

Question ID 0a017199

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0a017199

Some animal-behavior studies involve observing wild animals in their natural habitat, and some involve capturing wild animals and observing them in a laboratory. Each approach has advantages over the other. In wild studies, researchers can more easily presume that the animals are behaving normally, and in lab studies, researchers can more easily control factors that might affect the results. But if, for example, the results from a wild study and a lab study of Western scrub-jays (*Aphelocoma californica*) contradict each other, one or both of the studies must have failed to account for some factor that was relevant to the birds' behavior.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. When the results of a natural-habitat study and those from a lab study of a wild animal such as the Western scrub-jay conflict, the study in the natural habitat is more likely than the lab study to have accurate results.
- B. Studying wild animals such as the Western scrub-jay in both their natural habitat and lab settings is likely to yield conflicting results that researchers cannot fully resolve.
- C. Wild animals such as the Western scrub-jay can be effectively studied in their natural habitat and in the lab, but each approach has drawbacks that could affect the accuracy of the findings.
- D. Differing results between natural-habitat and lab studies of wild animals such as the Western scrub-jay are a strong indication that both of the studies had design flaws that affected the accuracy of their results.

ID: 0a017199 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by explaining that wild animals can be studied in their natural habitat or in a laboratory setting, with each setting offering unique advantages to researchers. The text then highlights an instance in which Western scrub-jays were studied in both settings but with conflicting results, indicating that one or both studies may have failed to account for the disadvantages of its research setting. Thus, the main idea of the text is that while wild animals can be effectively studied in natural or lab settings, there are drawbacks to each that need to be considered to ensure accurate results.

Choice A is incorrect because the text does not position one study setting (natural or lab) as superior to the other; rather, the text states that each one has advantages over the other. Choice B is incorrect. The text provides a hypothetical example of two studies in different environments with conflicting results, but this single example cannot be extrapolated to a general claim about the likelihood that results of studies in different environments will conflict. Additionally, the text does not assert anything about how researchers can or cannot resolve conflicting study results. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not state that discrepancies between natural-habitat and lab-based animal behavior studies are due to both of the designs being flawed. Rather, the text states that the conflict in results can be the consequence of one or both of the studies having failed to account for some factor.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 12b370c2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 12b370c2

Disco remains one of the most ridiculed popular music genres of the late twentieth century. But as scholars have argued, the genre is far less superficial than many people believe. Take the case of disco icon Donna Summer: she may have been associated with popular songs about love and heartbreak (subjects hardly unique to disco, by the way), but like many Black women singers before her, much of her music also reflects concerns about community and identity. These concerns are present in many of the genre’s greatest songs, and they generally don’t require much digging to reveal.

What does the text most strongly suggest about the disco genre?

- A. It has been unjustly ignored by most scholars despite the importance of the themes addressed by many of the genre’s songs.
- B. It evolved over time from a superficial genre focused on romance to a genre focused on more serious concerns.
- C. It has been unfairly dismissed for the inclusion of subject matter that is also found in other musical genres.
- D. It gave rise to a Black women’s musical tradition that has endured even though the genre itself faded in the late twentieth century.

ID: 12b370c2 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text argues that disco is "far less superficial" than its popular perception might indicate, and that love and heartbreak are "subjects hardly unique to disco."

Choice A is incorrect. This choice conflicts with the text, which says that scholars argue that disco "is far less superficial than many people believe." Choice B is incorrect. This choice says the opposite of what the text suggests. The writer argues that the genre is not as superficial as commonly believed, but that it always reflected "concerns about community and identity." Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn’t support this choice. There’s nothing in the text about disco giving rise to an enduring Black women’s musical tradition.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c25d4e29

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c25d4e29

The following text is from William Shakespeare’s play *The Tempest*, first performed in 1611. Miranda has lived on an island with her father, Prospero, since she was three years old. Prospero has stated that Miranda likely does not remember anything other than her life on the island.

MIRANDA: ‘Tis far off,
And rather like a dream than an assurance
That my remembrance warrants. Had I not
Four or five women once that tended me?

PROSPERO: Thou hadst, and more, Miranda. But how is it
That this lives in thy mind? What seest thou else
In the dark backward and abysm of time?
If thou remember’st ought ere thou camest here,
How thou camest here thou mayst.

- In the text, which point does Prospero most directly make about Miranda and her memories?
- A. Miranda’s reminiscences about her early childhood have a melancholy quality that betrays her discontented view of her current circumstances.
 - B. Miranda’s doubts about the accuracy of one recollection of a place other than the island are clouding her judgment and seem to be making her reluctant to explore her recollection of traveling to the island.
 - C. Miranda’s ability to summon details of an experience she had before arriving on the island suggests that she may also be able to summon details of her arrival on the island.
 - D. Miranda’s impression of a scene is vague because she is remembering a scenario she had daydreamed about as a child rather than a scenario that had occurred in reality.

ID: c25d4e29 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a point that Prospero makes about Miranda. The text begins with Miranda responding to Prospero’s claim that she probably doesn’t remember her life before the island. She describes a distant memory, asking if she had "four or five women" caring for her. Prospero confirms this ("thou hadst") and then asks what else she can recall, stating that because she remembers one thing from the time before she lived on the island ("ought ere thou camest here"), she might also remember arriving on the island ("how thou camest here"). That is, Prospero indicates that Miranda’s ability to summon details of an experience from before her arrival on the island suggests that she may also be able to summon details of her arrival.

Choice A is incorrect because Prospero doesn't say anything about how Miranda presents her early childhood memory of having several people care for her—he indicates only his surprise that she remembers something from so long ago ("the dark backward and abysm of time") and his thought that she may also be able to recall another childhood event: her arrival on the island. Further, Prospero doesn't suggest that he believes Miranda is discontent in her current circumstances. Choice B is incorrect. Although Miranda suggests some doubt about her recollection of a place other than the island, in that she describes it as "like a dream" she can't be certain of, Prospero doesn't mention her uncertainty—though he himself wonders how it is possible that she correctly recalls something from so long ago ("abysm of time"). Rather than indicating that doubt is making Miranda reluctant, Prospero simply states that Miranda may have the ability to remember traveling to the island. Choice D is incorrect. Although Miranda describes a vague impression of several people who cared for her as a young child and states that it is "rather like a dream" instead of something she is certain is real, Prospero doesn't indicate that Miranda is remembering a childhood daydream. Instead, he confirms that what Miranda remembers actually happened, answering her question about having had caregivers with "thou hadst," and asks her what else she can remember from long ago.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e3b5bb66

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e3b5bb66

The most recent iteration of the immersive theater experience *Sleep No More*, which premiered in New York City in 2011, transforms its performance space—a five-story warehouse—into a 1930s-era hotel. Audience members, who wander through the labyrinthine venue at their own pace and follow the actors as they play out simultaneous, interweaving narrative loops, confront the impossibility of experiencing the production in its entirety. The play’s refusal of narrative coherence thus hinges on the sense of spatial fragmentation that the venue’s immense and intricate layout generates.

What does the text most strongly suggest about *Sleep No More*’s use of its performance space?

- A. The choice of a New York City venue likely enabled the play’s creators to experiment with the use of theatrical space in a way that venues from earlier productions could not.
- B. Audience members likely find the experience of the play disappointing because they generally cannot make their way through the entire venue.
- C. The production’s dependence on a particular performance environment would likely make it difficult to reproduce exactly in a different theatrical space.
- D. Audience members who navigate the space according to a recommended itinerary will likely have a better grasp of the play’s narrative than audience members who depart from that itinerary.

ID: e3b5bb66 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The text says that the production’s use of its large, winding space has a very specific effect on the audience. Given that the space itself is so important to creating this effect, it would be difficult to reproduce the production in a different space.

Choice A is incorrect. The fact that the venue is in New York City isn’t connected to the experimental nature of the performance. It’s the size of the venue, not its location in New York, that affects the theatrical experience. Choice B is incorrect. The text never suggests that audience members are disappointed because they can’t see the entire production. In fact, it suggests that that’s an important part of the experience. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn’t mention a recommended itinerary for audience members.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 23659e76

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 23659e76

Eighteenth-century economist Adam Smith is famed for his metaphor of the invisible hand, which he putatively used to illustrate a robust model of how individuals produce aggregate benefits by pursuing their own economic interests. Note “putatively”: as Gavin Kennedy has shown, Smith deploys this metaphor only once in his economic writings—to make a narrow point about the then-dominant economic theory of mercantilism—and it was largely ignored until some twentieth-century economists eager to secure an intellectual pedigree for their views elevated it to a fully-fledged paradigm.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Although Smith is famed for his metaphor of the invisible hand, the metaphor was largely ignored until economists in the twentieth century came to realize that the metaphor was a robust model that anticipated their own views.
- B. Some twentieth-century economists gave Smith’s metaphor of the invisible hand a significance it does not have in Smith’s work, but it is nevertheless a useful model of how individuals produce aggregate benefits by pursuing their own economic interests.
- C. Smith’s metaphor of the invisible hand has been interpreted as a model of how individuals acting in their own interest produce aggregate benefits, but it was intended as a subtle critique of the economic theory of mercantilism.
- D. The reputation of Smith’s metaphor of the invisible hand is not due to the importance of the metaphor in Smith’s work but rather to the promotion of the metaphor by some later economists for their own ends.

ID: 23659e76 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text explains that economist Adam Smith’s famous metaphor of the invisible hand was putatively (that is, widely assumed but not proven) intended to illustrate a robust model (a consistently accurate generalization) of how individuals pursuing their own economic interests can create broader benefits for the population. The text then emphasizes the lack of affirmative evidence for this idea by calling out the term “putatively,” and explaining that, according to Gavin Kennedy, Smith used the metaphor only once in his works, in reference to specific circumstances related to the now-outdated economic view known as mercantilism, and that the metaphor didn’t garner much attention until economists in the twentieth century held it up as a paradigm (a theoretical framework in the field) and thereby implied that Smith shared some of their views on economics. By emphasizing “putatively,” the text implies that there is no independent reason to believe that Smith would agree with the metaphor’s use outside of the specific context for which he wrote it and that, therefore, the twentieth-century economists who used it did so to support their own views without regard for the metaphor’s importance to Smith’s work.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text indicates that Smith’s metaphor was largely ignored until some twentieth-century economists revived it and bolstered its status, the text suggests that the later economists used Smith’s metaphor to self-servingly boost their own work while ignoring the original context in which Smith wrote it. Moreover, the statement in this choice fails to

reflect the text's emphasis on Smith's limited use of the metaphor in his work. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text indicates that some twentieth-century economists altered the significance of Smith's metaphor, the text doesn't suggest that the metaphor is a "useful model" of how aggregate benefits arise from individuals' selfish actions, let alone that this usefulness is unaffected by taking the metaphor out of its original context. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text indicates that Smith's metaphor was intended as a model of how individuals acting in their own interest produce aggregate benefits and it was written within the context of the now-outdated economic theory of mercantilism, these points are subordinate to the primary idea in the text, which is that Smith's use of the metaphor was tightly constrained but twentieth-century economists ignored the original context so that they could use the metaphor to suggest, without support, that Smith would agree with their economic views.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d2fbb566

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d2fbb566

In superfluorescence, electrical charges known as dipoles emit light in synchronized bursts so intense that they are visible to the eye. Until recently, this phenomenon has only been observed at extremely cold temperatures because dipoles cannot synchronize at higher temperatures. But in a study, Melike Biliroglu and colleagues observed superfluorescence at room temperature in thin films made of perovskite and other similarly crystalline materials; the researchers propose that the formation of shock-absorbing quasiparticles called polarons in the material protects dipoles from thermal interference.

- Based on the text, how are polarons believed to be involved in the superfluorescence observed in Biliroglu and colleagues’ study?
- A. Polarons enable superfluorescent bursts to cross from one crystalline material to another.
 - B. Polarons allow for the dipoles to synchronize despite higher temperatures.
 - C. Polarons accelerate the dipoles’ release of superfluorescent bursts.
 - D. Polarons decrease the intensity of the superfluorescent burst.

ID: d2fbb566 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes Biliroglu and colleagues’ claim about how the polarons function in relation to superfluorescence. The text indicates that “until recently,” superfluorescence (intense, synchronized bursts of light emitted by dipoles) has solely been observed at very cold temperatures. However, it also states that, recently, Biliroglu and colleagues report observing the phenomenon at room temperature. They achieved this using “thin films made of perovskite and other similarly crystalline materials,” which the researchers claim allows for the formation of polarons. They also suggest that these polarons might absorb the thermal shocks that typically disrupt dipole synchronization at warmer temperatures. Thus, based on the text, Biliroglu and colleagues believe that polarons help dipoles synchronize at temperatures well above those at which superfluorescence had previously been observed.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t address the prospect of a superfluorescent burst moving between crystalline materials or any other mediums. Choice C is incorrect because the text’s discussion of polarons is about how they might enable superfluorescence at higher temperatures than those at which it had previously been observed. Rather than suggesting that polarons speed up superfluorescent bursts, the text suggests that no superfluorescence can occur at room temperature in the absence of polarons. Thus, the text indicates that polarons make superfluorescent bursts more likely to occur at higher temperatures than those at which it had previously been observed, not that polarons accelerate the bursts. Choice D is incorrect because the text’s discussion of polarons is about how they might enable superfluorescence at higher temperatures than those at which it had previously been observed. In the absence of polarons, the text suggests there would be no superfluorescence at room temperature. Thus, rather than decrease the intensity of superfluorescent bursts, polarons make them more likely to occur under certain circumstances.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 271ef622

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 271ef622

The following text is from Thomas Mann’s 1924 novel *The Magic Mountain*, translated by John E. Woods in 1995.

The story of Hans Castorp that we intend to tell here—not for his sake (for the reader will come to know him as a perfectly ordinary, if engaging young man), but for the sake of the story itself, which seems to us to be very much worth telling (although in Hans Castorp’s favor it should be noted that it is *his* story, and that not every story happens to everybody)—is a story that took place long ago, and is, so to speak, covered with the patina of history and must necessarily be told with verbs whose tense is that of the deepest past.

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What does the text most strongly suggest about the story of Hans Castorp?

- A. Though it is true that stories of even the most uninteresting people are themselves interesting because all people are unique, the reason this story is interesting is nonetheless difficult to understand because of the passage of time.
- B. Even though it is a story of a person of no particular importance, its age and the manner in which it therefore must be told are both indicators that the story itself is important.
- C. Like all stories about the lives of inconsequential people, this story must necessarily be related in a particular way if the reason the story is consequential is to be made evident to the audience.
- D. It is a remarkable story that happened to an unremarkable person, though one could plausibly argue that because the story is valuable, some of its value accrues to the person at its center.

ID: 271ef622 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about Hans Castorp’s story that is suggested by the text. The narrator of the text indicates that the story about Hans Castorp will be told not because there is something particularly notable about him, since he is pleasant but "perfectly ordinary," but because the story itself is remarkable ("very much worth telling"). The narrator then notes that there is a benefit in being at the heart of the story—that it is "in Hans Castorp’s favor" that the story is his, and maybe uniquely so ("not every story happens to everybody"). Thus, the text suggests both that the story that will be told is a remarkable one that happened to an unremarkable person and that it is reasonable to argue that the person at the center of a valuable story takes on some of the story’s value.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the narrator of the text makes the point that "not every story happens to everybody," the narrator doesn’t state that stories are interesting simply because the people they are about are unique. Rather, the narrator suggests that one particular story is "very much worth telling" on its own and that Hans Castorp benefits from the fact that the story is remarkable and may be unique to him. Further, the narrator never suggests that the story will be hard to understand even though it is old. Choice B is incorrect. Although the narrator of the text suggests that Hans Castorp is of no particular importance, since he is a "perfectly ordinary" person, the narrator never reveals what makes the story of Castorp important, just that "the story itself" is

"very much worth telling." The narrator states that the story "took place long ago," is "covered with the patina of history," and can be told only "with verbs whose tense is that of the deepest past," but the story's age and the way it must be told aren't presented as reasons the story is important; the narrator is simply providing details about how the story will be told. Choice C is incorrect because the narrator of the text doesn't suggest that all stories about people who are "perfectly ordinary" (like Hans Castorp) must be told in particular ways to make it clear why those stories are consequential. Further, the narrator suggests that Hans Castorp's story must be told "with verbs whose tense is that of the deepest past" because it took place so long ago, not because telling it that way will convey the story's importance.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e752ee68

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e752ee68

The following text is adapted from Lewis Carroll’s 1889 satirical novel *Sylvie and Bruno*. A crowd has gathered outside a room belonging to the Warden, an official who reports to the Lord Chancellor.

One man, who was more excited than the rest, flung his hat high into the air, and shouted (as well as I could make out) “Who roar for the Sub-Warden?” Everybody roared, but whether it was for the Sub-Warden, or not, did not clearly appear: some were shouting “Bread!” and some “Taxes!”, but no one seemed to know what it was they really wanted.

All this I saw from the open window of the Warden’s breakfast-saloon, looking across the shoulder of the Lord Chancellor. “What can it all mean?” he kept repeating to himself. “I never heard such shouting before—and at this time of the morning, too! And with such unanimity!”

Based on the text, how does the Lord Chancellor respond to the crowd?

- A. He asks about the meaning of the crowd’s shouting, even though he claims to know what the crowd wants.
- B. He indicates a desire to speak to the crowd, even though the crowd has asked to speak to the Sub-Warden.
- C. He expresses sympathy for the crowd’s demands, even though the crowd’s shouting annoys him.
- D. He describes the crowd as being united, even though the crowd clearly appears otherwise.

ID: e752ee68 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about how the Lord Chancellor responds to the crowd that is supported by the text. The text indicates that the people in the crowd are roaring and shouting “Bread!” or “Taxes!” and presents them as not knowing what they really want. The Lord Chancellor’s response is to ask what their shouting means but also to observe that they’re shouting with “unanimity,” or total agreement. Clearly, this isn’t the case, which supports the statement that the Lord Chancellor describes the crowd as being united even though it’s not.

Choice A is incorrect because it isn’t supported by the text. Although the text indicates that the Lord Chancellor asks about the meaning of the crowd’s shouting, it doesn’t suggest that he knows what the crowd really wants. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that the Lord Chancellor wants to speak to the crowd. Furthermore, the text doesn’t indicate that the crowd wants to hear from the Sub-Warden. Although the crowd roars when asked “Who roar for the Sub-Warden?” it’s unclear what the roaring means. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that the Lord Chancellor knows of or sympathizes with the crowd’s demands. In addition, the text doesn’t indicate that the crowd’s shouting annoys the Lord Chancellor, just that it causes him to keep repeating “What can it all mean?”

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID d2316673

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d2316673

The following text is from Maggie Pogue Johnson’s 1910 poem “Poet of Our Race.” In this poem, the speaker is addressing Paul Laurence Dunbar, a Black author.

Thou, with stroke of mighty pen,
Hast told of joy and mirth,
And read the hearts and souls of men
As cradled from their birth.
The language of the flowers,
Thou hast read them all,
And e’en the little brook
Responded to thy call.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To praise a certain writer for being especially perceptive regarding people and nature
- B. To establish that a certain writer has read extensively about a variety of topics
- C. To call attention to a certain writer’s careful and elaborately detailed writing process
- D. To recount fond memories of an afternoon spent in nature with a certain writer

ID: d2316673 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main purpose of the text. In the first part of the text, the speaker addresses Paul Laurence Dunbar’s ability to understand people (he has “read the hearts and souls of men” and written of their “joy and mirth”). In the second part of the text, the speaker describes Dunbar’s thorough understanding of the natural world (he has read “the language of the flowers” and engaged with “the little brook”). Thus, the text mainly praises Dunbar for being especially perceptive about people and nature.

Choice B is incorrect because the speaker describes Dunbar as having read the “hearts and souls of men” and the “language of flowers” to convey Dunbar’s ability to comprehend people and nature, not to suggest that Dunbar has literally read any of these things or has read a great deal about them. Choice C is incorrect because the text notes how well Dunbar has made sense of the topics he’s written about but doesn’t address any specific parts of Dunbar’s writing process beyond the suggestion that he used a pen. Choice D is incorrect because the text focuses on Dunbar’s understanding of people and nature as expressed in his writing. Nothing in the text suggests that the speaker is recalling a particular afternoon actually spent in nature with Dunbar; even if there had been a shared experience, the text isn’t focused on reminiscing.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID b8abc32e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b8abc32e

The following text is from Milan Kundera’s 1984 novel *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* (translated by Michael Henry Heim in 1984). Karenin is a dog that belongs to Tomas and Tereza.

Karenin was not overjoyed by the move to Switzerland [from Prague]. Karenin hated change. Dog time cannot be plotted along a straight line; it does not move on and on, from one thing to the next. It moves in a circle like the hands of a clock, which—they, too, unwilling to dash madly ahead—turn round and round the face, day in and day out following the same path. In Prague, when Tomas and Tereza bought a new chair or moved a flower pot, Karenin would look on in displeasure. It disturbed his sense of time. It was as though they were trying to dupe the hands of the clock by changing the numbers on its face.

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- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. As a dog, Karenin possesses a sense of time that involves a strong preference for predictability and an aversion to disruption.
 - B. After he’s moved to a new home, Karenin’s negative response to changes has become more pronounced.
 - C. Similar to Tomas and Tereza, Karenin comprehends time as circular rather than as a straightforward progression.
 - D. As is the case for other dogs, Karenin’s sense of time seems to accelerate depending on the objects and places that surround him.

ID: b8abc32e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by stating that Tomas and Tereza’s dog Karenin felt disrupted by a recent move because of his dislike of change. The text then goes on to suggest that this is because the way a dog experiences time differs from the way humans experience time: time for a dog doesn’t move linearly, going "on and on, from one thing to the next," but instead moves circularly, "like the hands of a clock." That is, time for a dog is experienced as a cyclical pattern characterized by routine and predictability, with each day "following the same path." The text then concludes by providing examples of seemingly insignificant changes in routine that profoundly "disturbed [Karenin’s] sense of time," causing him to feel displeasure. Thus, the main idea of the text is that Karenin’s sense of time as a dog involves a strong preference for predictability and an aversion to disruption.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the text emphasizes Karenin’s displeasure with the recent move to a new home, it doesn’t suggest that the move has made his negative responses more pronounced than they once were. Rather, in accounting for Karenin’s displeasure with the move to Switzerland, the text explains that Karenin generally has a negative response to any kind of change.

Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Karenin comprehends time similarly to how Tomas and Tereza comprehend it. On the contrary, the text strongly implies a contrast between dogs’ circular experience of time with the way humans experience time as a straightforward progression that can be "plotted on a straight line." Choice D is incorrect because

the text provides no indication that a change in the places and objects surrounding Karenin causes him to feel as though time is accelerating. Although the text does use the language of "dash[ing] madly ahead" in relation to time, the phrase appears in the context of a comparison illustrating how dogs experience time: time for a dog moves just as the hands of a clock do, in a circle and "unwilling to dash madly ahead"—that is, always in a regular and predictable way.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3a15a22c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3a15a22c

The following text is adapted from William Shakespeare’s 1598 play *Henry IV, Part 1*. King Henry is addressing several noblemen who are rumored to have been disloyal to him.

KING HENRY: My blood hath been too cold and temperate,
Unapt to stir at these indignities,
And you have found me, for accordingly
You tread upon my patience; but be sure
I will from henceforth rather be myself,
Mighty and to be fear’d, than my [disposition],
Which hath been smooth as oil, soft as young down,
And therefore lost that title of respect
Which the proud soul ne’er pays but to the proud.

- Which statement best describes how King Henry presents himself in the text?
- A. He declares that he has judged the noblemen’s conduct in an impartial manner, and that despite their attempts to regain his trust through professions of submissiveness, they have irrevocably lost his respect.
 - B. He acknowledges to the noblemen that his tolerance of their conduct has undermined their respect for him, and he resolves to display his genuine nature, which is more forceful and compels deference.
 - C. He defends his calm disposition, which he sees as fundamental to his personality, and vows to maintain his tranquil demeanor even if it causes him to lose the respect of overly proud noblemen.
 - D. He concedes that he has treated the noblemen with indifference, which in part explains why they have defied him, but he asserts that their disrespectful behavior is primarily driven by their excessive pride.

ID: 3a15a22c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes King Henry’s self-presentation in the text. Henry states that his temperament has been “too cold and temperate, / Unapt to stir at these indignities” (that is, too calm and slow to react to insults), and he asserts that the noblemen have taken advantage of this: “accordingly / You tread upon my patience.” He then resolves to change, declaring he will “from henceforth rather be myself, / Mighty and to be fear’d,” since being lenient (“smooth as oil, soft as young down”) has caused him to lose “that title of respect / Which the proud soul ne’er pays but to the proud.” In other words, Henry recognizes that proud people like the noblemen respect only strength and resolves to show his more forceful, true nature.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t describe Henry as having judged the noblemen impartially, nor does it mention any attempts by the noblemen to regain his trust through submissiveness. Rather, Henry describes the noblemen as taking advantage of his patience and declares he will adopt a more commanding demeanor in the future. Choice C is incorrect. Although Henry

concedes that he has perhaps been too calm and mild, Henry does not defend or vow to maintain his calm disposition. On the contrary, he explicitly states he will “from henceforth rather be myself, / Mighty and to be fear’d,” resolving to abandon the mild manner that has cost him the respect of the noblemen. Choice D is incorrect because Henry characterizes his manner as patient and mild—“smooth as oil, soft as young down”—not indifferent. Indifference implies a lack of concern, whereas Henry describes himself as being overly lenient. Additionally, although the final lines mention “the proud soul,” the focus is not on the noblemen’s excessive pride but rather on how Henry’s apparent *lack* of pride has caused him to lose the noblemen’s respect.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c47a72e9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c47a72e9

Studies of ocean wave breaking have predominantly focused on traveling waves (those propagating along the horizontal plane), so Mark McAllister et al. utilized a circular wave tank to produce and study spike waves, axisymmetric standing waves that can erupt vertically when traveling waves propagating in opposing directions intersect. Traveling waves break when wave steepness (height-to-length ratio) passes a critical threshold; breaking thus constrains wave height. McAllister et al. found that spike waves can exceed that constraint, as other factors than just steepness (e.g., jet stability and cavity shape) mediate spike-wave breaking.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Previous studies have suggested that steepness mediates breaking in traveling waves, but the study by McAllister et al. shows that jet stability and cavity shape may also influence breaking in such waves.
- B. The process of breaking limits the height of traveling waves, but the study by McAllister et al. suggests that spike waves can exceed those limits if their height-to-length ratio reaches a critical threshold.
- C. McAllister et al. suggest that spike waves can form when traveling waves propagating in opposing directions intersect and that spike waves tend to be higher than traveling waves.
- D. The study by McAllister et al. suggests that when traveling waves intersect in specific ways, the resulting wave may be higher than would be expected based on the properties of traveling waves.

ID: c47a72e9 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by explaining that most studies of ocean wave breaking have focused on traveling waves (those that move horizontally) but that McAllister et al. studied spike waves, which form when traveling waves moving in opposing directions intersect. The text establishes that while traveling waves break when their steepness exceeds a critical threshold (limiting their height), McAllister et al. found that spike waves can exceed these constraints because factors like jet stability and cavity shape can mitigate the effects of steepness. Thus, the main idea of the text is that spike waves resulting from traveling waves intersecting in specific ways can reach heights greater than what would be expected based on the general properties of traveling waves.

Choice A is incorrect because it misrepresents the information in the text; the text indicates that McAllister et al. showed that jet stability and cavity shape (along with steepness) influence breaking in spike waves, not in traveling waves. Further, the information about specific influences is not the main focus of the text. Choice B is incorrect because it misrepresents the information in the text; the text indicates that McAllister et al. found that spike waves can pass the steepness threshold at which traveling waves break because factors like jet stability and cavity shape affect the breaking of spike waves, not because they've simply reached a critical threshold of steepness. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text does explain that spike waves can form when traveling waves intersect, it presents this as a known fact that McAllister et al.'s study was based on, not as something the

researchers suggested. Further, the text indicates that spike waves can exceed a threshold that limits traveling wave height but doesn't focus on the idea that spike waves typically are higher than traveling waves.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f7e843d4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f7e843d4

Artificial leaves are a developing renewable energy technology that mimics the process of photosynthesis in plants. These devices are silicon-based solar cells coated in chemical catalysts that activate reactions that split water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen gas. The technology, while generating lots of interest, is not yet commercially viable as a large-scale energy source. To meet this challenge, scientists from many fields are researching ways to store, transport, and distribute the energy the devices produce while other scientists are working to improve the cost and efficiency of the devices.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Continued research and development in artificial-leaf technology is needed before the devices can be widely used as an energy source.
- B. The recent increase in the commercial use of artificial leaves as an energy source has encouraged many scientists to research ways to improve the technology.
- C. Artificial leaves split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen gas using catalysts more efficiently than plants do using the process of photosynthesis.
- D. Artificial leaves were developed to mimic the natural process of photosynthesis in plants in order to store energy for long-term commercial use.

ID: f7e843d4 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, artificial leaves are a renewable energy technology that’s in development and generating interest. The text goes on to state that artificial-leaf technology "is not yet commercially viable as a large-scale energy source" and that scientists from several fields are doing additional research to refine the technology. Thus, the main idea is that continued research and development in artificial-leaf technology is needed before the devices can be widely used as an energy source.

Choice B is incorrect. While the text does state that scientists from many fields are researching artificial leaves, they’re doing so to address the fact that the leaves are not yet commercially viable, rather than in response to an increase in commercial use. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text does explain that artificial leaves help split water molecules into oxygen and hydrogen gas using catalysts, it doesn’t argue that this process is more efficient than photosynthesis. This is merely a detail of the text and not the main idea, which is about the additional research needed to improve the cost and efficiency of these artificial leaves. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that artificial leaves mimic photosynthesis in plants, this is an incidental detail in support of the main idea that additional research is needed to make artificial leaves commercially viable.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c7e43751

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c7e43751

Philosophers note that many people have an intuitive sense that while we ought not to lie, there may be circumstances in which lying is permissible. If this intuition is correct and we lack an inviolable duty to speak truthfully, what grounds opposition to lying in the first place? Japa Pallikkathayil has advanced one answer by appealing to a duty to respect others’ agential interests: the possession of false beliefs constrains agency, and thus we ought not to impede the formation of true beliefs unless doing so prevents a greater constraint on someone’s agency or an otherwise impermissible end.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. One potential means of justifying opposition to lying is Pallikkathayil’s argument that we have an obligation to respect other people’s agency that entails a commitment to truthfulness except in certain circumstances.
- B. Many people have an intuitive sense that lying is permissible in some circumstances but lack a principled way to identify those circumstances, and Pallikkathayil’s argument may provide a means of resolving that problem.
- C. Pallikkathayil’s argument suggests that if we have a duty to respect other people’s agential interests and if possession of false beliefs constrains agency, then we have an inviolable duty to speak truthfully.
- D. Pallikkathayil’s argument shows that if our intuition that circumstances may make lying permissible is correct, then it is unclear whether there are any grounds for an opposition to lying in the first place.

ID: c7e43751 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by noting a common intuition that lying might sometimes be permissible, which raises the question of what is the reason for being against lying. The text then presents Pallikkathayil’s answer to this question: we have a duty to respect others’ agential interests (that is, we have an obligation to allow people to exercise their free will in order to best serve their own ends), false beliefs constrain agency (the implication here being that people who are deceived about what is true are impeded in acting in their own best interests), and so we should not hinder the formation of true beliefs (we should not deliberately deceive a person) unless doing so prevents a greater limitation on someone’s agency or prevents some otherwise impermissible end (for example, it might be morally permissible to lie to someone in the rare circumstance where a false belief would lead a person to act in their own best interest, and where they would not do so if they knew the truth). Thus, the main idea of the text is that Pallikkathayil offers a potential justification for opposing lying based on respecting agency, while still allowing for exceptions in specific circumstances.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t focus on people’s lack of a principled way to identify circumstances where lying is permissible or indicate that Pallikkathayil’s argument resolves this specific problem. Rather, the text presents Pallikkathayil’s argument that lies limit agency but may be permitted in very specific situations (to prevent a greater limitation on someone’s agency or an otherwise unacceptable outcome) as one of a number of possible arguments about why lies are undesirable but sometimes permissible. Choice C is incorrect because it directly contradicts the text. Pallikkathayil’s argument, as described in

the text, wouldn't lead to an "inviolable duty to speak truthfully." On the contrary, the text explicitly states that Pallikkathayil's position is that interfering with people developing accurate beliefs is wrong, except when such interference prevents either a more significant limitation on someone's agency or an outcome that would be unacceptable for other reasons. This indicates that Pallikkathayil's argument allows for some exceptions to the duty to speak truthfully, making it not inviolable. Choice D is incorrect because Pallikkathayil's argument doesn't suggest that if it is permissible to lie in at least some circumstances, then it is unclear whether there are good reasons for opposing lying in any circumstances. Instead, the text presents Pallikkathayil as offering a specific ground for opposing lying (respecting others' ability to act in their own best interests) while qualifying that assertion by presenting a situation in which lying might sometimes be morally permissible.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID bf43e45f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bf43e45f

Paleontologist Lucas E. Fiorelli and colleagues have reported the discovery at a mine in Brazil of several egg clutches, partially preserved single eggs, and egg shells from the Late Cretaceous period. The researchers have concluded that the area was once a nesting and breeding site for titanosaurs, a group of sauropod dinosaurs. The finding is significant given the previous lack of known nesting sites in northern regions of South America, which led many paleontologists to assume that titanosaurs migrated south to lay eggs.

What does the text most strongly suggest about the site discovered by the researchers?

- A. It is the earliest known example of a titanosaur nesting and breeding site.
- B. It was very difficult to excavate given that it was discovered in a mine.
- C. It may have been occupied by other sauropods in addition to titanosaurs.
- D. It is farther north than any other nesting site discovered in South America.

ID: bf43e45f Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about the site discovered by the researchers that is supported by the text. The text discusses Fiorelli and colleagues’ discovery of egg clutches, single eggs, and eggshells in a Brazilian mine. According to the text, the presence of these eggs, which are from the Late Cretaceous period, led the researchers to conclude that the location was once a nesting and breeding site for titanosaurs. The text then explains that the finding is important because of the “previous lack of known nesting sites in northern regions of South America.” If there haven’t been any other discoveries of a nesting site in South America’s northern regions and the site in the Brazilian mine is the first, then the text strongly suggests that the site is farther north than other nesting sites that have been discovered in South America.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that the site discovered by Fiorelli and colleagues is the earliest titanosaur nesting and breeding site known to paleontologists but rather that it’s the first nesting site found in northern regions of South America. Moreover, the text doesn’t suggest how the timeline of the newly discovered site compares with that of other titanosaur nesting and breeding sites. Choice B is incorrect because there is no mention in the text about any difficulties that Fiorelli and colleagues faced when they were excavating the nesting and breeding site in the Brazilian mine. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t support the idea that the nesting and breeding site in the Brazilian mine was occupied by sauropods other than titanosaurs. The text simply mentions that titanosaurs are sauropod dinosaurs and presents the researchers’ conclusion that the site they discovered was for titanosaurs.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 57fb41c0

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 57fb41c0

The following text is adapted from William Shakespeare’s 1609 poem “Sonnet 27.” The poem is addressed to a close friend as if he were physically present.

Weary with toil, I [hurry] to my bed,
The dear repose for limbs with travel tired;
But then begins a journey in my head
To work my mind, when body’s work’s expired:
For then my thoughts—from far where I abide—
[Begin] a zealous pilgrimage to thee,
And keep my drooping eyelids open wide,

What is the main idea of the text?

- A. The speaker is asleep and dreaming about traveling to see the friend.
- B. The speaker is planning an upcoming trip to the friend’s house.
- C. The speaker is too fatigued to continue a discussion with the friend.
- D. The speaker is thinking about the friend instead of immediately falling asleep.

ID: 57fb41c0 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The speaker describes going to bed for “repose” (rest) but finding that his thoughts are focused on the friend the speaker is addressing, and the thoughts are keeping the speaker awake.

Choice A is incorrect because the speaker isn’t asleep; the thoughts about the friend are keeping the speaker awake. Choice B is incorrect because the speaker isn’t talking about taking a literal trip; rather, the speaker uses the metaphor of a journey to describe internal thoughts. Choice C is incorrect because the speaker isn’t having a discussion with the friend.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 35328a92

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 35328a92

In a study of perceptions of listening ability, participants explained their position on a sociopolitical issue and then received a listener’s written summary that expressed agreement or disagreement. Within selected summaries, researchers embedded markers of attentive listening (e.g., references to specific details), hypothesizing that such indications would positively influence perceptions of listening skill even in the context of disagreement. Instead, participants consistently rated listeners who expressed disagreement as less skilled, regardless of the other traits of the listeners’ summaries.

What does the text most strongly imply about how participants responded to expressions of disagreement?

- A. When participants felt personally invested in the topics they discussed, they were less likely to perceive listeners who expressed disagreement as attentive, regardless of evidence to the contrary in these listeners’ summaries.
- B. When participants encountered summaries from listeners who expressed disagreement with their views, participants tended to disregard evidence that the listeners had in fact been attentive.
- C. Although participants maintained their positions regardless of a summary’s level of detail, they tended to regard listeners who expressed disagreement as more attentive when these listeners provided more detailed summaries.
- D. Although participants were critical of expressions of disagreement, they gave higher ratings to listeners whose summaries included markers of attentiveness than to listeners whose summaries did not include these markers.

ID: 35328a92 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes what the text implies about participants’ responses to disagreement. The text describes a study in which participants were asked to explain their position on an issue to a listener, who then provided a written summary of that position that also expressed their level of agreement. The participants were then asked, based on these summaries, to rate listeners’ listening skill. The text indicates that researchers embedded markers of attentive listening, such as references to details, in some of the summaries, expecting that these markers would improve the participants’ perceptions of listening skill even when the listeners disagreed. Instead, participants rated disagreeing listeners as less skilled, or attentive, “regardless of the other traits of the listeners’ summaries.” This means that even when summaries contained evidence of attentive listening, participants still judged disagreeing listeners as less skilled—in effect, disregarding evidence that those listeners had been attentive.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text does suggest that participants tended to disregard evidence of attentiveness when listeners disagreed with their position on the topic they discussed, it doesn’t address participants’ level of personal investment in these topics; therefore, the text can’t support any conclusions about how personal investment in a topic affected participants’ perceptions of the listening skill of disagreeing listeners. Choice C is incorrect because it directly contradicts the text. The text states that participants rated disagreeing listeners as less skilled regardless of the other traits of the listeners’ summaries, which means markers of attentiveness (specific details) didn’t lead participants to regard disagreeing listeners as more attentive.

Instead, disagreement alone determined the participants' lower ratings. Moreover, the text doesn't address whether participants maintained their positions based on the listeners' summaries. The text focuses on factors affecting participants' perceptions of listeners' attentiveness, not on how features of listeners' summaries influenced the participants' views of the sociopolitical issue they discussed. Choice D is incorrect because the text indicates the opposite: participants didn't give higher ratings to disagreeing listeners whose summaries included markers of attentiveness than to disagreeing listeners whose summaries didn't include these markers. Rather, the text states that participants rated disagreeing listeners as less skilled than agreeing listeners regardless of the other traits of the summaries, meaning attentiveness markers had no positive effect when listeners' summaries expressed disagreement.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID aa460243

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: aa460243

The fynbos shrubland is a diverse habitat found only in South Africa. It is adjacent to the Afro-temperate forest, with almost no transition space between the two distinct habitats. Plants in the fynbos have uniquely thin and long root systems that spread out over large distances to absorb nutrients from the soil. Ecologists transplanted tree seedlings from the forest into plots in the fynbos. Seedlings in plots isolated from the roots of fynbos plants exhibited a growth rate five times greater than that of the seedlings in plots in close proximity to the roots of fynbos plants.

Based on the text, what role do fynbos roots most likely have in maintaining the border between the fynbos shrubland and the Afro-temperate forest habitats?

- A. Fynbos roots damage the root systems of forest plants, leaving those plants unable to acquire sufficient nutrients.

B. Fynbos roots extend close enough to the forest plants’ roots that they constitute a physical barrier that forest plants’ roots cannot pass.

C. The root systems of fynbos plants allow the plants to take in so many soil nutrients that forest plants are prevented from flourishing in the fynbos.

D. The root systems of fynbos plants enhance the soil immediately surrounding the plants, allowing them to thrive in an otherwise harsh habitat.

ID: aa460243 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a conclusion about the role of fynbos roots in maintaining the border with the Afro-temperate forest that can be reasonably inferred from the text. The text states that plants in the fynbos have "uniquely thin and long root systems that spread out over large distances to absorb nutrients from the soil." The text then describes an experiment where forest tree seedlings grown in plots isolated from fynbos roots grew at a rate five times greater than seedlings in areas near fynbos roots. This strongly suggests that fynbos roots are depleting soil nutrients to such an extent that forest plants can't get enough nutrients from that soil to flourish, thereby hindering the formation of any significant "transition space" between the habitats and helping keep the border between them sharp.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no evidence in the text that fynbos roots physically damage the root systems of forest plants. Instead, the text explicitly describes fynbos plants as having "uniquely thin and long root systems that spread out over large distances to absorb nutrients from the soil." This description establishes that fynbos roots are specialized for efficient nutrient absorption. The experiment then confirms this function of the roots by showing that forest seedlings "isolated from the roots of fynbos plants exhibited a growth rate five times greater" than those near fynbos roots. This result demonstrates that when forest seedlings don't have to compete with the nutrient-absorbing fynbos roots, they grow much better. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text does indicate that the fynbos and the Afro-temperate forest are distinct from, and adjacent to, each other and that there is "almost no transition space" (area of mixed fynbos and forest plants), the experiment shows that forest

plants can grow in soil occupied by fynbos roots, just not very well. So, the idea that the fynbos roots physically obstruct forest plants is unsupported by the text. Choice D is incorrect because it directly contradicts the text's claim that fynbos roots absorb nutrients from, and therefore deplete, the soil they're in, and furthermore, nothing in the text suggests that the habitat of the fynbos is harsh in general.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c1f1a631

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c1f1a631

Modern dog breeds are largely the result of 160 years of owners crossbreeding certain dogs in order to select for particular physical appearances. Owners often say that some breeds are also more likely than others to have particular personality traits—basset hounds are affectionate; boxers are easy to train—but Kathleen Morrill and colleagues found through a combination of owner surveys and DNA sequencing of 2,000 dogs that while physical traits are predictably heritable among purebred dogs, behavior varies widely among dogs of the same breed.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Dog breeds would not exist without many years of human intervention in dogs’ reproduction.
- B. Research fails to confirm a commonly held belief about dog breeds and behavior.
- C. The dog breeds most popular among owners have often changed over the past 160 years.
- D. A study of dog breeds is notable for its usage of both opinion surveys and DNA sequencing.

ID: c1f1a631 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text indicates that dog owners typically claim that some dog breeds are “more likely than others to have particular personality traits.” In other words, the text points out that a commonly held belief about dog breeds is that their personality traits are heritable. The text then states that Kathleen Morrill and colleagues undertook research about dog trait heritability and found that “behavior varies widely among dogs of the same breed.” Because Morrill and colleagues found evidence for variability rather than consistency in the behavior of dogs of the same breed, the statement that research fails to uphold a commonly held belief about dog breeds and behavior accurately reflects the main idea of the text.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text mentions that humans have long intervened in dogs’ reproduction by intentionally crossbreeding certain dogs, it doesn’t argue that such intervention is essential to the existence of dog breeds. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss the popularity of any dog breeds; breeds are mentioned as having certain traits, but the text says nothing about the popularity of these breeds or traits. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text briefly mentions that Morrill and colleagues conducted a study about dog traits using both surveys and DNA sequencing, this is not the main focus of the text. The text concerns the study’s results about the heritability of dog traits, not the particular methodology used by Morrill and colleagues.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 68bef552

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 68bef552

Many literary theorists distinguish between *fabula*, a narrative’s content, and *syuzhet*, a narrative’s arrangement and presentation of events. In the film *The Godfather Part II*, the *fabula* is the story of the Corleone family, and the *syuzhet* is the presentation of the story as it alternates between two timelines in 1901 and 1958. But literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin maintained that *fabula* and *syuzhet* are insufficient to completely describe a narrative—he held that systematic categorizations of artistic phenomena discount the subtle way in which meaning is created by interactions between the artist, the work, and the audience.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin argued that there are important characteristics of narratives that are not fully encompassed by two concepts that other theorists have used to analyze narratives.
- B. Literary theorist Mikhail Bakhtin claimed that meaning is not inherent in a narrative but is created when an audience encounters a narrative so that narratives are interpreted differently by different people.
- C. The storytelling methods used in *The Godfather Part II* may seem unusually complicated, but they can be easily understood when two concepts from literary theory are utilized.
- D. Narratives that are told out of chronological order are more difficult for audiences to understand than are narratives presented chronologically.

ID: 68bef552 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by explaining that many literary theorists rely on the concepts of *fabula* (a narrative’s content) and *syuzhet* (a narrative’s arrangement and presentation of events) and illustrates these concepts by explaining how they can be applied to the film *The Godfather Part II*. The text then discusses how Mikhail Bakhtin, a literary theorist, argued that *fabula* and *syuzhet* can’t fully describe a narrative, since systematic categorizations such as these fail to account for all the ways in which interactions between the artist, the work, and the audience produce meaning. Thus, the main idea is that Bakhtin argued that there are important characteristics of narratives that are not fully encompassed by two concepts that other theorists have used to analyze narratives.

Choice B is incorrect because according to the text, Mikhail Bakhtin believed that meaning was created through the interactions of the artist, narrative, and audience, not simply through the interaction between the audience and narrative; moreover, the text doesn’t address whether Bakhtin focused on the ways in which different people interpret narratives differently. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text implies that the storytelling methods used in *The Godfather Part II* are complicated, it discusses the film only to illustrate how the concepts of *fabula* and *syuzhet* may be applied to a narrative. The film’s storytelling methods aren’t the primary focus of the text. Choice D is incorrect. The text discusses *The Godfather Part II*, whose narrative doesn’t adhere to a single chronological order, only to illustrate the concepts of *fabula* (a narrative’s content) and *syuzhet* (a narrative’s arrangement and presentation of events). The primary focus of this text isn’t the structure of this film or of other narratives that are told out of

chronological order; moreover, the text doesn't consider whether such structures make it harder for audiences to understand narratives.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 2d77d2b7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 2d77d2b7

For many years, the only existing fossil evidence of mixopterid eurypterids—an extinct family of large aquatic arthropods known as sea scorpions and related to modern arachnids and horseshoe crabs—came from four species living on the paleocontinent of Laurussia. In a discovery that expands our understanding of the geographical distribution of mixopterids, paleontologist Bo Wang and others have identified fossilized remains of a new mixopterid species, *Terropterus xiushanensis*, that lived over 400 million years ago on the paleocontinent of Gondwana.

- According to the text, why was Wang and his team’s discovery of the *Terropterus xiushanensis* fossil significant?
- A. The fossil constitutes the first evidence found by scientists that mixopterids lived more than 400 million years ago.
 - B. The fossil helps establish that mixopterids are more closely related to modern arachnids and horseshoe crabs than previously thought.
 - C. The fossil helps establish a more accurate timeline of the evolution of mixopterids on the paleocontinents of Laurussia and Gondwana.
 - D. The fossil constitutes the first evidence found by scientists that mixopterids existed outside the paleocontinent of Laurussia.

ID: 2d77d2b7 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it states why Wang and his team’s discovery of the *Terropterus xiushanensis* fossil was significant. The text explains that up until Wang and his team’s discovery, the only fossil evidence of mixopterids came from the paleocontinent of Laurussia. Wang and his team, however, identified fossil remains of a mixopterid species from the paleocontinent Gondwana. Therefore, the team’s discovery was significant because the fossil remains of a mixopterid species were outside of the paleocontinent Laurussia.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text states that Wang and his team identified fossilized remains of a mixopterid species that lived more than 400 million years ago, it doesn’t indicate that mixopterid fossils previously found by scientists dated to a more recent period than that. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text states that mixopterids are related to modern arachnids and horseshoe crabs, it doesn’t suggest that the fossil discovered by Wang and his team confirmed that this relationship is closer than scientists had previously thought. Choice C is incorrect because the team’s fossil established the presence of mixopterids on Gondwana, not on Laurussia. Moreover, the text only discusses the fossil in relation to the geographical distribution of mixopterids, not in relation to their evolution.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID f37f0c11

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: f37f0c11

In a paper about p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells (one of several perovskite cell architectures designed to collect and store solar power), Lyndsey McMillon-Brown et al. describe a method for fabricating the cell’s electronic transport layer (ETL) using a spray coating. Conventional ETL fabrication is accomplished using a solution of nanoparticles. The process can result in a loss of up to 80% of the solution, increasing the cost of manufacturing at scale—an issue that may be obviated by spray coating fabrication, which the researchers describe as “highly reproducible, concise, and practical.”

- What does the text most strongly suggest about conventional ETL fabrication?
- A. It is less suitable for manufacturing large volumes of planar p-i-n perovskite solar cells than an alternative fabrication method may be.
 - B. It is more expensive when manufacturing at scale than are processes for fabricating ETLs used in other perovskite solar cell architectures.
 - C. It typically entails a greater loss of nanoparticle solution than do other established approaches for ETL fabrication.
 - D. It is somewhat imprecise and therefore limits the potential effectiveness of p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells at capturing and storing solar power.

ID: f37f0c11 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. Conventional solar cell fabrication increases “the cost of manufacturing at scale,” but spray coating might get rid of that problem.

Choice B is incorrect. This is not completely supported by the text. While it’s true that conventional ETL fabrication is expensive at scale, there’s nothing in the text that mentions other perovskite solar cell architectures. Choice C is incorrect. This choice does not match the text. Only one conventional method of ETL fabrication is described, so we can’t compare the solution loss in this method to that of other conventional methods. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn’t supported by the text. The text never suggests that the effectiveness of solar cells changes based on their method of fabrication.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e7b2ca56

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e7b2ca56

Optical tweezers are specialized scientific tools—particularly useful in biology and medicine—that use high-powered beams of light to trap and manipulate minuscule particles for study. Use of the tool has led to several scientific and medical breakthroughs over the last few decades, but the particles are often under prolonged exposure to the intense heat of the light beams. To overcome the risk of overheating, and thereby damage, researchers sometimes attach nano-sized glass beads to particles, allowing the light to focus on the beads instead of the particles.

Based on the text, what is one advantage of attaching glass beads to particles when using optical tweezers?

- A. It decreases the time it takes for the optical tweezers to locate and capture the particles.
- B. It facilitates the maneuvering of particles without directly heating the particles themselves.
- C. It allows researchers to use weaker light beams to manipulate particles.
- D. It adds a material to which particles can transfer any heat absorbed from the optical tweezers’ light beam.

ID: e7b2ca56 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text says that the glass beads get the "focus" of the light beams so that the particles don't overheat. From this, we can infer that the beads allow the particles to be manipulated without being directly heated by the light beams.

Choice A is incorrect. The text never says that attaching the glass beads saves time in any way. Choice C is incorrect. The text never says that attaching the glass beads allows researchers to use weaker light beams. Choice D is incorrect. The text doesn't say that the particles can transfer heat to the glass beads—rather, it says the heat from the light focuses on the glass beads instead of the particles.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 260f8d93

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 260f8d93

Some astronomers searching for extraterrestrial life have proposed that atmospheric NH₃ (ammonia) can serve as a biosignature gas—an indication that a planet harbors life. Jingcheng Huang, Sara Seager, and colleagues evaluated this possibility, finding that on rocky planets, atmospheric NH₃ likely couldn't reach detectably high levels in the absence of biological activity. But the team also found that on so-called mini-Neptunes—gas planets smaller than Neptune but with atmospheres similar to Neptune's— atmospheric pressure and temperature can be high enough to produce atmospheric NH₃.

Based on the text, Huang, Seager, and colleagues would most likely agree with which statement about atmospheric NH₃?

- A. Its presence is more likely to indicate that a planet is a mini-Neptune than that the planet is a rocky planet that could support life.
- B. Its absence from a planet that's not a mini-Neptune indicates that the planet probably doesn't have life.
- C. It should be treated as a biosignature gas if detected in the atmosphere of a rocky planet but not if detected in the atmosphere of a mini-Neptune.
- D. It doesn't reliably reach high enough concentrations in the atmospheres of rocky planets or mini-Neptunes to be treated as a biosignature gas.

ID: 260f8d93 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it states a conclusion the researchers likely agree with, given the details in the text. The text explains that a biosignature gas is a gas that can be used as an indicator that a planet harbors some form of life and some astronomers have proposed that NH₃ could serve as a biosignature gas. The researchers evaluating this claim found that the atmosphere of rocky planets would be unlikely to reach "detectably high levels" of NH₃ without biological activity, which would support the proposal of NH₃ serving as a biosignature gas. However, the text also states that mini-Neptune planets can produce NH₃ in the absence of biological activity. Thus, the text is structured to lead to the conclusion that detectable levels of NH₃ in the atmospheres of rocky planets could constitute a biosignature, but that is not the case for detectable levels of the gas in the atmospheres of mini-Neptune planets.

Choice A is incorrect because the text indicates that biological activity likely accounts for detectable levels of NH₃ in the atmospheres of rocky planets but mini-Neptune planets can have detectable levels of NH₃ in their atmospheres in the absence of biological activity. Therefore, both rocky planets and mini-Neptune planets can have detectable levels of atmospheric NH₃. Choice B is incorrect because the text states that for NH₃ to reach detectable levels in the atmospheres of rocky planets likely means they harbor biological activity, meaning that rocky planets with detectable NH₃ usually harbor biological activity. However, that does not entail that every rocky planet with biological activity will have detectable levels of NH₃ in their atmospheres. Choice D is incorrect because the text claims only that some astronomers have proposed using NH₃ as a biosignature gas without mentioning a minimum concentration of atmospheric NH₃ that must be met for it to function as a biosignature gas.

Question ID 308b1918

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 308b1918

The following text is adapted from William Shakespeare’s 1597 play *The Tragedy of King Richard III*. Richard is reflecting on the recent arrest of his brother, the Duke of Clarence, on suspicion of treason against King Edward IV. Derby, Hastings, Buckingham, Rivers, Dorset, and Grey are also members of the English nobility.

RICHARD: I do the wrong, and first begin to brawl.
The secret mischiefs that I set [flowing]
I lay unto the grievous charge of others.
Clarence, whom I indeed have cast in darkness,
I do bewEEP to many simple [gullible people],
Namely, to Derby, Hastings, Buckingham;
And tell them ’tis the Queen and her allies
That stir the King against the Duke my brother.
Now they believe it, and withal whet me
To be revenged on Rivers, Dorset, Grey.

- Which choice best describes what happens in the text?
- A. Richard describes having wept as he informed Derby, Hastings, and Buckingham that the queen and her allies convinced the king to act against Clarence, and says that the earnestness of his grief caused them to accept his version of events.
 - B. Richard attributes Clarence’s troubles to both his own secret plotting and the distrust of Clarence that the queen and her allies Derby, Hastings, and Buckingham have planted in the king’s mind.
 - C. Richard indicates that he has pretended to be aggrieved about Clarence’s situation and has proclaimed it to be the fault of the queen and her allies, but in reality, he has caused the hostility the king feels toward Clarence.
 - D. Richard acknowledges that his mischievous nature has spurred him to commit misdeeds in the past, including instigating enmity between the king and Clarence, but he reports that he has hitherto not lost the trust of the queen and her allies.

ID: 308b1918 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately describes what happens in the text. Richard admits he committed “the wrong” and blames others for his own “secret mischiefs.” He reveals that he has “cast [Clarence] in darkness” (that is, caused his imprisonment) but feigns grief—“I do bewEEP”—before “many simple [gullible people],” namely Derby, Hastings, and Buckingham. He tells them that the queen and her allies are the ones who turned the king against Clarence. Richard’s use of “bewEEP” and his labeling of his audience as gullible confirm that his grief is a performance. Thus, Richard pretends to be aggrieved and blames the queen while actually being responsible for Clarence’s predicament.

Choice A is incorrect because it characterizes Richard’s grief as earnest, claiming that his sincere grief moved others to accept his claims. However, Richard admits his wrongdoing and calls his audience “simple [gullible people],” making clear that they were deceived by a calculated performance rather than persuaded by genuine emotion. Rather than being sincere, Richard’s weeping is part of a deliberate scheme to blame the queen and her allies for what he did. Choice B is incorrect because Richard does not attribute any portion of Clarence’s troubles to the queen; he reveals that he “cast [Clarence] in darkness” and merely tells others the queen is responsible. Additionally, Derby, Hastings, and Buckingham are not identified as the queen’s allies; rather, Rivers, Dorset, and Grey are implied to be the queen’s allies. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not address whether Richard has maintained the trust of the queen and her allies. Instead, Richard tells Derby, Hastings, and Buckingham that the queen is to blame for Clarence’s troubles, and they in turn urge him to seek revenge on Rivers, Dorset, and Grey, who are implied to be the queen’s allies. The speech focuses on Richard’s manipulation of others, not on his standing with the queen.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID fcc7687a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fcc7687a

The following text is Vita Sackville-West’s circa 1920 poem “Evening.” Spars are ships’ masts, moorings are ropes that hold docked ships in place, and a riding-light is a light that a ship shines when it is anchored.

When little lights in little ports come out,
Quivering down through water with the stars,
And all the fishing fleet of slender spars
Range at their moorings, veer with tide about;

When race of wind is stilled and sails are furled,
And underneath our single riding-light
The curve of black-ribbed deck gleams palely white,
And slumbrous waters pool a slumbrous world;

—Then, and then only, have I thought how sweet
Old age might sink upon a windy youth,
Quiet beneath the riding-light of truth,
Weathered through storms, and gracious in retreat.

- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. The tranquility of a port in the evening can incline a person to appreciate the stillness of old age.
 - B. The difficulty of bringing a ship into port is apt training for dealing with the types of struggles encountered in old age.
 - C. A person who leads a long life that is varied and active may find it difficult to stay in a calm place.
 - D. The contrast between the peacefulness of a port at night and its activity during the day reflects the contrast between the calm of old age and the vibrancy of youth.

ID: fcc7687a Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best states the main idea of the text. The speaker describes an evening scene observed from a boat: "little lights in little ports come out" and are reflected in the water’s surface "with the stars," fishing boats are moored, "sails are furled" (rolled up), and the riding-light is shining. The speaker emphasizes the calmness of the scene, noting that the "race of wind is stilled" and the atmosphere is sleepy ("slumbrous waters pool a slumbrous world"), and then indicates that the calmness prompts thoughts of how old age might be "sweet" and "quiet" and "gracious in retreat" after "a windy youth" with "storms." Thus, the main idea is that the tranquility of a port in the evening can lead a person to appreciate the potential stillness of old age.

Choice B is incorrect because the speaker isn't discussing the difficulty of bringing a ship into port but describing the calmness of the port at night. And rather than suggesting that old age involves struggles, the speaker suggests that after "a windy youth" with "storms" to be weathered, old age will be "sweet," "quiet," and "gracious"—that is, old age will be tranquil like a port at night. Choice C is incorrect because the speaker isn't suggesting that a person who has lived a varied and active life might find it difficult to stay in a calm place in old age. On the contrary, the speaker suggests that after a "windy youth" with "storms," old age can be welcomed as something "sweet," "quiet," and "gracious," just like a calm port at night. Choice D is incorrect. Although the speaker does touch on the idea of a "windy youth" followed by "sweet old age," the speaker doesn't tie that idea to a contrast between daytime activity and nighttime peacefulness at a port. The speaker doesn't address any activity during the day at a port, only briefly mentioning that the "race of wind is stilled" at the end of the day, and instead focuses on the tranquility of the port at night and how it prompts thoughts of "quiet" and "gracious" old age.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 9cb9ac91

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 9cb9ac91

In their meta-analysis of research on advergames (video games developed to promote products or services), Zeph M.C. van Berlo et al. confirm that such games, though they can elicit player interest, may not facilitate subsequent recall of product and brand information. This phenomenon can be explained by the finite nature of cognitive capacity as it is articulated in Annie Lang’s limited capacity model of motivated mediated message processing. In this case, players’ cognitive resources are directed foremost toward the advergame’s mechanics, leaving little or no capacity for encoding and storing the information the advertiser intends to be salient.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The limited capacity model of motivated mediated message processing developed by Lang provides a means of explaining the finding by van Berlo et al. that players may not readily recollect the brand and product information embedded in advergames.
- B. Research by van Berlo et al. corroborates Lang’s conclusion that because people predominantly focus on game mechanics when playing video games, it is difficult for advergames to communicate brand and product information in ways that are highly memorable.
- C. The meta-analysis by van Berlo et al. reveals that higher engagement in advergame mechanics is linked to lower effectiveness in persuading players to purchase particular brands and products.
- D. Although the limited capacity model of motivated mediated message processing developed by Lang suggests otherwise, advergames can succeed as marketing tools, provided that they achieve a balance between game mechanics and the promotion of a brand or product.

ID: 9cb9ac91 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by presenting van Berlo et al.’s finding that advergames—video games intended to promote a specific product or service—can be engaging to players but “may not facilitate subsequent recall of product and brand information,” ultimately limiting their effectiveness as advertisements. The text then suggests that Lang’s limited capacity model of motivated mediated message processing, which characterizes cognitive capacity as finite, can explain or account for van Berlo et al.’s finding: specifically, players’ attention is “directed foremost toward the advergame’s mechanics” instead of toward the advertising information. The main idea of the text is therefore that Lang’s model provides a means of explaining van Berlo et al.’s finding.

Choice B is incorrect because it mischaracterizes the relationship between Lang’s model and van Berlo et al.’s finding. The text presents Lang’s model as a broad theoretical framework about cognitive capacity that can explain van Berlo et al.’s finding. The text doesn’t indicate that Lang drew conclusions specific to video games that van Berlo et al. then corroborated. Choice C is incorrect because it mischaracterizes the findings of the meta-analysis by van Berlo et al. Although Lang’s model suggests that

engagement in advergame mechanics occurs at the expense of recalling advertising information, the text doesn't indicate that van Berlo et al. offered this explanation for their finding. The text merely states that van Berlo et al. found that advergames "can elicit player interest" but "may not facilitate subsequent recall of product and brand information." In addition, the text doesn't discuss whether players' ability to recall advertising content ultimately affects their purchasing behavior. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text presents Lang's model as an explanation of why advergames may not succeed in promoting recall of advertising information, the text doesn't suggest that advergames can succeed as marketing tools if they balance mechanics and promotion. The text doesn't propose a design solution to the limitations of advergames or suggest that these limitations can be overcome.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 3d7ee626

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3d7ee626

The following text is adapted from Fanny Burney’s 1778 novel *Evelina*. The text is an excerpt from a letter by Lady Howard to Evelina’s guardian, Reverend Villars, in which Lady Howard discusses an upcoming trip to London planned by her daughter Mrs. Mirvan’s family.

It is very earnestly [the Mirvans’] wish to enlarge and enliven their party by the addition of your amiable ward, who would share, equally with her own daughter, the care and attention of Mrs. Mirvan. Do not start at this proposal; it is time that [Evelina] should see something of the world. When young people are too rigidly sequestered from it, their lively and romantic imaginations paint it to them as a paradise of which they have been beguiled; but when they are shown it properly, and in due time, they see it such as it really is, equally shared by pain and pleasure, hope and disappointment.

Based on the text, Lady Howard would most likely agree with which statement about Reverend Villars?

- A. Although the manner in which he has raised Evelina is in many ways exemplary, he has been misguided in shielding her from the influence of other young people.
- B. He has imparted to Evelina his own idealistic view of the world, which results in her being unprepared to face inevitable disappointments.
- C. Although his desire to guard Evelina from unscrupulous people is commendable, his general mistrust has led him to be unduly wary of the Mirvans.
- D. He is overly protective of Evelina, who would likely benefit from a greater variety of experiences than she has had thus far.

ID: 3d7ee626 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it presents a statement about Reverend Villars that Lady Howard would most likely agree with based on the text. In the text, Lady Howard urges Reverend Villars to allow his ward, Evelina, to join the Mirvans on a trip to London. Her first words after describing the Mirvans’ wish—“Do not start at this proposal”—suggest that she believes Villars will be alarmed by the idea, and she goes on to assure him that this alarm is unwarranted because Evelina will benefit from visiting London. Lady Howard supports her claim by arguing that excessive isolation from the world leads young people to entertain unrealistic, idealized views of it. On the other hand, she suggests, giving young people appropriate access to the world when they, like Evelina, are ready can help them develop a more balanced view of the world and its moral complexities. These words indicate that Lady Howard believes Evelina risks becoming too sheltered because of her guardian’s protectiveness and that she would benefit from exposure to a wider range of experiences than she has had thus far.

Choice A is incorrect because while the text does suggest that Lady Howard believes Reverend Villars has sheltered Evelina too much, it doesn’t specifically mention shielding her from the influence of other young people. Lady Howard refers more broadly to getting more exposure to the world and doesn’t focus on peer relationships. Additionally, the text doesn’t indicate whether Lady Howard finds other aspects of how Villars has raised Evelina to be exemplary. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t

suggest that Lady Howard believes Reverend Villars's view of the world is idealistic or that he has imparted an idealistic view of the world to Evelina. While Lady Howard does warn that young people who are too sheltered may develop romantic, idealized views of the world, she presents this as a general principle about sheltered youth, not as a specific criticism of Villars for having transmitted a naïve outlook to Evelina. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't mention Reverend Villars being specifically concerned about protecting Evelina from unscrupulous people or suggest that he is exceptionally wary of the Mirvans. While Lady Howard's words certainly anticipate some resistance from Villars, the text doesn't specify the nature of his concerns beyond the general desire to protect Evelina from the world.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 0c3c70ff

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 0c3c70ff

Conservationists worldwide are working to protect ecosystems from habitat destruction and biodiversity loss, and in many cases, initiatives that rely on natural features or processes can help address such challenges. In response to a rapidly dwindling population of blueback salmon, the Quinault Indian Nation (a tribe in Washington State) partnered with the conservation organization Wild Salmon Center to restore naturally occurring logjams in the Quinault River. The logjams create shady pools where the blueback salmon can rest and spawn, thus promoting blueback population recovery.

- Which choice best states the main idea of the text?
- A. A partnership between the Quinault Indian Nation and Wild Salmon Center shows the importance of collaborative approaches to preserving biodiversity.
 - B. Nature-based approaches can be effective ways to achieve conservation goals.
 - C. As indicated by a recent project, logjams help the blueback salmon thrive and reproduce.
 - D. Scientists now realize that nature-based conservation methods offer better long-term solutions to environmental issues than methods that are not nature-based do.

ID: 0c3c70ff Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it best states the main idea of the text: that nature-based approaches can be effective for achieving conservation goals. The text indicates that in many cases where conservationists are trying to protect ecosystems, their methods depend on natural processes or features. The text then gives an example of this phenomenon, a project with the Quinault Indian Nation that allowed logjams to form naturally in a river, creating spawning habitats for blueback salmon.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text does suggest that the partnership with the Quinault Indian Nation was beneficial, this is not the central aim of the text; the text primarily argues that nature-based approaches to conservation can be effective. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text indicates that logjams are helpful to blueback salmon, the example of the blueback salmon project is included to illustrate the larger point made earlier in the text: that nature-based approaches to conservation are often effective. Choice D is incorrect. There is no evidence in the text to support a direct comparison of the efficacy of nature-based conservation approaches to other types of approaches. The text merely indicates that nature-based approaches can often be effective.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID eb5814a5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: eb5814a5

To understand how temperature change affects microorganism-mediated cycling of soil nutrients in alpine ecosystems, Eva Kaštovská et al. collected plant-soil cores in the Tatra Mountains at elevations around 2,100 meters and transplanted them to elevations of 1,700–1,800 meters, where the mean air temperature was warmer by 2°C. Microorganism-mediated nutrient cycling was accelerated in the transplanted cores; crucially, microorganism community composition was unchanged, allowing Kaštovská et al. to attribute the acceleration to temperature-induced increases in microorganism activity.

It can most reasonably be inferred from the text that the finding about the microorganism community composition was important for which reason?

- A. It provided preliminary evidence that microorganism-mediated nutrient cycling was accelerated in the transplanted cores.
- B. It suggested that temperature-induced changes in microorganism activity may be occurring at increasingly high elevations.
- C. It ruled out a potential alternative explanation for the acceleration in microorganism-mediated nutrient cycling.
- D. It clarified that microorganism activity levels in the plant-soil cores varied depending on which microorganisms comprised the community.

ID: eb5814a5 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately describes why the finding about the microorganism community composition was important. The text describes an experiment by Eva Kaštovská and her team in which they collected plant-soil cores at one elevation and transplanted them to sites at a lower elevation, where the mean air temperature was warmer. Kaštovská and her team observed that microorganism-mediated nutrient cycling was accelerated in the transplanted cores and that "crucially, microorganism community composition was unchanged," which allowed the team to attribute the acceleration to changes in microorganism activity brought about by the difference in temperature. This strongly implies that the team wouldn't have been able to make that attribution otherwise, meaning that a change in microorganism composition represented another possible explanation for the acceleration that had to be ruled out.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the text says microorganism-mediated cycling of soil nutrients increased in the transplanted cores, this is unrelated to what's important about the finding that the microorganism composition didn't change—that it allowed the team to attribute the change in activity solely to the change in temperature. Choice B is incorrect. Although the text compares activity in one core at two different elevations, the text doesn't address changes in activity at various elevations over time. Choice D is incorrect. Although different microorganisms likely exhibit different levels of activity, the text indicates that there was no change in microorganism composition, and there is nothing in the text about different microorganisms having different activity levels.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID a61a35f5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a61a35f5

In 2019, 20 previously unknown moons were confirmed to be orbiting Saturn. Three of the moons have prograde orbits (orbiting in the direction the planet spins), and the other 17 have retrograde orbits (orbiting in the opposite direction of the planet’s spin). All but one of the 20 moons are thought to be remnants of bodies that orbited Saturn until they broke apart in collisions. Although the one exceptional moon orbits in the same direction as the planet’s spin, its orbit is highly eccentric compared to the rest, which may suggest that it has a different origin than the other 19 moons.

Based on the text, which choice best describes the moon with the eccentric orbit?

- A. It doesn’t have a retrograde orbit, but it likely has the same origin as the moons with retrograde orbits.
- B. Its orbit is so tilted with respect to the other moons’ orbits that it’s neither prograde nor retrograde.
- C. It has a prograde orbit that is likely the result of having collided with another body orbiting Saturn.
- D. It has a prograde orbit and may not be a remnant of an earlier body that orbited Saturn.

ID: a61a35f5 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately describes the moon with the eccentric orbit. The text indicates that three of the 20 newly discovered moons have prograde orbits, meaning that they orbit Saturn in the same direction as the planet’s spin, while the other 17 moons have retrograde orbits, meaning that they orbit Saturn in the opposite direction of the planet’s spin. The text then states that 19 of the 20 moons appear to be the remains of earlier bodies that orbited Saturn but were broken apart in collisions. The one exception is a moon that orbits Saturn in the same direction as the planet’s spin, meaning that the exceptional moon’s orbit is prograde. The text goes on to state that the exceptional moon’s orbit is so eccentric that the moon may have formed through a different process than the other 19 moons. The moon with the eccentric orbit, therefore, has a prograde orbit and may not be a remnant of an earlier body that orbited Saturn.

Choice A is incorrect because nothing in the text supports the idea that the moon with the eccentric orbit likely has the same origin as the moons with retrograde orbits. Although it’s true that the moon has a prograde orbit (and thus doesn’t have a retrograde orbit), the only information the text provides about the moon’s origin is that it may be different than the origin of the other 19 moons. Choice B is incorrect because the text states that the moon in question orbits Saturn in the same direction as the planet’s spin, meaning that the moon’s orbit is prograde, not that its orbit is neither prograde nor retrograde. Choice C is incorrect because the text merely notes that the moon in question has a prograde orbit without giving any indication of what likely caused that orbit.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4e66210f

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4e66210f

The following text is adapted from María Cristina Mena’s 1914 short story “The Vine-Leaf.”

It is a saying in the capital of Mexico that Dr. Malsufrido carries more family secrets under his hat than any archbishop. The doctor’s hat is, appropriately enough, uncommonly capacious, rising very high, and sinking so low that it seems to be supported by his ears and eyebrows, and it has a furry look, as if it had been brushed the wrong way, which is perhaps what happens to it if it is ever brushed at all. When the doctor takes it off, the family secrets do not fly out like a flock of parrots, but remain nicely bottled up beneath a dome of old and highly polished ivory.

Based on the text, how do people in the capital of Mexico most likely regard Dr. Malsufrido?

- A. Many have come to tolerate him despite his disheveled appearance.
- B. Few feel concerned that he will divulge their confidences.
- C. Some dislike how freely he discusses his own family.
- D. Most would be unimpressed by him were it not for his professional expertise.

ID: 4e66210f Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. The text describes a saying in the capital that Malsufrido keeps more secrets than an archbishop. It also says that when he takes off his hat, “the family secrets do not fly out... but remain nicely bottled up,” suggesting that he will not betray his confidences.

Choice A is incorrect. This choice doesn’t reflect the text. While his hat is large and appears to have been brushed in the wrong direction, Dr. Malsufrido does not seem to be regarded as ill-dressed or disheveled. Choice C is incorrect. This choice is the opposite of what the text says. The secrets of families (his and others’) remain “bottled up” in his head. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn’t supported by the text. His professional expertise is not discussed in the passage.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 10691563

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 10691563

The following text is from Mick Herron’s 2023 novel *The Secret Hours*. The narrator is describing members of a government committee.

Finally, and adding much-needed gravitas, was Sir Winston Day, whose features seemed moulded to adorn a bust, or possibly a stamp, and whose forehead was so evidently bulging with grey matter that it would have been impertinent to inquire too closely into the actual achievements his half century of public service had produced. His recently published memoirs possibly cast light on this enigma, but given that such details were not provided until after the thirty-page mark, they might as well have remained state secrets.

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Based on the text, which choice best describes Sir Winston Day?

- A. He has the appearance of a distinguished figure, but it is uncertain whether he has accomplished anything to earn distinction.
- B. He looks like a person worthy of respect, but his memoirs reveal that some of his actions were dishonorable.
- C. He would be a celebrated public figure if his achievements did not have to be kept secret.
- D. He has maintained a modest profile even though he has served the public capably for many years.

ID: 10691563 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it accurately describes Sir Winston Day as he is portrayed in the text. The text indicates that Sir Winston’s “features seemed moulded to adorn a bust, or possibly a stamp,” suggesting that he appeared distinguished. But the text also indicates that his “actual achievements” during his long public service constitute an “enigma,” or mystery, highlighting the point with a joke about Sir Winston’s uninteresting memoirs (any information about his achievements past the first thirty pages “might as well have remained state secrets” since, it’s implied, no one bothered to read that far). Thus, the text suggests that Sir Winston appears distinguished even though his known accomplishments, if any, are relatively few.

Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text indicates that Sir Winston behaved dishonorably. Rather, the text indicates that his “actual achievements” during his long public service constitute an enigma, or mystery, suggesting that he may have done very little, not that what he has done was disreputable. Choice C is incorrect. Although the text says that Sir Winston’s achievements that appear “after the thirty-page mark” in his memoirs “might as well have remained state secrets,” this is a joke about the public’s lack of interest in the memoirs, not a sincere claim that secrecy was intended. Choice D is incorrect because the text does not associate Sir Winston with modesty, nor does it suggest that he was a capable public servant. Rather, by indicating that Sir Winston’s “features seemed moulded to adorn a bust, or possibly a stamp,” the text suggests that Sir Winston’s appearance communicated importance, not modesty. The text further indicates that his “actual achievements” during his long public service constitute an enigma, or mystery, suggesting that he may have done very little, not that he was particularly capable.

Question ID b3c62fd2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: b3c62fd2

Jürgen Kocka and other historians of capitalism rarely discuss domestic capitalism in Africa before the period of European colonization, implicitly presenting capitalism as external to and imposed on Africa. Crislayne Alfagali and other Africanist scholars have shown, however, that in parts of Africa, returns-focused investment, the establishment of open markets for wage labor, and other features of capitalism predated colonization. One reason for this discrepancy is that historians of capitalism tend to focus on longitudinal economic data drawn from archival records, which do not exist for much of precolonial Africa.

Which statement about Alfagali and other Africanist scholars is best supported by information in the text?

- A. They likely make use of different types of evidence than historians of capitalism typically rely on.
- B. They likely differ from historians of capitalism in the methods they use to derive longitudinal economic data from archival records.
- C. They likely have a different view about which activities should be considered capitalist in nature than historians of capitalism do.
- D. They likely view capitalism as having been more beneficial for Africa than historians of capitalism do.

ID: b3c62fd2 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a statement about Alfagali and other Africanist scholars that is supported by the text. The last sentence of the text explains that historians of capitalism generally rely on a type of data that requires "archival records, which do not exist for much of precolonial Africa." Nevertheless, Alfagali and other Africanist scholars have demonstrated that features of capitalism including "returns-focused investment,...open markets for wage labor, and other features of capitalism" existed in parts of Africa before colonization. Because archival records typically used by historians of capitalism aren't available for precolonial Africa, Alfagali and other Africanist scholars of precolonial capitalism in Africa likely used atypical sources for their studies.

Choice B is incorrect because the text states that archival records containing longitudinal economic data "do not exist for much of precolonial Africa." If these records don't exist for precolonial Africa, then Alfagali and other Africanist scholars couldn't derive data from them by any method. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn't suggest that Alfagali and other Africanist scholars define capitalism differently than other historians of capitalism do. On the contrary, the text simply asserts that specific features they found, such as "returns-focused investment [and] open markets for wage labor," are "features of capitalism," which implies scholarly agreement that these activities are capitalist in nature. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate any effects of capitalism in Africa, positive or negative. Rather, the text explains why precolonial Africa has been omitted from mainstream histories of capitalism and presents work by Alfagali and other Africanist scholars that challenges and corrects the historical record of precolonial capitalism.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID bea987a6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bea987a6

Several scholars have argued that conditions in England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries—namely, burgeoning literacy amid running conflicts between England’s Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and Danish invaders—were especially conducive to the production of the Old English epic poem *Beowulf*, and they have dated the poem’s composition accordingly. It is not inconceivable that *Beowulf* emerged from such a context, but privileging contextual fit over the linguistic evidence of an eighth- or even seventh-century composition requires a level of justification that thus far has not been presented.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Although there are some grounds for believing that *Beowulf* was composed between the late ninth and early eleventh centuries, advocates for that view tend to rely on evidence that has been called into question by advocates for an earlier date.
- B. Although several scholars have dated *Beowulf* to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, others have argued that doing so privileges a controversial interpretation of the social conditions of the period.
- C. Although *Beowulf* fits well with the historical context of England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, it fits equally well with the historical context of England in the seventh and eighth centuries.
- D. Although the claim of a late ninth- through early eleventh-century composition date for *Beowulf* has some plausibility, advocates for the claim have not compellingly addressed evidence suggesting an earlier date.

ID: bea987a6 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text states that some scholars have dated the composition of *Beowulf* to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries due to the poem’s fit with that period’s historical context. The text goes on to say that while it is “not inconceivable that *Beowulf* emerged from such a context”—that is, it is possible that *Beowulf* was composed during the late ninth through eleventh centuries—there is linguistic evidence that the poem was composed earlier, in the seventh or eighth century. According to the text, favoring the historical context over the linguistic evidence requires justification that scholars have not yet supplied. In other words, the text suggests that scholars who favor the later composition date need to explain why the poem’s fit with historical context should take precedence over the linguistic evidence, but they have not yet done so. Thus, the main idea of the text is that while there is some plausibility to the later composition date, advocates for the later date have not compellingly addressed evidence suggestive of an earlier date.

Choice A is incorrect because the text says that scholars who date the poem to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries have failed to account for the linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed earlier, not that the evidence those scholars cite in favor of their view is unreliable or that anyone has cast doubt on that evidence. In other words, the text does not suggest that there are problems with the evidence cited by advocates of the later composition date, only that there is other evidence of an earlier composition date that those advocates need to consider. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that those scholars who date the poem to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries are giving priority to a

controversial view of the social conditions at that time. The text makes no reference to any controversy about how scholars interpret that historical period. Instead, the text suggests that scholars who date the poem on the basis of its fit with the historical context of England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries have failed to account for linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed earlier. Choice C is incorrect because the text says nothing about how well the poem fits the historical context of England in the seventh and eighth centuries, let alone that it fits that historical context as well as it fits the historical context of the late ninth through early eleventh centuries. Rather, the text says that there is linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed in the seventh or eighth century.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID e4c9f55e

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e4c9f55e

In 2018, scientists discovered an immense aggregation of *Muusoctopus robustus* (pearl octopuses) along a hydrothermal vent 3,200 meters beneath the ocean’s surface. Water temperatures at this site—named the Octopus Garden—climb as high as 11°C, much warmer than the ambient 1.6°C typical at this depth. Based on observations made over three years, scientists concluded that temperatures at the site likely confer reproductive benefits and that the site is used exclusively for reproduction—6,000 *M. robustus* adults, hatchlings, and eggs were observed at the garden, but no juveniles were present.

- Which statement about *M. robustus* and the Octopus Garden is best supported by the text?
- A. *M. robustus* leave the Octopus Garden upon reaching an intermediary stage of development.
 - B. The *M. robustus* population at the Octopus Garden remains stable despite variations in water temperature.
 - C. *M. robustus* nests in the Octopus Garden contain on average fewer but larger eggs than nests at similar ocean depths.
 - D. The Octopus Garden provides an ideal feeding ground for *M. robustus* hatchlings.

ID: e4c9f55e Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of the *M. robustus* population at the Octopus Garden. The text states that the scientists concluded that the site is likely used only for reproduction because over three years they saw many adults, freshly hatched octopuses, and eggs but didn’t see any juveniles. This suggests that the *M. robustus* octopuses that hatch at the Octopus Garden leave the site when they reach an intermediary state of development, returning only as adults for reproductive purposes.

Choice B is incorrect because the text never discusses the stability of the *M. robustus* population at the site, only that the scientists observed 6,000 adults, hatchlings, and eggs there. Further, the text presents the site’s temperatures as likely beneficial.

Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t provide any details about the eggs at the site and makes no mention of nests; it indicates only that eggs are present along with hatchlings and adults. Choice D is incorrect because the text makes no mention of the hatchlings feeding at the Octopus Garden, indicating only that the temperatures at the site are probably beneficial and that the site is likely used for reproduction.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 18d2dfab

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 18d2dfab

Elizabeth Asiedu has identified a negative correlation between the share of developing countries’ economies derived from natural-resource extraction and those countries’ receipts of foreign investment. This may appear counterintuitive—resource extraction requires initial investments (in extractive technology, for instance) at scales best met by multinational corporations—but Asiedu notes that natural-resource industries’ boom-bust cycle can destabilize local currencies and increase developing countries’ vulnerability to external shocks, creating levels of uncertainty to which foreign investors are typically averse.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Although it may seem surprising that foreign investment declines in developing countries as natural-resource extraction makes up a larger share of those countries’ economies, that decline happens because resource extraction requires initial investments too large for foreign investors to supply.
- B. Although developing countries tend to become less dependent on foreign investment as natural-resource industries make up a larger share of their economies, this change may not occur if the boom-bust cycle of those industries destabilizes local currencies or increases countries’ vulnerability to external shocks.
- C. Although one might expect that foreign investment would increase as natural-resource extraction makes up a larger share of developing countries’ economies, the opposite happens because heavy reliance on natural resources can lead to unattractive conditions for investors.
- D. Although foreign investors tend to avoid initial investments in natural-resource industries in developing countries, foreign investment may increase significantly as those industries stabilize and the risks associated with them decline.

ID: 18d2dfab Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it accurately states the main idea of the text. According to the text, contrary to what some might expect, foreign investment is typically lower in developing countries whose economies are more dependent on natural-resource extraction. The text explains that high reliance on natural-resource extraction can subject a developing country to economic shocks that can destabilize the local currency and introduce economic uncertainty that tends to keep investors away. In other words, although we may think otherwise, foreign investors are less willing to invest in projects in developing countries whose economies are heavily dependent on natural-resource extraction because those economies tend to exhibit instability that investors want to avoid.

Choice A is incorrect. The text does indicate that foreign investment is typically lower in developing countries whose economies are more dependent on natural-resource extraction; the text further indicates that natural-resource extraction requires substantial initial investments (to acquire things like required technologies) for which there are fewer investors willing to participate at this stage than one might think. But the text does not implicate the cost of these initial investments as a reason why foreign investment is less widely available than some might think. Choice B is incorrect. The text indicates that greater dependence on

natural-resource extraction makes a developing country less appealing to foreign investors because of associated economic instability. Rather than arguing that the goal of developing countries is to become less dependent on foreign investment, as the phrasing of choice B suggests, the text focuses only on why foreign investors become less involved with such countries, which suggests that more investment would be preferable. Choice D is incorrect. Although the text indicates that natural-resource extraction requires substantial initial investments (to acquire things like required technologies) and that there are fewer likely investors willing to participate at this stage than one might think, the text does not address what investors are likely to do over time as the industry stabilizes itself.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 19f553cc

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 19f553cc

Paleontologists searching for signs of ancient life have found many fossilized specimens of prehistoric human ancestors, including several from the Pleistocene era discovered in a geological formation in the Minatogawa quarry in Japan. However, to study the emergence of the earliest multicellular organisms to appear on Earth, researchers must turn elsewhere, such as to the Ediacaran geological formation at Mistaken Point in Canada. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the 146-hectare reserve contains more than 10,000 fossils that together document a critical moment in evolutionary history.

What does the text indicate about the geological formation at Mistaken Point?

- A. It holds a greater number of fossils but from a smaller variety of species than the formation in the Minatogawa quarry does.
- B. It has provided evidence that the earliest human species may have emerged before the Pleistocene era.
- C. It is widely considered by paleontologists to be the most valuable source of information about prehistoric life forms.
- D. It contains specimens from an older time period than those found in the formation in the Minatogawa quarry.

ID: 19f553cc Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. The text says that the formation at Mistaken Point contains fossils of “the earliest multicellular organisms,” which implies that these fossils are from an older time period than the fossils of “prehistoric human ancestors” found in the Minatogawa quarry.

Choice A is incorrect. The text says that the formation at Mistake Point contains “more than 10,000 fossils,” but it doesn’t compare this number to the number of fossils in the Minatogawa quarry. It also doesn’t say anything about the variety of species in either formation. Choice B is incorrect. The text says that the formation at Mistaken Point contains fossils of “the earliest multicellular organisms,” but it never says that the site contains early human fossils too. Rather, the early human fossils mentioned in the text were found in the formation at Minatogawa quarry. Choice C is incorrect. The text says that the fossils at Mistaken Point “document a critical moment in evolutionary history,” but it never says that Mistaken Point is the most valuable source of information about prehistoric life forms.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4a10531c

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4a10531c

Within higher education, studying philosophy requires that students be conversant with the field’s foundational texts and historical figures. By contrast, *doing* philosophy within or beyond the academy demands the creative, self-directed application of acquired expertise to enduring questions about the nature of existence and knowledge. While both approaches engage with influential figures, those who do philosophy treat such figures as vital interlocutors who facilitate new insights rather than as ossified authorities who, though relevant to the present, primarily represent the discipline’s past.

Based on the text, which choice best describes the relationship between doing philosophy and studying philosophy?

- A. Doing philosophy helps students formulate concrete solutions to practical issues, whereas studying philosophy prioritizes engagement with historical arguments in the field.
- B. Doing philosophy involves developing novel ideas through imagined dialogue with past philosophers based on knowledge of those philosophers’ views acquired by studying philosophy.
- C. Doing philosophy requires students to challenge the ideas articulated by past philosophers, especially when these ideas are broadly accepted by other people studying philosophy.
- D. Doing philosophy represents a departure from the norms that govern scholarly inquiry, whereas studying philosophy requires conforming to these norms.

ID: 4a10531c Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately describes the relationship between doing philosophy and studying philosophy as presented in the text. According to the text, studying philosophy requires being familiar with foundational texts and historical figures, while doing philosophy demands “the creative, self-directed application of acquired expertise”—a phrase implying that doing philosophy builds on knowledge gained through study. The text adds that those who do philosophy treat influential figures as “vital interlocutors who facilitate new insights” (that is, as dialogue partners whose ideas help generate new thinking). In other words, doing philosophy involves developing novel ideas through engagement with the ideas of past philosophers, knowledge of which can be acquired only by studying philosophy.

Choice A is incorrect. While the text does state that studying philosophy requires engagement with historical texts and figures, the text describes doing philosophy as addressing “enduring questions about the nature of existence and knowledge,” which are abstract philosophical questions, not practical issues. Rather than formulating concrete solutions, doing philosophy involves the creative application of expertise to these broad, enduring questions. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t characterize doing philosophy as requiring students to challenge past philosophers’ ideas. Instead, the text suggests that those who do philosophy engage creatively with historical figures, which can, but doesn’t necessarily entail, opposition. Additionally, the text doesn’t claim that the ideas of past philosophers are broadly accepted by those studying philosophy. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss norms of scholarly inquiry or characterize either approach in terms of conforming to or

departing from such norms. Rather, the text notes that doing philosophy can occur “within or beyond the academy,” which suggests compatibility with scholarly settings rather than an inevitable departure from them.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID cdd766df

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: cdd766df

In their 2022 paper, Christos Dimopoulos et al., having granted that the existence of antigravity—in which antimatter and matter repel rather than attract each other—lacked affirmative experimental support, rightly argued that such antigravity was worth considering on theoretical grounds given that evidence against it was similarly lacking. But a 2023 report by an international team of researchers details the first direct ballistic observations of antihydrogen atoms under gravity inside a CERN particle accelerator. Corresponding most closely to predictions under gravitational attraction, these observations were thoroughly inconsistent with antigravity.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Antihydrogen ballistics observations were conducted at CERN to test specific conclusions about antigravity presented in the 2022 paper by Dimopoulos et al.
- B. Although theoreticians were justified in studying antigravity before the release of the 2023 report, the report’s findings suggest that the rationale for theoretical consideration offered in the 2022 paper by Dimopoulos et al. is no longer applicable.
- C. The theoretical approach represented in the 2022 paper by Dimopoulos et al. assumed that unambiguous proof of antigravity would not be achievable, but the results in the 2023 report undermine that assumption.
- D. Before 2023, researchers’ inordinate focus on theoretical considerations hindered the development of the experimental regimen for direct antihydrogen ballistics observations.

ID: cdd766df Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text begins by acknowledging that in 2022, Dimopoulos et al. were justified in arguing for antigravity on theoretical grounds because although there was no experimental evidence supporting its existence at that time, there was no evidence contradicting its existence either. The text then introduces the 2023 report describing an experiment that produced observations "thoroughly inconsistent with antigravity." Thus, the main idea is that while the study of antigravity was theoretically justified before the 2023 report (due to lack of evidence against it), the report’s findings undermine the rationale for such theoretical consideration since there is now evidence against this hypothetical phenomenon.

Choice A is incorrect. Although antihydrogen ballistics observations were conducted at CERN, the text provides no evidence that they were conducted to test conclusions in Dimopoulos et al.’s 2022 paper. Rather, the text presents the 2023 report as new evidence that contradicts the existence of the hypothetical phenomenon that Dimopoulos et al. had considered. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that Dimopoulos et al. assumed that unambiguous proof of antigravity would be unattainable. Rather, the text states that they argued antigravity was worth considering theoretically because evidence against it was lacking at that time. At the same time, the results in the 2023 report do not undermine but strengthen the idea that the proof of antigravity might not be achievable. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that there was an "inordinate focus

on theoretical considerations" before 2023 or that such a focus hindered the development of experimental methods. In fact, the text describes Dimopoulos et al.'s position regarding the theoretical consideration of antigravity as "rightly argued," indicating approval of their approach given the absence of experimental evidence at that time.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 1d552e04

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1d552e04

In episodes of high heat, corals expel symbiotic zooxanthellae from their tissues, leading to coral bleaching and heightened coral mortality. Some researchers have proposed a mitigation strategy of identifying, rearing, and disseminating corals that have evolved strong resistance to heat, but as Nia S. Walker et al. note, if genes conferring such resistance were exclusively advantageous, they should have already propagated through coral populations. Indeed, Walker et al. show that strongly heat-resistant corals display much less growth after heat stress than do moderately heat-resistant corals.

- Based on the text, Walker et al. would most likely agree with which statement about the strategy some researchers have proposed?
- A. It would involve promoting a trait that protects corals against high heat but that is associated with reduced thriving after episodes of high heat.
 - B. It would favor a trait that is advantageous now but would be disadvantageous if episodes of high heat become as infrequent as has been predicted.
 - C. It would benefit corals that are frequently exposed to episodes of high heat but would harm corals that are frequently exposed to episodes of moderate heat.
 - D. It would require manipulating a trait that is poorly understood and that may be linked to increased coral mortality during episodes of high heat.

ID: 1d552e04 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it presents a statement about the proposed strategy that is consistent with Walker et al.’s position. The strategy involves identifying and disseminating corals with strong heat resistance as a means of mitigating coral mortality during episodes of high heat. According to the text, Walker et al. note that if this trait were “exclusively advantageous,” it would have already spread throughout coral populations—implying that the trait carries some evolutionary cost. The text then provides evidence of this cost: Walker et al. have found that strongly heat-resistant corals display much less growth after heat stress (indicative of reduced thriving) than do moderately heat-resistant corals. Given the apparent trade-off between strong heat resistance and growth after heat stress, Walker et al. would be likely to agree that the strategy entails promoting a trait that protects against high heat but is associated with reduced thriving afterward.

Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t suggest that episodes of high heat are predicted to become infrequent. Also, the text establishes that Walker et al. found that the trait of high heat tolerance is associated with a significant trade-off—reduced growth after heat stress. Given the cost that accompanies strong heat resistance, Walker et al. wouldn’t be likely to agree that the trait is advantageous now. Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t discuss the effects of moderate heat on corals or distinguish between corals that are exposed to different levels of heat. The text also doesn’t address the frequency of corals’ exposure to heat. Therefore, there is no basis for concluding that Walker et al. would agree that the strategy benefits corals that

are frequently exposed to high heat but harms those that are frequently exposed to moderate heat. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn't indicate that heat resistance in corals is poorly understood. On the contrary, Walker et al. present a specific finding about this trait, linking reduced growth after heat stress to strong heat resistance. In addition, the text indicates that strong heat resistance protects corals during episodes of high heat; while their research shows that heat resistance is linked to reduced growth after such episodes, Walker et al. likely wouldn't agree that it is linked to increased coral mortality during such episodes.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 4c18f6b4

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 4c18f6b4

Poetry in Classical Nahuatl, the language of the Aztec Empire, relies on *difrasismo*, or a parallel noun construction that conventionally operates as a single metaphor. For example, the common difrasismo *in cuauhtli in ocelotl* (literally, “the eagle, the jaguar”) signifies “warrior.” The device’s function is both formal—providing structure to lines of verse—and ritual: semantic relations among the two nouns and the concept they signify can be tenuous, as in the previous example, such that difrasismos are often only intelligible according to the conceptual associations observed in Aztec ceremonial culture.

Which statement about the difrasismo *in cuauhtli in ocelotl* is most strongly supported by the text?

- A. Its metaphorical significance derives from the semantic equivalence of the two nouns constituting the difrasismo.
- B. Its unintelligibility may cause its formal function within a line of verse to go unnoticed by present-day readers.
- C. Its apparent obscurity can be resolved when considered in the proper cultural context.
- D. Its frequency in Classical Nahuatl poetry confirms its intelligibility to the Aztec audience.

ID: 4c18f6b4 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer because it presents a statement about the difrasismo *in cuauhtli in ocelotl* that is directly supported by the text. The text begins by describing difrasismo, a device used in Classical Nahuatl poetry. The text then mentions the device’s two functions: a formal one (giving structure to lines of verse) and a ritualistic one. The text indicates that the relation between the words in a difrasismo may appear tenuous without the additional information supplied by Aztec ceremonial culture but that the meaning becomes intelligible in the context of that information. Therefore, the difrasismo’s apparent obscurity can be resolved when considered in the proper cultural context.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the two nouns used in a difrasismo are semantically equivalent; instead, the text indicates that the two nouns used in a difrasismo make up a single metaphor whose meaning is often intelligible only in the context of information supplied by Aztec ceremonial culture. Choice B is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that there’s a relationship between the formal function of the difrasismo and the difrasismo’s intelligibility. Additionally, the text suggests that present-day readers who are familiar with Aztec ceremonial culture wouldn’t find the difrasismo to be unintelligible. Choice D is incorrect because the text doesn’t indicate that the frequency of difrasismo’s use in Classical Nahuatl is a necessary feature of intelligibility: the text indicates that an infrequently used difrasismo would presumably also be intelligible to members of an Aztec audience who are sufficiently familiar with Aztec ceremonial culture.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID 52126683

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 52126683

Through adaptive radiation, multiple species of *Tetragnatha*—a genus of orb-weaving spiders—have significantly diversified their web architecture over a relatively short timescale. To investigate whether the material properties of *Tetragnatha* silk have been similarly affected by this evolutionary process, Angela M. Alicea-Serrano et al. examined the chemical composition of both the radial (non-sticky threads extending from the center) and capture (sticky threads that hold prey) silks that form the web as well as tested the tensile strength and viscosity of samples collected from three *Tetragnatha* species at two sites in the Hawaiian archipelago. The team found significant interspecies variation in these biomaterials.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Research reveals that web architecture among species of *Tetragnatha* spiders has likely diversified more rapidly than the material properties of *Tetragnatha*’s silk have.
- B. Research suggests that the material properties of silk from species of *Tetragnatha* spiders have diversified during adaptive radiation.
- C. A study indicates that variations in web architecture among species of *Tetragnatha* spiders can likely be explained by corresponding variations in the material properties of their silks.
- D. A study shows that adaptive radiation can explain interspecies variation in the web architecture of *Tetragnatha* spiders but not in the material properties of the spiders’ silk.

ID: 52126683 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text notes that *Tetragnatha* spiders have diversified their web architecture, or web design, through adaptive radiation and that Alicea-Serrano et al. investigated whether silk material properties were also affected by this process. After examining chemical composition, tensile strength, and viscosity of silks from three *Tetragnatha* species, the team found significant interspecies variation in these material properties, meaning that there were observable differences in these traits across the studied species. In the context of the study’s research question, this finding suggests that the material properties of silk from species of *Tetragnatha* spiders have indeed diversified during adaptive radiation, which is the main idea of the text.

Choice A is incorrect because the text doesn’t compare the rate of diversification in web architecture to the rate of diversification in silk properties. Although the text notes that web architecture diversified “over a relatively short timescale,” it doesn’t make a corresponding temporal claim about silk properties or suggest that one changed more rapidly than the other. Choice C is incorrect because the study investigated silk properties as a separate question, not as an explanation for differences in web architecture. The researchers discussed in the text investigated whether silk properties were “similarly affected” by adaptive radiation, not whether they caused the variations in web design. Choice D is incorrect because it contradicts the findings described in the text.

The study found “significant interspecies variation” in silk biomaterials, suggesting that adaptive radiation did affect the properties of *Tetragnatha* spiders’ silk rather than showing that adaptive radiation cannot explain silk variation.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID c39ea074

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: c39ea074

Hypothesizing that reliance on smartphones for information retrieval will lead a person to incorrectly remember instances of phone-assisted retrieval as instances of retrieval from memory, researchers asked participants general-knowledge trivia questions, instructing them to answer certain questions using only their smartphone and other questions using only their memory. When surveyed a week later, participants exhibited higher levels of misattribution for answers retrieved in the smartphone condition than for those retrieved in the memory condition, a finding that the researchers claimed supported their hypothesis.

Which question would be most useful to answer in determining the validity of the researchers’ claim as it is presented in the text?

- A. Were participants as likely to remember the source of their information when asked a week later as they would have been if asked immediately after answering the trivia questions?
- B. Were participants less confident about the accuracy of information they were instructed to retrieve from a smartphone than they were of that retrieved from their own memory?
- C. How likely were participants to answer all the trivia questions correctly in both the smartphone and the memory conditions?
- D. How did participants attribute information they were instructed to retrieve from a smartphone in instances when they already knew that information independently of their phone?

ID: c39ea074 Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer because it identifies a question that directly addresses a potential confounding factor in the research. The text discusses a study investigating source misattribution for information retrieved with the assistance of a smartphone—that is, how well people remember whether they used a smartphone to look up information or retrieved the information from their memory. The researchers hypothesized that smartphone reliance causes people to mistakenly think that they retrieved the information from their memory when they in fact used a smartphone. To test this hypothesis, the researchers instructed participants to look up answers to some trivia questions on smartphones and to answer some questions using only their memory. The text then indicates that a week later, participants were more likely to misremember smartphone-assisted answers as coming from memory than to misremember memory-based answers as coming from smartphones. The researchers claimed that the higher misattribution rates for the smartphone-retrieval condition supported their hypothesis. However, the text doesn’t specify whether the study design accounted for the possibility that some participants might have known many—perhaps even all—of the trivia answers beforehand. If participants already knew some answers they were instructed to look up on their phones, their later attribution of those answers to memory might be accurate rather than a misattribution. Knowing how participants attributed information in such cases would help determine whether the observed effect reflects smartphone-induced misattribution or simply participants’ recall of prior knowledge. Thus, in evaluating the validity of the researchers’ claim, it would be most useful to know how participants attributed information they were instructed to retrieve from a phone in instances where they already knew the information.

Choice A is incorrect. Although survey timing is a methodological consideration, it doesn't help distinguish between genuine misattribution caused by smartphone reliance and other explanations for the observed effect. Though it's plausible that participants' recollections of their information source may have been more accurate immediately after answering the trivia questions than they would have been a week later, the one-week delay would affect both conditions equally and doesn't specifically challenge the researchers' claim about smartphone-induced misattribution. Choice B is incorrect because confidence in the accuracy of retrieved information doesn't directly pertain to source misattribution. The researchers' claim concerns whether participants believed information came from their smartphone or their memory, not how confident they were in its correctness. Instead, a useful question would need to address the source-attribution process itself. Choice C is incorrect because the accuracy of the participants' answers doesn't bear on the researchers' claim about source misattribution. The claim concerns the remembered origin of answers, not their correctness. Instead, the relevant issue is whether participants who looked up answers they already knew might have attributed those answers to memory regardless of which of the two experimental conditions they answered those questions under.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Question ID ba29d116

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ba29d116

Electronic music pioneer Wendy Carlos is credited with the music for three feature films: *A Clockwork Orange* (1971), *The Shining* (1980), and *Tron* (1982). However, her musical score for *A Clockwork Orange* is mostly made up of her arrangements of Ludwig van Beethoven’s work. Also, almost all the music that she and Rachel Elkind composed for *The Shining* was unused by director Stanley Kubrick. It did not appear in the film. Of the three films, *Tron* is the one in which audiences can hear the most of Carlos’s original compositions.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Of the three films for which Carlos is credited, *Tron* features the most original music from her.
- B. The director of *The Shining* used most of the music that Carlos composed for it.
- C. Beethoven is widely considered to be a more important composer than Carlos.
- D. Carlos is a notable innovator among film composers in the 1970s and 1980s.

ID: ba29d116 Answer

Correct Answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer because it best states the main idea of the text. The text indicates that Wendy Carlos scored three feature films: *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Shining*, and *Tron*. It also indicates that Carlos’s work on *A Clockwork Orange* consisted primarily of electronic arrangements of Beethoven compositions and that very little of what she and Rachel Elkind composed for *The Shining* was used in the film. But the soundtrack for *Tron* consists largely of music composed by Carlos, so it contains more of her original music than do the soundtracks for the other two films. Thus, the main idea of the text is that of the three films for which Carlos is credited, *Tron* features the most original music from her.

Choice B is incorrect because it directly contradicts the text’s claim that "very little of what she and Rachel Elkind composed for *The Shining* was used in the film." Choice C is incorrect because the text doesn’t address the perceived quality of different composers, instead, it discusses how much of Carlos’s original work was used in each of the three films she scored. Choice D is incorrect because it doesn’t relate to any of the major themes of the text: the work Wendy Carlos did for three feature films, how much of that work was composed by Carlos, and how much of her original work was ultimately used in the film.

Question Difficulty: Hard