

Question ID a7f20ef0

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

ID: a7f20ef0

Text 1

The Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) mass extinction event is usually attributed solely to an asteroid impact near Chicxulub, Mexico. Some scientists argue that volcanic activity was the true cause, as the K-Pg event occurred relatively early in a long period of eruption of the Deccan Traps range that initially produced huge amounts of climate-altering gases. These dissenters note that other mass extinctions have coincided with large volcanic eruptions, while only the K-Pg event lines up with an asteroid strike.

Text 2

In a 2020 study, Pincelli Hull and her colleagues analyzed ocean core samples and modeled climate changes around the K-Pg event. The team concluded that Deccan Traps gases did affect global conditions prior to the event, but that the climate returned to normal well before the extinctions began—extinctions that instead closely align with the Chicxulub impact.

- Based on the texts, how would Hull’s team (Text 2) most likely respond to the argument in the underlined portion of Text 1?
- A. By agreeing that the Chicxulub impact changed the climate and that the Deccan Traps eruption caused the K-Pg event
 - B. By declaring that the changes in climate caused by the Deccan Traps eruption weren’t the main cause of the K-Pg event
 - C. By questioning why those scientists assume that the Chicxulub impact caused the Deccan Traps eruption
 - D. By asserting that the Deccan Traps eruption had a more significant effect on global conditions than those scientists claim

Question ID 59501d89

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

ID: 59501d89

Text 1

American sculptor Edmonia Lewis is best known for her sculptures that represent figures from history and mythology, such as *The Death of Cleopatra* and *Hagar*. Although Lewis sculpted other subjects, her career as a sculptor is best represented by the works in which she depicted these historical and mythical themes.

Text 2

Art historians have typically ignored the many portrait busts Edmonia Lewis created. Lewis likely carved these busts (sculptures of a person’s head) frequently throughout her long career. She is known for her sculptures that represent historical figures, but Lewis likely supported herself financially by carving portrait busts for acquaintances who paid her to represent their features. Thus, Lewis’s portrait busts are a central aspect of her career as a sculptor.

Based on the texts, both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Lewis’s portrait busts have overshadowed her other work.
- B. *The Death of Cleopatra* is Lewis’s most famous piece.
- C. Sculpting representations of historical figures was a short-lived trend.
- D. Lewis’s works are varied in the subjects they depict.

Question ID 89775cf5

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

ID: 89775cf5

Text 1

Polar bears sustain themselves primarily by hunting seals on the Arctic sea ice, but rising ocean temperatures are causing the ice to diminish, raising concerns about polar bear population declines as these large predators’ seal-hunting habitats continue to shrink. A 2020 study examining polar bear populations across the Arctic concluded that populations affected by sea-ice loss are at great risk of extinction by the end of the twenty-first century.

Text 2

Monitoring carried out by researchers from the Norwegian Polar Institute shows that the polar bear population on the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard remains stable and well nourished despite rapidly declining sea ice in recent years. The researchers attribute this population’s resilience in part to a shift in feeding strategies: in addition to hunting seals, the Svalbard polar bears have begun relying on a diet of reindeer meat and birds’ eggs.

Based on the texts, how would the researchers in Text 2 most likely respond to the conclusion presented in the underlined portion of Text 1?

- A. By noting that it neglects the possibility of some polar bear populations adapting to changes in their environment
- B. By suggesting that it is likely incorrect about the rates at which warming ocean temperatures have caused sea ice to melt in the Arctic
- C. By asserting that it overlooks polar bear populations that have not yet been affected by loss of seal-hunting habitats
- D. By arguing that it fails to account for polar bears’ reliance on a single seal-hunting strategy

Question ID b6891892

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

ID: b6891892

Text 1

Graphic novels are increasingly popular in bookstores and libraries, but they shouldn't be classified as literature. By definition, literature tells a story or conveys meaning through language only; graphic novels tell stories through illustrations and use language only sparingly, in captions and dialogue. Graphic novels are experienced as series of images and not as language, making them more similar to film than to literature.

Text 2

Graphic novels present their stories through both language and images. Without captions and dialogue, readers would be unable to understand what is depicted in the illustrations: the story results from the interaction of text and image. Moreover, Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* and many other graphic novels feature text that is as beautifully written as the prose found in many standard novels. Therefore, graphic novels qualify as literary texts.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the overall argument presented in Text 1?

- A. By asserting that language plays a more important role in graphic novels than the author of Text 1 recognizes
- B. By acknowledging that the author of Text 1 has identified a flaw that is common to all graphic novels
- C. By suggesting that the story lines of certain graphic novels are more difficult to understand than the author of Text 1 claims
- D. By agreeing with the author of Text 1 that most graphic novels aren't as well crafted as most literary works are

Question ID 550d3b41

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

ID: 550d3b41

Text 1

Historians studying pre-Inca Peru have looked to ceramic vessels to understand daily life among the Moche people. These mold-made sculptures present plants, animals, and human faces in precise ways—vessels representing human faces are so detailed that scholars have interpreted facial markings to represent scars and other skin irregularities. Some historians have even used these objects to identify potential skin diseases that may have afflicted people at the time.

Text 2

Art historian and archaeologist Lisa Trever has argued that the interpretation of Moche “portrait” vessels as hyper-realistic portrayals of identifiable people may inadvertently disregard the creativity of the objects’ creators. Moche ceramic vessels, Trever argues, are artworks in which sculptors could free their imagination, using realistic objects and people around them as inspiration to explore more abstract concepts.

Based on the texts, what would Lisa Trever (Text 2) most likely say about the interpretation presented in the underlined portion of Text 1?

- A. Depictions of human faces are significantly more realistic than depictions of plants and other animals are.
- B. It is likely that some depictions of human faces with extensive markings are intended to portray the same historical individual.
- C. Some vessels may have been damaged during their excavation and thus provide little insight into Moche culture.
- D. Markings on depictions of human faces are not necessarily intended to portray particular details about the physical appearance of individuals.

Question ID 100f04c3

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

ID: 100f04c3

Text 1

Hycean planets are a class of exoplanets (planets outside our solar system) with oceans of liquid water—critical to supporting life—and atmospheres rich in hydrogen. Computer models have determined that for potential hycean planets, the range of the habitable zone (HZ), the distance from a star that allows a planet to retain liquid water on its surface, begins at about 1 astronomical unit (AU). In 2021, Nikku Madhusudhan et al. identified K2-18 b as a hycean candidate, noting that the planet is located right on the inner edge of the HZ.

Text 2

In a 2023 paper, Shang-Min Tsai et al. claimed that the hydrogen-rich atmospheres of K2-18 b and other hycean candidates admit wavelengths of light that cause elevated surface temperatures and increased water evaporation. Unlike earlier assessments, Tsai et al.’s calculations therefore placed the inner edge for these planets’ HZ as far out as 3.85 AU.

- Based on the texts, how would Tsai et al. (Text 2) most likely respond to Madhusudhan et al.’s research, as presented in Text 1?
- A. By stating that the chemical composition of the atmosphere of the hycean candidate Madhusudhan et al. identified suggests that this planet’s surface is unlikely to harbor liquid water
 - B. By maintaining that Madhusudhan et al. relied on a model whose estimates of surface temperatures on hycean candidates are likely too high
 - C. By observing that unlike the hycean candidate Madhusudhan et al. discovered, most other types of planets with hydrogen-rich atmospheres are likely located within the HZ
 - D. By arguing that K2-18 b and other hycean candidates are unlikely to support life because these planets are located too far from the stars they orbit

Question ID 6bbc727d

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

ID: 6bbc727d

Text 1

Italian painters in the 1500s rarely depicted themselves in their work. Even more rare were self-portrait paintings that portrayed the artist as a painter. At the time, painting was not yet respected as a profession, so painters mostly chose to emphasize other qualities in their self-portraits, like their intellect or social status. In the city of Bologna, the first artist to depict himself painting was a man named Annibale Carracci. A painting of his from around 1585 shows Carracci in front of an easel holding a palette.

Text 2

In their self-portraits, Bolognese artists typically avoided referring to the act of painting until the mid-1600s. However, Lavinia Fontana’s 1577 painting, *Self-Portrait at the Keyboard*, stands out as the earliest example of such a work by an artist from Bologna. Although the artist is depicted playing music, in the background, one can spot a painting easel by a window.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

- A. Carracci and Fontana were among the most well-respected painters in Bologna at the time.
- B. The depiction of Fontana in *Self-Portrait at the Keyboard* was intended to underscore the artist’s creativity.
- C. Fontana likely inspired the reference to an easel and palette in Carracci’s painting.
- D. *Self-Portrait at the Keyboard* was painted earlier than Carracci’s painting and also refers to the artist’s craft.

Question ID a7c3edb5

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

ID: a7c3edb5

Text 1

Good art often challenges and disrupts social and aesthetic norms, but the creation of public art—paintings, sculptures, and performance pieces displayed in nonmuseum or nontheatrical public settings—typically requires broad agreement among artists, civic officials, and community members about the works’ message and artistic goals. Public art that fails to appease everyone by being sufficiently aesthetically and conceptually bland almost inevitably provokes backlash.

Text 2

Public art is commonly displayed in spaces intended for purposes other than meaningful aesthetic engagement. Some critics of public art therefore note that norm-defying pieces that aren’t effectively integrated within their surroundings in a manner that primes passersby to appreciate the pieces’ merits (as is often the case) tend to be regarded more unfavorably than similarly provocative art encountered in museums is.

Based on the texts, how would the critics mentioned in Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

- A. By arguing that the reason members of the general public might disagree about a public artwork’s merits is unrelated to the unconventionality of its appearance and ideas
- B. By agreeing with the idea that only works of art that are universally appealing are suitable for displaying in public spaces
- C. By disputing the notion that civic leaders and community members are easily placated by art that is intended mainly to reinforce social norms
- D. By contending that the kinds of reactions controversial public artworks often receive aren’t exclusively the result of attributes inherent in the works themselves

Question ID 0a8a95c5

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

ID: 0a8a95c5

Text 1

One challenge faced by researchers studying global urbanization is that countries may define urban settlements differently. Many countries define urban settlements based on the number of people living in them. However, countries do not all use the same number; for example, Iceland uses a minimum population of 200, while the Netherlands uses 20,000. Other countries use a combination of population and other factors. This variation makes it difficult for researchers to compare aspects of urbanization in different countries.

Text 2

Recently, a group of six international organizations developed global definitions of common types of settlements. The group developed a new measure called the “degree of urbanization.” This new measure establishes global criteria used to define three types of settlements (cities, towns, and rural areas) and allows researchers to better understand global urbanization rates.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the problem presented in Text 1?

- A. By recommending that a specific institution should further investigate the problem
- B. By suggesting that researchers focus on topics besides urbanization
- C. By supplying additional ways in which urbanization research is difficult
- D. By noting that a possible solution to the problem is available

Question ID 3566ae0a

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

ID: 3566ae0a

Text 1

The live music festival business is growing in event size and genre variety. With so many consumer options, organizers are finding ways to cement festival attendance as a special experience worth sharing. This phenomenon is linked to the growing “experiential economy,” where many find it gratifying to purchase lived experiences. To ensure a profitable event, venues need to consider the overall consumer experience, not just the band lineup.

Text 2

Music festival appearances are becoming a more important part of musicians’ careers. One factor in this shift is the rising use of streaming services that allow access to huge numbers of songs for a monthly fee, subsequently reducing sales of full-length albums. With this shift in consumer behavior, musicians are increasingly dependent on revenue from live performances.

Based on the texts, both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Consumers are more interested in paying subscription fees to stream music than in attending music festivals in person.
- B. Consumers’ growing interest in purchasing experiences is mostly confined to the music industry.
- C. Changing consumer behaviors are leading to changes in music-related businesses.
- D. The rising consumer demand for live music festivals also generates higher demand for music streaming platforms.

Question ID ed699c08

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

ID: ed699c08

Text 1

Little is known about how plate tectonics—wherein slabs of Earth’s crust move over, under, away from, and against one another—began. Some researchers contend that tectonic movements began around 3 billion years ago, often noting that computer models of Earth’s mantle temperature at the time indicate that the mantle would have been sufficiently molten to enable the plates to move.

Text 2

Ultimately, any plausible claim about the inception of tectonic movement must rest on empirical evidence from the geological record. Researcher Wriju Chowdhury and his team analyzed the geochemistry of zircon crystals to gain insight into the chemical composition of the magma from which the crystals formed and, based on the data, compellingly argue that plate tectonics may have been occurring as early as 4.2 billion years ago.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to what “some researchers contend” as described in Text 1?

- A. By suggesting that the temperature of Earth’s mantle 3 billion years ago was likely insufficient to allow for the level of tectonic movement predicted by computer models
- B. By distinguishing between computer models of Earth’s mantle temperature that reliably predict the onset of plate tectonics and those that do not
- C. By indicating that computer models of Earth’s mantle temperature are still being improved such that new models tend to be much more reliable than their predecessors
- D. By asserting that a more definitive form of evidence than the computer models suggests a different timeline for the onset of plate tectonics on Earth

Question ID 04c8822c

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

ID: 04c8822c

Text 1

French Impressionist artist Edgar Degas insisted that his paintings be kept in their original frames after they were sold. Like many Impressionist painters, Degas used painted frames that stood in contrast to the gold frames frequently seen at the Paris Salon, a prestigious art exhibition that was sponsored by the French government and promoted traditional painting styles. Impressionist painters likely chose these colorful frames to distinguish themselves from what was considered conventional at the time.

Text 2

Impressionist painters often focused on the interplay of color and light in their works. As such, those Impressionists who placed their works in painted frames instead of the more traditional gold ones did so for aesthetic reasons: a frame’s color was likely chosen because it would harmonize with the colors or subjects in a painting. Gold, conversely, could distract from the subtleties in a painted scene.

Based on the texts, both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Gold frames were considered especially desirable by those who purchased works from Impressionist painters.
- B. The colors in an Impressionist painting were often chosen to complement the colors of the frame it would be placed in.
- C. Many Impressionist painters were intentional about the frames they selected for their works.
- D. Degas’s preferred framing style was different from that of most Impressionist painters.

Question ID db3a0325

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

ID: db3a0325

Text 1

In a study of the benefits of having free time, Marissa Sharif found that the reported sense of life satisfaction tended to plateau when participants had two hours of free time per day and actually began to fall when they had five hours of free time per day. After further research, Sharif concluded that this dip in life satisfaction mainly occurred when individuals spent all their free time unproductively, such as by watching TV or playing games.

Text 2

Psychologist James Maddux cautions against suggesting an ideal amount of free time. The human desire for both free time and productivity is universal, but Maddux asserts that individuals have unique needs for life satisfaction. Furthermore, he points out that there is no objective definition for what constitutes productivity; reading a book might be considered a productive activity by some, but idleness by others.

Based on the texts, how would Maddux (Text 2) most likely respond to the conclusion Sharif (Text 1) reached after her further research?

- A. By acknowledging that free time is more likely to enhance life satisfaction when it is spent productively than when it is spent unproductively
- B. By challenging the reasoning in Text 1, as it has not been proved that productivity commonly contributes to individuals’ life satisfaction
- C. By warning against making an overly broad assumption, as there is no clear consensus in distinguishing between productive and unproductive activities
- D. By claiming that the specific activities named in Text 1 are actually examples of productive activities rather than unproductive ones

Question ID 157f2d5f

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

ID: 157f2d5f

Text 1

Microbes are tiny organisms in the soil, water, and air all around us. They thrive even in very harsh conditions. That’s why Noah Fierer and colleagues were surprised when soil samples they collected from an extremely cold, dry area in Antarctica didn’t seem to contain any life. The finding doesn’t prove that there are no microbes in that area, but the team says it does suggest that the environment severely restricts microbes’ survival.

Text 2

Microbes are found in virtually every environment on Earth. So it’s unlikely they would be completely absent from Fierer’s team’s study site, no matter how extreme the environment is. There were probably so few organisms in the samples that current technology couldn’t detect them. But since a spoonful of typical soil elsewhere might contain billions of microbes, the presence of so few in the Antarctic soil samples would show how challenging the conditions are.

Based on the texts, Fierer’s team and the author of Text 2 would most likely agree with which statement about microbes?

- A. Most microbes are better able to survive in environments with extremely dry conditions than in environments with harsh temperatures.
- B. A much higher number of microbes would probably be found if another sample of soil were taken from the Antarctic study site.
- C. Microbes are likely difficult to detect in the soil at the Antarctic study site because they tend to be smaller than microbes found in typical soil elsewhere.
- D. Most microbes are probably unable to withstand the soil conditions at the Antarctic study site.

Question ID 0d7a2a45

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

ID: 0d7a2a45

Text 1

For decades, bluegrass musicians have debated whether their genre should exclude influences from mainstream genres such as rock. Many insist that bluegrass is defined by its adherence to the folk music of the US South, out of which bluegrass emerged. Such “purists,” as they are known, regard the recordings of Bill Monroe, which established the bluegrass sound in the 1940s, as a standard against which the genre should still be measured.

Text 2

Bluegrass isn’t simply an extension of folk traditions into the era of recorded music. In reality, Bill Monroe created the bluegrass sound in the 1940s by combining Southern folk music with commercial genres that had arisen only a few decades before, such as jazz and the blues. Since bluegrass has always been a mixed genre, contemporary bluegrass musicians should not be forbidden from incorporating into it influences from rock and other mainstream genres.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely regard the perspective of bluegrass purists, as described in Text 1?

- A. As inconsistent, since bluegrass purists themselves enjoy other musical genres
- B. As unrealistic, since bluegrass purists have no way of enforcing their musical preferences
- C. As shortsighted, because bluegrass could enlarge its audience by including influences from mainstream genres
- D. As illogical, because the purists overlook crucial aspects of how the bluegrass sound first originated.

Question ID 1b3d0af5

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

ID: 1b3d0af5

Text 1

Literary scholars have struggled with the vastness of Nigerian writer Wole Soyinka’s collective works of drama (spanning over 20 plays in total). It is best, however, to understand Soyinka’s body of work as a dramatist chronologically. Soyinka’s progression as a playwright can be considered to fall into three periods, with each one representing a particular thematic and stylistic cohesion: the 1960s, the two decades between 1970 and 1990, and lastly, from roughly 1990 onwards.

Text 2

It is tempting to impose a linear sense of order on the expanse of Wole Soyinka’s body of work as a dramatist. However, critics who have considered Soyinka’s plays to fit neatly into three phases overlook potential commonalities in Soyinka’s work that span across these phases. Additionally, this view may discount significant differences in the styles and content of plays written around the same time.

Which choice best describes a difference in how the author of Text 1 and the author of Text 2 view the study of Soyinka’s works of drama?

- A. While the author of Text 1 believes that thinking about Soyinka’s works of theater in phases is useful, the author of Text 2 views such an approach as limiting.
- B. Although the author of Text 1 claims that Soyinka’s style as a dramatist has evolved over time, the author of Text 2 argues that Soyinka’s style has remained consistent throughout his career.
- C. The author of Text 1 considers Soyinka’s plays to showcase his strongest writing, whereas the author of Text 2 believes that Soyinka’s poetry is where he is most skilled.
- D. The author of Text 1 argues that Soyinka’s early plays were his most politically charged, whereas the author of Text 2 claims that Soyinka’s most recent plays are the most politicized.

Question ID 2dac798d

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

ID: 2dac798d

Text 1

In a study of insect behavior, Samadi Galpayage and colleagues presented bumblebees with small wooden balls and observed many of the bees clinging to, rolling, and dragging the objects. The researchers provided no external rewards (such as food) to encourage these interactions. The bees simply appeared to be playing—and for no other reason than because they were having fun.

Text 2

Insects do not have cortexes or other brain areas associated with emotions in humans. Still, Galpayage and her team have shown that bumblebees may engage in play, possibly experiencing some kind of positive emotional state. Other studies have suggested that bees experience negative emotional states (for example, stress), but as Galpayage and her team have acknowledged, emotions in insects, if they do indeed exist, are likely very rudimentary.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined portion of Text 1?

- A. By objecting that the bees were actually experiencing a negative feeling akin to stress rather than a positive feeling
- B. By arguing that some insects other than bumblebees may be capable of experiencing complex emotional states
- C. By pointing out that even humans sometimes struggle to have fun while engaging in play
- D. By noting that if the bees were truly playing, any positive feelings they may have experienced were probably quite basic

Question ID b774216f

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

ID: b774216f

Text 1

It seems clear that emotional contagion (the unintentional transfer of an emotional state from one person to another) requires physical interaction and the observation of body language. After all, research shows that talking to someone who is smiling and expressing positive feelings often causes people to respond in a comparably positive way. Similarly, displays of nervous fidgeting have been found to prompt others to begin behaving more nervously, too.

Text 2

In an experiment using a social networking service, Zeyao Yang and Emilio Ferrara found evidence of emotional contagion in text-based online interactions. The researchers discovered that reading social media posts that expressed a positive outlook led people to make more positive posts themselves, while posts with a negative emotional tone led people to make more negative posts.

Based on the texts, what would the researchers in Text 2 most likely say about the claim underlined in Text 1?

- A. It perpetuates a flawed understanding of emotional contagion, because there isn't enough evidence to suggest that smiling is a sign of emotional contagion.
- B. It reflects an incomplete view of emotional contagion, because this phenomenon can occur even without in-person interaction.
- C. It's fairly persuasive, because studies attempting to identify emotional contagion in situations without in-person interaction have thus far yielded unclear results.
- D. It's mostly accurate, because the social networking study confirmed that emotional contagion primarily occurs in response to negative emotions like nervousness.

Question ID 7b47dd6a

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

ID: 7b47dd6a

Text 1

An excavation in Chiquihuite Cave in central Mexico has upended the belief that approximately 13,000 years ago, a group known as the Clovis people were the first human inhabitants of North America. More than 200 crude stone tools were found embedded in a layer of earth that is up to 33,150 years old, revealing that humans occupied the cave thousands of years before the Clovis people reached the continent.

Text 2

The objects uncovered in Chiquihuite Cave are intriguing, but it is premature to characterize them as tools. The stone pieces are so roughly shaped that they may have simply fractured from rocks during natural geological activity in the cave. Moreover, their unearthing has thus far not been accompanied by discoveries of other signs of human activity or even traces of human DNA from surfaces.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

- A. By suggesting that it draws a plausible connection between two groups of people but will need to be confirmed with further study
- B. By asserting that it rests on an assumption about the stone pieces that is not sufficiently supported by available evidence
- C. By acknowledging that it will most likely be proved correct when the stone pieces undergo more detailed analysis
- D. By pointing out that it fails to account for evidence that the Clovis people were active on the continent as early as is commonly thought

Question ID 0feaa683

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

ID: 0feaa683

Text 1

Many studies in psychology have shown that people seek out information even when they know in advance that they have no immediate use for it and that they won't directly benefit from it. Such findings support the consensus view among researchers of curiosity: namely, that curiosity is not instrumental but instead represents a drive to acquire information for its own sake.

Text 2

While acknowledging that acquiring information is a powerful motivator, Rachit Dubey and colleagues ran an experiment to test whether emphasizing the usefulness of scientific information could increase curiosity about it. They found that when research involving rats and fruit flies was presented as having medical applications for humans, participants expressed greater interest in learning about it than when the research was not presented as useful.

- Based on the texts, how would Dubey and colleagues (Text 2) most likely respond to the consensus view discussed in Text 1?
- A. By suggesting that curiosity may not be exclusively motivated by the desire to merely acquire information
 - B. By conceding that people may seek out information that serves no immediate purpose only because they think they can use it later
 - C. By pointing out that it is challenging to determine when information-seeking serves no goal beyond acquiring information
 - D. By disputing the idea that curiosity can help explain apparently purposeless information-seeking behaviors

Question ID 6004657c

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

ID: 6004657c

Text 1

Dominique Potvin and colleagues captured five Australian magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) to test a new design for attaching tracking devices to birds. As the researchers fitted each magpie with a tracker attached by a small harness, they noticed some magpies without trackers pecking at another magpie’s tracker until it broke off. The researchers suggest that this behavior could be evidence of magpies attempting to help another magpie without benefiting themselves.

Text 2

It can be tempting to think that animals are deliberately providing help when we see them removing trackers and other equipment from one another, especially when a species is known to exhibit other cooperative behaviors. At the same time, it can be difficult to exclude the possibility that individuals are simply interested in the equipment because of its novelty, curiously pawing or pecking at it until it detaches.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the researchers’ perspective in Text 1 on the behavior of the magpies without trackers?

- A. That behavior might have been due to the novelty of the magpies’ captive setting rather than to the novelty of the tracker.
- B. That behavior likely indicates that the magpies were deliberately attempting to benefit themselves by obtaining the tracker.
- C. That behavior may not be evidence of selflessness in *Gymnorhina tibicen* because not all the captured magpies demonstrated it.
- D. That behavior might be adequately explained without suggesting that the magpies were attempting to assist the other magpie.

Question ID e546fe55

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

ID: e546fe55

Text 1

Digital art, the use of digital technology to create or display images, isn't really art at all. It doesn't require as much skill as creating physical art. "Painting" with a tablet and stylus is much easier than using paint and a brush: the technology is doing most of the work.

Text 2

The painting programs used to create digital art involve more than just pressing a few buttons. In addition to knowing the fundamentals of art, digital artists need to be familiar with sophisticated software. Many artists will start by drawing an image on paper before transforming the piece to a digital format, where they can apply a variety of colors and techniques that would otherwise require many different traditional tools.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the claims of the author of Text 1?

- A. By arguing that a piece of art created digitally can still be displayed traditionally
- B. By explaining that it's actually much harder to use a tablet and stylus to create art than to use paint and a brush
- C. By insisting that digital art requires artistic abilities and skill even if it employs less traditional tools
- D. By admitting that most digital artists don't think fundamental drawing skills are important

Question ID 29187f21

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

ID: 29187f21

Text 1

The idea that time moves in only one direction is instinctively understood, yet it puzzles physicists. According to the second law of thermodynamics, at a macroscopic level some processes of heat transfer are irreversible due to the production of entropy—after a transfer we cannot rewind time and place molecules back exactly where they were before, just as we cannot unbreak dropped eggs. But laws of physics at a microscopic or quantum level hold that those processes *should* be reversible.

Text 2

In 2015, physicists Tiago Batalhão et al. performed an experiment in which they confirmed the irreversibility of thermodynamic processes at a quantum level, producing entropy by applying a rapidly oscillating magnetic field to a system of carbon-13 atoms in liquid chloroform. But the experiment “does not pinpoint ... what causes [irreversibility] at the microscopic level,” coauthor Mauro Paternostro said.

Based on the texts, what would the author of Text 1 most likely say about the experiment described in Text 2?

- A. It would suggest an interesting direction for future research were it not the case that two of the physicists who conducted the experiment disagree on the significance of its findings.
- B. It provides empirical evidence that the current understanding of an aspect of physics at a microscopic level must be incomplete.
- C. It is consistent with the current understanding of physics at a microscopic level but not at a macroscopic level.
- D. It supports a claim about an isolated system of atoms in a laboratory, but that claim should not be extrapolated to a general claim about the universe.

Question ID a58c7a95

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

ID: a58c7a95

Text 1

In 1954 George Balanchine choreographed a production of *The Nutcracker*, a ballet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. It has since become a tradition for hundreds of dance companies in North America to stage *The Nutcracker* each year. But the show is stuck in the past, with an old-fashioned story and references, so it should no longer be produced. Ballet needs to create new traditions if it wants to stay relevant to contemporary audiences.

Text 2

The Nutcracker is outdated, but it should be kept because it’s a holiday favorite and provides substantial income for some dance companies. Although it can be behind the times, there are creative ways to update the show. For example, Debbie Allen successfully modernized the story. Her show *Hot Chocolate Nutcracker* combines ballet, tap, hip-hop, and other styles, and it has been gaining in popularity since it opened in 2009.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

- A. By questioning the idea that the story of *The Nutcracker* is stuck in the past and by rejecting the suggestion that contemporary audiences would enjoy an updated version
- B. By agreeing that contemporary audiences have largely stopped going to see performances of *The Nutcracker* because it’s so old-fashioned
- C. By pointing out that most dance companies could increase their incomes by offering modernized versions of *The Nutcracker*
- D. By suggesting that dance companies should consider offering revised versions of *The Nutcracker* instead of completely rejecting the show

Question ID 8aa1828e

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

ID: 8aa1828e

Text 1

Most animals can regenerate some parts of their bodies, such as skin. But when a three-banded panther worm is cut into three pieces, each piece grows into a new worm. Researchers are investigating this feat partly to learn more about humans’ comparatively limited abilities to regenerate, and they’re making exciting progress. An especially promising discovery is that both humans and panther worms have a gene for early growth response (EGR) linked to regeneration.

Text 2

When Mansi Srivastava and her team reported that panther worms, like humans, possess a gene for EGR, it caused excitement. However, as the team pointed out, the gene likely functions very differently in humans than it does in panther worms. Srivastava has likened EGR to a switch that activates other genes involved in regeneration in panther worms, but how this switch operates in humans remains unclear.

Based on the texts, what would the author of Text 2 most likely say about Text 1’s characterization of the discovery involving EGR?

- A. It is reasonable given that Srivastava and her team have identified how EGR functions in both humans and panther worms.
- B. It is overly optimistic given additional observations from Srivastava and her team.
- C. It is unexpected given that Srivastava and her team’s findings were generally met with enthusiasm.
- D. It is unfairly dismissive given the progress that Srivastava and her team have reported.

Question ID fc2eb0a2

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

ID: fc2eb0a2

Text 1

Mycoprotein is a fungal biomass that can be eaten as an alternative to meat. Studies of the environmental impact of its manufacture generally agree it is lower than that of beef and closer to that of chicken or pork. But the expense of producing mycoprotein restricts its availability to a few countries with postindustrial economies. Knowing that cost reductions would expand access to mycoprotein, biochemists are exploring solutions, such as a cheaper substrate to feed the mycoprotein as it grows.

Text 2

Cattle farming is a principal cause of global deforestation, and a study by Florian Humpenöder and his colleagues found that replacing 20% of beef consumption worldwide with consumption of mycoprotein would cut deforestation by half if accomplished over the next thirty years. However, this would likely involve only a small change in agricultural water consumption, since water once dedicated to raising cattle would be diverted to raising crops instead.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 1 most likely respond to the study findings mentioned in Text 2?

- A. By emphasizing that since agricultural water consumption would remain static in the event of replacing beef consumption with mycoprotein consumption, an effort must be made to substitute mycoprotein for chicken and pork in diets as well
- B. By asserting that the development of a more inexpensive substrate for mycoprotein production would contribute to the goal of decreasing worldwide deforestation over time
- C. By noting that most people would be more likely to use mycoprotein as a substitute for chicken or pork in their diets than as a substitute for beef
- D. By pointing out that some countries are responsible for greater deforestation than others and thus, to have any significant effect on the environment, will have to replace more than 20% of their beef consumption with mycoprotein

Question ID eb8c4858

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

ID: eb8c4858

Text 1

Ecologists have long wondered how thousands of microscopic phytoplankton species can live together near ocean surfaces competing for the same resources. According to conventional wisdom, one species should emerge after outcompeting the rest. So why do so many species remain? Ecologists’ many efforts to explain this phenomenon still haven’t uncovered a satisfactory explanation.

Text 2

Ecologist Michael Behrenfeld and colleagues have connected phytoplankton’s diversity to their microscopic size. Because these organisms are so tiny, they are spaced relatively far apart from each other in ocean water and, moreover, experience that water as a relatively dense substance. This in turn makes it hard for them to move around and interact with one another. Therefore, says Behrenfeld’s team, direct competition among phytoplankton probably happens much less than previously thought.

Based on the texts, how would Behrenfeld and colleagues (Text 2) most likely respond to the “conventional wisdom” discussed in Text 1?

- A. By arguing that it is based on a misconception about phytoplankton species competing with one another
- B. By asserting that it fails to recognize that routine replenishment of ocean nutrients prevents competition between phytoplankton species
- C. By suggesting that their own findings help clarify how phytoplankton species are able to compete with larger organisms
- D. By recommending that more ecologists focus their research on how competition among phytoplankton species is increased with water density

Question ID 98752cd4

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

ID: 98752cd4

Text 1

Stage lighting theorist Adolphe Appia was perhaps the first to argue that light must be considered alongside all the various elements of a stage to create a single, unified performance. Researcher Kelly Bremner, however, has noted that Appia lacked technical expertise in the use of light in the theater. As a result of Appia’s inexperience, Bremner argues, Appia’s theory of light called for lighting practices that weren’t possible until after the advent of electricity around 1881.

Text 2

Adolphe Appia was not an amateur in the practice of lighting. Instead, it is precisely his exposure to lighting techniques at the time that contributed to his theory on the importance of light. When working as an apprentice for a lighting specialist in his youth, Appia observed the use of portable lighting devices that could be operated by hand. This experience developed his understanding of what was possible in the coordination of elements on the stage.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the claim about Appia’s level of technical expertise made by Bremner in Text 1?

- A. Many lighting technicians dismissed Appia’s ideas about light on the stage.
- B. Appia likely gained a level of technical expertise during his time as an apprentice.
- C. Theater practitioners who worked with Appia greatly admired his work.
- D. Appia was unfamiliar with the use of music and sound in theater.

Question ID 8640c772

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

ID: 8640c772

Text 1

Philosopher G.E. Moore’s most influential work entails the concept of common sense. He asserts that there are certain beliefs that all people, including philosophers, know instinctively to be true, whether or not they profess otherwise: among them, that they have bodies, or that they exist in a world with other objects that have three dimensions. Moore’s careful work on common sense may seem obvious but was in fact groundbreaking.

Text 2

External world skepticism is a philosophical stance supposing that we cannot be sure of the existence of anything outside our own minds. During a lecture, G.E. Moore once offered a proof refuting this stance by holding out his hands and saying, “Here is one hand, and here is another.” Many philosophers reflexively reject this proof (Annalisa Coliva called it “an obviously annoying failure”) but have found it a challenge to articulate exactly why the proof fails.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 1 most likely respond to proponents of the philosophical stance outlined in Text 2?

- A. By agreeing with those proponents that Moore’s treatment of positions that contradict his own is fundamentally unserious
- B. By suggesting that an instinctive distaste for Moore’s position is preventing external world skeptics from constructing a sufficiently rigorous refutation of Moore
- C. By arguing that if it is valid to assert that some facts are true based on instinct, it is also valid to assert that some proofs are inadequate based on instinct
- D. By pointing out that Moore would assert that external world skepticism is at odds with other beliefs those proponents must unavoidably hold

Question ID 22397f80

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

ID: 22397f80

Text 1

When the 50-second-long film *Arrival of the Train*—which depicts what its title says, a train pulling into a station—was first shown publicly in 1896, spectators, naïve to the new medium of film and seeing a train appearing to come directly at them, leaped from their seats and fled the room. This moment marks a major cultural shift: a new way of representing and seeing the world had arrived with that train, and nothing would ever be the same.

Text 2

The fact that there is no contemporary evidence that the first audience of *Arrival of the Train* was alarmed has not stopped the story from becoming canonical, even among film historians. But that phenomenon itself is highly revealing. Our belief that the coming of film was transformative is so strong that we invented and keep retelling a founding myth that divides cultural history into a (naïve) “before” and (sophisticated) “after.”

Based on the texts, the author of Text 2 would most likely agree with which statement about the description of the first showing of *Arrival of the Train* in Text 1?

- A. It is more motivated by a perception of the significance of the invention of film than by facts.
- B. It expresses a view about the transformative nature of film that film historians tend to regard as naïve.
- C. It is not based on evidence and reflects film historians’ belief that they are more sophisticated than today’s audiences.
- D. It reflects a misconception that is widely believed because it captures early film audiences’ sense that the new medium was alarming.

Question ID 5d67f92c

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

ID: 5d67f92c

Text 1

A team led by Bernardo Strassburg has found that rewilding farmland (returning the land to its natural state) could help preserve biodiversity and offset carbon emissions. The amount of farmland that would need to be restored, they found, is remarkably low. Rewilding a mere 15% of the world’s current farmland would prevent 60% of expected species extinctions and help absorb nearly 299 gigatons of carbon dioxide—a clear win in the fight against the biodiversity and climate crises.

Text 2

While Strassburg’s team’s findings certainly offer encouraging insight into the potential benefits of rewilding, it’s important to consider potential effects on global food supplies. The researchers suggest that to compensate for the loss of food-producing land, remaining farmland would need to produce even more food. Thus, policies focused on rewilding farmland must also address strategies for higher-yield farming.

- Which choice best describes a difference in how the author of Text 1 and the author of Text 2 view Strassburg’s team’s study?
- A. The author of Text 2 approaches the study’s findings with some caution, whereas the author of Text 1 is optimistic about the reported potential environmental benefits.
 - B. The author of Text 2 claims that the percentage of farmland identified by Strassburg’s team is too low for rewilding to achieve meaningful results, whereas the author of Text 1 thinks the percentage is sufficient.
 - C. The author of Text 2 believes that the results described by Strassburg’s team are achievable in the near future, whereas the author of Text 1 argues that they likely aren’t.
 - D. The author of Text 2 focuses on rewilding’s effect on carbon emissions, whereas the author of Text 1 focuses on its effect on biodiversity.

Question ID 47200bb7

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

ID: 47200bb7

Text 1

A tiny, unusual fossil in a piece of 99-million-year-old amber is of the extinct species *Oculudentavis khaungraae*. The *O. khaungraae* fossil consists of a rounded skull with a thin snout and a large eye socket. Because these features look like they are avian, or related to birds, researchers initially thought that the fossil might be the smallest avian dinosaur ever found.

Text 2

Paleontologists were excited to discover a second small fossil that is similar to the strange *O. khaungraae* fossil but has part of the lower body along with a birdlike skull. Detailed studies of both fossils revealed several traits that are found in lizards but not in dinosaurs or birds. Therefore, paleontologists think the two creatures were probably unusual lizards, even though the skulls looked avian at first.

- Based on the texts, what would the paleontologists in Text 2 most likely say about the researchers’ initial thought in Text 1?
- A. It is understandable because the fossil does look like it could be related to birds, even though *O. khaungraae* is probably a lizard.
 - B. It is confusing because it isn’t clear what caused the researchers to think that *O. khaungraae* might be related to birds.
 - C. It is flawed because the researchers mistakenly assumed that *O. khaungraae* must be a lizard.
 - D. It is reasonable because the *O. khaungraae* skull is about the same size as the skull of the second fossil but is shaped differently.