that Luu et al.’s explanation that they have put forth is persuasive and "likely correct."

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 04c5ff2d

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: 04c5ff2d

The following text is adapted from Gwendolyn Bennett’s 1926 poem “Street Lamps in Early Spring.”

Night wears a garment
All velvet soft, all violet blue...
And over her face she draws a veil
As shimmering fine as floating dew...
And here and there
In the black of her hair
The subtle hands of Night
Move slowly with their gem-starred light.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It presents alternating descriptions of night in a rural area and in a city.
- B. It sketches an image of nightfall, then an image of sunrise.
- C. It makes an extended comparison of night to a human being.
- D. It portrays how night changes from one season of the year to the next.

ID: 04c5ff2d Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. Throughout the text, the speaker characterizes nighttime as if it were a person who wears clothing (“a garment” that is “velvet soft” and “violet blue”) and a veil “over her face” and who moves her hands “slowly with their gem-starred light” through her dark hair. Thus, the text is structured as an extended comparison of night to a human being.

Choice A is incorrect because the text never mentions any particular location; instead, it focuses on presenting a single description of night as a person with certain clothing and features. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t make any reference to the sun or sunrise; instead, it focuses on presenting a single image of night as a person with certain clothing and features. Choice D is incorrect. Rather than describing how nighttime changes seasonally (or in any other way), the text presents a single image of night as a person with certain clothing and features.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 90939307

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: 90939307

The following text is from Rachel Heng’s 2023 novel *The Great Reclamation*. Ah Boon is fishing off the coast of Singapore.

When he pulled up the nets, they contained only one kind of fish—black pomfrets, the flat diamonds of their bodies slick in the morning light. This uniformity did not surprise him; over the years, he’d learned that the waters here were temperamental. They could be relied upon for a good catch, but from time to time threw up only prawns or squid, and other times colorful varieties of fish that weren’t even supposed to be found in this region. He’d grown to accept the unpredictability, embracing it as a game to be played, like the reading of tea leaves or the grooves of a palm.

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Taken together, the three underlined portions most clearly serve which function in the text as a whole?

- A. They provide examples of what Ah Boon most frequently catches in the area.
- B. They illustrate the changeable nature of the fishing grounds where Ah Boon is.
- C. They emphasize the wide variety of sea creatures that Ah Boon has caught on this particular fishing trip.
- D. They underscore Ah Boon’s lack of surprise at seeing sea creatures that aren’t usually found in the region.

ID: 90939307 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function that the three underlined portions serve in the text as a whole. The text states that Ah Boon’s nets contained only one kind of fish and explains that he is unsurprised because the waters are “temperamental.” The three underlined portions name different types of catch yielded by the waters on different occasions, demonstrating how the catch varies unpredictably. Thus, taken together, the three underlined portions illustrate the changeable nature of the waters where Ah Boon fishes.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not indicate which types of catch are most frequent; it describes the waters as unpredictable and varying over time. Instead of illustrating frequency, the underlined portions that mention different kinds of sea creatures illustrate variability. Choice C is incorrect because the text states that on this particular trip, Ah Boon caught only one kind of fish—black pomfrets. The other two underlined portions refer to catches from other occasions, not from the present trip. Instead of emphasizing variety on one trip, the underlined portions illustrate the unpredictability of the waters over time. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text notes that Ah Boon is unsurprised by his catch of black pomfrets, only one of the three underlined portions—“colorful varieties of fish”—refers to creatures not usually found in the region. The underlined portions collectively convey the range of what Ah Boon has caught while fishing in the waters, illustrating their changeable nature rather than underscoring Ah Boon’s emotional response.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4045c349

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: 4045c349

The following text is from Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s 1910 poem “The Earth’s Entail.”

No matter how we cultivate the land,
Taming the forest and the prairie free;
No matter how we irrigate the sand,
Making the desert blossom at command,
We must always leave the borders of the sea;
The immeasurable reaches
Of the windy wave-wet beaches,
The million-mile-long margin of the sea.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. The speaker argues against interfering with nature and then gives evidence supporting this interference.
- B. The speaker presents an account of efforts to dominate nature and then cautions that such efforts are only temporary.
- C. The speaker provides examples of an admirable way of approaching nature and then challenges that approach.
- D. The speaker describes attempts to control nature and then offers a reminder that not all nature is controllable.

ID: 4045c349 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This best describes the overall structure of the text. In the first half of the text, the speaker describes our attempts to control nature: cultivating, taming, and irrigating different kinds of land. In the second half, the speaker states that we can never tame the sea or the beach.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t describe the overall structure of the text. The speaker never argues that we should not interfere with nature. Rather, the speaker says that we are able to tame many different kinds of land, but we are unable to tame the sea or beaches. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t describe the overall structure of the text. The speaker never describes our cultivation, taming, and irrigation of land as “temporary.” Rather, the speaker says that we are able to tame many different kinds of land, but we are unable to tame the sea or beaches. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t describe the overall structure of the text. The speaker never describes our cultivation, taming, and irrigation of land as an “admirable” approach to nature.” Rather, the speaker says that we are able to tame many different kinds of land, but we are unable to tame the sea or beaches.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 76920ca3

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: 76920ca3

Pteropods are small swimming snails with thin, delicate calcium carbonate shells. These animals are thought to be especially vulnerable to ocean acidification due to calcium carbonate’s susceptibility to dissolution at lower pH values. Victoria L. Peck and colleagues recently found that the periostracum (a protective coating on pteropods’ outer shells) prevents this dissolution when intact. Moreover, the team was surprised to discover that even when the periostracum is breached, pteropods can still mitigate damage by rebuilding the inner shell wall.

Which choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. To call for additional research on biological mechanisms that improve pteropod survival rates
- B. To discuss a conclusion drawn in a study of calcium carbonate’s role in protecting the periostracum of pteropods
- C. To address some of the ways ocean acidification has altered pteropod behavior over time
- D. To present findings that suggest that a concern about the effects of ocean acidification on pteropod shells may be unwarranted

ID: 76920ca3 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to present findings that suggest a previously held concern about the effects of ocean acidification on pteropod shells may be unwarranted. The text introduces the concern that pteropods are thought to be particularly vulnerable to ocean acidification, or lower pH levels, due to the susceptibility of their calcium carbonate shells to dissolution at lower pH levels. However, the text then describes findings from a recent study that suggest this concern may be unjustified, insofar as the protective periostracum coating on a pteropod’s shell prevents dissolution, and even when the coating is breached, a pteropod can rebuild the inner shell wall, reducing the damage.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t call for additional research or suggest that more research is needed on biological mechanisms that improve pteropod survival rates. Instead, the text discusses a recent study showing that pteropods may not be as vulnerable to ocean acidification as is feared. Choice B is incorrect because the study discussed in the text doesn’t address calcium carbonate’s role in protecting the periostracum of pteropods. According to the text, the study addresses the periostracum’s role in protecting pteropods’ calcium carbonate shells from dissolution due to ocean acidification. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t address how ocean acidification has altered pteropod behavior over time. Instead, the text focuses on the potential effects of ocean acidification on pteropods’ shells and the mechanisms protecting against those effects.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 2b8f9012

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: 2b8f9012

The Bayeux Tapestry, from eleventh-century France, depicts 75 scenes over 250 feet of fabric. It was likely produced by workers embroidering in sections and then joining the resulting panels together. It’s plausible that the workshop that produced the tapestry had never produced one so large, and some researchers claim that a close examination of the joins—the places where the panels are stitched together—suggests that the workers developed and refined their joining process over the course of production. For example, the first join the workers completed exhibits a clear misalignment of the borders of the two panels, whereas the later joins are virtually invisible.

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

- A. It identifies the people and events depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.
- B. It supports an argument about the workers who produced the Bayeux Tapestry.
- C. It compares the Bayeux Tapestry with other tapestries from eleventh-century France.
- D. It describes how researchers determined where the Bayeux Tapestry was produced.

ID: 2b8f9012 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole. The text discusses the Bayeux Tapestry, making the point that the workers who produced the huge tapestry in the eleventh century might not have ever produced a tapestry so large before. The text goes on to suggest that because of this lack of previous experience, the workers developed and refined the process of joining the tapestry’s panels over time as they worked. The last sentence of the text then provides an example of an observation that suggests the workers’ process changed: clear misalignment of the borders of the two panels the workers joined first and virtually invisible joins completed later. Thus, the underlined sentence serves to support an argument about the workers who produced the tapestry.

Choice A is incorrect because the example given in the last sentence of the text has to do with how the panels of the Bayeux Tapestry were joined by the workers, not with what is depicted in those panels; the text never identifies any people or places depicted in the tapestry. Choice C is incorrect because the last sentence compares how early panels in the Bayeux Tapestry were joined with how later panels in the same tapestry were joined; it doesn’t make any comparison between the Bayeux Tapestry and other tapestries from the same time in France. Choice D is incorrect because the last sentence doesn’t address the location where the Bayeux Tapestry was created; the first sentence of the text presents it as a given that the tapestry was created in France, but nothing in the text indicates how that origin was determined.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 18ac1227

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: 18ac1227

The field of study called affective neuroscience seeks instinctive, physiological causes for feelings such as pleasure or displeasure. Because these sensations are linked to a chemical component (for example, the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the brain when one receives or expects a reward), they can be said to have a partly physiological basis. These processes have been described in mammals, but Jingnan Huang and his colleagues have recently observed that some behaviors of honeybees (such as foraging) are also motivated by a dopamine-based signaling process.

What choice best describes the main purpose of the text?

- A. It describes an experimental method of measuring the strength of physiological responses in humans.
- B. It illustrates processes by which certain insects can express how they are feeling.
- C. It summarizes a finding suggesting that some mechanisms in the brains of certain insects resemble mechanisms in mammalian brains.
- D. It presents research showing that certain insects and mammals behave similarly when there is a possibility of a reward for their actions.

ID: 18ac1227 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to summarize a finding suggesting that some mechanisms in the brains of certain insects resemble mechanisms in mammalian brains. The text begins by explaining that feelings such as pleasure and displeasure are linked to chemical processes in the brain, such as the release of dopamine when one receives a reward. The text then indicates that such processes have been seen in mammals but that researchers have recently observed similar processes involving dopamine in honeybees. Taken together, this information serves to sum up the discovery that some mechanisms in the brains of certain insects may resemble mechanisms linked to feelings such as pleasure and displeasure in mammals.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn't describe any experiments or experimental methods. Instead, the text describes a phenomenon that has been observed in mammals and then presents the recent observations of Huang and colleagues that this phenomenon is also seen in honeybees. Choice B is incorrect because there's nothing in the text to suggest that certain insects can express how they're feeling through particular processes. The text does indicate that certain honeybee behaviors such as foraging are linked to dopamine, but it doesn't suggest that these behaviors enable honeybees to communicate feelings or sensations. Choice D is incorrect because the text presents research showing that certain honeybee behaviors such as foraging are linked to dopamine and therefore may be motivated by similar mechanisms to those in mammalian brains, not that honeybees and mammals behave similarly when there is the possibility of reward for their actions.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0a8d31e1

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: 0a8d31e1

The following text is from George Marion McClellan’s 1895 poem “Eternity.”

My spirit swoons, and all my senses cry
For Ocean’s breast and covering of the sky.
Rock me to sleep, ye waves, and outward bound,
Just let me drift far out from toil and care,
Where lapping of the waves shall be the sound,
Which mingled with the winds that gently bear
Me on between a peaceful sea and sky,
To make my soothing slumberous lullaby.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To illustrate the increasing intensity of the speaker’s desire to escape ongoing hardship by gliding on the ocean
- B. To contrast the demands of the speaker’s everyday life with the serenity of being rocked to sleep by the ocean
- C. To convey the speaker’s longing for the ocean to impart a sense of inner tranquility
- D. To justify the speaker’s qualms about being transported by the ocean to a quiet destination

ID: 0a8d31e1 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text, which is to convey the speaker’s longing for the ocean to impart a sense of inner tranquility, or peace. The text begins by expressing the speaker’s strong desire to be on the ocean, appealing directly to the waves to rock the speaker to sleep. The poem then describes the "slumberous lullaby" formed by the sound of the waves and the winds on which the speaker wishes to be carried "gently...between a peaceful sea and sky." All these details serve to emphasize the speaker’s desire for the ocean to give them a sense of inner tranquility.

Choice A is incorrect. Given the poem’s expression of a longing to achieve tranquility by drifting on the ocean, it can be inferred that the speaker desires to escape something unpleasant in daily life. However, the poem doesn’t refer directly to any such hardship—ongoing or otherwise. And since the poem doesn’t establish that the speaker is experiencing a desire to escape ongoing hardship, it can’t be said that such a desire increases in intensity. Choice B is incorrect. The speaker does express a desire for the serenity of being rocked to sleep by the ocean, and it can be inferred that this desire is a response to demands that make the speaker’s daily life stressful. However, the poem doesn’t refer directly to such demands or contrast them with the tranquility of drifting on the ocean. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest the speaker has any qualms, or reservations, about being transported by the ocean. On the contrary, the speaker actively desires to "drift far out" and be carried by the waves and wind. Moreover, the poem doesn’t suggest that this drifting would have any particular destination.

Question ID 8a40d983

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: 8a40d983

A study by a team including finance professor Madhu Veeraraghavan suggests that exposure to sunshine during the workday can lead to overly optimistic behavior. Using data spanning from 1994 to 2010 for a set of US companies, the team compared over 29,000 annual earnings forecasts to the actual earnings later reported by those companies. The team found that the greater the exposure to sunshine at work in the two weeks before a manager submitted an earnings forecast, the more the manager’s forecast exceeded what the company actually earned that year.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. To summarize the results of the team’s analysis
- B. To present a specific example that illustrates the study’s findings
- C. To explain part of the methodology used in the team’s study
- D. To call out a challenge the team faced in conducting its analysis

ID: 8a40d983 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence presents the implications of Veeraraghavan’s team’s study: sunshine exposure during work hours can cause overly optimistic behavior. The underlined sentence then describes the data the team consulted and how they were used (comparing predictions about earnings to what the companies actually earned), and the final sentence presents what the team found in their examination of the data. Thus, the underlined sentence mainly functions to explain part of the methodology used in the team’s study.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined sentence explains in part how the team conducted their analysis of the effect of sunshine but doesn’t address what the team found; a broad summary is instead given in the other two sentences. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn’t present any specific examples from the team’s comparisons of 29,000 earnings predictions to actual earnings; it simply explains in part how the team conducted their analysis. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined sentence simply explains in part how the team conducted their analysis; the text never mentions any challenges that the team encountered in their study.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f4f2332e

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: f4f2332e

The north celestial pole (NCP)—the fixed point around which stars in the Northern Hemisphere (including the Sun) appear to rotate—is discernible only at night. Inspired by the navigational strategies of some insects and birds, researchers devised a method for locating the NCP in daytime using skylight polarization, which occurs as atmospheric particles scatter sunlight. A polarimetric camera captures images of polarization patterns, which rotate as the Sun’s position in the sky changes; temporal variances across images can then be used to determine an observer’s latitude and bearing relative to the NCP.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It illustrates how most navigational tools utilize the NCP, recounts how researchers discovered that certain animals are able to navigate without using the NCP, and then proposes that this discovery could be used to avoid problems in navigation associated with reliance on the NCP.
- B. It presents a celestial-based method of navigation, enumerates the comparative benefits of an alternative method used by certain animals that is based on an unrelated natural occurrence, and then indicates how researchers assessed the relative accuracy of the two methods.
- C. It explains how the NCP is typically located, emphasizes a key difference between how humans and certain animals use the NCP for navigation, and then suggests an alternative way of using the NCP to improve existing navigational instruments.
- D. It notes an obstacle to observing an astronomical phenomenon, mentions a navigational ability of certain animals that inspired a solution to that obstacle, and then explains how researchers used an optical device to mimic that ability.

ID: f4f2332e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by pointing out an obstacle to observing the astronomical phenomenon of the NCP: the NCP is visible only at night. The text then indicates that, inspired by the ability of some insects and birds to navigate using visualizations of polarized sunlight, researchers devised a way to locate the NCP during daylight. The text then indicates that the researchers mimicked the insects’ and birds’ polarized-light visualization capabilities using a polarimetric camera. Thus, the text notes an obstacle to observing an astronomical phenomenon, mentions a navigational ability of certain animals that inspired a solution to that obstacle, and then explains how researchers used an optical device to mimic that ability.

Choice A is incorrect. Although it’s reasonable to conjecture that humans have used the NCP for navigation, the text doesn’t indicate this is the case, let alone that the NCP is relevant to a majority of navigational tools. Furthermore, the text doesn’t state that researchers discovered that insects and birds navigate without the NCP; rather, it indicates that it’s known that some animals navigate by using skylight polarization to locate the NCP during the day and that this knowledge inspired the method the researchers devised. Choice B is incorrect. Although it’s reasonable to conjecture that humans have used the NCP for navigation, the text doesn’t state that this is the case. Furthermore, the text discusses how some animals’ use of navigational strategies

based on the same celestial occurrence served as the inspiration for the researchers' polarized-light approach, not as the basis for a comparison of the relative effectiveness of animal and human methods of navigation. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text implies that humans have typically been able to locate the NCP visually at night and indicates that some animals use the NCP to navigate, the text doesn't state that humans use the NCP for navigation. The text therefore doesn't emphasize a difference between how humans and animals use the NCP for this purpose. Furthermore, the text doesn't suggest that existing navigational instruments will be augmented with polarimetric technologies.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 01e499f3

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: 01e499f3

The following text is from Virginia Woolf’s 1919 novel *Night and Day*. The text describes a gathering of young artists and intellectuals.

One person after another rose, and, as with an ill-balanced axe, attempted to hew out his conception of art a little more clearly, and sat down with the feeling that, for some reason which he could not grasp, his strokes had gone awry. As they sat down they turned almost invariably to the person sitting next them, and rectified and continued what they had just said in public.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portions in the text as a whole?
- A. To demonstrate individuals’ puzzlement over the reputation of a certain artwork
 - B. To highlight the physical effort involved in individuals’ construction of large-scale works of art
 - C. To draw attention to individuals’ discontent with the group’s conversation about art
 - D. To emphasize the extent of individuals’ struggles to articulate thoughts on art

ID: 01e499f3 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined portions in the text as a whole. The underlined portions describe the young artists and intellectuals at the gathering as trying to "hew out," or give shape to, their views of art more clearly, but with each seeming to be using "an ill-balanced axe" and then feeling that the "strokes had gone awry." In context, the metaphorical language comparing attempts to refine concepts of art to imprecisely cutting wood with an inadequate axe serves to emphasize how much the individuals at the gathering struggled to articulate, or express, their thoughts; indeed, the text explains that the individuals couldn’t quite grasp why their statements had gone awry and tended to try to rectify, or correct, them in continued discussion after they sat down.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portions characterize aspects of the young artists and intellectuals’ attempts to present their general views of art more clearly, not their views of the reputation of a certain artwork; the text never mentions any specific artwork or its reputation. Choice B is incorrect. Although the underlined portions refer to a physical activity—cutting wood with an axe—the descriptions are metaphorical rather than literal. The text isn’t describing people constructing works of art, large-scale or otherwise; rather, it’s describing people talking at a gathering, using the idea of imprecisely cutting wood with an inadequate axe to suggest that each individual struggled when trying to present their view of art more clearly. Choice C is incorrect. Although the underlined portions do provide a reason for the young artists and intellectuals’ discontent, the text focuses on the fact that they were each dissatisfied with their own statements, not on how they felt about the group’s full conversation about art. Instead, the text explains that each individual tried to present their view of art more clearly but struggled (as if imprecisely cutting wood with an inadequate axe), couldn’t grasp what went awry, and then felt the need to rectify, or correct, what

they had just said. It's possible that the individuals were also discontented with the group's conversation overall, but neither the underlined portions nor the text as a whole suggest that.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8921c837

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: 8921c837

The following text is adapted from Paul Laurence Dunbar’s 1902 novel *The Sport of the Gods*. Joe and some of his family members have recently moved to New York City.

[Joe] was wild with enthusiasm and with a desire to be a part of all that the metropolis meant. In the evening he saw the young fellows passing by dressed in their spruce clothes, and he wondered with a sort of envy where they could be going. Back home there had been no place much worth going to, except church and one or two people’s houses.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It illustrates a character’s reaction to a new environment.
- B. It explains why a character has traveled to a city.
- C. It compares a character’s thoughts about an event at two different times of day.
- D. It presents a character feeling regret over leaving home.

ID: 8921c837 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text. The narrator describes how Joe responds to being in “the metropolis”: he’s excited and “wild with enthusiasm.” He also envies the young fellows who walk by because, dressed as they are, they look as if they have somewhere special to go. The text contrasts this new place with the place Joe comes from, where apparently there wasn’t as much to do. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to illustrate Joe’s reaction to a new environment.

Choice B is incorrect because the text makes no reference to why Joe has moved. The narrator indicates that Joe is enthusiastic about being in a city, but there’s no explanation provided for the move. Choice C is incorrect because the text makes no reference to how Joe thinks about an event. The narrator describes young men passing by in the evening and then recalls places worth going to at home—church and a few people’s houses—but there’s no explicit comparison made nor is a time of day mentioned for these events back home. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t support the idea that Joe feels regret over leaving home. Instead, Joe is described as “wild with enthusiasm” at being in the city. Joe’s home is mentioned, but only to compare it unfavorably with the city.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c0b203f1

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: c0b203f1

Scholarly accounts of the Chicano movement—a movement that advocated for the social, political, and cultural empowerment of Mexican Americans and reached its zenith in the 1960s and 1970s—tend to focus on the most militant, outspoken figures in the movement, making it seem uniformly radical. Geographer Juan Herrera has shown, however, that if we shift our focus toward the way the movement manifested in comparatively low-profile neighborhood institutions and projects, we see participants espousing an array of political orientations and approaches to community activism.

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

- A. It presents a trend in scholarship on the Chicano movement that the text claims has been reevaluated by researchers in light of Herrera’s work on the movement’s participants.
- B. It identifies an aspect of the Chicano movement that the text implies was overemphasized by scholars due to their own political orientations.
- C. It describes a common approach to studying the Chicano movement that, according to the text, obscures the ideological diversity of the movement’s participants.
- D. It summarizes the conventional method for analyzing the Chicano movement, which the text suggests creates a misleading impression of the effectiveness of neighborhood institutions and projects.

ID: c0b203f1 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The text begins by mentioning scholarly accounts of the Chicano movement, which the underlined portion describes as tending "to focus on the most militant, outspoken figures in the movement," making the movement as a whole seem uniformly radical. The text then indicates that the work of geographer Juan Herrera shows that focusing less on such militant figures and instead paying more attention to manifestations of the Chicano movement in less widely known neighborhood institutions and projects would reveal that the movement’s participants embraced a range of political orientations and approaches. Thus, the underlined portion describes a common approach to studying the Chicano movement that, according to the text, obscures the ideological diversity of the movement’s participants.

Choice A is incorrect. Though the underlined portion does present a trend in scholarship on the Chicano movement, the text does not indicate that other scholars have reevaluated their methods in light of Herrera’s work. It only indicates that Herrera’s work suggests that the work of those other scholars does not provide a complete picture of the Chicano movement. Choice B is incorrect. Though the underlined portion does identify an aspect of the Chicano movement that the text indicates has been overemphasized, the text does not discuss the political orientations of the scholars whose work is mentioned in the text. Choice D is incorrect. Though the underlined portion does summarize the conventional method for analyzing the Chicano movement, the

rest of the text does not address the effectiveness of "comparatively low-profile neighborhood institutions and projects." Instead, the text suggests that those projects were led by people with a variety of approaches to community activism.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ec73ac14

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: ec73ac14

In 2023 literary scholar Jeremy Douglass cautioned technology investors and enthusiasts who predict conventional books’ ultimate displacement by newer forms of media. Douglass observed that the concept of an “interactive” text is much older than technologists assume, extending back to the first time readers scratched notes into a text’s margins. In addition, newer media, such as video games, haven’t replaced older forms of entertainment, such as comic books, but rather exist alongside them. Douglass believes that rather than supplanting books, technology is simply making new forms of expression possible.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?
- A. It challenges the stance of the investors and enthusiasts who are mentioned earlier in the text.
 - B. It explains the basis for the claim made by the technologists mentioned in the text.
 - C. It suggests that academics are better suited than investors to see the potential uses of contemporary interactive texts.
 - D. It provides a historical anecdote about the technological challenges involved in reading the earliest interactive texts.

ID: ec73ac14 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence of the text introduces literary scholar Jeremy Douglass’s warning to technology investors and enthusiasts against predicting the displacement of conventional books by newer media forms. The next sentence, which is underlined in part, presents Douglass’s observation that interactive texts are hardly new; they have been available for longer than technologists assume, beginning with the first time readers wrote notes in texts’ margins. Thus, the function of the underlined portion is to challenge the stance of the technology investors and enthusiasts mentioned earlier in the text. As the remainder of the text points out, newer media doesn’t necessarily replace older media, but rather, as Douglass believes, leads to new forms of expression.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion challenges the position taken by investors and enthusiasts; it doesn’t provide context for their claims. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn’t mention academics or compare them to investors regarding their ability to see potential in using contemporary interactive texts; instead, the underlined portion challenges the position of investors and enthusiasts who predict that conventional books will be replaced by newer forms of media. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn’t address technological challenges; instead, it disputes the stance taken by investors and enthusiasts, suggesting that conventional books haven’t been displaced by traditional interactions with texts, such as writing in the margins, and won’t be supplanted by newer forms of media either.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 18a639df

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: 18a639df

Technological advances have prompted companies to increasingly rely on automation to streamline production. Armin Granulo and colleagues, however, found that for products with higher symbolic value (those viewed as contributing to individual self-expression), consumers prefer products made by humans rather than by robots, likely because human-made products are more strongly associated with uniqueness. When considering automation, therefore, companies—especially those specializing in products of symbolic value—should weigh trade-offs between efficiency gains and consumer preferences.

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

- A. It presents evidence supporting the text’s argument that consumers prefer products with high symbolic value over products with low symbolic value.
- B. It refers to a finding presented in the previous sentence to recommend that companies that value product quality reconsider automating their production processes.
- C. It illustrates the need for additional research to evaluate the claim in the previous sentence that automation affects how consumers rate product uniqueness.
- D. It emphasizes that a research finding discussed in the text has practical implications that are particularly relevant for businesses making a certain class of product.

ID: 18a639df Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole. The text begins by noting that companies increasingly depend on automation to improve production efficiency. The text then presents Granulo and colleagues’ finding that consumers think it’s preferable for one category of products (those “with higher symbolic value”) to be human made rather than machine made. The underlined sentence highlights a practical consequence of that finding: companies, especially those specializing in such products, should balance the efficiency of automation against consumer preferences. Thus, the underlined sentence emphasizes that the research finding has practical implications that are especially relevant for businesses making a certain class of product.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that among products with high symbolic value, people prefer those made by humans over those made by machines, it doesn’t address whether products with high symbolic value are preferred over those with low symbolic value. Choice B is incorrect because rather than reiterate the finding in the previous sentence—that people tend to prefer “products with higher symbolic value” that are human made over those that are machine made—the underlined sentence instead makes a recommendation to companies that sell such products to carefully consider a potential drawback of making their products with machines. Choice C is incorrect because nothing in the underlined sentence or the text as a whole suggests that additional research is needed to evaluate Granulo and colleagues’ claim. Moreover, the researchers’ finding is that consumers

prefer “products with higher symbolic value” to be human made, not that automation affects consumers’ ratings of how unique products are.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0a5f6914

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: 0a5f6914

In response to concerns that some recent financial crises were exacerbated by consumers misunderstanding risks associated with credit cards, loans, and other financial products, policymakers in many countries have instituted risk-disclosure requirements on sellers of those products. Enrique Seira et al. investigated a variety of risk-disclosure messages sent to thousands of credit card customers and found that the messages had only small and short-lived effects on behavior. Seira et al. asserted that such effects may nevertheless be worth pursuing, given the negligible cost of messaging.

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

- A. It notes a factor that led Seira et al. to not dismiss risk-disclosure messaging altogether despite their evidence of its limited utility.
- B. It acknowledges a type of risk-disclosure messaging that Seira et al. may not have fully accounted for in their study.
- C. It describes a consideration that explains why Seira et al. recommended risk-disclosure messaging even though its effects may be small relative to its costs.
- D. It points out a circumstance that Seira et al. conceded may make risk-disclosure messaging more effective than their study suggests.

ID: 0a5f6914 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole. The text establishes that many countries have adopted risk-disclosure requirements for financial products due to concerns that consumers don't understand the risks associated with the products. According to the text, Seira et al. found that the effects of such messaging on consumer behavior were small and temporary. The text then adds that the researchers assert that because the cost of the messaging is negligible, the approach may be worth doing even if the effects are limited. Thus, the underlined portion notes a factor—very low cost—that led the researchers to not completely dismiss risk-disclosure messaging despite their evidence of its limited utility.

Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn't refer to a particular type of risk-disclosure messaging, whether Seira et al. considered it or not; the underlined portion simply indicates that the cost of the messaging (broadly) is very low, which makes the approach worth pursuing even if its effects are limited. Choice C is incorrect. Although the underlined portion does describe a consideration that led the researchers to recommend risk-disclosure messaging despite the messaging's small effects on consumer behavior, it directly states that the cost of such messaging is negligible, or very low—meaning that both the effects and the costs are small, not that the effects are small only relative to the costs. Choice D is incorrect because there's no indication that Seira et al. suggest that risk-disclosure messaging could be more effective if it had lower costs; rather, the underlined portion indicates that Seira et al. believe the already negligible cost of messaging makes the approach worth pursuing even if its effects are limited.

Question ID 2a3e25b0

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: 2a3e25b0

Vadamalai Elangovan and Ganapathi Marimuthu showed that high moonlight intensity inhibits the activity of the greater short-nosed fruit bat (*Cynopterus sphinx*), a result explicable in terms of benefits and costs: greater lunar intensity may not enable the bats to increase foraging success enough to offset the higher chance of detection by predatory owls or hawks. Most other nocturnal mammals respond to lunar intensity variations similarly to greater short-nosed fruit bats, but mongoose lemurs (*Eulemur mongoz*) display the opposite pattern, as their heavy reliance on visual foraging results in a different balance of reward and risk.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It discusses two different responses to the same natural phenomenon, explains why one of those responses occurs, and then suggests that the other response still needs to be explained.
- B. It describes and accounts for a finding, characterizes the finding as representative of a general pattern, and then describes and accounts for an exception to that pattern.
- C. It presents and explains a study result, indicates that the result is similar to the results of many other studies, and then attributes a conflicting study result to a difference in that study’s methods.
- D. It introduces an observation of a behavioral pattern, presents an explanation for the pattern, and then describes an exception to the pattern that casts doubt on that explanation.

ID: 2a3e25b0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by describing a study’s finding about greater short-nosed fruit bats—namely, that high moonlight intensity inhibits the bats’ activity—and also accounts for that finding, stating that this occurs because the potential increase in foraging success that greater lunar intensity enables doesn’t offset these bats’ increased vulnerability to predators (whose vision is also implied to become more acute under intense moonlight). The text goes on to characterize this finding as representative of a general pattern, stating that many nocturnal mammals behave similarly in response to changes in lunar intensity. The text concludes by describing an exception to this pattern, explaining that mongoose lemurs display an opposite tendency because they rely heavily on visual foraging. This strategy presumably would allow them to derive more benefit from greater lunar intensity than many other nocturnal mammals would, resulting in a "different balance of reward and risk" than exists for other nocturnal mammals. Therefore, the overall structure of the text is best described as a description and account of a finding, a characterization of that finding as representative of a pattern, and then a description and account of an exception to that pattern.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text discusses two different responses to variations in moonlight intensity, explaining that as moonlight intensity increases, greater short-nosed fruit bats and many other nocturnal mammals decrease their foraging activity but mongoose lemurs increase their foraging activity, it doesn’t leave one of these responses unexplained. The text accounts for

both the typical response to increased lunar intensity (reduced activity due to predation risk) and the exception (increased activity due to a reliance on visual foraging) by making reference to a cost-benefit framework. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text presents a study's finding about the effect of increased lunar intensity on greater short-nosed fruit bats' activity before going on to contrast this behavior with the fact that mongoose lemurs display the opposite response to increased lunar intensity, the text doesn't explicitly invoke other studies and doesn't attribute this difference in observed behavior to the fact that the study of greater short-nosed fruit bats used different methods than studies of mongoose lemurs did. Rather, the text explains that the different observed behaviors can be attributed to differences in species' foraging strategies. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text characterizes the behavior of mongoose lemurs in response to increased lunar intensity as an exception to a pattern of behavior observed in other nocturnal mammal species, this exception doesn't cast any doubt on the explanation that is offered for the general pattern observed among other species. Instead, the text uses the same cost-benefit framework to explain why increased lunar intensity is associated with decreased activity by greater short-nosed fruit bats and other nocturnal mammals but with increased activity by mongoose lemurs.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3db67dd5

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: 3db67dd5

Dubautia carrii is a species in a family of plants known collectively as the silversword alliance, all of which grow only on the Hawaiian Islands. Members of this alliance exhibit an extraordinary range of phenotypes, with some species maturing into vines and others into shrubs and trees. All species in the alliance descended from a single ancestral tarweed plant that arrived on the islands around 5 million years ago. The tarweed’s descendants diversified into distinct species as they adapted to live in the wide variety of habitats found on the Hawaiian Islands.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To indicate the specific tarweed ancestor of all plants that grow on the Hawaiian Islands and explain why the plants have such varied physical characteristics
- B. To describe the specific habitat where *Dubautia carrii* are found and identify other plants that share a common ancestor with them
- C. To describe the silversword alliance and explain how the plant family became so varied
- D. To advance the claim that all plants on the Hawaiian Islands are part of the silversword alliance and list possible ancestors of the plants that make up the alliance

ID: 3db67dd5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to describe the family of plants known as the silversword alliance and explain why the plants came to exhibit "an extraordinary range of phenotypes." The text introduces the silversword alliance as a family of plants unique to the Hawaiian Islands, presenting those that mature into vines and those that mature into shrubs and trees as examples of different phenotypes. The text concludes by explaining that these plants are all descendants of "a single ancestral tarweed plant" that arrived 5 million years ago in the Hawaiian Islands, where a "wide variety of habitats" drove the plant’s descendants to adapt and thus differentiate themselves, diversifying into a group of related but distinct species with different physical characteristics.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text explains why the plants within the silversword alliance have varied physical characteristics, the text doesn’t suggest that tarweed is the ancestor of all plants on the Hawaiian Islands. The text states instead that all members of the silversword alliance descend from a single tarweed ancestor. Choice B is incorrect because while *Dubautia carrii* is mentioned as an example of a species in the silversword alliance, no details about its particular habitat are provided. And although the text indicates that the Hawaiian Islands are home to "a wide variety of habitats," it doesn’t describe the specific habitat where *Dubautia carrii* is found. The text discusses the silversword alliance as a whole rather than focusing on *Dubautia carrii* or any one species within this family. Choice D is incorrect. Although the silversword alliance is only found on the Hawaiian Islands and includes "an extraordinary range of phenotypes," the text doesn’t claim that all plants on the Hawaiian

Islands are part of the alliance. Furthermore, the text indicates that these plants all "descended from a single ancestral tarweed plant," not that there are multiple possible candidates for that ancestor plant.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 5c611a18

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: 5c611a18

In many agricultural environments, the banks of streams are kept forested to protect water quality, but it's been unclear what effects these forests may have on stream biodiversity. To investigate the issue, biologist Xingli Giam and colleagues studied an Indonesian oil palm plantation, comparing the species richness of forested streams with that of nonforested streams. Giam and colleagues found that species richness was significantly higher in forested streams, a finding the researchers attribute to the role leaf litter plays in sheltering fish from predators and providing food resources.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. It discusses research intended to settle a debate about how agricultural yields can be increased without negative effects on water quality.
- B. It explains the differences between stream-protection strategies used in oil palm plantations and stream-protection strategies used in other kinds of agricultural environments.
- C. It describes findings that challenge a previously held view about how fish that inhabit streams in agricultural environments attempt to avoid predators.
- D. It presents a study that addresses an unresolved question about the presence of forests along streams in agricultural environments.

ID: 5c611a18 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The author first describes an unresolved question: what effect do bank forests have on stream biodiversity? Then the author presents a study that answers the question: bank forests increase stream biodiversity.

Choice A is incorrect. This isn't the main purpose of the text. The text never mentions agricultural yields. Choice B is incorrect. This isn't the main purpose of the text. The text never mentions other kinds of agricultural environments. Choice C is incorrect. This isn't the main purpose of the text. The text never mentions any previously held view about how fish in these streams try to avoid predators.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 63d8af3a

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: 63d8af3a

Works of moral philosophy, such as Plato’s *Republic* or Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, are partly concerned with how to live a morally good life. But philosopher Jonathan Barnes argues that works that present a method of living such a life without also supplying a motive are inherently useful only to those already wishing to be morally good—those with no desire for moral goodness will not choose to follow their rules. However, some works of moral philosophy attempt to describe what constitutes a morally good life while also proposing reasons for living one.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It provides a characterization about a field of thought by noting two works in it and then details a way in which some works in that field are more comprehensive than others.
- B. It mentions two renowned works and then claims that despite their popularity it is impossible for these works to serve the purpose their authors intended.
- C. It summarizes the history of a field of thought by discussing two works and then proposes a topic of further research for specialists in that field.
- D. It describes two influential works and then explains why one is more widely read than the other.

ID: 63d8af3a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text starts by stating what moral philosophy is concerned with and naming two examples of works in the field. Then it describes a shortcoming of some works in that field (they say how but not why), and finally it states that other works try to avoid that shortcoming (by including both how and why to live a morally good life).

Choice B is incorrect. This is too extreme. The text never mentions whether the two works are popular or not, and it never argues that these works don’t serve their intended purpose of describing how to live a morally good life. Rather, the text claims that works of moral philosophy that don’t include both how and why to be moral are not useful to readers who don’t already want to be moral. Choice C is incorrect. This isn’t the overall structure. The text never discusses the history of moral philosophy at all, and it doesn’t propose any topic for further research. Choice D is incorrect. This isn’t the overall structure. The text never discusses which of the two works is more widely read.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 7dd2f75a

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: 7dd2f75a

Yawn contagion occurs when one individual yawns in response to another's yawn. Studies of this behavior in primates have focused on populations in captivity, but biologist Elisabetta Palagi and her colleagues have shown that it can occur in wild primate populations as well. In their study, which focused on a wild population of gelada monkeys (*Theropithecus gelada*) in Ethiopia, the researchers further reported that yawn contagion most commonly occurred in males and across different social groups instead of within a single social group.

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

- A. It defines a phenomenon that is discussed in the text.
- B. It introduces a problem that is examined in the text.
- C. It makes a claim that is challenged in the text.
- D. It presents a hypothesis that is evaluated in the text.

ID: 7dd2f75a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the first sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence introduces what yawn contagion is, explaining that it occurs when an individual yawns in response to the yawn of another individual. The text goes on to describe Elisabetta Palagi and her colleagues' study of this phenomenon in a wild population of gelada monkeys. According to the text, the study showed that wild primate populations experience yawn contagion and that the behavior occurs most commonly in male monkeys and across social groups. Thus, the function of the first sentence is to define the phenomenon of yawn contagion that is discussed in the text.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the first sentence introduces the text's discussion of yawn contagion, it doesn't present this behavior, or anything else, as a problem. Choice C is incorrect because the first sentence doesn't present a claim but instead explains what yawn contagion is. Moreover, the text doesn't challenge anything; it's an informative text that describes the findings of a research study about yawning in wild primate populations. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text describes a scientific study, and most scientific studies are guided by a hypothesis, the text doesn't say what Palagi and her colleagues' hypothesis was; the text discusses their findings instead.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 23bb811d

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: 23bb811d

The following text is adapted from Louise Erdrich's 2020 novel *The Night Watchman*. Louis Pipestone is collecting signatures for a petition from fellow members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa on the tribe's reservation in North Dakota.

Louis Pipestone tended the petition like a garden. He kept it with him at all times. In town, his eyes sharpened when he noticed a tribal member who hadn't yet signed. Wherever they were—at the gas pump, mercantile [general store], at Henry's [Café], on the road, or outside the clinic and hospital—Louis cornered them. If they were waiting for a baby to be born, he'd have them sign. If they were laughing, if they were arguing. If they were taking a child home from school, they signed.

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Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To suggest that some tribal members refuse to sign the petition because they dislike Louis Pipestone
- B. To show that attitudes toward the petition within the tribal community change over time
- C. To demonstrate that most tribal members are enthusiastic about signing the petition
- D. To portray Louis Pipestone's strong commitment to collecting signatures for the petition

ID: 23bb811d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the text's main purpose. The text indicates that Louis always had his petition with him, asked everyone he encountered to sign it if they hadn't already, and lists several comical circumstances in which he might try to get someone to sign. Thus, the main purpose of the text is to illustrate Louis's dedicated focus on getting people to sign the petition.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text suggests that Louis was aggressive in seeking signatures for the petition—for example, saying that he "cornered" people—nothing in the text addresses how those people feel toward Louis, let alone that they are refusing his request. Choice B is incorrect because, other than portraying Louis's commitment to gathering signatures, the text doesn't discuss community members' attitudes toward Louis or the petition. Choice C is incorrect because the text never mentions the attitudes of the people Louis approaches toward the petition, but the text does indicate that he "cornered" prospective signatories, strongly suggesting that their enthusiasm was neither needed nor considered.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 36374871

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: 36374871

Several studies have found negligible electoral consequences for governments that impose fiscal austerity measures, yet some European governments recently suffered electorally due to their austerity programs. Evelyne Huebscher and colleagues attribute this incongruity to governments’ tendency—not followed in the recent European cases—to implement austerity programs strategically to avoid electoral costs (e.g., setting spending cuts to take effect only after the next election), which has obscured the inherent political risks of austerity measures in the election data scholars have examined.

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

- A. It explains a discrepancy between what has been observed in study settings and what has been observed in real-world settings that the text goes on to assert is attributable to the studies not using real-world data.
- B. It identifies a conflict between research findings and recent events that the text goes on to suggest is a consequence of a complicating factor in the data used to generate those findings.
- C. It presents a long-standing divergence in research findings that the text goes on to say is due to different groups of researchers using data that derive from different electoral circumstances.
- D. It describes a recent exception to a general pattern in research findings that the text goes on to explain is a result of researchers underestimating the significance of inconsistencies in the data they've analyzed.

ID: 36374871 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best describes how the underlined sentence functions in the text as a whole. The underlined sentence explains that contrary to what several studies would suggest, recent European governments suffered electorally after the launch of fiscal austerity programs. The text goes on to indicate that the researchers generated their findings from data that didn’t reveal the true political risk of austerity measures because the data were based on cases in which governments had set austerity programs to take effect after the next election, a practice the European governments that recently suffered electorally didn’t adhere to, thus introducing a complicating factor resulting in a conflict between the research findings and recent events.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn’t indicate that the discrepancy described in the text is between observations made in study settings and observations made in real-world settings. Rather, the underlined sentence indicates that the outcome of recent events is contrary to what would be expected based on the findings of several studies. Additionally, there is nothing in the text to suggest that the studies mentioned did not use real-world data; instead, the text indicates that the data used was generated under potentially different circumstances than the recent events. Choice C is incorrect because the underlined sentence doesn’t present a long-standing divergence in research findings but rather a discrepancy between past research findings and recent events that the text goes on to attribute to researchers’ use of data that didn’t reveal the true political risk of austerity measures. Choice D is incorrect because while the underlined sentence notes that there have been some recent exceptions to a

general pattern observed in several research studies, it does not go on to attribute this exception to the researchers underestimating inconsistencies in the data. Rather, the text goes on to attribute this to a circumstance (fiscal austerity measures being implemented before an election rather than after) which adds a complicating factor into the data not accounted for in past studies.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 8f35f486

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: 8f35f486

The following text is adapted from George Eliot’s 1857 short story “The Sad Fortunes of the Rev. Amos Barton.” Mr. Ely is a clergyman in the town of Milby.

By the laity of Milby and its neighbourhood [Mr. Ely] was regarded as a man of quite remarkable powers and learning, who must make a considerable sensation in London pulpits and drawing-rooms on his occasional visit to the metropolis; and by his brother clergy he was regarded as a discreet and agreeable fellow. Mr. Ely never got into a warm discussion; he suggested what might be thought, but rarely said what he thought himself; he never let either men or women see that he was laughing at them, and he never gave any one an opportunity of laughing at *him*.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It shows that Mr. Ely had originally been held in high regard by his friends and then details the events that caused their regard for him to subside.
- B. It implies that Mr. Ely’s neighbors are more naïve in their estimation of him than people in London are and then explains why his neighbors have been so easily misled.
- C. It stresses the discrepancy between Mr. Ely’s public and private conduct and then alludes to his motivation for hiding his true personality.
- D. It presents the favorable opinion of Mr. Ely that other people hold and then describes the behaviors of Mr. Ely that enable him to maintain that favorable opinion.

ID: 8f35f486 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it best describes the overall structure of the text. The first part of the text presents the favorable opinions that others hold of Mr. Ely: the laity of Milby regard him as having "remarkable powers and learning" and assume that he also impresses people in London, while his fellow clergy see him as "a discreet and agreeable fellow." The text then goes on to describe Mr. Ely’s behaviors that enable him to cultivate and preserve his positive reputation. The text conveys that he avoids confrontations, abstaining from "warm discussion[s]" (that is, heated or contentious ones); that he avoids offending anyone by "rarely [saying] what he thought himself" and by refraining from openly ridiculing anyone; and that he doesn’t give anyone any reason to ridicule or belittle his own character ("he never gave any one an opportunity of laughing at *him*"). In other words, these are all behaviors that suggest that Mr. Ely avoids doing anything that might make people dislike him or think poorly of him. Thus, the text begins by presenting the favorable view that people have of Mr. Ely and then describes the behaviors that enable him to maintain that favorable view.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t describe any events that caused people’s regard for Mr. Ely to diminish. Instead, the text explains that the people of Milby hold him in high regard and describes behaviors that suggest how he cultivates that regard. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Mr. Ely’s neighbors are more naïve than Londoners are or that they’ve

been misled. Although the text suggests that Mr. Ely is very guarded in his outward behavior and conceals from people when he may be internally mocking them, which might suggest that people know him less well than they think they do, there's nothing in the text to suggest that Londoners are less naïve and therefore less easily misled than Mr. Ely's neighbors are. The text states that the people of Milby believe Mr. Ely to be "remarkable" and that they assume that people in London must find him so, too; it doesn't say anything about what Londoners actually think of him. Choice C is incorrect. While the text discusses Mr. Ely's public conduct at length, describing the ways in which he carefully cultivates an agreeable public persona, the text doesn't discuss how Mr. Ely behaves in private at all; it therefore wouldn't be accurate to say that the text begins by emphasizing a discrepancy between his public and private conduct. Furthermore, although the text concludes with examples illustrating that Mr. Ely typically doesn't share his true thoughts, indicating that he may be hiding aspects of his true personality when in public, and although the text as a whole conveys the idea that Mr. Ely benefits from this behavior, which might hint at his motives for doing so, the text doesn't conclude by alluding to those motives. Instead, the text merely concludes with a description of the behaviors he engages in to win his neighbors' and colleagues' approval.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 74541007

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: 74541007

Part of the Atacama Desert in Peru has surprisingly rich plant life despite receiving almost no rainfall. Moisture from winter fog sustains plants once they’re growing, but the soil’s tough crust makes it hard for seeds to germinate in the first place. Local birds that dig nests in the ground seem to be of help: they churn the soil, exposing buried seeds to moisture and nutrients. Indeed, in 2016 Cristina Rengifo Faiffer found that mounds of soil dug up by birds were far more fertile and supported more seedlings than soil in undisturbed areas.

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

- A. It elaborates on the idea that the top layer of Atacama Desert soil forms a tough crust.
- B. It describes the process by which seeds are deposited into Atacama Desert soil.
- C. It identifies the reason particular bird species dig nests in Atacama Desert soil.
- D. It explains how certain birds promote seed germination in Atacama Desert soil.

ID: 74541007 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first two sentences establish a natural phenomenon: there is a richness of plant life found in the Atacama Desert despite the hard soil that makes it challenging for seeds to germinate. The next sentence, which contains the underlined portion, offers a potential explanation for the phenomenon: local birds dig ground nests exposing seeds to moisture and materials in the soil necessary for germination. The last sentence summarizes a study that compared the fertility of mounds of dirt dug up by birds to mounds that were undisturbed to support the explanation in the underlined portion. Thus, the underlined portion mainly functions to explain how certain birds promote seed germination in the Atacama Desert soil.

Choice A is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn’t address the topic of the soil’s tough crust or its formation. Instead, the text elaborates on the idea that local birds that build ground nests may help seeds germinate in the hard soil. Choice B is incorrect because the underlined portion describes how some birds may support seed germination in Atacama Desert soil but doesn’t describe how the seeds are deposited into the soil before germination begins. Choice C is incorrect because neither the underlined portion nor the text as a whole identifies a reason that a particular bird species may choose to dig ground nests in the Atacama Desert soil.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d533a438

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: d533a438

Composer Florence Price won first place for her score Symphony in E Minor at the 1932 Wanamaker Foundation Awards. The piece was performed the following year by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a significant recognition of its quality. Price continued to compose many musical pieces throughout her career, blending traditional Black spirituals with classical European Romantic musical traditions. In recent years, Price’s concertos and symphonies have been performed and recorded by several major orchestras, further preserving her work for others to enjoy.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To provide examples of Price’s importance as a composer
- B. To argue that more major orchestras should perform Price’s compositions
- C. To describe the musical styles that inspired many of Price’s symphonies
- D. To compare Price’s scores with those of classical European composers

ID: d533a438 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. The text provides an overview of Florence Price’s importance by describing her success at the 1932 Wanamaker Foundation Awards, her blending of Black spirituals and classical European Romantic musical traditions, and the recent performances and recordings of her concertos and symphonies by major orchestras.

Choice B is incorrect. The text does mention that Price’s compositions have been performed and recorded by major orchestras, but it doesn’t argue that more orchestras should do so. Choice C is incorrect. The text does mention the blending of Black spirituals and classical European Romantic musical traditions, but only briefly, as part of a broader overview of Price’s career. Choice D is incorrect. The text mentions Price’s blending of Black spirituals with classical European Romantic musical traditions, but it doesn’t directly compare Price’s scores with those of classical European composers.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b6062a9b

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: b6062a9b

A number of Indigenous politicians have been elected to the United States Congress since 2000 as members of the country’s two established political parties. In Canada and several Latin American countries, on the other hand, Indigenous people have formed their own political parties to advance candidates who will advocate for the interests of their communities. This movement has been particularly successful in Ecuador, where Guadalupe Llori, a member of the Indigenous party known as Pachakutik, was elected president of the National Assembly in 2021.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A.

To trace the history of an Indigenous political movement and speculate about its future development
- B.

To argue that Indigenous politicians in the United States should form their own political party
- C.

To highlight two approaches to achieving political representation for Indigenous people
- D.

To consider how Indigenous politicians in the United States have influenced Indigenous politicians in Canada and Latin America

ID: b6062a9b Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the main purpose of the text, which is to illustrate two approaches that Indigenous politicians have taken to achieve political representation for their communities. The text begins by explaining that one approach is exemplified by Indigenous politicians in the United States who, in an effort to ensure that the interests of their communities are represented in government, joined preexisting political parties and were subsequently elected to Congress. The text goes on to highlight a second approach adopted by Indigenous leaders in Canada and several Latin American countries: rather than joining established political parties, many Indigenous politicians in these countries have instead formed their own parties to promote candidates for office who support causes that are important to their communities.

Choice A is incorrect because the text’s focus is on the contrasting approaches adopted by different Indigenous political movements in different countries; thus, it isn’t accurate to say that the text traces the history of one political movement. Moreover, the text only discusses examples from 2000 to 2021, a relatively short period of time; therefore, it provides very little in the way of discussion of larger historical developments, nor does it make any predictions about how these movements might continue to develop in the future. Choice B is incorrect because the text never urges Indigenous politicians in the US to alter their strategy of striving for representation through the established political parties, nor does it suggest that this strategy is inferior to that of Indigenous politicians in Canada and Latin America, who have formed their own parties. In fact, the text notes that both strategies have resulted in the election of Indigenous politicians to national governments. Choice D is incorrect because the text never suggests that Indigenous politicians in the US have influenced those in Canada and Latin America; instead, it stresses how Indigenous politicians’ approach toward achieving representation in the US government has differed from the approach Indigenous politicians have taken to achieve representation in national governments elsewhere in the Americas.

Question ID 37e90257

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: 37e90257

“How lifelike are they?” Many computer animators prioritize this question as they strive to create ever more realistic environments and lighting. Generally, while characters in computer-animated films appear highly exaggerated, environments and lighting are carefully engineered to mimic reality. But some animators, such as Pixar’s Sanjay Patel, are focused on a different question. Rather than asking first whether the environments and lighting they’re creating are convincingly lifelike, Patel and others are asking whether these elements reflect their films’ unique stories.

- Which choice best describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole?
- A. It reflects a primary goal that many computer animators have for certain components of the animations they produce.
 - B. It represents a concern of computer animators who are more interested in creating unique backgrounds and lighting effects than realistic ones.
 - C. It conveys the uncertainty among many computer animators about how to create realistic animations using current technology.
 - D. It illustrates a reaction that audiences typically have to the appearance of characters created by computer animators.

ID: 37e90257 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole. The text begins with the underlined question, “How lifelike are they?” The text then explains that many computer animators pose this question about the environments and lighting that they create for animated films, striving for realistic animation of those components even if the characters themselves aren’t portrayed in realistic terms. The focus of the text then shifts to describe how some animators strive to create environments and lighting that reflect the film’s unique stories rather than making them appear realistic. Therefore, the function of the underlined question is to reflect a primary goal that many computer animators have for certain components of the animations they produce.

Choice B is incorrect because, as the text makes clear, the underlined question is one posed by computer animators who wish to create realistic backgrounds and lighting effects, not by those who, instead, wish to create effects that reflect films’ unique stories and aren’t necessarily realistic; this latter group of animators is discussed later in the text. Choice C is incorrect. As the text explains, many computer animators strive for realistic environments and lighting, while others do not; this difference of approach relates to whether these components should be realistic, not to how realism can be achieved using current technology, and the text never suggests that animators are uncertain how to achieve it. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined question pertains to the perspective of computer animators, not the audience, and the text never considers audience’s reactions to characters in animated films.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 2013cc7e

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: 2013cc7e

The following text is from Herman Melville’s 1854 novel *The Lightning-rod Man*.
The stranger still stood in the exact middle of the cottage, where he had first planted himself. His singularity impelled a closer scrutiny. A lean, gloomy figure. Hair dark and lank, mattedly streaked over his brow. His sunken pitfalls of eyes were ringed by indigo halos, and played with an innocuous sort of lightning: the gleam without the bolt. The whole man was dripping. He stood in a puddle on the bare oak floor: his strange walking-stick vertically resting at his side.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It elaborates on the previous sentence’s description of the character.
- B. It introduces the setting that is described in the sentences that follow.
- C. It establishes a contrast with the description in the previous sentence.
- D. It sets up the character description presented in the sentences that follow.

ID: 2013cc7e Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. This best states the function of the underlined sentence. The sentence basically says: “He stood out, so I looked more closely at him.” Then the rest of the text describes him in detail.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn’t state the function of the underlined sentence. The previous sentence basically says: “He was still standing in the middle of the cottage”—it doesn’t include any description of the character himself. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn’t state the function of the underlined sentence. The following sentences describe the character, not the setting. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn’t state the function of the underlined sentence. The underlined sentence basically says: “He stood out, so I looked more closely at him.” The previous sentence basically says: “He was still standing in the middle of the cottage.” There’s no contrast between these two sentences.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 915551f3

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: 915551f3

Early in the Great Migration of 1910–1970, which involved the mass migration of Black people from the southern to the northern United States, political activist and *Chicago Defender* writer Fannie Barrier Williams was instrumental in helping other Black women establish themselves in the North. Many women hoped for better employment opportunities in the North because, in the South, they faced much competition for domestic employment and men tended to get agricultural work. To aid with this transition, Barrier Williams helped secure job placement in the North for many women before they even began their journey.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To introduce and illustrate Barrier Williams’s integral role in supporting other Black women as their circumstances changed during part of the Great Migration
- B. To establish that Barrier Williams used her professional connections to arrange employment for other Black women, including jobs with the *Chicago Defender*
- C. To demonstrate that the factors that motivated the start of the Great Migration were different for Black women than they were for Black men
- D. To provide an overview of the employment challenges faced by Black women in the agricultural and domestic spheres in the southern United States

ID: 915551f3 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately describes the text’s purpose, which is to discuss the important role Barrier Williams played in supporting many other Black women as they relocated to the northern United States during the early years of the Great Migration. After introducing Barrier Williams, the text describes how she helped find jobs for other Black women, who in many cases relocated in search of better employment prospects than the South could offer at the time. The text indicates that by doing so, she eased these women’s transition as their circumstances changed.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text mentions Barrier Williams’s work as a political activist and writer for the *Chicago Defender*, it doesn’t discuss any professional connections she made in these roles or indicate that she used any such connections in her work to secure employment for other Black women. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text discusses a factor that caused many women to relocate during the Great Migration, their difficulty finding employment in the South, the text doesn’t indicate that this factor motivated the start of the Great Migration. Moreover, the text doesn’t discuss the factors that motivated Black men to migrate. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text mentions the difficult employment prospects for Black women in the domestic and agricultural sectors in the South during the Great Migration, the text’s main purpose isn’t to provide an overview of the employment challenges Black women faced in these sectors. Rather, it provides this information to show that Barrier Williams played a crucial role in supporting many Black women who relocated to the North by helping them achieve one of their main goals, securing a job.

Question ID 44834989

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: 44834989

Astronomers are confident that the star Betelgeuse will eventually consume all the helium in its core and explode in a supernova. They are much less confident, however, about when this will happen, since that depends on internal characteristics of Betelgeuse that are largely unknown. Astrophysicist Sarafina El-Badry Nance and colleagues recently investigated whether acoustic waves in the star could be used to determine internal stellar states but concluded that this method could not sufficiently reveal Betelgeuse’s internal characteristics to allow its evolutionary state to be firmly fixed.

Which choice best describes the function of the second sentence in the overall structure of the text?

- A. It describes a serious limitation of the method used by Nance and colleagues.
- B. It presents the central finding reported by Nance and colleagues.
- C. It identifies the problem that Nance and colleagues attempted to solve but did not.
- D. It explains how the work of Nance and colleagues was received by others in the field.

ID: 44834989 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes how the second sentence functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence establishes something astronomers believe with some certainty: that Betelgeuse will explode in a supernova. The second sentence then introduces a problem: astronomers aren’t certain *when* Betelgeuse will explode because they don’t have enough information about the star’s internal characteristics. Finally, the third sentence indicates that researcher Sarafina El-Badry Nance and colleagues investigated a possible method of obtaining the necessary information about Betelgeuse’s internal characteristics, though they found that the method wouldn’t be sufficient. Thus, the function of the second sentence is to identify the problem that Nance and colleagues attempted to solve but didn’t.

Choice A is incorrect because the second sentence introduces the general problem Nance and colleagues hoped to solve, not a serious limitation of how Nance and colleagues tried to solve it. It is the third sentence that introduces Nance and colleagues, but no serious limitation of their approach to studying a method of determining internal stellar states is described. Choice B is incorrect because the second sentence introduces the general problem Nance and colleagues hoped to solve, not the central finding they ultimately reported. It is the third sentence that presents Nance and colleagues’ conclusion that a potential method for determining internal stellar states would be insufficient. Choice D is incorrect because the second sentence doesn’t indicate how other astronomers or astrophysicists responded to the work done by Nance and colleagues; the text doesn’t address this information at all.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 679c60e0

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: 679c60e0

A team investigating frugivorous (fruit-eating) birds found that their feeding patterns vary depending on where they live within their habitat range. At the geographic boundaries of their natural range, these birds become highly selective, choosing fruits that closely match their beak size to maximize energy intake while minimizing effort. However, this fruit-selection strategy doesn't occur at elevation boundaries (the highest and lowest altitudes of their range). In these areas, other factors, such as territorial competition among species, have a stronger influence on feeding patterns.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To describe research methods that can be used to study the habitat preferences of frugivorous birds
 - B. To present research findings concerning how location within a habitat affects the feeding patterns of frugivorous birds
 - C. To discuss how competition among frugivorous bird species influences their habitat boundaries
 - D. To explain why habitat boundaries are more important than beak size in determining the feeding patterns of frugivorous birds

ID: 679c60e0 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text. The text begins by introducing research on variation in frugivorous birds' feeding patterns based on the specific part of their habitat range the birds occupy. The text then explains that birds at the geographic edges of their range feed selectively based on beak size, whereas birds at altitude-based boundaries feed based on local competition with other species. Therefore, the main purpose of the text is to present research findings concerning how location within a habitat affects the feeding patterns of frugivorous birds.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text does discuss studying habitats of frugivorous birds, it doesn't address specific research methods. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text mentions territorial competition as a factor affecting the feeding patterns of frugivorous birds at elevation boundaries, nothing in the text suggests that such competition affects the boundaries of those birds' habitats. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text mentions beak size as a key factor shaping frugivorous birds' feeding patterns at the geographic boundaries of the birds' natural range, it doesn't compare the relative importance of different factors or indicate that habitat boundaries matter more than beak size. Instead, the text presents findings showing that different types of boundaries—geographic and elevational—are associated with different influences on feeding patterns.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 989da4fe

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: 989da4fe

The following text is from Sarah Orne Jewett’s 1899 short story “Martha’s Lady.” Martha is employed by Miss Pyne as a maid.

Miss Pyne sat by the window watching, in her best dress, looking stately and calm; she seldom went out now, and it was almost time for the carriage. Martha was just coming in from the garden with the strawberries, and with more flowers in her apron. It was a bright cool evening in June, the golden robins sang in the elms, and the sun was going down behind the apple-trees at the foot of the garden. The beautiful old house stood wide open to the long-expected guest.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To convey the worries brought about by a new guest
- B. To describe how the characters have changed over time
- C. To contrast the activity indoors with the stillness outside
- D. To depict the setting as the characters await a visitor’s arrival

ID: 989da4fe Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately reflects the main purpose of the text. The text portrays Miss Pyne as awaiting the arrival of a carriage while Martha brings strawberries and flowers from the garden into the house. The text also describes the surroundings of the scene, stating that Miss Pyne looks "stately and calm," the evening is bright and cool, and birds are singing in the garden as the sun sets. Then the last sentence states that the house was "wide open to the long-expected guest," which strongly suggests that Miss Pyne’s anticipation and Martha’s activities were in preparation for the guest who is expected to arrive in the carriage. Thus, the text depicts the setting and conveys what these characters are doing as they await the arrival of their visitor.

Choice A is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to indicate that the characters feel any worry about the guest’s arrival. The text indicates that the guest was "long-expected," but characterizing Miss Pyne as "stately and calm" conflicts with the idea that the characters are worried about the guest. Choice B is incorrect because the text describes a moment in time when two characters are awaiting the arrival of a visitor rather than an extended period over which characters could be seen changing. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text describes the activity indoors (Miss Pyne sitting calmly), it describes a higher level of activity, not stillness, outside (Martha bringing fruit and flowers and birds singing).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b02126f2

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: b02126f2

Generally it takes Tule geese about four days to migrate south for the winter. From their summer breeding grounds in Cook Inlet, Alaska, the birds begin by flying over the Gulf of Alaska, keeping about 100 miles from the Canadian shore. They pause to rest on the Pacific Ocean, then fly toward Summer Lake, Oregon, before finally arriving at their winter destination of Sacramento Valley, California. In 2020, however, it took the geese over twice as long to make their way from Cook Inlet to Sacramento Valley. According to researchers, the reason was airborne pollutants.

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

- A. It illustrates a change in Tule geese’s usual flight behavior.
- B. It suggests an explanation for why Tule geese breed in Alaska.
- C. It describes part of the Tule geese’s typical winter migration journey.
- D. It compares Tule geese to other birds that migrate south for the winter.

ID: b02126f2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best states how the underlined portion functions in the text as a whole. The first sentence states that Tule geese typically take four days to migrate south. Then in the next sentence, which contains the underlined portion, the text describes the first part of that journey, which begins with the geese flying over the Gulf of Alaska while keeping about 100 miles from the Canadian shore. The rest of the text details the remainder of the geese’s typical journey and then mentions circumstances in 2020 that resulted in the geese taking an unusually long time to complete it. Thus, the underlined portion describes part of the Tule geese’s typical winter migration journey.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text concludes by stating that in 2020, Tule geese took twice as long to complete their typical migration, which suggests a change in their usual flight behavior, the underlined portion doesn’t discuss this. Instead, the underlined portion describes the first part of the Tule geese’s typical winter migration journey over the Gulf of Alaska. Choice B is incorrect. Although the sentence containing the underlined portion mentions that Tule geese breed in Alaska, the underlined portion doesn’t explain why the geese breed in that location. Rather, the text mentions Alaska to explain that it’s the starting point of the Tule geese’s typical winter migration. Choice D is incorrect because the underlined portion doesn’t discuss any other birds that migrate south for the winter. In fact, the text is only concerned with the migration of Tule geese.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 75c26700

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: 75c26700

To produce *batik*, an Indonesian textile that originated as early as the 6th century CE, an artist creates patterns on fabric by skillfully applying wax to the surface and then dyeing it. Traditionally, the artist draws on the cloth using a *canting*, a pen-shaped tool that applies wax in fine lines or dots. To expedite this laborious process, the *cap*, a copper stamp that applies preset wax patterns, was introduced. Although the *cap* made the process of producing batiks much quicker, the *canting* is often preferred because it results in unique pieces.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A. It introduces a traditional type of textile, suggests that it is a variation of an even older type of textile, and then explains a significant difference in how those types of textiles are produced.
- B. It establishes how a textile production technique originated, indicates how the technique has changed over time, and then suggests that renewed interest in the original technique is growing.
- C. It presents a method of textile production, identifies two approaches to that method, and then addresses the relative advantage of each approach.
- D. It conveys admiration of a certain style of textile, emphasizes the level of skill needed to produce the textile, and then urges broader recognition of the skill involved in producing the textile.

ID: 75c26700 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately describes the overall structure of the text. The text begins by describing batik fabric and the method for producing it—designs are applied in wax on the fabric, after which the fabric is dyed. The text then indicates that a “canting” (a pen-shaped tool) is traditionally used to apply the wax finely in lines or dots, and that “the cap” (a copper stamp of an entire pattern) is another, faster way to apply the wax design. Finally, the text states that the cap has the advantage of making batik production quicker, whereas a canting tends to produce a more unique design, which often makes a batik created using a canting more desirable than a mass-produced one. Thus, the text presents a method of textile production, identifies two approaches to that method, and addresses the relative advantage of each approach.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text describes making the textile batik with a canting and with the cap, both approaches are for making the same type of textile (batik). No other type of textile is mentioned in the text. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates when batik originated (perhaps the 6th century CE), it doesn’t describe how it originated. And although the text indicates that a batik created using a canting “is often preferred” over mass-produced batiks, nothing in the text suggests that this preference is a recent trend. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that the batik artists “skillfully” apply the wax designs that create the batik patterns, the overall discussion in the text describes factual aspects of the process of batik production without seeming to advocate for greater recognition of the art form.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e41937fd

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: e41937fd

In 2020, rap artist and professor A.D. Carson published the first peer-reviewed rap album about his experiences with Black masculinity called “i used to love to dream.” Typically in peer review, experts evaluate scholarly articles prior to publication. For Carson’s album, dubbed a “mixtap/e/ssay,” peer review involved both scholars and rap artists. In combining elements of a mixtape album with scholarly essays that connect Carson’s lyrics to historical and contemporary contexts for listeners both inside and outside academia, Carson’s album helped redefine how scholarship is created and shared.

- Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?
- A. To compare the relative public impact of scholarly articles and albums
 - B. To capture one scholar’s opinion of a new rap album
 - C. To explain why a certain rap album is particularly innovative
 - D. To describe how each step of the peer review process unfolds

ID: e41937fd Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it best describes the main purpose of the text, which is to explain why a certain rap album is particularly innovative. The text mentions rap artist and professor A.D. Carson, who published “the first peer-reviewed rap album.” The text also describes the unusual process of having the work evaluated by both scholars and rap artists before its release, and details how the album combines elements of a mixtape album with elements of scholarly essays. All of these characteristics of the album and the way in which it was developed help to demonstrate the album’s novelty.

Choice A is incorrect because though the text mentions an album that combines elements of scholarly essays and mixtapes, it does not compare the relative public impact of scholarly articles and albums. Choice B is incorrect because the text does not present the opinion of a scholar regarding the rap album. Choice D is incorrect because though the text mentions that the album was peer reviewed, it does not detail the steps of the review.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID fe2c8401

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: fe2c8401

Researchers have long hypothesized that woolly mammoths were hunted to extinction in North America by humans using spears with grooved tips known as Clovis points. One anthropologist set out to test this hypothesis. Using a mechanical spear-thrower, he launched spears with Clovis points into mounds of clay—substitutes for the animals’ large bodies. The projectiles generally penetrated only a few inches into the clay, an amount insufficient to have harmed most woolly mammoths. This led the anthropologist to conclude that hunters using spears with Clovis points likely weren’t the principal drivers of the extinction.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To argue for the significance of new findings amid an ongoing debate among researchers
- B. To discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the method used in an experiment
- C. To summarize two competing hypotheses and a major finding associated with each one
- D. To describe an experiment whose results cast doubt on an established hypothesis

ID: fe2c8401 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text, which is to describe an experiment whose results cast doubt on an established hypothesis. The text begins by noting that researchers have long believed that woolly mammoths were hunted to extinction in North America by humans using spears with Clovis points. The text then describes an experiment conducted by an anthropologist to test this hypothesis. According to the text, the results of the experiment led the anthropologist to conclude that hunters using spears with Clovis points likely weren’t the primary cause of the extinction. The anthropologist’s results cast doubt on the long-held hypothesis presented at the beginning of the text and suggest that woolly mammoths may have become extinct in North America due to some other cause.

Choice A is incorrect because there’s nothing in the text to suggest that researchers have been involved in an ongoing debate. On the contrary, the text suggests that most researchers agree on the cause of the woolly mammoth’s extinction in North America. Choice B is incorrect because the text never mentions any advantages or disadvantages of the method used in the experiment, focusing instead on the results achieved using that method. Choice C is incorrect because the text addresses only one hypothesis, that mammoths were hunted to extinction in North America by humans using spears with Clovis points. Rather than present a competing hypothesis, the text explains how one anthropologist designed an experiment to test this long-held hypothesis.

Question Difficulty: Hard