

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.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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

# 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

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.

# Question ID dfca4e97

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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

# Question ID fe9111d0

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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

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

# 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.

# Question ID 0df72554

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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

# Question ID bbac1dbd

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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.

# Question ID 32afead8

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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.

# Question ID d78da2b3

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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.

# 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

Question ID c1dad249

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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.

# Question ID c200b94e

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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.

Question ID 9f4347fb

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| 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

Question ID fa57fc2a

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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.

# Question ID 2af03d8f

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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.

Question ID 1e3aeb67

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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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.

Question ID 0b774080

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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.

# Question ID a4e3914a

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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

Question ID 3421742e

| Assessment | Test                | Domain              | Skill                      | Difficulty                                   |
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| 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.

# 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

# 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

# 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.

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.

# 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

# 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

# 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

# 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.

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

# 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 Kanienkahagen (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.

# 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

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.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.

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> |

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.

# 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.

# 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

# 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> |

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.

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> |

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.

# 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

# 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

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.

# 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

# 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.

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.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.

# 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

# 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.

# 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.

# 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.

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> |

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

# 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.

# 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.

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> |

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.

# 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

# 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

# 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.

# 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.

# 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

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.

# 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

# 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

# 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.

# 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.

# 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

# 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> |

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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