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GOUDA ACADEMY

DIGITAL SAT READING & WRITING

100

HIGH-YIELD PREDICTIONS

100 Question Patterns

100 Original Questions

100 Vocabulary Words

Detailed Explanations + Self-Study Plan

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

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Tomorrow



Your guide at a glance

Clickable contents and PDF bookmarks make this a study tool, not just a book to read.

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The questions are arranged by skill for learning. This guide is not a timed adaptive practice test and does not produce an SAT scaled score.

What “prediction” means here

Learn the moves the test repeatedly asks you to make. Do not try to memorize a future answer key.

The strongest prediction is that you will again need to interpret words in context, connect evidence to claims, read short literary and scientific texts, control sentence boundaries, and match writing to a purpose. The names, topics, wording, numbers, and exact vocabulary can change.

What is inside

Every numbered practice item in this guide is newly written. Each has four choices, one intended best answer, a step-by-step explanation, and a reason for accepting or rejecting every choice. The 100 patterns are teaching patterns within the official skills; they are not 100 separate College Board categories.

What the guide does not claim

No public review can establish the contents of an unreleased test. College Board does not publish every operational digital test form or every adaptive path. Student recollections are incomplete and unverified. The guide therefore does not promise exact repeats, assign appearance probabilities, or label recalled answers as official.

A simple way to use every question

- 1. Attempt.** Choose an answer before opening the solution. Mark confidence: high, medium, or low.
- 2. Prove.** Underline the decisive words, identify the grammar structure, or write the needed numerical comparison.
- 3. Review.** Read the correct reasoning and the explanation of the wrong answer you nearly chose. A lucky correct answer still needs review.
- 4. Retrieve.** Close the solution. Explain the rule aloud in one sentence. Reattempt missed or uncertain questions the next day and again three days later.

All invented passages, characters, studies, quotations, poems, and data are illustrative practice material. No outside factual knowledge is required. Difficulty labels in solutions are editorial estimates, not College Board calibrations.

What was actually researched

Official material drives the content. Community discussions help identify confusion and study needs.

SOURCE LAYER	REVIEWED MATERIAL	HOW IT WAS USED
Official specification	Digital SAT assessment framework, Reading and Writing overview, current practice catalog, and test dates.	Defined the tested skills, task format, and domain balance.
Official practice tests	Current publicly linked nonadaptive SAT practice PDFs 4-11 and their answer-explanation PDFs: 8 tests and 528 Reading and Writing question positions.	Reviewed wording, reasoning patterns, distractors, and vocabulary. Positions can overlap across tests and the bank.
Official Question Bank	Complete available SAT Reading and Writing export: 1,845 distinct question IDs, all domains and difficulty levels, with active practice questions not excluded.	Parsed the inventory and metadata; searched prompts and choices; closely examined representative items across every skill.
Public student discussion	Selected visible Reddit discussions from March, May, June, August, and September 2026, plus strategy discussions.	Identified reported vocabulary difficulty, inference confusion, and time pressure. Recollections were not treated as confirmed test content.

Important limits on “all previous tests”

This is an extensive review of the current accessible public collection, not a claim to possess every real digital SAT ever administered. Historical forms, withdrawn practice versions, private teacher groups, deleted comments, and all worldwide test variants are not comprehensively available. The nonadaptive paper PDFs also do not recreate every Bluebook adaptive route.

The bank inventory was counted in full; close reading was targeted, rather than a claim that every one of its 1,845 explanations was individually evaluated. Official practice and bank appearances are overlapping evidence, not independent confirmations.

Why these 100 patterns?

The four-domain allocation follows the official approximate test blueprint. Within domains, the selection favors transferable reasoning, common distractor structures, and grammar rules that unlock many questions.

DOMAIN	OFFICIAL SHARE	BANK ITEMS	GUIDE ITEMS
Craft and Structure	about 28%	471	28 • Q1-28
Information and Ideas	about 26%	555	26 • Q29-54
Standard English Conventions	about 26%	421	26 • Q55-80
Expression of Ideas	about 20%	398	20 • Q81-100

Bank counts describe the available practice inventory. They are not probabilities of seeing a skill on the next test. The guide's finer allocation is an editorial learning plan, not a published prediction model.

OFFICIAL SKILL / PRACTICE STRAND	BANK COUNT	GUIDE QUESTIONS
Words in Context	261	1-15
Text Structure and Purpose	149	16-24
Cross-Text Connections	61	25-28
Central Ideas and Details	138	29-34
Command of Evidence	277	35-46: textual and quantitative
Inferences	140	47-54
Boundaries	213	55-67
Form, Structure, and Sense	208	68-80
Transitions	194	81-92
Rhetorical Synthesis	204	93-100

Priority A: start here. These are broad, reusable patterns or prerequisites. Review them first if time is limited.

Priority B: complete your coverage. These add important distinctions, literary applications, less common constructions, or harder combinations. B does not mean unimportant or unlikely.

Numbering follows a teaching sequence, not a claimed 1-to-100 probability ranking. Both priority groups are included in the full plan.

A ten-day route to test day

Plan on roughly 60-90 minutes a day: 15-25 minutes attempting questions, 30-45 minutes explaining and correcting them, and 10-15 minutes of vocabulary retrieval. Adjust for your starting level.

DAY	NEW QUESTIONS	NEW WORDS	REVIEW TASK
1	1-10	1-10	Record your first recurring trap.
2	11-20	11-20	Reattempt Day 1 misses.
3	21-30	21-30	Explain a function and a cross-text answer.
4	31-40	31-40	Revisit Day 1 misses without notes.
5	41-50	41-50	Practice graph comparisons and limits.
6	51-60	51-60	Draw clause boundaries before choosing.
7	61-70	61-70	Find each subject and main verb.
8	71-80	71-80	Contrast finite verbs with participles.
9	81-90	81-90	Name each transition relationship.
10	91-100	91-100	Do the final notes tasks and diagnostic.

Then use the remaining time well

Take or review an official Bluebook practice test if time permits. Revisit your two weakest skills using fresh official Question Bank questions. Keep the last day light: review your error rules and retrieve vocabulary from memory rather than cramming unfamiliar passages.

If you have only three days

Day 1 • Grammar and writing. Work Q55-100. Review every uncertain answer. Learn words 1-30.

Day 2 • Reading and evidence. Work Q1-54 in two sessions. Learn words 31-70. Spend review time on evidence and scope, not just answer letters.

Day 3 • Repair and retrieve. Reattempt your misses, learn words 71-100, and test yourself on all 100 meanings. Use the final checklist. The compressed route needs several focused hours each day.

The next scheduled SAT Weekend date after the research snapshot is October 3, 2026. Confirm your own date and requirements through College Board; school-day schedules differ. [S1]

Make every answer earn its place

Words in Context: predict, then verify. Read the whole sentence and its neighbor. Mark contrast words, negatives, examples, and definitions after a colon. Predict a simple meaning, then check the exact strength and sense of each option. A real dictionary definition may still be wrong here.

Main idea: topic + main point + limit. Say what the text is about and what it says about that topic. Preserve qualifications such as may, in these conditions, or partly. One true detail is not always the whole idea.

Purpose and function: ask what the words do. Distinguish “describes a result” from “gives an example,” “introduces a method,” or “acknowledges a limitation.” Read an underlined sentence in relation to what comes before and after it.

Cross-text: write one claim per author. Then identify the exact agreement, disagreement, or qualification. An author may accept a result while rejecting the proposed cause. Do not invent a dispute just because there are two texts.

Evidence: match the entire claim. For a two-part claim, require evidence for both parts. For a causal claim, look for a controlled comparison or an alternative explanation. A related fact can be true and still fail to support the requested conclusion.

Inference: take the smallest supported step. An inference is required when the evidence supports a conclusion not stated word for word. Keep its scope narrow. “May help” is different from “is the only cause”; “not detected” is different from “absent.”

Gouda Academy study routines

ROUTINE	WHAT TO DO
Divide	Split a long answer into separate claims. One unsupported clause can invalidate the choice.
Compare	Name the exact difference between your final two choices: direction, strength, time, cause, or scope.
Citation judge	Point to the words or data supporting the whole answer. Familiar vocabulary is not proof.
Study map	Write Aim → Method → Result → Limit. Do not confuse what researchers asked with what they found.
Graph comparison	Ask: What am I comparing? Use the correct groups, axes, units, and change. Then connect the numbers to the claim.

Use these routines to organize evidence. They are not shortcuts that override the passage or grammar.

Read the sentence's skeleton

First find subjects, verbs, and complete thoughts

An independent clause can stand alone: "The scanner failed." A dependent clause cannot: "Although the scanner failed." A phrase can contain a noun or an -ing word without forming a complete clause. Temporarily remove extra descriptions, then restore them before checking the full sentence.

STRUCTURE	WORKING EXAMPLE	WHY IT WORKS
Independent; independent	The scanner failed; the team used a camera.	A semicolon can join two complete clauses.
Independent, conjunction + independent	The scanner failed, but the team continued.	A comma plus a coordinating conjunction can join the clauses.
Dependent, independent	Although the scanner failed, the team continued.	An introductory dependent clause joins the main clause.
Independent: explanation or list	The team used two tools: a camera and a ruler.	The words before the colon form a complete statement.
Subject + interruption + verb	The scanner, a recent purchase, failed.	Both commas enclose the added description.
Complex list	The stops are Nera, a port; Sola, a hill town; and Venn, a capital.	Semicolons separate list items containing commas.

Five checks for form, structure, and sense

Agreement. Find the head noun, not the nearest noun: "The pattern of marks suggests..." In an inverted sentence, the subject may follow the verb.

Verb job. Ask whether the sentence still needs a main verb. Providing and to provide cannot replace provide when no other main verb is present.

Time. Use the dates and relationships given. Past perfect can mark an earlier past event; present perfect can connect a past start to the present.

Possession. Its means belonging to it; it's means it is or it has. One sculptor's tools differ from several sculptors' tools.

Modifier. After "Comparing the letters," place the person doing the comparing. The chronology itself cannot compare letters.

These are core patterns, not an exhaustive grammar textbook. Test each offered choice in the whole sentence; equivalent punctuation can be valid in other constructions.

Name the relationship. Meet the goal.

A transition is a logical instruction

RELATIONSHIP	COMMON SIGNALS	QUESTION TO ASK
Contrast	however, by contrast, conversely	Do the ideas differ in the relevant way?
Concession	nevertheless, nonetheless, still	Did the result occur despite an obstacle?
Cause → result	therefore, consequently, as a result	Does the first idea explain the second?
Example / detail	for example, specifically	Is the second idea a case or detail of the first?
Restatement	in other words, that is	Does the second idea rephrase the first?
Addition / parallel	moreover, furthermore, likewise	Is this another point or a similar relationship?
Replacement / correction	instead, rather	Is one approach or interpretation being replaced?
Goal → method	to this end	Does the action serve the stated aim?
Sequence	then, afterward, subsequently	Is the important relationship time order?
Regardless of alternatives	in any case	Does the point hold whichever possibility is true?

For notes questions, use a goal-first routine

Read the task: similarity in habitat, difference in material, aim of a study, method, result, introduction, or supported generalization. Underline that exact target. Then use the notes to check facts and limits. You do not need to use every note.

True is necessary, but it may not be enough

“Both plants flower in spring” may be true. If the task asks for a similarity in habitat, it misses the goal. Likewise, mentioning two clocks does not satisfy a comparison of their case materials unless the sentence compares material with material.

Do not treat “skip all notes” as a universal rule. Fast goal recognition helps, but the selected answer must still be accurate and supported by the notes. A result should preserve its population, time window, and numerical meaning.

Patterns 01-20

A = first-pass priority • B = complete your coverage • Q and solution pages are clickable.

NO.	PATTERN TO RECOGNIZE	PRIORITY	Q PAGE	SOLUTION
01	Definition clue after a colon	A	15	62
02	Contrast between limited evidence and confidence	A	15	63
03	Concession: an unexpected quality	A	16	64
04	Negation changes the needed meaning	A	16	65
05	Qualified praise and two-sided attitudes	B	16	66
06	Second sentence explains an abstract adjective	A	17	67
07	Slowing a process versus making it impossible	A	17	68
08	A small measurable effect versus a meaningful one	B	17	69
09	A familiar word used in a neutral academic sense	A	18	70
10	Multiple meanings of a common verb	B	18	71
11	A phrase expressing disagreement with evidence	B	18	72
12	Making apparently conflicting findings compatible	A	19	73
13	Central importance versus mere association	B	19	74
14	Repairing a problem rather than describing it	A	19	75
15	Choosing a phrase that fits both meaning and grammar	B	20	76
16	Main purpose: describe a change in understanding	A	20	77
17	Function: an example supports a general claim	A	21	78
18	Function: acknowledge a limitation without rejecting a study	A	21	79
19	Structure: old explanation, new evidence, revision	A	22	80
20	Function: a concession prepares for a central objection	B	22	81

Check a pattern only when you can explain its rule and reject the nearest wrong answer without looking at the solution. The numbers organize learning; they do not rank appearance probabilities.

Patterns 21-40

A = first-pass priority • B = complete your coverage • Q and solution pages are clickable.

NO.	PATTERN TO RECOGNIZE	PRIORITY	Q PAGE	SOLUTION
21	Main purpose in literary prose: reveal an attitude	B	23	82
22	Function of imagery in a short poem	B	23	83
23	Function: distinguish a method from its finding	A	24	84
24	Structure: explain an apparent paradox	A	24	85
25	Cross-text: agree on a result but dispute the cause	A	25	86
26	Cross-text: identify a narrow point of agreement	B	25	87
27	Cross-text: new evidence challenges a necessary condition	A	26	88
28	Cross-text: qualify a broad recommendation	B	26	89
29	Central idea: preserve both the finding and its qualification	A	27	90
30	Detail: identify the stated reason for a method	A	27	91
31	Central idea in fiction: outward behavior and inward feeling	B	28	92
32	A narrow detail versus the whole argument	A	28	93
33	Poetry: infer a restrained central attitude	B	29	94
34	Detail: track who made which claim	B	29	95
35	Support a mechanism with a controlled comparison	A	30	96
36	Weaken a causal claim with a confounding factor	A	30	97
37	Strengthen an argument by ruling out an alternative	A	31	98
38	Support a two-part claim with a quotation	A	31	99
39	Weaken an inference from absence of evidence	A	32	100
40	Support a predicted interaction between two conditions	A	32	101

Check a pattern only when you can explain its rule and reject the nearest wrong answer without looking at the solution. The numbers organize learning; they do not rank appearance probabilities.

Patterns 41-60

A = first-pass priority • B = complete your coverage • Q and solution pages are clickable.

NO.	PATTERN TO RECOGNIZE	PRIORITY	Q PAGE	SOLUTION
41	Distinguish supporting evidence from a related true fact	A	33	102
42	Table: combine two trends without reversing either	A	33	103
43	Bar graph: compare treatment effects, not final heights	A	34	104
44	Line graph: lower remaining amount means faster loss	A	35	105
45	Table: an average can hide variation	B	36	106
46	Table: distinguish counts from percentages	A	37	107
47	Inference: a date sets a lower bound	A	37	108
48	Inference: a necessary condition is not a guarantee	A	38	109
49	Inference: a detection limit restricts a negative conclusion	A	38	110
50	Inference: improvement has a limit	A	39	111
51	Inference: apply a mechanism to a new setting	A	39	112
52	Inference: an intervention identifies a component of a response	A	40	113
53	Inference: a smaller share can represent a larger total	B	40	114
54	Dense inference: distinguish a signal from what creates it	A	41	115
55	Separate two complete clauses with a semicolon	A	41	116
56	Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction	A	41	117
57	Keep an introductory dependent clause attached	A	42	118
58	Do not separate a long subject from its verb	A	42	119
59	Keep a verb and its object together	A	42	120
60	A colon introduces a list after a complete statement	A	43	121

Check a pattern only when you can explain its rule and reject the nearest wrong answer without looking at the solution. The numbers organize learning; they do not rank appearance probabilities.

Patterns 61-80

A = first-pass priority • B = complete your coverage • Q and solution pages are clickable.

NO.	PATTERN TO RECOGNIZE	PRIORITY	Q PAGE	SOLUTION
61	Avoid a colon after a preposition	A	43	122
62	Close a nonessential appositive with a matching comma	A	43	123
63	Close a parenthetical interruption without adding a boundary	B	44	124
64	Keep an essential identifying name attached	B	44	125
65	However does not join complete clauses with commas alone	A	44	126
66	Find the boundary hidden before a time phrase	A	45	127
67	Use semicolons to separate complex list items	B	45	128
68	Agreement: ignore nouns inside an intervening phrase	A	45	129
69	Agreement when the subject follows the verb	B	46	130
70	Agreement inside a relative clause	A	46	131
71	Each remains singular despite a plural noun nearby	A	46	132
72	Pronoun agreement with a plural antecedent	A	47	133
73	Its versus it is	A	47	134
74	Distinguish plural possession from singular possession	A	47	135
75	A completed past date calls for simple past	A	48	136
76	Past perfect marks an action completed before another past action	B	48	137
77	Present perfect connects a past start to the present	B	48	138
78	Supply a main verb after a long relative clause	A	49	139
79	Use a participle when the main verb is already present	A	49	140
80	Place the doer immediately after an introductory modifier	A	49	141

Check a pattern only when you can explain its rule and reject the nearest wrong answer without looking at the solution. The numbers organize learning; they do not rank appearance probabilities.

Patterns 81-100

A = first-pass priority • B = complete your coverage • Q and solution pages are clickable.

NO.	PATTERN TO RECOGNIZE	PRIORITY	Q PAGE	SOLUTION
81	Transition: contrast between two findings	A	50	142
82	Transition: an outcome despite an obstacle	A	50	143
83	Transition: a stated cause produces a result	A	50	144
84	Transition: a specific case illustrates a general claim	A	51	145
85	Transition: clarify the same idea in more specific terms	A	51	146
86	Transition: add an independent supporting benefit	A	51	147
87	Transition: chronological sequence	B	52	148
88	Transition: replace one approach with another	A	52	149
89	Transition: correct a possible misconception	A	52	150
90	Transition: parallel relationships across two examples	A	53	151
91	Transition: a method serves a stated goal	A	53	152
92	Transition: return to a recommendation despite unresolved alternatives	B	53	153
93	Notes: emphasize a similarity	A	54	154
94	Notes: compare the same feature of two objects	A	54	155
95	Notes: introduce a person to an unfamiliar audience	B	55	156
96	Notes: state the aim rather than the result	A	55	157
97	Notes: summarize the method	A	56	158
98	Notes: report a result without exaggerating it	A	57	159
99	Notes: form a generalization supported by multiple examples	B	58	160
100	Notes: select the detail that supports a specific claim	A	58	161

Check a pattern only when you can explain its rule and reject the nearest wrong answer without looking at the solution. The numbers organize learning; they do not rank appearance probabilities.

100 original questions

Do not open the answer key until you have attempted a set. Mark evidence as well as answers.

These are independent practice items. Every answer must follow from the passage, graphic, grammar, or notes provided. Leave your reasoning on the page or in a separate notebook.

Q01

A historian proposed that the old harbor tower had once served as a grain store. Newly discovered inventories _____ that proposal: several of the documents list sacks of barley delivered to the tower and payments made to workers who guarded the grain.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. supplant
- B. corroborate
- C. anticipate
- D. obscure

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q02

Only three fragments of the manuscript survive, and none bears a date. For that reason, the editor presents her account of its origins as _____ rather than definitive. She expects to revise the account if additional fragments are found.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. redundant
- B. exhaustive
- C. tentative
- D. incongruous

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q03

Although the artist had only a week to complete the miniature, her execution was remarkably _____. Under magnification, even the tiny windows had carefully aligned frames, and no brushstroke extended beyond its intended boundary.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. meticulous
- B. conventional
- C. hasty
- D. improvised

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q04

At first, the unusual pattern in the telescope images seemed _____. However, when the team examined observations from six earlier surveys, it found the same pattern in every survey. The new images therefore showed a recurring feature, not an exceptional event.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. inconsequential
- B. ubiquitous
- C. anomalous
- D. inevitable

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q05

The critic is _____ about the restoration of the theater. She welcomes the safer balconies and improved acoustics but regrets the replacement of the worn wooden seats, which she considers an important part of the building's character.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. sanguine
- B. indifferent
- C. antagonistic
- D. ambivalent

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q06

The committee's first report was _____. Readers could not tell whether the phrase "limited access" referred to opening hours, membership requirements, or the number of visitors allowed inside. A revised report defined the phrase and removed this uncertainty.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. ambiguous
- B. impartial
- C. implausible
- D. comprehensive

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q07

Heavy vegetation did not prevent the surveyors from reaching the ruins, but it did _____ their progress. A journey that normally required two hours took most of the day because they repeatedly stopped to clear a path.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. redirect
- B. preclude
- C. impede
- D. expedite

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q08

The new coating reduced the container's mass by just 0.002 percent, an amount too small to affect shipping costs or fuel use. For the company's practical purposes, the reduction was _____ even though the laboratory balance could detect it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. substantial
- B. unprecedented
- C. negligible
- D. imperceptible

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q09

To record faint sounds without adding electrical noise, the engineers decided to exploit a property of the material: its surface moved slightly when struck by sound waves, and a beam of light could measure that movement.

As used in the text, what does the word "exploit" most nearly mean?

- A.** make widely known
- B.** treat unfairly
- C.** make effective use of
- D.** remove completely

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q10

When the archive received the composer's papers, Leila was charged with arranging them. She spent months separating drafts from finished scores and labeling the letters so that visiting scholars could locate them easily.

As used in the text, what does "charged" most nearly mean?

- A.** accused of wrongdoing
- B.** required to pay
- C.** filled with energy
- D.** assigned responsibility

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q11

The reconstruction shows a roof supported by only two slender posts. This design is _____ the excavation records, which describe six substantial postholes evenly spaced around the room. The model will need to be revised to accommodate those findings.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A.** in keeping with
- B.** a consequence of
- C.** a substitute for
- D.** at odds with

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q12

One survey found that the island's birds nested mainly in trees, whereas another reported mostly ground nests. A later analysis helped _____ these findings: the first survey had sampled forests, while the second had sampled treeless coastal areas.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. invalidate
- B. exaggerate
- C. reconcile
- D. replicate

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q13

The composer did not add the recorded street sounds as an occasional decorative effect. Those sounds supplied the rhythms and pitch patterns from which every movement was developed, making them _____ to the structure of the work.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. tangential
- B. subsequent
- C. integral
- D. analogous

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q14

The original directory listed only galleries in the capital, leaving regional artists difficult to find. To _____ this imbalance, the editors added entries for galleries in smaller towns and invited local curators to identify missing venues.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. epitomize
- B. perpetuate
- C. rationalize
- D. redress

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q15

The laboratory's open layout was intended to encourage discussion. Yet researchers reported avoiding sensitive conversations because everyone nearby could hear them. In that respect, the layout was hardly _____ the candid exchange its designers had hoped to promote.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A. indifferent to
- B. contingent on
- C. derived from
- D. conducive to

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q16

For years, the village museum displayed a wooden object as a bread mold. Curator Ana Besh noticed that its grooves matched patterns on surviving roof tiles, however. After comparing the object with tools in neighboring collections, she relabeled it as a tile maker's stamp. The object itself remained in the same cabinet, but visitors now encountered a different account of the work it once performed.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A. To present disagreements among several curators about a wooden object
- B. To argue that roof tiles are more historically valuable than bread molds
- C. To explain why the museum moved an object to a different display
- D. To describe how a curator revised an interpretation of a museum object

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q17

Architect Tomas Iri argues that small design decisions can alter how neighbors interact. In one apartment building, he replaced narrow landings with shared balconies, and residents began meeting there each evening. He sees such spaces as invitations to conversation rather than merely routes between private rooms.

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

- A.** It compares two architects' competing approaches to residential design.
- B.** It illustrates the architect's claim with a particular design and its outcome.
- C.** It identifies a practical obstacle that prevented the architect from applying his ideas.
- D.** It introduces evidence that the architect later dismisses as irrelevant.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q18

A study of twelve mountain ponds found more insect species in ponds with varied vegetation. Because all twelve ponds were at similar elevations, the study cannot establish whether the relationship also holds at much higher elevations. Within the sampled range, however, the pattern was consistent enough to justify further investigation.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A.** It offers an alternative explanation for the relationship observed within the twelve ponds.
- B.** It limits the range of conditions to which the finding can confidently be applied.
- C.** It explains why the researchers concluded that vegetation does not affect insect diversity.
- D.** It identifies a variable that the researchers deliberately changed during an experiment.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q19

The irregular marks on a group of clay vessels were once interpreted as accidental scratches. Recent imaging revealed that the same sequences recur on vessels made in different workshops. Researchers therefore propose that the marks formed a shared system for identifying contents. They caution that the meaning of any individual sequence remains uncertain.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A.** It introduces an earlier interpretation, presents evidence for a different interpretation, and qualifies the newer proposal.
- B.** It lists several interpretations and argues that none can be evaluated with existing evidence.
- C.** It presents a new proposal, rejects the evidence supporting it, and returns to an older interpretation.
- D.** It identifies a disagreement, resolves the meanings of the marks, and describes a new imaging method.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q20

Digitizing fragile letters can greatly expand access to them. Still, a scan cannot fully preserve features such as paper thickness or the pressure of a pen. Historian Mara Sol therefore recommends that archives treat digital copies as valuable companions to physical documents rather than as complete replacements.

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

- A.** It introduces the reason that digital copies are more accurate than original letters.
- B.** It acknowledges a benefit of a practice whose limitations the text goes on to discuss.
- C.** It summarizes the historian's objection to preserving physical documents.
- D.** It states a claim that the remainder of the text proves entirely false.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q21

Every morning, Nabil complained that the station clock was five minutes slow. Yet when the council proposed replacing it with a silent electronic display, he was the first to object. He knew the old clock's uneven chime as he knew a friend's laugh, and he would have missed it more than he cared to admit.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A.** To show that Nabil prefers accurate information to familiar surroundings
- B.** To reveal Nabil's affection for something he often criticizes
- C.** To suggest that the council replaced the clock because of Nabil's complaints
- D.** To explain how Nabil discovered a fault in the station's electrical system

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q22

The following is an original poem.

I thought the orchard bare at close of day;
Its branches wrote dark letters on the sky.
Then one late apple caught the fading light,
A small red lantern where the leaves were dry.
I left more slowly than I had arrived.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined lines in the poem?

- A.** They establish that the speaker is unable to distinguish fruit from artificial light.
- B.** They explain why the orchard has failed to produce any fruit.
- C.** They introduce a vivid detail that changes the speaker's response to the orchard.
- D.** They shift the poem from a remembered place to a different setting.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q23

Researchers wanted to know whether listeners notice timing differences that they cannot consciously describe. Participants heard pairs of tones and pressed a button whenever they thought the second tone arrived earlier than expected. Although many participants said the task felt like guessing, their responses were more accurate than chance would predict.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A.** It identifies an assumption that the results ultimately disproved.
- B.** It explains how the researchers will apply their finding outside the laboratory.
- C.** It describes the task used to investigate the researchers' question.
- D.** It states the principal finding that emerged from the investigation.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q24

A town's library recorded fewer book loans after opening a popular reading room. This might seem to suggest declining use, but the library had previously required readers to check out any book they wanted to examine. In the new room, they could read books without borrowing them. Visitor counts rose even as recorded loans fell.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A.** It identifies an unpopular policy and describes the steps taken to reverse it.
- B.** It compares two towns and attributes their different reading habits to library funding.
- C.** It presents a seemingly surprising pattern and explains how a change in procedure accounts for it.
- D.** It proposes an explanation and then presents evidence that makes the explanation impossible.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q25**Text 1**

The museum's late-night program doubled attendance on Thursdays. Because admission prices were unchanged, the increase shows that later opening hours were responsible for attracting more visitors.

Text 2

Thursday attendance rose during the late-night program, but a heavily promoted special exhibition opened at the same time. Without comparing Thursdays with and without that exhibition, the effect of opening hours cannot be isolated.

How would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the conclusion in Text 1?

- A.** By arguing that a simultaneous change prevents a firm conclusion about the cause of the attendance increase
- B.** By claiming that reduced admission prices account for the increase
- C.** By maintaining that special exhibitions can never attract new museum visitors
- D.** By denying that attendance increased during the late-night program

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q26**Text 1**

Translations that preserve every unusual feature of a poem can sound awkward, but such awkwardness may alert readers to the distinctive structure of the original language. Readability should not be the translator's only aim.

Text 2

A translation must be readable to engage its audience. Still, complete smoothness can conceal the original poem's distinctive structure, so some unfamiliar constructions may be worth retaining.

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

- A.** Readers generally prefer awkward translations to smooth ones.
- B.** Preserving some unfamiliar features can help convey qualities of an original poem.
- C.** A translator should reproduce every unusual construction in the original.
- D.** The most readable translation is always the most faithful one.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q27**Text 1**

The green lichen is found chiefly on shaded rocks. Its absence from exposed slopes suggests that shade is necessary for its survival.

Text 2

In a recent trial, green lichen survived on exposed rocks when researchers kept the rocks moist. Shaded rocks usually remained moist without intervention. The researchers suggest that moisture, rather than shade itself, explains the lichen's usual distribution.

Which statement best describes how Text 2 relates to Text 1?

- A.** It shows that the distribution described in Text 1 was measured incorrectly.
- B.** It presents evidence that weakens Text 1's explanation and supports an alternative.
- C.** It argues that neither shade nor moisture can affect the lichen's survival.
- D.** It confirms that the lichen cannot survive on exposed rocks under any conditions.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q28**Text 1**

Because an automated transcription system processes interviews much faster than a human can, historians should use it as the standard method for creating interview transcripts.

Text 2

Automated transcription is useful for clear recordings, but its errors increase sharply when speakers use overlapping speech or regional expressions. For such recordings, historians must carefully check the output against the audio before relying on it.

How would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the recommendation in Text 1?

- A.** Manual checking can remove every transcription error from difficult recordings.
- B.** Automated transcripts of clear recordings should replace the original audio in historians' archives.
- C.** The system's speed advantage is restricted to recordings with no regional expressions.
- D.** The method has value, but some recordings require additional checking before their transcripts can be trusted.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q29

An archive of neighborhood newsletters reveals that residents organized communal gardens long before the city created its official gardening program. The newsletters do not show that every neighborhood had a garden, and many issues are missing. Nevertheless, they establish that the official program expanded an existing practice rather than introducing an entirely new one.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A.** The city's gardening program failed because most neighborhoods already had gardens.
- B.** Missing newsletters make it impossible to learn anything about early community gardens.
- C.** Neighborhood newsletters were created primarily to oppose city gardening policies.
- D.** Incomplete records still show that community gardening preceded the city's official program.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q30

Biologist Lina Voss wanted to compare the calls of two frog populations without disturbing their breeding sites. Instead of capturing frogs, she installed remote microphones along the ponds and retrieved the recordings each week. The microphones also allowed her to record calls after dark, when observers found it difficult to move safely around the ponds.

According to the text, why did Voss use remote microphones?

- A.** They prevented frogs from entering the ponds during the study.
- B.** They allowed her to record frogs without capturing them and to collect sound after dark.
- C.** They made calls from the two populations sound more similar.
- D.** They enabled her to determine each frog's age from its appearance.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q31

When the visitors praised her elaborate garden, Hessa laughed and called it a collection of weeds. After they left, however, she returned to straighten the supports beneath the lilies and to brush dust from the small brass labels. She worked until the evening shadows covered the path, taking care not to bend a single stem.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A.** Hessa understates her interest in a garden that she actually tends with great care.
- B.** Hessa decides to replace her flowers after visitors criticize their appearance.
- C.** Hessa is unable to maintain the garden without help from her visitors.
- D.** Hessa finds gardening less satisfying than entertaining visitors.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q32

An urban survey found that trees lowered afternoon pavement temperatures most strongly on streets with little shade from buildings. On streets already shaded by tall buildings, adding trees produced a smaller temperature change. The researchers argue that planting plans should account for existing shade, rather than assuming that the same number of trees will provide identical cooling on every street.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A.** Tall buildings prevent trees from growing on city streets.
- B.** The cooling benefit of street trees depends partly on existing shade, a factor planting plans should consider.
- C.** Street trees have no cooling effect when buildings provide shade.
- D.** Cities should remove trees from streets that receive afternoon sunlight.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q33

The following is an original poem.

The train has gone; its window held your face
A moment, then the fields reclaimed the view.
I fold the ticket slowly in my hand
And keep the seat beside me clear for you.

Which choice best states the main idea of the poem?

- A.** The speaker continues to feel attached to someone who has departed.
- B.** The speaker regrets losing a ticket needed for a future journey.
- C.** The speaker expects a delayed train to arrive immediately.
- D.** The speaker is relieved that an unpleasant visitor has finally left.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q34

Historian Dev Malik argues that the town's early market grew because river transport was inexpensive. Economist Sara Ennis accepts that transport costs mattered but emphasizes the town council's decision to waive stall fees for new merchants. Malik regards the fee waiver as a response to growth already underway, whereas Ennis sees it as a major cause of that growth.

According to the text, how does Malik interpret the fee waiver?

- A.** As a policy that Ennis believes had no economic effect
- B.** As the main reason river transport became less expensive
- C.** As the principal event that initiated the market's expansion
- D.** As a policy adopted after market growth had already begun

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q35

A team proposes that a moth locates its host tree mainly by detecting a particular chemical released by the leaves. The moth can also see the tree's shape, so observations of moths landing on ordinary trees cannot by themselves separate visual from chemical guidance.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the team's proposal?

- A.** Moths often rested on the tree after feeding elsewhere.
- B.** Moths approached hidden sources of the leaf chemical more often than otherwise identical sources without it.
- C.** The host tree has a shape that differs from the shapes of nearby plants.
- D.** The chemical was present in both young and mature leaves.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q36

A town installed brighter lamps along its main walking route. Pedestrian counts rose during the following month, leading an official to conclude that brighter lighting caused more residents to walk along the route.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the official's conclusion?

- A.** The new lamps used less electricity than the previous lamps.
- B.** The route had been used by pedestrians before the lamps were installed.
- C.** Several residents reported noticing that the route was brighter.
- D.** A bridge on the only other walking route closed during the same month, diverting pedestrians onto the main route.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q37

Archaeologists found shell ornaments at an inland settlement and proposed that its inhabitants traded with coastal communities. A critic suggested instead that the ornaments were made from shells collected locally, where an ancient lake might once have existed.

Which finding, if true, would most directly strengthen the archaeologists' proposal against the critic's suggestion?

- A.** The ornaments vary considerably in size and color.
- B.** Some ornaments were buried with stone tools made near the settlement.
- C.** The ornaments are made from a marine species that could not live in freshwater and was absent from local fossil deposits.
- D.** The inhabitants used several kinds of ornaments during ceremonies.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q38

A student is analyzing an original short story about a retired carpenter named Daren. The student claims that Daren values repairing useful objects more than receiving public recognition for his work.

Which quotation from the story would most directly support the student's claim?

- A.** "He had repaired the school's desks for nearly thirty years, often using wood saved from older furniture."
- B.** "The mayor had invited everyone in the neighborhood to the ceremony in the town hall."
- C.** "He left the award ceremony early; the school's broken desks, he said, would not mend themselves while he listened to speeches."
- D.** "When he entered his workshop, he placed the invitation beside a neatly arranged row of tools."

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q39

No woven baskets have been recovered from the oldest layer of a settlement. A researcher concludes that the inhabitants of that period did not make baskets, even though baskets are common in later layers at the same site.

Which finding, if true, would most directly weaken the researcher's conclusion?

- A.** The settlement was occupied for many centuries.
- B.** The later baskets were made in several different sizes.
- C.** Plant fibers decompose rapidly in the wet soil of the oldest layer but are preserved in the dry soil of the later layers.
- D.** The oldest layer contains more stone tools than the later layers.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q40

A researcher hypothesizes that a reminder message increases attendance at free workshops mainly when people have registered far in advance. People who registered recently, she reasons, are already likely to remember the event, so the message should have less effect on them.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the hypothesis?

- A.** Recent registrants attended more workshops than early registrants when neither group received reminders.
- B.** Randomly assigned reminders raised attendance substantially among early registrants but only slightly among recent registrants.
- C.** Most registrants said they preferred short messages to long ones.
- D.** Reminder recipients attended at the same rate regardless of when they registered.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q41

A literary critic argues that a novel's narrator becomes less certain of her memories as the story progresses. The critic wants evidence from the narrator's language, rather than information about events outside the narrator's account.

Which observation would most directly support the critic's argument?

- A. The novel's later chapters contain more descriptions of landscapes than its earlier chapters do.
- B. Later chapters increasingly replace statements such as "I remember" with phrases such as "perhaps it happened this way."
- C. The author revised the novel's ending several times before publication.
- D. Several events narrated near the end occur earlier in time than events narrated at the beginning.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q42

Neighborhood cleanup program

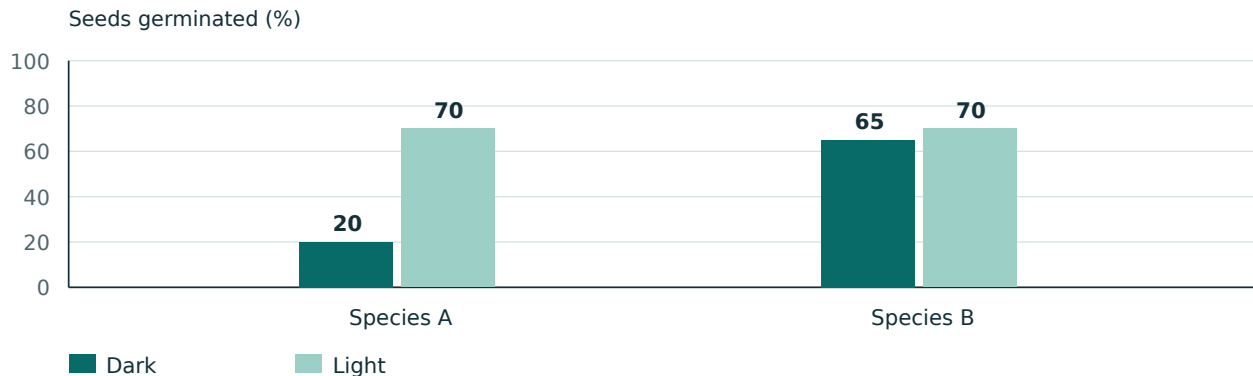
Year	Projects completed	Volunteers
2021	18	96
2023	24	84
2025	30	72

A volunteer coordinator is using the table to describe changes in a neighborhood cleanup program. The coordinator notes that between 2021 and 2025, _____.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A. the number of volunteers fell by more than half
- B. the number of projects increased, while the number of volunteers decreased
- C. the number of projects stayed the same, while the number of volunteers decreased
- D. both the number of projects and the number of volunteers increased

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q43**Seed germination under two light conditions**

Researchers germinated seeds of two plant species under light and dark conditions. They claim that light has a larger effect on germination in species A than in species B under the tested conditions.

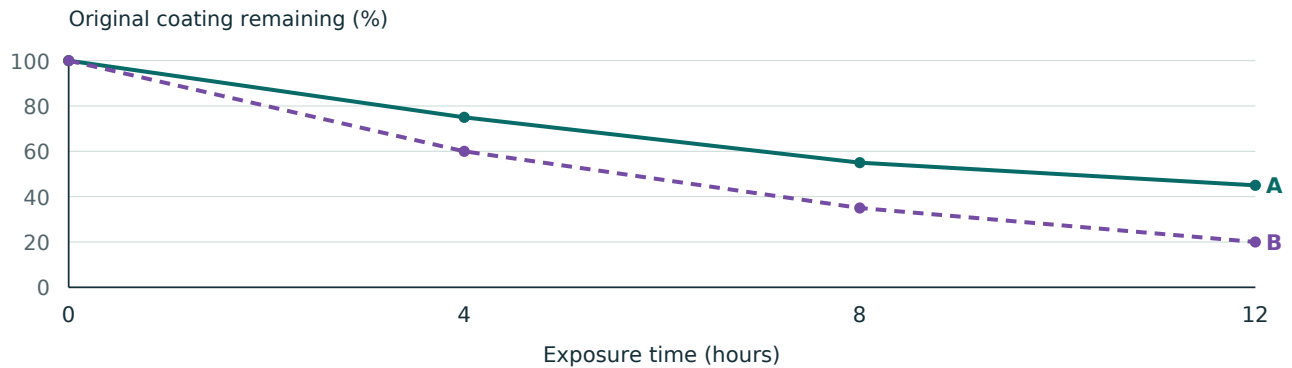
Which statement about the graph most directly supports this claim?

- A.** Both species reached a germination rate of 70% in the light.
- B.** Light increased germination by 50 percentage points for species A but by only 5 percentage points for species B.
- C.** Light caused the germination rate of species B to decrease.
- D.** Species B had a higher germination rate in darkness than species A did.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q44

Coating remaining during exposure



The graph shows the percentage of two coatings remaining after identical exposure to a cleaning solution. A materials scientist concludes that coating B was removed more rapidly during the first eight hours than coating A was.

Which statement about the graph most directly supports the conclusion?

- A.** The amount of coating B remaining increased between four and eight hours.
- B.** At eight hours, 35% of coating B remained, compared with 55% of coating A.
- C.** Both coatings began at 100% of their original amounts.
- D.** At twelve hours, coating A had more material remaining than at four hours.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q45

Five readings of one unchanged sample

Trial	Instrument A (units)	Instrument B (units)
1	10	40
2	20	43
3	45	45
4	70	47
5	80	50

A technician compares the repeatability of two instruments. Each instrument measures the same unchanged sample five times. Although both have a mean reading of 45 units, the technician concludes that instrument B gives more consistent readings.

Which statement about the table most directly supports the conclusion?

- A.** The two instruments have the same mean reading.
- B.** Instrument B's readings exactly match instrument A's on all five trials.
- C.** Instrument B's readings range from 40 to 50 units, whereas instrument A's range from 10 to 80 units.
- D.** Instrument A gives a higher reading than instrument B on every trial.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q46

Museum workshop participation

Year	Total members	Attendees	Participation
2023	200	20	10%
2025	300	24	8%

A museum offered workshops to its members in two years. A researcher cautions that a decline in the percentage of members attending does not necessarily indicate a decline in the number attending. The table illustrates this because _____.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A.** both membership and workshop attendance declined in the second year
- B.** attendance rose from 20 to 24 members even though the participation rate fell from 10% to 8%
- C.** an 8% participation rate always produces more attendees than a 10% rate
- D.** the same number of members attended workshops in each year

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q47

A letter is written on paper manufactured between 1880 and 1890. Its ink contains a pigment first produced in 1905, and laboratory tests establish that the pigment is part of the original writing rather than a later addition. Because unused paper can be stored for decades, the evidence suggests that the letter _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** was written no earlier than 1905, even though the paper was made earlier
- B.** must have been altered after it was originally written
- C.** was necessarily written during the decade in which its paper was manufactured
- D.** was written in exactly 1905

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q48

In every successful trial, a certain crystal formed only when the solution contained mineral Z. Yet several solutions containing mineral Z produced no crystals. Other conditions, including temperature and acidity, differed among those unsuccessful trials. These results suggest that, under the tested conditions, mineral Z _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** affects crystal formation only by changing the solution's acidity
- B.** is sufficient for crystal formation whenever temperature remains constant
- C.** guarantees crystal formation regardless of temperature or acidity
- D.** may be necessary for crystal formation but is not sufficient by itself to ensure it

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q49

A sensor detects a gas only when its concentration reaches at least 5 parts per million. During a cave survey, the sensor recorded no detections. A second instrument, which can detect concentrations as low as 1 part per million, was not available. Therefore, the survey results _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** do not rule out the presence of the gas at concentrations below 5 parts per million
- B.** indicate that a more sensitive instrument would probably detect the gas
- C.** show that the gas was absent from every part of the cave
- D.** establish that the cave's gas concentration remained constant throughout the survey

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q50

When researchers increased the number of lamps above algae tanks from one to two, average growth increased. Increasing the number from two to four produced no further growth under otherwise identical conditions. The researchers suggest that, once two lamps were present,

_____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** nutrient concentration had necessarily fallen below its starting level
- B.** the algae had received twice as much light as they could use efficiently
- C.** adding more lamps might increase growth if the researchers extended the trial
- D.** some factor other than additional light may have limited further growth

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q51

A porous paving material reduces surface flooding by allowing rainwater to pass through it into the soil below. The material performs well above loose, permeable soil. In a trial above a dense layer that allowed almost no water through, however, water accumulated beneath the paving and eventually reached the surface. These findings suggest that installing the material _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** will provide the same flood reduction above any soil if rainfall is light enough
- B.** may provide limited flood reduction where the underlying ground cannot absorb the incoming water
- C.** may improve flood reduction by gradually breaking up dense layers beneath it
- D.** can reduce flooding primarily by storing rainwater inside its pores for long periods

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q52

In ordinary plants of species R, a brief burst of blue light triggers a temporary rise in the activity of enzyme K. Researchers blocked receptor M in otherwise healthy plants. These plants retained normal baseline activity of enzyme K, but the blue-light burst no longer produced the temporary rise. The result suggests that receptor M _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** is responsible for determining the normal baseline activity of enzyme K
- B.** is required for every form of enzyme K activity in the plant
- C.** responds to blue light more strongly than to other wavelengths
- D.** helps connect blue-light exposure to the temporary increase in enzyme K activity

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q53

In its first season, a theater sold 1,000 tickets, of which 30% were discounted. In its second season, it sold 2,000 tickets, of which 20% were discounted. Although discounted tickets made up a smaller share of second-season sales, _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** the theater sold more discounted tickets in the second season than in the first
- B.** the number of discounted tickets remained unchanged
- C.** the theater necessarily earned less ticket revenue in the second season
- D.** the discount on each ticket was larger in the second season

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q54

A lake-monitoring team uses fluorescence, light emitted by certain molecules after illumination, as an indicator of algal abundance. The method assumes that each unit of algae emits roughly the same amount of light. In controlled tanks, however, nutrient-deprived algae emitted twice as much light per unit of algal mass as well-fed algae did. The team therefore cautions that if nutrient conditions vary between lakes, fluorescence measurements alone _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A.** could be compared reliably as mass estimates so long as each lake was illuminated equally
- B.** could make lakes with nutrient-deprived algae appear to contain more algal mass than they actually do
- C.** would reveal differences in algal mass more precisely in nutrient-deprived lakes
- D.** would allow nutrient conditions to be inferred independently of algal mass

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q55

The research team packed the fragile sensors in padded cases before leaving the _____ the field assistants loaded the remaining equipment into a separate vehicle for the trip to the wetland.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A.** laboratory;
- B.** laboratory and,
- C.** laboratory
- D.** laboratory,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q56

The new translation retains the original poem's unusual sentence _____ it replaces several obsolete words with expressions that modern readers can understand without consulting a historical dictionary.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A.** order, but
- B.** order; but,
- C.** order,
- D.** order but,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q57

Although the restored photograph looked clearer on a computer _____ the conservator kept the unedited scan so that future researchers could distinguish original details from changes introduced during restoration.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. screen:
- B. screen;
- C. screen,
- D. screen.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q58

The collection of hand-painted maps donated by former railway _____ provides historians with a detailed record of routes that no longer appear on modern transportation maps.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. workers;
- B. workers
- C. workers,
- D. workers:

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q59

After studying the damaged instrument, the technician _____ a loose contact, a cracked wire, and a worn switch as the main sources of the intermittent electrical failures.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. identified
- B. identified,
- C. identified;
- D. identified:

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q60

The archive acquired three kinds of material from the _____ field notebooks, glass photographic plates, and letters that the researchers had sent home during their year of travel.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. expedition that
- B. expedition;
- C. expedition.
- D. expedition:

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q61

The exhibition traces the history of printing _____ surviving tools, workshop records, and examples of books produced by small independent presses over three centuries.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. through,
- B. through
- C. through:
- D. through;

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q62

The Maren Observatory, a small research station on the northern _____ records changes in cloud cover throughout the year and sends its measurements to a regional climate archive.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. plateau,
- B. plateau
- C. plateau;
- D. plateau:

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q63

The aerial photographs (including several images taken before the new road was _____) provide a detailed record of the marsh's former size and the channels that once connected it to the river.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. built)
- B. built),
- C. built);
- D. built):

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q64

Among the several researchers who contributed to the project, marine ecologist _____ led the analysis of coastal samples, while the other researchers focused on material collected farther inland.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Nora Hale
- B. Nora Hale,
- C. , Nora Hale,
- D. : Nora Hale

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q65

The first prototype passed every indoor _____ its outer casing cracked during the first test in freezing weather, prompting the engineers to choose a more flexible material.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. trial; however,
- B. trial however;
- C. trial however,
- D. trial, however,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q66

The research center began operating in _____ 2007, it opened a second laboratory devoted entirely to the study of desert plants and their responses to drought.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. 1998 in
- B. 1998, in
- C. 1998. In
- D. 1998, which in

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q67

The traveling exhibition will visit Lydon, a coastal _____ Meret, an inland trading center; and Orva, a town known for its ceramics. Each stop will feature objects borrowed from local collections.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. city,
- B. city.
- C. city:
- D. city;

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q68

The pattern of tiny grooves on the surfaces of the ceramic fragments _____ that the vessels were shaped with a tool rather than entirely by hand, according to the museum's current analysis.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. suggests
- B. have suggested
- C. are suggesting
- D. suggest

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q69

Along the eastern edge of the excavation _____ three shallow channels that once carried rainwater away from the central courtyard, helping protect the building's foundations during heavy storms.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. run
- B. runs
- C. is running
- D. has run

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q70

The museum owns one of the telescopes that _____ used in the observatory's early surveys. Each of these instruments has a brass frame and a set of handwritten calibration notes.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. is
- B. was
- C. were
- D. has been

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q71

Each of the notebooks recovered from the abandoned weather station _____ a daily record of temperature and wind direction, allowing researchers to reconstruct conditions over several decades.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. contains
- B. contain
- C. have contained
- D. are containing

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q72

The two clay tablets differ in size but share a distinctive pattern of symbols. Researchers believe that _____ were produced in the same workshop, although the tablets were discovered at sites several kilometers apart.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. its
- B. them
- C. it
- D. they

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q73

The newly restored clock is unusual because _____ pendulum is suspended from a flexible strip rather than a rigid hinge, a design that reduces friction during each swing.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. their
- B. its
- C. it's
- D. its'

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q74

Three sculptors shared the studio, and each kept a separate set of tools. Before opening the space to visitors, the curator labeled the _____ tools so that guests could see which set belonged to which artist.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. sculptors's
- B. sculptor's
- C. sculptors
- D. sculptors'

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q75

In 1974, engineer Mara Dane _____ a compact pump for use in remote field stations. The design later became the basis for several devices that could operate without a connection to the electrical grid.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. will develop
- B. has developed
- C. developed
- D. develops

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q76

By the time the museum opened its new wing in 2008, volunteers _____ more than two thousand objects for the collection. Their earlier work allowed the curators to prepare the exhibits immediately.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. catalog
- B. have cataloged
- C. will catalog
- D. had cataloged

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q77

Since 2018, the observatory _____ annual reports on changes in the night sky, and it continues to release a new report every December. The series now provides several years of comparable measurements.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. has published
- B. publishing
- C. publish
- D. had published

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q78

The photographs that the expedition leader stored in a metal box beneath her desk _____ the only surviving visual record of the village before the flood. Written descriptions of the village also survive.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. providing
- B. to provide
- C. having provided
- D. provide

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q79

The survey team, _____ measurements from more than fifty locations, identified a narrow band of unusually warm soil near the hillside. Further investigation will test possible explanations for the pattern.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. compares
- B. comparing
- C. will compare
- D. compared

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q80

After comparing the newly discovered letters with the published biography, _____. The revised chronology placed the author's move to the coast two years earlier than scholars had previously thought.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. the chronology of the author's life was revised by historian Lina Faris
- B. the author's life received a revised chronology from historian Lina Faris
- C. historian Lina Faris revised the chronology of the author's life
- D. a revision to the chronology was proposed by historian Lina Faris

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q81

The first survey suggested that the island's smaller ponds contained few fish. _____ a later survey using underwater cameras found several species that the earlier net-based survey had missed, substantially changing the researchers' picture of those ponds.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. However,
- B. Similarly,
- C. Therefore,
- D. For example,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q82

The theater had little money for scenery, and most of its costumes were borrowed. _____ its inventive staging and energetic performances attracted enthusiastic audiences throughout the season, allowing it to add several extra shows.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For instance,
- B. Nevertheless,
- C. Consequently,
- D. In other words,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q83

The bridge's central support had developed a deep crack, making continued use unsafe. _____ the local council closed the bridge until engineers could replace the damaged support and inspect the remaining structure.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. By contrast,
- B. For example,
- C. Likewise,
- D. Consequently,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q84

Some desert animals avoid the hottest part of the day by changing when they are active. _____ a small rodent in the study left its burrow only after sunset and returned before the sand became hot the next morning.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. In conclusion,
- C. Instead,
- D. Nevertheless,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q85

The conservation team plans to document the mural without physically touching its surface. _____ it will use a camera system to build a detailed digital map of the paint, allowing researchers to inspect damage while leaving the fragile material undisturbed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Specifically,
- B. Meanwhile,
- C. Conversely,
- D. Otherwise,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q86

The new catalog lets visitors search the archive by subject. _____ it provides high-resolution images of many documents, giving users another way to examine materials before requesting an appointment to view the originals.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Instead,
- B. As a result,
- C. Moreover,
- D. Nevertheless,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q87

The conservators first photographed every piece of the shattered bowl and recorded where each fragment had been found. _____ they began joining the fragments, using the photographs as a record of the object's condition before any repairs.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In contrast,
- B. Nonetheless,
- C. Afterward,
- D. For instance,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q88

The team did not attempt to translate every symbol in the newly found inscription. _____ it compared the order of the symbols with patterns in already understood texts, hoping first to identify the inscription's likely function.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. In other words,
- C. Instead,
- D. Similarly,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q89

The apparent increase in the number of stars in the new survey does not mean that stars suddenly formed between the two surveys. _____ the newer telescope can detect faint stars that the older instrument could not record.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In the same way,
- B. Consequently,
- C. Rather,
- D. Furthermore,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q90

In the northern village, shared bread ovens remained in use long after household ovens became common. _____ in the southern village, communal washing houses continued to attract residents even after most homes had private washing facilities.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Conversely,
- B. Likewise,
- C. As a result,
- D. More precisely,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q91

The archive wants to make its handwritten records easier for distant researchers to search. _____ it has recruited volunteers to transcribe the records into a searchable database, with every transcription checked against the original image.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. In retrospect,
- B. On the contrary,
- C. In any case,
- D. To this end,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q92

The stain on the manuscript may have come from water used during an earlier repair, or it may have resulted from a spilled drink. The surviving records do not settle the issue. _____ the conservators recommend keeping the manuscript in stable humidity to prevent further damage, whatever caused the original stain.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. For example,
- B. In any case,
- C. More specifically,
- D. For this reason alone,

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q93

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The silver marsh plant grows in wet lowland soil.
- The blue marsh plant also grows in wet lowland soil.
- The silver marsh plant has narrow leaves.
- The blue marsh plant has broad leaves.
- Both species flower in late spring.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity in the habitats of the two plants. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.** Both plants flower in late spring.
- B.** The blue marsh plant has broad leaves and flowers in late spring.
- C.** The silver marsh plant has narrower leaves than the blue marsh plant.
- D.** Both the silver marsh plant and the blue marsh plant grow in wet lowland soil.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q94

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The traveling exhibition includes two mechanical clocks.
- The Vale clock was completed in 1820.
- The Orin clock was completed in 1845.
- The Vale clock has a wooden case.
- The Orin clock has a brass case.
- Both clocks display the date as well as the time.

The student wants to emphasize a difference in the materials used for the clocks' cases. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.** The Vale clock has a wooden case, whereas the Orin clock has a brass case.
- B.** Both clocks display the date and the time.
- C.** The Orin clock has a brass case, while the Vale clock displays the date.
- D.** The Vale clock was completed before the Orin clock.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q95

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Dalia Sen is a marine biologist.
- Sen studies how small fish use sound to locate suitable habitats.
- In a recent study, Sen recorded sounds near several coastal reefs.
- She played the recordings to young fish in laboratory tanks.
- The fish moved toward recordings from healthy reefs more often than toward silence.

The student wants to introduce Sen and her area of research to readers unfamiliar with her work. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.** Sen played several recordings to fish in tanks.
- B.** The fish moved toward recordings from healthy reefs more often than toward silence.
- C.** Dalia Sen recently recorded sounds near several coastal reefs.
- D.** Marine biologist Dalia Sen studies how small fish use sound to find suitable habitats.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q96

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A research team investigated whether painted road markings change drivers' estimates of lane width.
- The team showed participants images of roads with different marking patterns.
- Participants estimated the width of each pictured lane.
- Some marking patterns made equal-width lanes appear different in width.
- The team plans to test the patterns on a closed driving course.

The student wants to state the primary aim of the completed study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.** The team showed participants images of roads with different markings.
- B.** The team will test road markings on a closed driving course.
- C.** The team investigated whether road-marking patterns affect perceived lane width.
- D.** Some marking patterns made equal-width lanes appear to differ in width.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q97

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Researchers studied whether a wax coating slows water loss from cut leaves.
- They coated half the leaves and left the other half uncoated.
- All leaves were kept at the same temperature and humidity.
- The researchers weighed the leaves at the start and after six hours.
- Coated leaves lost less mass on average than uncoated leaves.

The student wants to describe how the researchers compared water loss in the two groups. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.** The wax coating reduced average mass loss from the leaves.
- B.** Researchers wanted to learn whether wax coatings slow water loss.
- C.** Coated leaves and uncoated leaves were included in the study.
- D.** They weighed coated and uncoated leaves before and after six hours under the same temperature and humidity conditions.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q98

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A trial compared two types of labels on recycling bins.
- At twelve buildings, labels with pictures replaced text-only labels for one month.
- At twelve similar buildings, text-only labels remained.
- Incorrectly sorted items fell from 30% to 18% at the picture-label buildings.
- The rate remained at 29% at the comparison buildings.
- The trial did not measure effects beyond one month.

The student wants to summarize the observed result while respecting the study's limits. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.** During the month-long trial, incorrect sorting fell at buildings using picture labels while remaining unchanged at the comparison buildings.
- B.** After one month, picture-label buildings had lower incorrect-sorting rates, a benefit the trial showed would persist.
- C.** During the trial, incorrect sorting fell by 12% at the picture-label buildings and was unchanged elsewhere.
- D.** During the trial, incorrect sorting fell at the picture-label buildings because those buildings began with lower rates.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q99

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Artist Lora Venn makes sculptures from discarded fishing nets.
- Venn's works draw attention to waste in coastal waters.
- Artist Ivo Renn makes installations from broken electronic devices.
- Renn's works draw attention to electronic waste.
- Both artists have exhibited their work in public libraries.

The student wants to make a generalization about how these artists connect materials to environmental concerns. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.** Both artists have shown their work in public libraries.
- B.** The artists' use of discarded materials demonstrates that their production processes create no further waste.
- C.** Both artists use discarded materials to draw attention to the kinds of waste those materials represent.
- D.** Both artists use materials collected from coastal waters to examine different forms of pollution.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Q100

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The village of Neral opened a seed library in 2020.
- Residents can borrow seeds and return seeds from their harvests.
- The library stores seeds from more than forty crop varieties.
- Some stored varieties are no longer sold by regional seed suppliers.
- Volunteers record which varieties grow successfully in local soil.
- The seed library occupies a room beside the public library.

The student wants to support the claim that the seed library helps preserve access to crop varieties that might otherwise be difficult for local growers to obtain. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A.** Residents can borrow seeds and return seeds after a harvest.
- B.** The seed library opened in 2020 in a room beside the public library.
- C.** Volunteers record which varieties grow successfully in local soil.
- D.** The seed library stores some crop varieties that regional seed suppliers no longer sell.

My answer: _____ Confidence: high / medium / low Review: ☐

Reusable answer sheet

Write your choices here if you want to keep the question pages clean for a later attempt.

Q1-25	Q26-50	Q51-75	Q76-100
01 _____	26 _____	51 _____	76 _____
02 _____	27 _____	52 _____	77 _____
03 _____	28 _____	53 _____	78 _____
04 _____	29 _____	54 _____	79 _____
05 _____	30 _____	55 _____	80 _____
06 _____	31 _____	56 _____	81 _____
07 _____	32 _____	57 _____	82 _____
08 _____	33 _____	58 _____	83 _____
09 _____	34 _____	59 _____	84 _____
10 _____	35 _____	60 _____	85 _____
11 _____	36 _____	61 _____	86 _____
12 _____	37 _____	62 _____	87 _____
13 _____	38 _____	63 _____	88 _____
14 _____	39 _____	64 _____	89 _____
15 _____	40 _____	65 _____	90 _____
16 _____	41 _____	66 _____	91 _____
17 _____	42 _____	67 _____	92 _____
18 _____	43 _____	68 _____	93 _____
19 _____	44 _____	69 _____	94 _____
20 _____	45 _____	70 _____	95 _____
21 _____	46 _____	71 _____	96 _____
22 _____	47 _____	72 _____	97 _____
23 _____	48 _____	73 _____	98 _____
24 _____	49 _____	74 _____	99 _____
25 _____	50 _____	75 _____	100 _____

Date: _____ Set attempted: _____ Time spent: _____

Check, then diagnose

A correct answer with weak reasoning deserves review just as much as an incorrect answer.

Q1-25	Q26-50	Q51-75	Q76-100
01 B	26 B	51 B	76 D
02 C	27 B	52 D	77 A
03 A	28 D	53 A	78 D
04 C	29 D	54 B	79 B
05 D	30 B	55 A	80 C
06 A	31 A	56 A	81 A
07 C	32 B	57 C	82 B
08 C	33 A	58 B	83 D
09 C	34 D	59 A	84 A
10 D	35 B	60 D	85 A
11 D	36 D	61 B	86 C
12 C	37 C	62 A	87 C
13 C	38 C	63 A	88 C
14 D	39 C	64 A	89 C
15 D	40 B	65 A	90 B
16 D	41 B	66 C	91 D
17 B	42 B	67 D	92 B
18 B	43 B	68 A	93 D
19 A	44 B	69 A	94 A
20 B	45 C	70 C	95 D
21 B	46 B	71 A	96 C
22 C	47 A	72 D	97 D
23 C	48 D	73 B	98 A
24 C	49 A	74 D	99 C
25 A	50 D	75 C	100 D

Click an answer to go straight to its explanation. Record your skill results on the next page. Do not convert this raw score into an SAT scaled score: this custom set is neither equated nor adaptive.

Find the next useful thing to study

SKILL	QUESTIONS	CORRECT	UNCERTAIN
Words in Context	1-15	___ / 15	___
Text Structure and Purpose	16-24	___ / 9	___
Cross-Text Connections	25-28	___ / 4	___
Central Ideas and Details	29-34	___ / 6	___
Textual evidence	35-41	___ / 7	___
Quantitative evidence	42-46	___ / 5	___
Inferences	47-54	___ / 8	___
Boundaries	55-67	___ / 13	___
Form, Structure, and Sense	68-80	___ / 13	___
Transitions	81-92	___ / 12	___
Rhetorical Synthesis	93-100	___ / 8	___

Sort the reason for the error

Meaning error. I misunderstood a word, reference, relationship, or sentence.

Evidence error. I picked something related but unsupported, too broad, reversed, or only partly true.

Rule error. I did not know the clause, punctuation, agreement, verb, or modifier rule.

Process error. I overlooked a negative, rushed the task, misread the graph, or did not verify the requested goal.

Choose two repair targets

My first skill: _____

My second skill: _____

For each one, write its core rule, redo the matching questions, then try fresh official questions before deciding it is secure.

Q01 • B is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Definition clue after a colon

The answer in full

corroborate

Think it through, step by step

1. First, say the proposal simply: the tower stored grain. Then read the explanation after the colon. Barley was delivered there, and people were paid to guard it. Both details fit grain storage.
2. Before checking the choices, put a basic phrase in the blank: "give support to." Corroborate means to support a statement with evidence. Substitute it and read the whole sentence again.
3. The trap is choosing a word that sounds like serious research without checking its direction. The evidence helps the proposal; it does not hide, replace, or predict it.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. To supplant is to replace. The documents support the proposal; they do not replace it with a new one.

B • Correct. The inventories supply evidence that supports the proposal.

C • Incorrect. To anticipate is to expect or come before something. The inventories are being used as evidence, not as a prediction.

D • Incorrect. To obscure is to make something harder to understand. These records make the tower's use clearer.

Carry this rule to the next question

A colon often introduces a definition, explanation, or example. Use that material to predict the missing meaning.

Study routine: Two-sentence hint. [Return to question 1](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q02 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Contrast between limited evidence and confidence

The answer in full

tentative

Think it through, step by step

1. Find the contrast marker "rather than." The missing word must oppose definitive, which means settled or final.
2. Now check the evidence: only three pieces exist, they have no dates, and the editor is ready to revise. All three clues point to a conclusion that is not final.
3. Tentative fits both the contrast and the evidence. Do not confuse "not fully certain" with "wrong." The editor may have the best available account and still treat it cautiously.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Redundant means unnecessarily repeated. The issue is confidence, not repetition.
- B • Incorrect.** Exhaustive means covering everything. Three undated fragments do not allow complete coverage.
- C • Correct.** A tentative account is provisional: it may change as evidence improves.
- D • Incorrect.** Incongruous means not fitting the situation. An account can fit the evidence while remaining uncertain.

Carry this rule to the next question

When two descriptions are contrasted, choose the precise opposite needed in context, not just any negative word.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 2](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q03 • A is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Concession: an unexpected quality

The answer in full

meticulous

Think it through, step by step

1. Although tells you that the result may be surprising. A short deadline might make us expect careless work, but the passage gives the opposite result.
2. Focus on the evidence after the blank: aligned frames and controlled brushstrokes. These details describe precision, not the amount of planning or the popularity of a style.
3. Meticulous is the exact match. Notice how the wrong answer hasty borrows a real detail, the deadline, while ignoring the description of the actual work. A true detail does not automatically make an answer correct.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Correct. Meticulous means extremely careful about details, exactly as the windows and brushstrokes show.

B • Incorrect. Conventional means usual or traditional. Precision does not tell us whether the style is traditional.

C • Incorrect. Hasty describes hurried work that may lack care. The short deadline makes this tempting, but the finished work shows care.

D • Incorrect. Improvised means created without advance preparation. The passage gives no evidence about the artist's planning.

Carry this rule to the next question

With although or despite, separate what you might expect from what the passage says actually happened.

Study routine: Citation. Return to question 3

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q04 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Negation changes the needed meaning

The answer in full

anomalous

Think it through, step by step

1. Keep the two times separate. At first the team thought one thing. After checking older surveys, it changed that view.
2. The last sentence gives you a useful opposition: recurring versus exceptional. The blank describes the earlier, exceptional interpretation. It does not describe the team's final view.
3. Anomalous matches that earlier impression. If you choose ubiquitous because many surveys show the feature, you put the later discovery into a blank that belongs to the earlier stage.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. Inconsequential means unimportant. The passage contrasts exceptional with recurring, not important with unimportant.

B • Incorrect. Ubiquitous means present everywhere. The opening describes what seemed unusual, not what was already known to be widespread.

C • Correct. Anomalous means unusual compared with what is normally observed. The first impression is later corrected.

D • Incorrect. Inevitable means certain to happen. The initial surprise does not establish certainty.

Carry this rule to the next question

Track time and negation together. Ask which stage of the argument the blank describes.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 4](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q05 • D is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Qualified praise and two-sided attitudes

The answer in full

ambivalent

Think it through, step by step

1. Divide the evidence into two parts. Positive: safer balconies and better sound. Negative: the old seats are gone.
2. Your answer must cover both parts at once. "She likes it" is too one-sided, and "she dislikes it" is also too one-sided. Ambivalent means she feels pulled in both directions.
3. Do not mix up ambivalent and indifferent. A person who has two strong feelings may be ambivalent. A person who has no interest is indifferent. The critic clearly has opinions about several features.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. Sanguine means optimistic or confident. It does not capture her mixed response to the completed restoration.

B • Incorrect. Indifferent means not caring. Both her welcome and her regret show that she cares.

C • Incorrect. Antagonistic means strongly opposed or hostile. That ignores her approval of the safety and sound improvements.

D • Correct. Ambivalent means having mixed feelings. The critic approves of some changes and regrets another.

Carry this rule to the next question

When a passage gives both approval and disapproval, look for a word that preserves both feelings.

Study routine: Divide. Return to question 5

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q06 • A is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Second sentence explains an abstract adjective

The answer in full

ambiguous

Think it through, step by step

1. The first sentence names a quality. The second sentence shows what that quality looks like. Readers have three different ways to understand the same phrase.
2. Replace the blank with "unclear because it could mean several things." Ambiguous gives exactly that meaning.
3. The revised report is a final check: it defines the phrase, and the uncertainty disappears. That repair would solve ambiguity. It would not necessarily solve an unfair report or make an unbelievable claim true.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** Ambiguous means open to more than one interpretation. The phrase allowed three possible meanings.
- B • Incorrect.** Impartial means fair or unbiased. Nothing here evaluates whether the committee favored a group.
- C • Incorrect.** Implausible means unlikely to be true. The problem is unclear meaning, not an unbelievable claim.
- D • Incorrect.** Comprehensive means covering the subject thoroughly. The text instead emphasizes a missing clarification.

Carry this rule to the next question

Ask what problem the second sentence illustrates and what the later repair fixes.

Study routine: Two-sentence hint. [Return to question 6](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q07 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Slowing a process versus making it impossible

The answer in full

impede

Think it through, step by step

1. Separate "could not happen" from "happened slowly." The surveyors reached the ruins, so the action was possible.
2. The comparison between two hours and most of a day proves delay. Impede expresses a barrier that slows progress without necessarily stopping it entirely.
3. Preclude is the close trap. Both words can describe a difficulty, but preclude is stronger: it rules the action out. Good vocabulary work checks degree, not only a rough positive or negative feeling.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Redirect means send in a new direction. Clearing a path does not establish that their destination or route direction changed.
- B • Incorrect.** Preclude means prevent or rule out. The text explicitly says the vegetation did not prevent arrival.
- C • Correct.** Impede means slow down or obstruct. The surveyors still arrived, but much later.
- D • Incorrect.** Expedite means make something happen faster. Their journey became slower.

Carry this rule to the next question

Near-synonyms can differ in strength. Check whether the passage means slower, less likely, or impossible.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 7](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q08 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Hard

A small measurable effect versus a meaningful one

The answer in full

negligible

Think it through, step by step

1. Notice the two standards of measurement. A sensitive instrument can detect the change, but the company cannot gain a useful cost or fuel benefit from it.
2. The blank follows "for the company's practical purposes." We need a word about practical importance. Negligible means too small to matter much for that purpose.
3. Imperceptible is tempting because the number is tiny. However, tiny is not the same as undetectable. The final clause deliberately tells you that detection was possible.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. Substantial means large or important. The passage explicitly rules out a meaningful practical benefit.

B • Incorrect. Unprecedented means never having happened before. No history of previous coatings is provided.

C • Correct. Negligible means so small that it has little practical importance. A detectable effect can still be negligible.

D • Incorrect. Imperceptible means unable to be noticed or detected. The balance did detect the reduction.

Carry this rule to the next question

Find the viewpoint named around the blank. Scientific detectability and practical importance are different judgments.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 8](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q09 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Medium

A familiar word used in a neutral academic sense

The answer in full

make effective use of

Think it through, step by step

1. Ignore the word's most familiar emotional meaning for a moment. Ask what the engineers actually do: they use a movement in the material to detect sound.
2. The colon supplies the mechanism. Sound moves the surface, and light measures that motion. The property is useful to the design.
3. So exploit means make effective use of. The moral meaning, treating someone unfairly, belongs in a different context. A word can be negative in one passage and neutral in another.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The engineers are using a property, not publicizing it.
- B • Incorrect.** Exploit can mean mistreat someone for personal gain, but no person is being mistreated here.
- C • Correct.** The engineers use an existing physical property to solve a measurement problem.
- D • Incorrect.** They depend on the movement; removing it would eliminate the method.

Carry this rule to the next question

For an underlined word, substitute each proposed meaning into this sentence rather than choosing its most familiar definition.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 9](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q10 • D is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Multiple meanings of a common verb

The answer in full

assigned responsibility

Think it through, step by step

1. Read the whole expression: "charged with arranging them." The next sentence explains the work Leila carried out.
2. Try a plain replacement: "Leila was given responsibility for arranging them." The sentence and the description of her months of work fit together.
3. Charged has several common meanings, so every wrong choice may look like a real dictionary definition. That does not make it the right definition here. The job that follows the phrase is your deciding clue.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** There is no accusation. The following sentence describes an ordinary professional task.
- B • Incorrect.** No fee or purchase is mentioned.
- C • Incorrect.** The passage concerns an assigned duty, not electricity or excitement.
- D • Correct.** Leila is given the job of arranging the papers and then performs it.

Carry this rule to the next question

A correct dictionary meaning can be the wrong contextual meaning. Read the words immediately after the target.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 10](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q11 • D is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Medium

A phrase expressing disagreement with evidence

The answer in full

at odds with

Think it through, step by step

1. Reduce the comparison to numbers and qualities: model = two slender posts; records = six substantial postholes. These descriptions do not match.
2. The final sentence confirms the relationship: the model must change because of the findings. The blank needs a phrase meaning in conflict with.
3. At odds with is the correct phrase. Do not let the shared topic, the roof, trick you into choosing "in keeping with." Two statements can concern the same thing and still disagree.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** In keeping with means consistent with. The mismatch and required revision show the opposite.
- B • Incorrect.** A consequence is a result. The model fails to follow the excavation evidence.
- C • Incorrect.** A substitute replaces something. The model does not replace the records in the stated comparison.
- D • Correct.** At odds with means in conflict with. Two slender supports do not match six substantial postholes.

Carry this rule to the next question

For phrase questions, translate the relationship before comparing the options.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 11](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q12 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Making apparently conflicting findings compatible

The answer in full

reconcile

Think it through, step by step

1. At first, the surveys seem to disagree: trees versus ground. Then we discover that the researchers studied different places.
2. Both results can be true. Birds in forests can use trees, while birds on treeless coasts cannot. The later analysis provides a reason for the difference.
3. Reconcile describes making the two findings understandable together. It does not require proving one survey false or running either survey again. Watch whether a passage resolves a disagreement or chooses a winner.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. Invalidate means show to be unsound. Both surveys may be accurate for their separate habitats.

B • Incorrect. Exaggerate means make something seem greater than it is. The later analysis resolves a difference rather than enlarging it.

C • Correct. Reconcile means show how apparently conflicting things can fit together. The different habitats explain the results.

D • Incorrect. Replicate means repeat or reproduce. The later analysis explains old findings rather than repeating the surveys.

Carry this rule to the next question

When different conditions allow two findings to coexist, look for reconcile rather than refute.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 12](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q13 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Central importance versus mere association

The answer in full

integral

Think it through, step by step

1. The opening rules out a minor decorative role. The next sentence gives the sounds a much larger job: they generate the rhythms and pitch patterns of every movement.
2. Your replacement should mean "a necessary part of how the work is built." Integral fits.
3. Tangential is the useful opposite. Something tangential sits off to the side of the main point. Here, removing the sounds would remove the foundation described in the passage. Being present in a work is weaker than being integral to it.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Tangential means only loosely related. The sounds form the basis of the work.
- B • Incorrect.** Subsequent means coming later. The text discusses structural importance, not simply time order.
- C • Correct.** Integral means essential to the whole. Every movement develops from the sounds.
- D • Incorrect.** Analogous means similar in a useful way. The sounds are ingredients of the work, not merely something comparable to it.

Carry this rule to the next question

Check the degree of importance: related, useful, central, and essential are not identical.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 13](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q14 • D is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Repairing a problem rather than describing it

The answer in full

redress

Think it through, step by step

1. Name the problem: the directory overlooks regional artists. Name the action: the editors add regional galleries and ask for more information.
2. The action is a repair. A simple prediction is "fix this imbalance." Redress has that meaning.
3. Rationalize might sound professional, but it would mean finding an excuse for the problem. The editors do something concrete to reduce it. Follow the action, not the impressive sound of an answer.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Epitomize means be a clear example of something. The editors are trying to fix the imbalance, not embody it.
- B • Incorrect.** Perpetuate means cause something to continue. Adding regional galleries works against the imbalance.
- C • Incorrect.** Rationalize means explain away or justify. The editors change the directory instead of defending its omission.
- D • Correct.** Redress means correct or remedy a problem. The new entries address the original omission.

Carry this rule to the next question

In problem-and-response passages, determine whether the response fixes, worsens, explains, or merely describes the problem.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 14](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q15 • D is correct

Craft and Structure / Words in Context • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Choosing a phrase that fits both meaning and grammar

The answer in full

conducive to

Think it through, step by step

1. Translate candid exchange as honest, open discussion. The designers wanted it, but people avoided sensitive topics.
2. Hardly acts like a negative here. The full phrase needs to mean "not helpful for honest discussion." Hardly conducive to gives that meaning.
3. Check the direction of the relationship. The question is whether the layout helps discussion. It is not asking where the layout came from or whether the layout depends on discussion. The right phrase must fit the meaning and the preposition that follows.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. Indifferent to means not caring about. The layout is being evaluated as a condition, not as a person with feelings.

B • Incorrect. Contingent on means dependent on. The text says conversations depend on the setting, not that the setting depends on conversations.

C • Incorrect. Derived from identifies an origin. The sentence evaluates the layout's effect, not its source.

D • Correct. Conducive to means helping something happen. "Hardly conducive to" means it did little to encourage candid exchange.

Carry this rule to the next question

Keep small words such as hardly, not, and rather than in your prediction. They can reverse the answer.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 15](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q16 • D is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Main purpose: describe a change in understanding

The answer in full

To describe how a curator revised an interpretation of a museum object

Think it through, step by step

1. Ask what changes from the beginning to the end. The object does not move, but the explanation of its purpose changes.
2. Find the cause of the change: Ana compares the grooves with roof tiles and tools. These details support a revised interpretation.
3. The correct answer covers that entire movement. A purpose answer usually names what the author is doing, such as describing, explaining, or challenging, and then identifies the topic accurately. Check both the verb and its object.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Only Ana's investigation is described; the text gives no debate among curators.
- B • Incorrect.** No comparison of historical value is made.
- C • Incorrect.** The text explicitly says the object stayed in the same cabinet.
- D • Correct.** The passage moves from the bread-mold label to evidence for the tile-stamp label.

Carry this rule to the next question

For main purpose, finish: "The author wrote this paragraph to..." Then check the whole paragraph.

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 16](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q17 • B is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Function: an example supports a general claim

The answer in full

It illustrates the architect's claim with a particular design and its outcome.

Think it through, step by step

1. First summarize the underlined sentence: wider shared space was followed by more meetings. Now look at the sentence before it: small design changes can affect interaction.
2. The underlined sentence makes that general idea concrete. That is the function of an example.
3. Be careful to answer "What job does the sentence do?" instead of merely "What is the sentence about?" The right choice names both the example and its connection to the claim. No later sentence rejects the example.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The passage discusses one architect and one example, not two competing people.
- B • Correct.** The general claim comes first; the balcony example shows the claimed effect.
- C • Incorrect.** The design was implemented and had an outcome; no obstacle is described.
- D • Incorrect.** He treats shared spaces as useful invitations, not as irrelevant.

Carry this rule to the next question

For function questions, connect the selected sentence to the claim before or after it.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 17](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q18 • B is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Function: acknowledge a limitation without rejecting a study

The answer in full

It limits the range of conditions to which the finding can confidently be applied.

Think it through, step by step

1. The study found a pattern in one set of ponds. The underlined sentence asks how far that pattern can travel to a new setting.
2. A limitation means "we do not yet know this additional thing." It does not automatically mean "the original result is wrong." Here, the unknown is what happens at much higher elevations.
3. The final sentence preserves the value of the sampled result. That confirms the underlined sentence narrows the finding's reach rather than dismissing the study.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** It asks about other elevations rather than explaining away the relationship in these ponds.
- B • Correct.** The elevation restriction concerns generalization beyond the sampled ponds.
- C • Incorrect.** The study found a relationship; the limitation does not erase it.
- D • Incorrect.** The researchers sampled ponds. The text does not say they manipulated elevation.

Carry this rule to the next question

Qualifying a conclusion is different from refuting it. Look for the exact boundary being placed on the claim.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 18](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q19 • A is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Structure: old explanation, new evidence, revision

The answer in full

It introduces an earlier interpretation, presents evidence for a different interpretation, and qualifies the newer proposal.

Think it through, step by step

1. Give each part a short label. First: old idea, accidental scratches. Second: new evidence, repeated sequences. Third: new proposal, a shared system. Fourth: caution about exact meanings.
2. The right answer combines those labels in the same order. Its word "qualifies" means adds a limit or caution.
3. Do not confuse a cautious ending with rejection. The researchers can reasonably favor an organized system while still not knowing what every sign means. Structure questions test the route the paragraph takes, not just words that appear in it.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** All three stages appear in the stated order.
- B • Incorrect.** The imaging evidence does help compare interpretations, even if it does not reveal each mark's meaning.
- C • Incorrect.** The evidence supports the newer proposal; the text does not return to accidental scratches.
- D • Incorrect.** The meanings remain uncertain, and the method is not described in detail.

Carry this rule to the next question

Map beginning, middle, and end before reading long structure choices.

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 19](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q20 • B is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Function: a concession prepares for a central objection

The answer in full

It acknowledges a benefit of a practice whose limitations the text goes on to discuss.

Think it through, step by step

1. The opening says something positive about scans. Still signals that a qualification is coming.
2. The next sentence adds what scans cannot do. Sol's recommendation combines the two ideas: use digital access and retain physical information.
3. So the first sentence is a concession, an acknowledgment of a real advantage before discussing limits. The writer does not need to call the benefit false in order to argue that it is insufficient on its own.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Accuracy superiority is not established; some information is lost in scans.
- B • Correct.** Access is the benefit; lost physical information is the limitation.
- C • Incorrect.** Sol favors keeping physical documents alongside scans.
- D • Incorrect.** The text never denies that digitization expands access.

Carry this rule to the next question

Words such as still and however can introduce a limit on a true claim, not necessarily its opposite.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 20](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q21 • B is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Main purpose in literary prose: reveal an attitude

The answer in full

To reveal Nabil's affection for something he often criticizes

Think it through, step by step

1. List Nabil's two behaviors: he complains about the clock, but he defends it when it might disappear.
2. The final comparison explains the apparent contradiction. Its chime is familiar and comforting, like a friend's laugh. The paragraph reveals affection beneath criticism.
3. The answer must describe the character's attitude without inventing an event. We do not learn that the council actually replaced the clock. A proposal is not a completed action.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** He opposes replacing the inaccurate but familiar clock.
- B • Correct.** His protest and comparison to a friend show attachment beneath his complaints.
- C • Incorrect.** The replacement is only proposed, and its cause is not given.
- D • Incorrect.** The text mentions neither an electrical fault nor its discovery.

Carry this rule to the next question

In literary passages, connect a character's actions with the narrator's explanation of those actions.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 21](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q22 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Function of imagery in a short poem

The answer in full

They introduce a vivid detail that changes the speaker's response to the orchard.

Think it through, step by step

1. Read the image literally first: a red apple catches light. Then ask why the poet compares it to a lantern: it becomes a small bright point in a dark scene.
2. Before this image, the speaker thinks the orchard is bare. After it, the speaker leaves more slowly. The detail changes the speaker's attention and response.
3. Do not force a literal reading of a metaphor. The apple is not an actual lamp, and the speaker has not moved to a new location. The answer should explain the image's role in the whole poem.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Lantern is an image for the apple, not evidence of literal confusion.
- B • Incorrect.** The apple proves that some fruit remains, and no cause of crop failure is discussed.
- C • Correct.** The bright apple interrupts the initial impression of bareness and leads to a slower departure.
- D • Incorrect.** The speaker remains in the same orchard throughout the poem.

Carry this rule to the next question

For poetry, identify the concrete scene, then connect the image to a change in mood or attention.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 22](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q23 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Function: distinguish a method from its finding

The answer in full

It describes the task used to investigate the researchers' question.

Think it through, step by step

1. A research paragraph often has three jobs: aim, method, and result. The first sentence gives the aim: find out whether people detect subtle timing.
2. The underlined sentence explains what participants were asked to do. That is the method. The last sentence reports what happened, which is the result.
3. Choose the answer for the selected sentence, not the whole study. A choice about findings may sound relevant because the paragraph does contain a finding, but it names the wrong part.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The sentence reports what participants did, not an assumption.
- B • Incorrect.** No outside application is described.
- C • Correct.** Hearing tones and pressing a button are the study procedure.
- D • Incorrect.** The finding is the above-chance accuracy reported later.

Carry this rule to the next question

Label research sentences AIM, METHOD, or RESULT before answering a function question.

Study routine: Study. [Return to question 23](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q24 • C is correct

Craft and Structure / Text Structure and Purpose • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Structure: explain an apparent paradox

The answer in full

It presents a seemingly surprising pattern and explains how a change in procedure accounts for it.

Think it through, step by step

1. The apparent puzzle is "popular room, fewer loans." If loans were the only measure, we might think use had declined.
2. The middle of the passage changes our interpretation of that measure. People can now read without checking a book out. Fewer recorded loans need not mean less reading or fewer users.
3. The last sentence confirms that use and the measurement of use are different things. The structure is puzzle followed by explanation, not claim followed by defeat.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The reading room is popular, and no reversal is described.
- B • Incorrect.** Only one town appears; funding is not discussed.
- C • Correct.** A change in borrowing requirements explains why loans and visits moved in different directions.
- D • Incorrect.** Rising visits are consistent with the explanation, not a refutation of it.

Carry this rule to the next question

When two numbers seem to conflict, check whether the way one number is recorded has changed.

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 24](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q25 • A is correct

Craft and Structure / Cross-Text Connections • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Cross-text: agree on a result but dispute the cause

The answer in full

By arguing that a simultaneous change prevents a firm conclusion about the cause of the attendance increase

Think it through, step by step

1. Write the shared fact: attendance rose. Now write the disagreement: Text 1 credits hours; Text 2 says the exhibition might also matter.
2. Text 2 does not have to prove that the exhibition caused the rise. Showing that the evidence does not isolate hours is enough to challenge the confident conclusion.
3. Look for an answer that disagrees at exactly that point. Reject options that invent disagreement about the attendance count, ticket price, or whether exhibitions can attract visitors.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** Text 2 accepts the rise but identifies the special exhibition as another possible cause.
- B • Incorrect.** Text 1 says prices did not change, and Text 2 does not claim otherwise.
- C • Incorrect.** Text 2 treats the exhibition as a possible attraction, not an impossible one.
- D • Incorrect.** Both texts accept that attendance rose.

Carry this rule to the next question

In cross-text questions, identify the exact claim under dispute. Agreement about a result is not agreement about its cause.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 25](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q26 • B is correct

Craft and Structure / Cross-Text Connections • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Cross-text: identify a narrow point of agreement

The answer in full

Preserving some unfamiliar features can help convey qualities of an original poem.

Think it through, step by step

1. Do not hunt only for the contrast. Both texts value a connection to the original poem's structure, even though they emphasize readability differently.
2. Choose the smallest claim both can accept: keeping some unfamiliar features can be useful. Some is doing important work.
3. The "every construction" option goes beyond both texts. The "readers prefer" option changes a discussion of translation goals into a claim about audience preference. Shared topic is not enough; both authors must actually support the statement.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Neither author provides evidence about readers' general preferences.
- B • Correct.** Both authors give a reason to retain at least some unusual constructions.
- C • Incorrect.** Text 2 says some constructions; Text 1 does not require preserving every one.
- D • Incorrect.** Both recognize a possible trade-off between smoothness and distinctive structure.

Carry this rule to the next question

For agreement, seek the overlap between the two positions and preserve limiting words such as some.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 26](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q27 • B is correct

Craft and Structure / Cross-Text Connections • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Cross-text: new evidence challenges a necessary condition

The answer in full

It presents evidence that weakens Text 1's explanation and supports an alternative.

Think it through, step by step

1. Text 1 makes a strong claim: shade is necessary. Necessary means survival should fail without it.
2. Text 2 supplies the critical case: no shade, but enough moisture, and the lichen survives. That case weakens the necessity claim.
3. Notice what survives the challenge. The lichen may still usually occur in shade. The newer text questions why that distribution exists, not whether it was observed. Distinguish an observation from the explanation attached to it.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Text 2 can accept the usual distribution while changing the explanation for it.
- B • Correct.** Survival without shade challenges necessity; moisture offers a replacement explanation.
- C • Incorrect.** Text 2 emphasizes moisture as a likely factor.
- D • Incorrect.** The trial directly reports survival on exposed moist rocks.

Carry this rule to the next question

A counterexample can weaken a claim that something is necessary without denying the original observation.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 27](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q28 • D is correct

Craft and Structure / Cross-Text Connections • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Cross-text: qualify a broad recommendation

The answer in full

The method has value, but some recordings require additional checking before their transcripts can be trusted.

Think it through, step by step

1. Text 1 recommends a method because it is fast. Text 2 accepts usefulness but introduces a condition: difficult recordings create more errors.
2. The best response is qualified agreement. Use the method, but check certain output carefully. It is neither total acceptance nor total rejection.
3. A common trap makes the second author attack a point the author never discusses. Text 2 gives no reason to deny speed. Its concern is whether speed alone is enough to justify trusting a transcript.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Checking is recommended, but the text does not promise that it will remove every error.
- B • Incorrect.** Usefulness does not imply that original recordings should be discarded or replaced.
- C • Incorrect.** Text 2 discusses accuracy for difficult recordings, not whether their processing speed becomes slower than human work.
- D • Correct.** This preserves both usefulness and the stated conditions requiring review.

Carry this rule to the next question

Ask whether the second text rejects a proposal, restricts it, or adds a condition to it.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 28](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q29 • D is correct

Information and Ideas / Central Ideas and Details • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Central idea: preserve both the finding and its qualification

The answer in full

Incomplete records still show that community gardening preceded the city's official program.

Think it through, step by step

1. Separate what the records cannot show from what they can. They cannot cover every neighborhood, but they can demonstrate that some gardens existed earlier.
2. The word nevertheless turns the paragraph toward its main conclusion. The city expanded an existing practice.
3. Choose an answer that keeps the uncertainty in the correct place. Missing records prevent a complete census; they do not erase every fact in surviving records. The wrong choices make the conclusion either much stronger or much weaker than the passage allows.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Neither failure nor most neighborhoods having gardens is established.
- B • Incorrect.** The surviving records establish that the practice existed before the program.
- C • Incorrect.** The passage gives no purpose of political opposition for the newsletters.
- D • Correct.** This includes the limitation and the supported historical conclusion.

Carry this rule to the next question

A good main-idea answer can combine a limitation with a supported conclusion.

Study routine: Divide. Return to question 29

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q30 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Central Ideas and Details • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Detail: identify the stated reason for a method

The answer in full

They allowed her to record frogs without capturing them and to collect sound after dark.

Think it through, step by step

1. Read the question carefully: it asks for a reason that the text actually gives. You do not need an outside fact about microphones or frogs.
2. Two clues answer it. Voss wanted to avoid disturbing breeding sites, so she did not capture frogs. The microphones also recorded at night.
3. The correct answer joins those stated benefits. Other answers may sound like things a biologist could study, but they do not explain this choice of method in this passage.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The microphones record sound; no barrier to frog movement is mentioned.
- B • Correct.** Both benefits are directly stated.
- C • Incorrect.** The purpose was to compare natural calls, not to alter them.
- D • Incorrect.** Neither photographs nor age measurements are described.

Carry this rule to the next question

For detail questions, match the requested fact to its stated evidence and reject plausible outside information.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 30](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q31 • A is correct

Information and Ideas / Central Ideas and Details • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Central idea in fiction: outward behavior and inward feeling

The answer in full

Hessa understates her interest in a garden that she actually tends with great care.

Think it through, step by step

1. Her words say the garden is unimportant. Her actions show the opposite: she adjusts supports, cleans labels, and protects each stem.
2. A main idea must explain that contrast. She downplays something she deeply cares for.
3. Do not treat her "weeds" comment as a literal description that cancels the later evidence. The author deliberately shows what she does after the visitors leave. Character questions often require comparing speech with behavior.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** Her dismissive words contrast with careful private attention.
- B • Incorrect.** The visitors praise the garden, and she does not replace it.
- C • Incorrect.** She performs the described maintenance herself.
- D • Incorrect.** The passage offers no comparison of satisfaction from these activities.

Carry this rule to the next question

When words and actions differ, summarize the relationship between them instead of choosing just one.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 31](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q32 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Central Ideas and Details • Estimated difficulty: Hard

A narrow detail versus the whole argument

The answer in full

The cooling benefit of street trees depends partly on existing shade, a factor planting plans should consider.

Think it through, step by step

1. The paragraph compares two conditions. Trees make a bigger temperature difference with little building shade and a smaller difference with substantial building shade.
2. The final sentence tells you why the comparison matters: planting plans should consider the starting conditions.
3. The correct answer contains both the conditional finding and its use. A common trap changes "smaller" into "none." Another reverses the recommendation. Keep the comparison's direction exactly as written.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The study concerns cooling, not whether trees can grow.
- B • Correct.** This covers both the finding and its planning implication.
- C • Incorrect.** A smaller change is not the same as no change.
- D • Incorrect.** The reported benefit is greatest where building shade is limited.

Carry this rule to the next question

Comparative words matter: less does not mean none, and more does not mean always best.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 32](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q33 • A is correct

Information and Ideas / Central Ideas and Details • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Poetry: infer a restrained central attitude

The answer in full

The speaker continues to feel attached to someone who has departed.

Think it through, step by step

1. Start with the events that are certain: a person departs by train; the speaker still has the ticket; the speaker leaves a seat clear.
2. Now make the smallest emotional inference that fits those actions. The speaker still feels connected to the absent person.
3. We do not need to invent the relationship or decide when the person will return. The poem supports attachment, but it does not tell us that they are siblings, lovers, or traveling again tomorrow. Avoid adding a whole story beyond the words.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** The carefully kept ticket and empty seat suggest lingering attachment after departure.
- B • Incorrect.** The ticket remains in the speaker's hand.
- C • Incorrect.** The train has already gone; no immediate return is stated.
- D • Incorrect.** No relief or unpleasantness is expressed; preserving a place suggests attachment.

Carry this rule to the next question

Poetry answers should explain the image or feeling with the least unsupported extra story.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 33](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q34 • D is correct

Information and Ideas / Central Ideas and Details • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Detail: track who made which claim

The answer in full

As a policy adopted after market growth had already begun

Think it through, step by step

1. Write a quick name-to-claim map. Malik: cheap transport and growth before the fee waiver. Ennis: the waiver helped cause growth.
2. The question asks only about Malik. The correct answer follows his sequence: growth begins, then the council responds.
3. This is an attribution trap. A statement may appear in the passage and still be wrong because it belongs to the other person. Check the name in the question again before selecting your answer.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Ennis views it as a major cause of growth.
- B • Incorrect.** No effect of fees on transport costs is described.
- C • Incorrect.** That reverses Malik's view and resembles Ennis's view.
- D • Correct.** The last sentence directly identifies his causal and chronological interpretation.

Carry this rule to the next question

For multiple viewpoints, keep each claim attached to the person who makes it.

Study routine: Divide. Return to question 34

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q35 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Textual • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Support a mechanism with a controlled comparison

The answer in full

Moths approached hidden sources of the leaf chemical more often than otherwise identical sources without it.

Think it through, step by step

1. Name the proposed mechanism: the chemical guides moths. We need evidence that tests that link, not merely evidence that trees contain chemicals.
2. The correct comparison keeps the sources otherwise identical and hides them. The important difference is whether the chemical is present. More approaches to the chemical source support its guiding role.
3. This is support, not a claim of absolute proof. Good experimental evidence makes the proposed explanation more likely by reducing competing explanations, such as the tree's visible shape.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Resting location does not explain how the moth found the tree.
- B • Correct.** This changes the proposed chemical cue while removing the ordinary visual cue.
- C • Incorrect.** That makes visual guidance possible, but does not specifically support chemical guidance.
- D • Incorrect.** Presence alone does not show that moths use the chemical to locate the tree.

Carry this rule to the next question

To support a mechanism, look for an outcome that changes when the proposed causal factor changes.

Study routine: Study. [Return to question 35](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q36 • D is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Textual • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Weaken a causal claim with a confounding factor

The answer in full

A bridge on the only other walking route closed during the same month, diverting pedestrians onto the main route.

Think it through, step by step

1. The evidence is an increase after a change. The claim adds a cause: the lamps made people walk more.
2. A strong weakening answer offers another cause of the observed increase. Closing the alternative bridge could redirect existing walkers without creating more walking overall.
3. The correct choice does not prove that lighting had zero effect. It shows why the available before-and-after comparison cannot confidently isolate that effect. Weaken means make the argument less convincing, not always destroy it completely.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Energy use does not explain the change in pedestrian counts.
- B • Incorrect.** Earlier use does not rule out an increase caused by improved lighting.
- C • Incorrect.** Noticing the change is consistent with the official's explanation.
- D • Correct.** The closure provides another reason for the higher count on this route.

Carry this rule to the next question

After does not automatically mean because of. Check what else changed at the same time.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 36](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q37 • C is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Textual • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Strengthen an argument by ruling out an alternative

The answer in full

The ornaments are made from a marine species that could not live in freshwater and was absent from local fossil deposits.

Think it through, step by step

1. There are two explanations for the shells: coastal trade or local collection. The question asks for evidence that favors trade specifically against the local explanation.
2. A marine species cannot come from a freshwater lake while alive. Its absence from local fossil deposits also weakens the idea that people simply collected old shells nearby.
3. This still does not reveal the exact trade route or every person involved. It strengthens the coastal-origin explanation by removing a competing source. The other choices describe the objects without separating the two explanations.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Variation does not identify their geographic source.
- B • Incorrect.** Local stone tools do not show where the shells originated.
- C • Correct.** This undercuts the proposed local source and makes transport from the coast more plausible.
- D • Incorrect.** Ceremonial use does not distinguish trade from local collection.

Carry this rule to the next question

When an alternative explanation is named, ask which finding makes that alternative less plausible.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 37](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q38 • C is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Textual • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Support a two-part claim with a quotation

The answer in full

"He left the award ceremony early; the school's broken desks, he said, would not mend themselves while he listened to speeches."

Think it through, step by step

1. Break the claim into two pieces: he values useful repair, and he values it more than praise. The evidence must connect the two.
2. Leaving his own award ceremony to repair desks does exactly that. It shows a choice between recognition and practical work.
3. The thirty-years quotation is tempting because it strongly supports devotion to carpentry. But it does not establish the comparison with recognition. On a two-part claim, supporting only one half is not enough.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This establishes long experience, but not his preference between work and recognition.
- B • Incorrect.** This describes the ceremony without revealing Daren's values.
- C • Correct.** His choice directly places useful repair above an occasion honoring him.
- D • Incorrect.** The placement alone does not show which activity he values more.

Carry this rule to the next question

For quotation questions, find evidence for every important part of the claim, especially comparisons.

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 38](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q39 • C is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Textual • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Weaken an inference from absence of evidence

The answer in full

Plant fibers decompose rapidly in the wet soil of the oldest layer but are preserved in the dry soil of the later layers.

Think it through, step by step

1. The researcher moves from "we found none" to "none existed." That move assumes that old baskets would have survived long enough to be found.
2. The correct finding attacks that assumption. Wet soil could destroy plant fibers in the oldest layer while dry soil preserves later baskets.
3. We still have not proved that early inhabitants made baskets. We have shown that the missing baskets are weaker evidence than the researcher thinks. A preservation problem is especially relevant when the claim is based on what archaeologists did not find.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Long occupation alone does not establish early basket making or explain preservation.
- B • Incorrect.** Later size variation does not address whether older baskets disappeared.
- C • Correct.** Different preservation conditions can explain the absence without implying that baskets were never made.
- D • Incorrect.** Stone-tool counts do not directly explain the absence of a perishable material.

Carry this rule to the next question

Before treating absence as proof, ask whether the object or signal would have survived and been detectable.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 39](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q40 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Textual • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Support a predicted interaction between two conditions

The answer in full

Randomly assigned reminders raised attendance substantially among early registrants but only slightly among recent registrants.

Think it through, step by step

1. The claim is not simply "reminders help." It is "reminders help one group more than another." That is a difference in effects.
2. You need reminder versus no-reminder comparisons within both registration groups. The correct finding gives exactly that and reports the larger increase for early registrants.
3. Equal attendance at the end is not the same as equal improvement. If two groups start at different rates, they can end at the same rate after different-sized changes. Track the change caused by the message, not only the final level.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This compares baseline attendance, not the effect of reminders in each group.
- B • Correct.** The effect differs across groups in the predicted direction.
- C • Incorrect.** Message preference does not establish the predicted attendance effect.
- D • Incorrect.** Equal final rates do not show how much reminders changed attendance from each group's baseline.

Carry this rule to the next question

For a claim about different effects, compare changes within groups before comparing the groups to each other.

Study routine: Graph comparison. [Return to question 40](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q41 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Textual • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Distinguish supporting evidence from a related true fact

The answer in full

Later chapters increasingly replace statements such as "I remember" with phrases such as "perhaps it happened this way."

Think it through, step by step

1. Underline the claim's key words: narrator, less certain, memories, progresses. Then underline the requested evidence: the narrator's language.
2. A movement from "I remember" to "perhaps" directly indicates reduced confidence. It also compares earlier and later parts of the novel.
3. The author and narrator are not interchangeable. A real revision by an author would not by itself reveal a fictional narrator's changing confidence. Choose evidence at the level the claim concerns.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** A shift in descriptive subject does not directly indicate uncertainty about memory.
- B • Correct.** The language moves from certainty toward explicit qualification.
- C • Incorrect.** That concerns the author's writing process, not the narrator's language.
- D • Incorrect.** Nonlinear chronology alone does not establish the narrator's confidence.

Carry this rule to the next question

Evidence must match the exact claim, the relevant person, and the requested kind of support.

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 41](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q42 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Quantitative • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Table: combine two trends without reversing either

The answer in full

the number of projects increased, while the number of volunteers decreased

Think it through, step by step

1. Read the row labels and column labels first. We compare 2021 with 2025, and we must track both projects and volunteers.
2. Projects: 18 becomes 30, so that number rises. Volunteers: 96 becomes 72, so that number falls. Put the two directions together before checking the options.
3. You do not need to explain why the change occurred. The table does not tell us whether volunteers worked harder or projects became smaller. The correct answer reports the two observed trends and stops there.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The fall was 24 out of 96, or one quarter, not more than half.
- B • Correct.** Projects rose from 18 to 30; volunteers fell from 96 to 72.
- C • Incorrect.** Volunteers decreased, but projects did not stay constant.
- D • Incorrect.** Only projects increased.

Carry this rule to the next question

Check every clause of a data answer. One true half cannot rescue one false half.

Study routine: Graph comparison. [Return to question 42](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q43 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Quantitative • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Bar graph: compare treatment effects, not final heights

The answer in full

Light increased germination by 50 percentage points for species A but by only 5 percentage points for species B.

Think it through, step by step

1. The claim is about the effect of light, so compare light with dark inside each species. Do not simply compare the tallest bars.
2. For A, the change is $70 - 20 = 50$ percentage points. For B, it is $70 - 65 = 5$ percentage points. Fifty is larger than five.
3. The two light bars are equal, but equal endpoints can hide different starting points. Also notice the unit: subtracting two percentages gives percentage points. You are not being asked to calculate the relative percent increase.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Equal final rates alone do not show the size of each species' response.
- B • Correct.** The within-species differences are 70 minus 20 and 70 minus 65.
- C • Incorrect.** Species B rose from 65% to 70%; it did not decrease.
- D • Incorrect.** This baseline comparison alone does not compare the effects of light.

Carry this rule to the next question

An effect is often a difference between conditions. Equal outcomes do not necessarily mean equal effects.

Study routine: Graph comparison. [Return to question 43](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q44 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Quantitative • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Line graph: lower remaining amount means faster loss

The answer in full

At eight hours, 35% of coating B remained, compared with 55% of coating A.

Think it through, step by step

1. Read the vertical axis: percentage remaining. A lower number means more coating has disappeared, not less.
2. Both coatings start at 100%. By eight hours, A has 55% left and B has 35% left. Therefore B lost more over the same interval.
3. The question concerns the first eight hours. The twelve-hour values are unnecessary. Always match the requested time window, and translate the axis into the claim's language before choosing an answer.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** B fell from 60% to 35%.
- B • Correct.** Both began at 100%, so B had lost 65 percentage points and A had lost 45.
- C • Incorrect.** This gives the baseline but does not show which lost more during eight hours.
- D • Incorrect.** A had 45% at twelve hours and 75% at four hours, so the statement is false.

Carry this rule to the next question

Check whether the graph measures what remains or what was lost. The direction of the inference may reverse.

Study routine: Graph comparison. [Return to question 44](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q45 • C is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Quantitative • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Table: an average can hide variation

The answer in full

Instrument B's readings range from 40 to 50 units, whereas instrument A's range from 10 to 80 units.

Think it through, step by step

1. The question asks about consistency: how close repeated readings are to each other. It does not ask which instrument has a higher average.
2. Find the smallest and largest reading for each instrument. A stretches across 70 units; B stretches across 10 units. B varies less.
3. The shared mean of 45 cannot settle repeatability. Very low and very high values can balance to produce the same average as values clustered closely together. Use the feature of the data that matches the claim.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** That fact does not compare consistency; equal means can hide different spreads.
- B • Incorrect.** Only the third readings match.
- C • Correct.** B's readings are much less spread out.
- D • Incorrect.** A is lower on the first two trials, equal on the third, and higher on the last two.

Carry this rule to the next question

Match the statistic to the claim. Average concerns center; consistency concerns spread.

Study routine: Graph comparison. [Return to question 45](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q46 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Command of Evidence: Quantitative • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Table: distinguish counts from percentages

The answer in full

attendance rose from 20 to 24 members even though the participation rate fell from 10% to 8%

Think it through, step by step

1. Read all three quantities: total members, attending members, and percent attending. The percentage uses the membership total as its denominator.
2. Year 1: 20 out of 200 is 10%. Year 2: 24 out of 300 is 8%. The fraction gets smaller, but the actual number of people grows.
3. The correct answer reports this particular comparison. Do not turn it into the universal claim that 8% is always more people than 10%. Eight percent of a large group can exceed ten percent of a small one.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Both counts increased.
- B • Correct.** The larger membership total makes a smaller percentage correspond to a larger count.
- C • Incorrect.** The count depends on the total membership; the statement is not generally true.
- D • Incorrect.** The counts were 20 and 24.

Carry this rule to the next question

Before comparing percentages, check the sizes of the groups they describe.

Study routine: Graph comparison. [Return to question 46](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q47 • A is correct

Information and Ideas / Inferences • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Inference: a date sets a lower bound

The answer in full

was written no earlier than 1905, even though the paper was made earlier

Think it through, step by step

1. Separate the age of the material from the age of the writing. Paper can sit unused, so old paper does not force an old writing date.
2. The original ink supplies the stronger boundary. If the pigment first existed in 1905, the writing cannot be earlier than 1905 under the stated facts.
3. However, it could have been written later. "No earlier than" is supported; "exactly" is not. Inference questions reward the narrowest conclusion that follows from every condition.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** The original ink could not contain the pigment before the pigment existed.
- B • Incorrect.** The tests explicitly rule out a later addition of the pigment.
- C • Incorrect.** Old paper can be used later, and the ink evidence rules out that decade.
- D • Incorrect.** The pigment gives an earliest possible year, not an exact writing date.

Carry this rule to the next question

A clue can establish a boundary without establishing an exact date or quantity.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 47](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q48 • D is correct

Information and Ideas / Inferences • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Inference: a necessary condition is not a guarantee

The answer in full

may be necessary for crystal formation but is not sufficient by itself to ensure it

Think it through, step by step

1. Necessary means needed. Sufficient means enough all by itself. These are different ideas. A key may be necessary to open a locked door, but a broken lock can still stop the door from opening.
2. Here, every successful trial has Z, so Z may be needed. But some trials with Z fail, so Z alone cannot guarantee success.
3. Choose the cautious conclusion: the mineral may be necessary, but it is not sufficient by itself. The results do not establish a specific mechanism or identify one other condition that guarantees success.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The trials mention acidity but do not establish how mineral Z acts.
- B • Incorrect.** No results isolate constant temperature as the missing guarantee.
- C • Incorrect.** Some solutions with Z produced no crystals.
- D • Correct.** Success was never observed without Z, but having Z did not guarantee success.

Carry this rule to the next question

Ask two separate questions: Can success happen without it? Does having it guarantee success?

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 48](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q49 • A is correct

Information and Ideas / Inferences • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Inference: a detection limit restricts a negative conclusion

The answer in full

do not rule out the presence of the gas at concentrations below 5 parts per million

Think it through, step by step

1. A sensor can only report what it is capable of detecting. Its silence is compatible with no gas, but also with a small amount below its threshold.
2. The correct answer preserves that possibility without asserting that low-level gas definitely exists. "Do not rule out" means the evidence leaves an option open.
3. Reject answers that turn a missing reading into information the sensor could not supply. The concentration might have changed below 5 parts per million, and the gas might have been absent altogether. Neither constancy nor probable detection is established.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** Such concentrations fall below the sensor's stated detection threshold.
- B • Incorrect.** The gas may be present at a low level or may be absent. The survey provides no basis for assigning a probable detection.
- C • Incorrect.** No detection does not establish absence below the threshold or beyond sampled locations.
- D • Incorrect.** No detections do not show constancy: concentrations could have varied below the detection threshold.

Carry this rule to the next question

No detected signal is not always no phenomenon. Check the method's sensitivity.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 49](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q50 • D is correct

Information and Ideas / Inferences • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Inference: improvement has a limit

The answer in full

some factor other than additional light may have limited further growth

Think it through, step by step

1. Follow the pattern, not an assumed rule that more is always better. The first increase helps; the second does not.
2. The result suggests that extra light is no longer the thing holding growth back. Something else, such as another resource, may be limiting growth, although the passage does not identify it.
3. The wording may have is appropriately cautious. The results show a plateau under these conditions, but they do not identify the limiting factor or tell us what a longer trial would do. A hypothesis must remain within the evidence.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. Nutrients could limit growth, but the passage neither measures them nor establishes a decline.

B • Incorrect. The plateau does not measure efficiency or show that two lamps supplied twice the usable amount.

C • Incorrect. No information connects trial length with a later benefit from extra lamps.

D • Correct. Extra light stopped helping, so another constraint may have become important.

Carry this rule to the next question

A plateau can suggest a new limiting factor without showing that the original factor is unnecessary.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 50](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q51 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Inferences • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Inference: apply a mechanism to a new setting

The answer in full

may provide limited flood reduction where the underlying ground cannot absorb the incoming water

Think it through, step by step

1. Trace the proposed path: rain passes through paving, then enters the soil. If the second step is blocked, water can back up.
2. The dense-layer trial shows exactly that failure. So the paving's benefits depend partly on the ground beneath it.
3. The conclusion is conditional: limited benefit where the ground cannot absorb the water. Do not invent changes to the soil, a rainfall threshold, or long-term storage inside the paving. None of those mechanisms was established.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. No result establishes equal performance across soils or a sufficient rainfall threshold.

B • Correct. The whole drainage path matters, not just the surface material.

C • Incorrect. The study does not show that the material changes the soil underneath.

D • Incorrect. The stated mechanism is passage into the soil, not long-term storage in the pores.

Carry this rule to the next question

Follow the full causal chain. A successful first step does not guarantee a successful final outcome.

Study routine: Study. [Return to question 51](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q52 • D is correct

Information and Ideas / Inferences • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Inference: an intervention identifies a component of a response

The answer in full

helps connect blue-light exposure to the temporary increase in enzyme K activity

Think it through, step by step

1. Keep baseline activity separate from the extra response. The blocked plants still have ordinary enzyme activity. What disappears is the temporary increase after blue light.
2. That specific loss links receptor M to the response pathway. The result supports a role in connecting this stimulus to this increase.
3. The narrow supported role is connecting blue light with the temporary rise. Baseline enzyme activity continues without the receptor. The experiment also gives no comparison with other light wavelengths.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Blocking M left baseline activity normal. The evidence concerns the light-triggered increase.
- B • Incorrect.** Baseline activity remained normal when M was blocked.
- C • Incorrect.** The experiment does not compare blue light with other wavelengths.
- D • Correct.** Blocking M removes the light-triggered response while preserving baseline activity.

Carry this rule to the next question

When an intervention removes one response but leaves another intact, make the conclusion specific to the response that changed.

Study routine: Study. [Return to question 52](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q53 • A is correct

Information and Ideas / Inferences • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Inference: a smaller share can represent a larger total

The answer in full

the theater sold more discounted tickets in the second season than in the first

Think it through, step by step

1. Identify what each percentage describes. It is the fraction of tickets receiving a discount, not how much money was taken off the price.
2. Convert the shares to counts: $0.30 \times 1,000 = 300$; $0.20 \times 2,000 = 400$. Four hundred is greater than three hundred.
3. Nothing here establishes revenue or the amount of each discount. Those tempting business conclusions require facts we do not have. An inference can involve a small calculation, but it must not smuggle in missing quantities.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** Thirty percent of 1,000 is 300; twenty percent of 2,000 is 400.
- B • Incorrect.** The count rose from 300 to 400.
- C • Incorrect.** Ticket prices and the size of the discounts are not provided.
- D • Incorrect.** The percentages describe the share of tickets discounted, not the size of the discount.

Carry this rule to the next question

Always name the denominator and what the percentage measures before making a comparison.

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 53](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q54 • B is correct

Information and Ideas / Inferences • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Dense inference: distinguish a signal from what creates it

The answer in full

could make lakes with nutrient-deprived algae appear to contain more algal mass than they actually do

Think it through, step by step

1. Translate the technical terms into a simple model: the team counts light as a way to estimate algae. That works only if similar amounts of algae produce similar amounts of light.
2. Now imagine two equal piles of algae. The nutrient-deprived pile glows twice as brightly. If you count brightness without allowing for that difference, you may mistake extra glow for extra algae.
3. A brighter signal can reflect more algae or more light per unit of algae. The measurement alone cannot separate those possibilities. Equal illumination does not remove this problem, and a stronger signal does not automatically mean a more precise mass estimate.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Equal illumination does not fix the demonstrated difference in light emitted per unit of algae.
- B • Correct.** More light per unit of mass can inflate an estimate that assumes constant light output.
- C • Incorrect.** A larger signal per unit does not establish better precision, and it can bias the mass estimate.
- D • Incorrect.** A strong signal could reflect more mass, more light per unit, or both. The single measurement does not isolate nutrient conditions.

Carry this rule to the next question

If a measurement is a proxy, check whether the amount of signal per unit of the target stays constant.

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 54](#)

Q55 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Separate two complete clauses with a semicolon

The answer in full

laboratory;

Think it through, step by step

1. Find the first subject and verb: team packed. That clause is complete even though it contains extra information about cases and leaving.
2. Find the second subject and verb: assistants loaded. This is another complete clause. We need a legal way to join two complete thoughts.
3. A semicolon works. Think of it as a sentence boundary that keeps related thoughts close together. The comma-only option is a comma splice. Do not choose punctuation merely because you pause while reading; identify the clause structure.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** Each side can stand as a complete sentence, so the semicolon creates a valid boundary.
- B • Incorrect.** A comma after and does not correctly mark the boundary between these clauses.
- C • Incorrect.** No punctuation leaves two complete clauses fused together.
- D • Incorrect.** A comma alone cannot join these two independent clauses.

Carry this rule to the next question

Complete thought + semicolon + complete thought is a valid structure.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 55](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q56 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction

The answer in full

order, but

Think it through, step by step

1. The first complete thought is "The translation retains the order." The second is "It replaces several words." Each has a subject and a main verb.
2. The meaning is a contrast: one old feature stays, but some old vocabulary changes. A comma followed by but joins the clauses correctly.
3. Watch the location of the comma. In this structure it belongs before the coordinating conjunction, not immediately after it. You are solving both the meaning and the sentence connection.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** But joins two independent clauses here, with a comma before it.
- B • Incorrect.** The unnecessary comma after but disrupts the start of the second clause.
- C • Incorrect.** A comma alone creates a comma splice between two complete clauses.
- D • Incorrect.** This places the comma on the wrong side of the conjunction.

Carry this rule to the next question

When but joins two complete clauses, place the boundary comma before but.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 56](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q57 • C is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Keep an introductory dependent clause attached

The answer in full

screen,

Think it through, step by step

1. Although makes the opening dependent. "Although the photograph looked clearer" leaves us waiting: although it looked clearer, what happened?
2. The answer comes next: the conservator kept the unedited scan. That is the main clause. A comma connects the introduction to it.
3. A period and a semicolon both require a complete thought before them in this situation. The presence of a subject and verb inside the opening is not enough; the word although makes it dependent.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The unfinished introductory clause cannot support a colon.
- B • Incorrect.** The material before the blank begins with although and cannot stand as a complete sentence.
- C • Correct.** The introductory although-clause is followed by a comma and the main clause.
- D • Incorrect.** A period would leave the although-clause as a fragment.

Carry this rule to the next question

A clause can have a subject and verb and still be dependent because of a word such as although, because, or when.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 57](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q58 • B is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Do not separate a long subject from its verb

The answer in full

workers

Think it through, step by step

1. Temporarily remove the extra description: "of hand-painted maps donated by former railway workers." The sentence becomes "The collection provides historians with a record."
2. Collection is the subject and provides is its main verb. There is no reason to put a boundary between them.
3. A long subject may make your voice pause, but a pause does not create a grammar rule. The wrong choices all treat a long noun group as if it were already a complete sentence.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The words before the blank do not form an independent clause.
- B • Correct.** No punctuation should separate this subject from its main verb.
- C • Incorrect.** The comma improperly separates collection from provides.
- D • Incorrect.** A colon cannot interrupt the connection between the subject and its verb.

Carry this rule to the next question

Length does not make a subject into a sentence. Locate its main verb before adding punctuation.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 58](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q59 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Keep a verb and its object together

The answer in full

identified

Think it through, step by step

1. Ask the verb a question: identified what? The answer is the list of three faults. That list belongs directly to identified.
2. A list does not automatically need a colon. The words before a colon must already make a complete statement that sets up the list. Here, "the technician identified" leaves the intended thought unfinished.
3. Read the no-punctuation version aloud. The opening introductory phrase already has its comma, and the object list already has its internal commas. No extra mark is needed at the blank.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** Identified needs its object; the list supplies that object directly.
- B • Incorrect.** A comma is not needed between the verb and its direct object.
- C • Incorrect.** The words after the semicolon are a list, not a complete clause.
- D • Incorrect.** The colon would separate identified from the objects being identified.

Carry this rule to the next question

Do not insert a colon simply because a list follows. First check whether the verb still needs its object.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 59](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q60 • D is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Easy

A colon introduces a list after a complete statement

The answer in full

expedition:

Think it through, step by step

1. Check the left side: "The archive acquired three kinds of material from the expedition." It makes a complete statement.
2. The right side names those three kinds. This is a list explaining an earlier category, so a colon is appropriate.
3. Compare this with "acquired: notebooks." In that version, the colon would split the verb from its object. Here the verb already has an object, "three kinds of material," before the colon. The grammatical setup makes the difference.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** That does not correctly connect this already introduced list to the preceding statement.
- B • Incorrect.** The list after the blank is not an independent clause.
- C • Incorrect.** The list would become a sentence fragment.
- D • Correct.** The complete statement introduces a list specifying the three kinds.

Carry this rule to the next question

A colon can follow a complete statement and introduce the examples, list, or explanation that the statement sets up.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 60](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q61 • B is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Avoid a colon after a preposition

The answer in full

through

Think it through, step by step

1. Find the word immediately before the blank: through. It starts a prepositional phrase and needs an object. The objects are tools, records, and books.
2. Do not mistake the list for a reason to add a colon. A colon after through would break a phrase that needs to stay together.
3. The no-punctuation option lets the sentence say how the exhibition traces history: through these materials. Always check both sides of the blank, including the small word right next to it.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** No comma belongs between this preposition and its object list.
- B • Correct.** The preposition through must connect directly to its objects.
- C • Incorrect.** Through is left hanging if a colon separates it from surviving tools and the other objects.
- D • Incorrect.** Neither side forms the required pair of independent clauses.

Carry this rule to the next question

A preposition and its object normally stay connected: through tools, by measurement, and with assistance.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 61](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q62 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Close a nonessential appositive with a matching comma

The answer in full

plateau,

Think it through, step by step

1. Remove the extra description between the commas: "a small research station on the northern plateau." The main sentence becomes "The Maren Observatory records changes..."
2. The description is an appositive, a noun phrase that renames or explains another noun. The opening comma is already printed. You need its closing partner.
3. Do not focus only on the words nearest the blank. Look back to find punctuation that may have started an interruption. Matching the pair restores the sentence skeleton.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** This comma closes the nonessential description opened after Observatory.
- B • Incorrect.** Without the closing comma, the supplementary description runs into the main verb.
- C • Incorrect.** A semicolon would separate the subject from records and fail to close the appositive correctly.
- D • Incorrect.** A colon cannot close this comma-marked interruption.

Carry this rule to the next question

When a removable description interrupts a sentence, check that its opening and closing punctuation match.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 62](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q63 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Close a parenthetical interruption without adding a boundary

The answer in full

built)

Think it through, step by step

1. Find the opening parenthesis after photographs. Everything through 'was built' is extra description. Close that description with a parenthesis.
2. Remove the parenthetical material: 'The aerial photographs provide a detailed record of the marsh's former size.' Photographs is the subject; provide is its verb. They belong together.
3. The sentence continues after the closing parenthesis. No extra comma, colon, or semicolon should separate this subject from its main verb. Check the main sentence after you close an interruption.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** A closing parenthesis completes the interruption and allows the main sentence to continue.
- B • Incorrect.** The extra comma would separate the subject photographs from its main verb provide.
- C • Incorrect.** The words before the semicolon are only a subject with a description; they do not form a complete clause.
- D • Incorrect.** A colon cannot separate the subject photographs from its verb provide.

Carry this rule to the next question

After closing an interruption, reconnect the sentence as if the interruption were absent.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 63](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q64 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Keep an essential identifying name attached

The answer in full

Nora Hale

Think it through, step by step

1. The subject is the whole identifying phrase "marine ecologist Nora Hale." The occupation is used as part of the identification.
2. The sentence does not first introduce "the marine ecologist" and then add a removable name. It directly identifies which contributor led the work. Keep the title and name together.
3. Once you have the full subject, connect it directly to led. The option with a comma after the name breaks that subject-verb connection. Always test punctuation in the exact wording you have, not in a slightly rewritten sentence.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** The identifying name completes the phrase marine ecologist Nora Hale without a break.
- B • Incorrect.** This comma separates the full subject from led.
- C • Incorrect.** These commas detach the name and leave the awkward singular phrase marine ecologist as the subject without a determiner.
- D • Incorrect.** A colon cannot stand between this identifying title and name.

Carry this rule to the next question

An identifying title plus name often forms one uninterrupted noun phrase: scientist Ada Chen.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 64](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q65 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Medium

However does not join complete clauses with commas alone

The answer in full

trial; however,

Think it through, step by step

1. The first clause can stand alone: the prototype passed the trials. The second can also stand alone: its casing cracked.
2. However is a transition word, not a coordinating conjunction like but. It does not let you join two sentences with just commas.
3. Use a semicolon between the complete clauses and a comma after the introductory however. A period could also separate the clauses with suitable capitalization, but that is not one of the choices. Check the punctuation actually offered.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** The semicolon separates two complete clauses; however then signals the contrast.
- B • Incorrect.** The semicolon comes too late: however is attached to the first clause without the punctuation needed for that placement.
- C • Incorrect.** However cannot by itself create the required sentence boundary.
- D • Incorrect.** A comma before however leaves a comma splice between two complete clauses.

Carry this rule to the next question

Complete clause; however, complete clause. The transition explains the relationship; the semicolon handles the boundary.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 65](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q66 • C is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Find the boundary hidden before a time phrase

The answer in full

1998. In

Think it through, step by step

1. A time phrase can hide a new sentence. The first statement is complete at 1998: the center began operating then.
2. The next statement has its own subject, it, and main verb, opened. The phrase "in 2007" belongs to that second statement.
3. Separate the statements with a period and capitalize In. Do not attach both dates to began operating. Reading to the next main verb often reveals where a new thought truly starts.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This fuses the end of the first statement with the start of the second.
- B • Incorrect.** A comma alone joins two complete clauses incorrectly.
- C • Correct.** The period closes the first complete sentence and In begins the next.
- D • Incorrect.** This creates an ill-formed relative clause with a redundant it and no valid connection.

Carry this rule to the next question

When dates or introductory phrases crowd a blank, locate the subject and main verb of the next clause.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 66](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q67 • D is correct

Standard English Conventions / Boundaries • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Use semicolons to separate complex list items

The answer in full

city;

Think it through, step by step

1. Identify the three list items: Lydon plus its description; Meret plus its description; and Orva plus its description. A semicolon already separates the second and third items.
2. Each item already contains a comma. Semicolons make the larger item boundaries clear while the commas keep each city with its description.
3. This is a second use of semicolons. They usually join complete clauses, but they can also separate complicated list items that contain commas. Here, the sentence remains one statement about where the exhibition will travel.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** A comma would blur the first item boundary with the commas inside each city-and-description item, unlike the printed semicolon at the next boundary.
- B • Incorrect.** A period would leave the remaining city-and-description groups as a fragment.
- C • Incorrect.** The city description is not a complete statement that can introduce the remaining items with a colon.
- D • Correct.** Semicolons separate the three city-plus-description items, each of which already contains a comma.

Carry this rule to the next question

Semicolons can separate items in a complex list when the items themselves contain commas.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 67](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q68 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Agreement: ignore nouns inside an intervening phrase

The answer in full

suggests

Think it through, step by step

1. Ask what does the suggesting. It is the pattern. The grooves, surfaces, and fragments help describe that pattern but do not control the main verb.
2. Reduce the sentence to "The pattern suggests that..." You would say "it suggests," not "it suggest" or "it are suggesting."
3. A nearby plural noun is a classic distraction. Cross out the descriptive phrases temporarily, choose the verb that agrees with the true subject, and then restore the full sentence to check it.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** The singular subject pattern takes suggests.
- B • Incorrect.** Have is plural and does not agree with pattern.
- C • Incorrect.** Are is plural and does not agree with the singular subject.
- D • Incorrect.** The plural fragments and surfaces are inside descriptive phrases; neither is the subject.

Carry this rule to the next question

Find the head noun of the subject. Nouns inside of-phrases do not normally control the main verb.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 68](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q69 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Agreement when the subject follows the verb

The answer in full

run

Think it through, step by step

1. The sentence begins with a location, not the subject. Do not make edge the subject just because it appears before the blank.
2. Reorder the sentence in your head: "Three shallow channels run along the eastern edge of the excavation." Now the agreement is easy to hear.
3. This is inversion: a verb appears before the subject. The subject still controls the verb even when the word order is unusual. The relative clause starting with that adds information about the channels.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** The subject is three shallow channels, so the plural verb is run.
- B • Incorrect.** Runs is singular, but three channels is plural.
- C • Incorrect.** Is is singular and does not agree with channels.
- D • Incorrect.** Has is singular and does not agree with channels.

Carry this rule to the next question

If a sentence opens with a location and then a verb, look after the verb for its subject.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 69](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q70 • C is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Agreement inside a relative clause

The answer in full

were

Think it through, step by step

1. There are two layers. The museum owns one instrument. That instrument belongs to a group of telescopes that were used in early surveys.
2. The blank is inside the relative clause "that ___ used." Its subject that refers back to telescopes, not to one. Therefore, use were.
3. Do not automatically apply the rule "one is singular" to every verb nearby. First identify which clause contains the blank and which noun its subject represents. Main-clause agreement and relative-clause agreement can be different.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Is is singular and also does not match the completed historical use.
- B • Incorrect.** Was incorrectly treats the antecedent of that as singular one.
- C • Correct.** That refers to the plural telescopes used in the surveys, so were agrees.
- D • Incorrect.** Has is singular; the relative clause modifies telescopes.

Carry this rule to the next question

For a verb after that or which, identify the noun the relative pronoun refers to.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 70](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q71 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Each remains singular despite a plural noun nearby

The answer in full

contains

Think it through, step by step

1. The subject begins with each. That word asks you to consider the notebooks one at a time. One notebook contains a record; each notebook contains a record.
2. The phrase "of the notebooks recovered from the station" tells you which set each refers to. It does not turn each into a plural subject.
3. Use contains. A quick check is to remove the of-phrase: "Each contains a daily record." If your choice fails in that short version, it also fails in the long one.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** Each is singular, so it takes contains.
- B • Incorrect.** Contain is the plural form in this sentence; notebooks is not the controlling subject.
- C • Incorrect.** Have is plural and does not agree with each.
- D • Incorrect.** Are is plural and does not agree with each.

Carry this rule to the next question

Each and every take singular agreement when they control the subject.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 71](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q72 • D is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Pronoun agreement with a plural antecedent

The answer in full

they

Think it through, step by step

1. Ask what the pronoun stands for. The researchers think the two clay tablets were produced together. Two tablets is plural.
2. The blank is the subject of were produced, so it needs the subject form they. Them refers to plural things too, but it is the object form.
3. Check the full replacement: "Researchers believe that they were produced in the same workshop." The pronoun agrees in number and performs the right grammatical job.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Its is possessive and cannot serve as the subject of were here.
- B • Incorrect.** Them is an object pronoun, not the subject form required before were.
- C • Incorrect.** It is singular and does not agree with the two tablets or with were.
- D • Correct.** The pronoun refers to two tablets, so a plural subject pronoun is needed.

Carry this rule to the next question

A pronoun must match both the number of its antecedent and its job in the sentence.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 72](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q73 • B is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Its versus it is

The answer in full

its

Think it through, step by step

1. The sentence discusses the clock's pendulum. We need a word showing possession: its pendulum.
2. Test the contraction by expanding it. "Because it is pendulum is suspended" is not grammatical. Therefore, it's cannot work.
3. Possessive pronouns and determiners do not always follow the apostrophe pattern used for nouns. The clock's pendulum has an apostrophe, but its pendulum does not. Memorize the contrast with a short substitution test.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Their is plural, but the antecedent is the single clock.
- B • Correct.** Its is the possessive determiner: the pendulum belongs to the clock.
- C • Incorrect.** It's means it is or it has. Neither expansion works before pendulum here.
- D • Incorrect.** Its' is not the standard possessive form of it.

Carry this rule to the next question

If it is or it has does not fit, reject it's. Use its to show possession.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 73](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q74 • D is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Distinguish plural possession from singular possession

The answer in full

sculptors'

Think it through, step by step

1. First answer "one or more than one?" The passage clearly identifies three sculptors. Next answer "ownership or plain plural?" The blank names whose tools they are.
2. The plural is sculptors. To show possession for that regular plural, add an apostrophe after the s: sculptors' tools.
3. The fact that each sculptor has a separate set does not make the whole group singular. The curator labels the tools belonging to all three artists. Use the sentence's meaning to settle number before choosing the apostrophe.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This adds an extra possessive s to a regular plural already ending in s.
- B • Incorrect.** This shows one sculptor's possession, but the tools of three sculptors are being labeled.
- C • Incorrect.** This is a plain plural and does not mark possession in this construction.
- D • Correct.** The tools belong to multiple sculptors, so the regular plural possessive ends in s plus apostrophe.

Carry this rule to the next question

Decide number first, possession second: one sculptor's tools; several sculptors' tools.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 74](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q75 • C is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Easy

A completed past date calls for simple past

The answer in full

developed

Think it through, step by step

1. Find the time clue before looking at the choices: "In 1974." The sentence presents a completed historical action.
2. Developed fits that action. The next sentence also moves forward within the past: the design later became the basis for other devices.
3. Do not choose a complicated tense just because it looks formal. Present perfect links a past action to the present and is generally not paired this way with a finished date such as in 1974. The simple past states the event directly.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Future tense conflicts with the stated past date.
- B • Incorrect.** Present perfect is not the conventional tense for an event located at this completed past date.
- C • Correct.** The completed event at a definite past date takes simple past.
- D • Incorrect.** Present tense conflicts with the completed event dated 1974.

Carry this rule to the next question

Use the time information in the passage. A completed event at a specified past date usually takes simple past.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 75](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q76 • D is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Past perfect marks an action completed before another past action

The answer in full

had cataloged

Think it through, step by step

1. There are two past events: volunteers catalog objects, then the museum opens. The phrase "by the time" makes the earlier completion important.
2. Had cataloged is past perfect. It points backward from the 2008 opening to work already finished. The next sentence confirms that sequence by calling it earlier work.
3. Past perfect is not automatically wrong because it is longer than simple past. A useful tense choice follows the timeline. Here, the answer choices make the earlier-than-a-past-event relationship decisive.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Simple present does not express the completed earlier action.
- B • Incorrect.** Present perfect connects to the present rather than the stated past reference point.
- C • Incorrect.** Future tense places the action after the relevant past point.
- D • Correct.** Past perfect marks cataloging completed before the past opening.

Carry this rule to the next question

Use had + past participle when the context specifically places a completed action before another past reference point.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 76](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q77 • A is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Present perfect connects a past start to the present

The answer in full

has published

Think it through, step by step

1. Since 2018 gives the beginning of a period that continues now. The phrases "continues to release" and "now provides" confirm the present endpoint.
2. Use has published: has agrees with the singular observatory, and the present perfect connects the earlier start with ongoing publication.
3. Had published would look backward from a past point, but the passage is looking from the present. Also check finiteness: publishing by itself does not supply the main verb the subject needs.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Correct. Present perfect expresses publication from a past starting point through the present.

B • Incorrect. The participle alone cannot serve as the main verb.

C • Incorrect. This form fails to agree with the singular observatory and does not express the stated time span.

D • Incorrect. Past perfect would require an appropriate past reference point, which this present-focused sentence lacks.

Carry this rule to the next question

For a period beginning in the past and extending to now, check whether present perfect fits the sentence's timeline.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 77](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q78 • D is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Supply a main verb after a long relative clause

The answer in full

provide

Think it through, step by step

1. The word stored is a real verb, but it belongs to the relative clause "that the expedition leader stored..." It does not finish the main sentence.
2. Temporarily remove that whole clause. You have "The photographs ___ the only surviving visual record." The subject needs a main verb: provide.
3. An -ing form can contain action without creating a complete sentence. Check which clause each verb belongs to instead of assuming that any nearby verb has already done the main clause's job.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Providing alone is nonfinite and leaves the main clause without a main verb.
- B • Incorrect.** An infinitive cannot by itself complete the main clause here.
- C • Incorrect.** This participial phrase also fails to supply the main finite verb.
- D • Correct.** Photographs is the main subject and provide is its required plural main verb.

Carry this rule to the next question

A verb inside a relative clause does not replace the main verb needed by the sentence's main subject.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 78](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q79 • B is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Use a participle when the main verb is already present

The answer in full

comparing

Think it through, step by step

1. Locate the main subject and main verb before filling the blank: "The survey team identified a band." The main clause is already complete.
2. The material between commas adds how the team worked. Comparing measurements describes an action performed by the team while it analyzed the sites.
3. Use a participle rather than adding another unconnected finite verb. Notice that the correct form depends on the sentence's structure. An -ing form is wrong when a main verb is missing, but useful when it adds a modifier to an already complete clause.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This adds a second finite verb inside commas without a proper clause connection.
- B • Correct.** The participle introduces a supplementary action; identified is already the main verb.
- C • Incorrect.** This finite future verb does not form a grammatical comma-enclosed modifier here.
- D • Incorrect.** As a finite past verb, it creates the same double-verb problem; as a passive participle, it gives the wrong relationship to measurements.

Carry this rule to the next question

First ask whether the main clause already has a finite verb. Then decide whether the blank needs a verb or a verbal modifier.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 79](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q80 • C is correct

Standard English Conventions / Form, Structure, and Sense • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Place the doer immediately after an introductory modifier

The answer in full

historian Lina Faris revised the chronology of the author's life

Think it through, step by step

1. Ask the opening phrase a direct question: who compared the letters with the biography? A person did, namely historian Lina Faris.
2. The subject immediately after that phrase should name the doer. The correct choice puts the historian first and then states her action.
3. All four choices mention the historian, but mentioning the right person somewhere is not enough. In the wrong choices, an abstract thing occupies the subject position immediately after the modifier. That creates a dangling or illogically attached modifier.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This makes chronology appear to perform the comparing.
- B • Incorrect.** This makes the author's life appear to perform the comparing.
- C • Correct.** The historian performs the comparing, so she correctly follows the introductory modifier.
- D • Incorrect.** This makes a revision appear to perform the comparing.

Carry this rule to the next question

For an introductory action phrase, ask who or what performs the action and place that noun immediately afterward.

Study routine: Grammar skeleton. [Return to question 80](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q81 • A is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Transition: contrast between two findings

The answer in full

However,

Think it through, step by step

1. Summarize the ideas on each side: first survey says few fish; later survey finds several missed species. The second changes the first impression.
2. Predict a simple connector such as "but." However expresses that contrast and fits the printed sentence structure.
3. The fact that both sentences discuss surveys does not make similarly correct. A transition connects the ideas being asserted, not just their shared topic. Check the result or claim on each side.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** The later finding contrasts with the impression from the first survey.
- B • Incorrect.** The two surveys lead to different impressions, not parallel findings.
- C • Incorrect.** The later discovery is not presented as a logical result of the earlier impression.
- D • Incorrect.** The discovery does not illustrate the claim that few fish were present; it changes that impression.

Carry this rule to the next question

Label the logical relationship before looking at transition words. Same topic does not always mean same direction.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 81](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q82 • B is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Transition: an outcome despite an obstacle

The answer in full

Nevertheless,

Think it through, step by step

1. The first sentence presents an obstacle: little money and borrowed costumes. The second gives a successful outcome despite that obstacle.
2. Nevertheless means "even so" or "despite that." It preserves both facts: resources were limited, and the season succeeded.
3. Do not invent the causal story that poverty necessarily produced creative staging. The passage describes success in spite of an obstacle, not proof that the obstacle caused success.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Successful performances are not an example of borrowed costumes.
- B • Correct.** The success occurs despite limited material resources.
- C • Incorrect.** The passage does not say limited resources caused enthusiastic audiences.
- D • Incorrect.** The second sentence is not a restatement of the first.

Carry this rule to the next question

Use a concession transition when the next statement is true despite what came before.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 82](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q83 • D is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Transition: a stated cause produces a result

The answer in full

Consequently,

Think it through, step by step

1. Ask why the council closed the bridge. The first sentence supplies the answer: a deep crack made use unsafe.
2. That is a cause-and-result relationship. Consequently means "as a result," so it connects the danger to the decision.
3. A transition can be correct because of the whole relationship even if the sentences use different subjects. Here, support and council are different nouns, but the safety issue explains the council's action.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Closure follows from the danger; it is not a contrasting condition.
- B • Incorrect.** The closure is a response to the problem, not an example of a cracked support.
- C • Incorrect.** No parallel case is being added.
- D • Correct.** The safety problem leads to closure.

Carry this rule to the next question

Use therefore or consequently when the next statement follows as a result or logical consequence.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 83](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q84 • A is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Transition: a specific case illustrates a general claim

The answer in full

For example,

Think it through, step by step

1. The first sentence is broad: some desert animals change their schedules. The second names one animal and describes its schedule.
2. That relationship is general statement to example. Predict "for instance" or "for example" before checking the options.
3. Do not choose in conclusion just because the second sentence comes last in this short passage. A final sentence can supply evidence or an example rather than summarize an argument.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** The rodent's behavior is a particular case of the general strategy.
- B • Incorrect.** One specific case is being introduced, not a summary of a completed argument.
- C • Incorrect.** The rodent is not choosing an alternative to changing its activity time; it demonstrates that strategy.
- D • Incorrect.** The second sentence does not contradict the general claim.

Carry this rule to the next question

Example transitions connect a general idea to one concrete case that fits it.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 84](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q85 • A is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Transition: clarify the same idea in more specific terms

The answer in full

Specifically,

Think it through, step by step

1. The first sentence gives a plan but leaves a question open: how will the team document the mural without touching it?
2. The second sentence answers that question with the camera system. Specifically signals a move from a broad description to a precise explanation.
3. Meanwhile might connect events that happen at the same time, but timing is not the key relationship here. Choose the word that explains why this sentence follows the previous one.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Correct. The second sentence specifies how the team will carry out the touch-free documentation.

B • Incorrect. The relationship is explanation of the plan, not merely simultaneous events.

C • Incorrect. The method does not reverse or oppose the plan.

D • Incorrect. No alternative outcome depending on failure to act is being introduced.

Carry this rule to the next question

Specifically often introduces the exact method, detail, or meaning behind a broader statement.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 85](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q86 • C is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Transition: add an independent supporting benefit

The answer in full

Moreover,

Think it through, step by step

1. Name the first benefit: subject searching. Name the second: detailed images. Both help users, but one is not described as causing the other.
2. Moreover means "in addition." It adds another supporting point in the same direction.
3. The phrase "another way" is a useful confirmation. It signals an additional feature. Do not turn two related benefits into a cause-and-effect chain unless the text gives that connection.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The images supplement the search function rather than replace it.
- B • Incorrect.** Subject searching does not itself cause the catalog to contain high-resolution images.
- C • Correct.** The second sentence adds a further useful feature.
- D • Incorrect.** The image feature does not occur despite a problem in subject searching.

Carry this rule to the next question

Addition is different from causation. Two helpful features can coexist without one producing the other.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 86](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q87 • C is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Transition: chronological sequence

The answer in full

Afterward,

Think it through, step by step

1. First is your strongest clue. The passage describes an ordered procedure: document the pieces, then join them.
2. Afterward signals that the second action comes later. The purpose of the photos also makes sense: they preserve a record from before the repair.
3. You do not need a stronger claim that photography alone caused the repair. The question concerns sequence. Choose the relationship the passage actually establishes.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The actions are successive stages, not opposing claims.
- B • Incorrect.** The repair is not presented as surprising despite the photography.
- C • Correct.** The joining stage follows the documentation stage.
- D • Incorrect.** Joining the pieces is not an example of photographing them.

Carry this rule to the next question

Look for time markers such as first, earlier, later, and before when choosing a sequence transition.

Study routine: Citation. [Return to question 87](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q88 • C is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Transition: replace one approach with another

The answer in full

Instead,

Think it through, step by step

1. The first sentence tells you what the team did not do. The second tells you what it did in place of that action.
2. Instead is the clearest connector for this replacement relationship. The team changes the immediate task from complete translation to identifying function through comparison.
3. Notice the difference between "not X; instead Y" and "X caused Y." We are being shown a chosen alternative, not asked to infer a consequence from the failure of X.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** Pattern comparison is not an example of translating every symbol.
- B • Incorrect.** Comparing symbol order is an alternative method, not a restatement of translating every symbol.
- C • Correct.** The team chose pattern comparison as an alternative to full translation.
- D • Incorrect.** The second method replaces the rejected approach rather than illustrating a parallel approach.

Carry this rule to the next question

When the text rejects an action and names the action taken in its place, test instead.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 88](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q89 • C is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Transition: correct a possible misconception

The answer in full

Rather,

Think it through, step by step

1. The first sentence rules out one explanation: sudden star formation. The next sentence supplies the better explanation: improved detection.
2. Rather means "instead, the correct way to understand this is..." It is especially useful after the text denies a mistaken interpretation.
3. Check the causal direction. Better detection explains the higher count. The higher count does not cause the telescope to become more sensitive. The correct transition keeps that explanation in the right direction.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The second sentence is not a parallel case.
- B • Incorrect.** The telescope's greater sensitivity is an explanation of the count, not a result of the claim in the first sentence.
- C • Correct.** The second sentence replaces the rejected interpretation with the intended explanation.
- D • Incorrect.** This is a correction of the interpretation, not simply another supporting fact in the same direction.

Carry this rule to the next question

Rather can correct an interpretation; instead commonly replaces an action or option. Read the exact relationship.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 89](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q90 • B is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Transition: parallel relationships across two examples

The answer in full

Likewise,

Think it through, step by step

1. Ignore the surface difference between baking and washing. Find the relationship inside each sentence: a shared facility remains popular after private alternatives appear.
2. Because the relationships match, likewise is appropriate. It means "in a similar way."
3. More precisely would narrow or clarify the same claim. Here the writer adds a different village that follows a similar pattern. Compare the logic, not just the nouns.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The underlying relationships are similar, not reversed.
- B • Correct.** Both places retained a communal facility despite the availability of a private alternative.
- C • Incorrect.** No causal connection between the northern and southern villages is given.
- D • Incorrect.** The second village is a separate parallel example, not a more exact description of the first.

Carry this rule to the next question

Analogies often use different objects to illustrate the same relationship.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 90](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q91 • D is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Transition: a method serves a stated goal

The answer in full

To this end,

Think it through, step by step

1. The first sentence states an aim: make records searchable at a distance. The second gives the action chosen to achieve that aim: create a checked transcription database.
2. To this end means "for this purpose." The word end here means goal, not the final moment of something.
3. This is a useful phrase to learn as a whole. It links goal to method. It does not mean the project has already achieved every intended result; the sentence describes the action undertaken toward the goal.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The text describes a current goal and response, not a backward-looking reassessment.
- B • Incorrect.** The action advances the goal instead of contradicting it.
- C • Incorrect.** The second sentence does not set aside an uncertainty or return to a point regardless of it.
- D • Correct.** The transcription project is a means of achieving the stated goal.

Carry this rule to the next question

To this end introduces an action taken to achieve a previously stated purpose.

Study routine: Study. [Return to question 91](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q92 • B is correct

Expression of Ideas / Transitions • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Transition: return to a recommendation despite unresolved alternatives

The answer in full

In any case,

Think it through, step by step

1. Two explanations are possible, and the records cannot choose between them. The final sentence gives a recommendation that applies either way.
2. The phrase "whatever caused the original stain" is a direct clue. In any case means "regardless of which possibility is true."
3. Do not choose a transition that pretends the uncertainty has been solved. The passage moves from an unsettled historical cause to a practical recommendation that does not depend on settling it.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** The recommendation is not an example of an unresolved origin of a stain.
- B • Correct.** The recommendation applies regardless of which uncertain explanation is correct.
- C • Incorrect.** The recommendation does not specify which of the proposed causes occurred.
- D • Incorrect.** The recommendation is not based solely on the inability to identify the cause.

Carry this rule to the next question

In any case can introduce a conclusion or action that remains valid despite an unresolved issue.

Study routine: Compare. [Return to question 92](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q93 • D is correct

Expression of Ideas / Rhetorical Synthesis • Estimated difficulty: Easy

Notes: emphasize a similarity

The answer in full

Both the silver marsh plant and the blue marsh plant grow in wet lowland soil.

Think it through, step by step

1. Read the goal before sorting the notes. It has two requirements: a similarity, and specifically a similarity in habitat.
2. The wet lowland soil statement satisfies both. The late-spring statement satisfies only the first requirement. That makes it a tempting but incomplete answer.
3. Check the selected sentence against the notes to confirm accuracy. Starting with the goal saves time, but it does not give permission to ignore what the notes actually say.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This is a similarity, but it concerns flowering time rather than habitat.
- B • Incorrect.** This describes one plant without comparing habitats.
- C • Incorrect.** This gives a difference in leaf shape, not a habitat similarity.
- D • Correct.** This compares both plants on the requested dimension, habitat.

Carry this rule to the next question

For notes questions, satisfy the relationship and the requested topic, then verify the supporting facts.

Study routine: Notes. Return to question 93

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q94 • A is correct

Expression of Ideas / Rhetorical Synthesis • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Notes: compare the same feature of two objects

The answer in full

The Vale clock has a wooden case, whereas the Orin clock has a brass case.

Think it through, step by step

1. The goal asks for a difference in one dimension: case material. Put the two relevant notes side by side: Vale = wood; Orin = brass.
2. The correct sentence compares those matching features with whereas. It does not need the completion dates or display functions.
3. One tempting choice pairs a case material with a date-display function. Both halves are true, but they compare different categories. A valid comparison should place like features side by side when the task names a dimension.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** This compares the case materials directly.
- B • Incorrect.** This is a shared function, not a material difference.
- C • Incorrect.** This compares unlike features and does not establish the requested material contrast.
- D • Incorrect.** This gives a difference in date, not material.

Carry this rule to the next question

When asked to compare, compare the same feature for both subjects.

Study routine: Notes. [Return to question 94](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q95 • D is correct

Expression of Ideas / Rhetorical Synthesis • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Notes: introduce a person to an unfamiliar audience

The answer in full

Marine biologist Dalia Sen studies how small fish use sound to find suitable habitats.

Think it through, step by step

1. An unfamiliar audience needs basic orientation: who the person is and what the person studies. The goal is not asking for every detail of the experiment.
2. The correct answer gives her name, profession, and research focus in one sentence. Those details help readers understand later discussion of her work.
3. The other options use real notes but answer narrower questions such as "What did she do?" or "What did the fish do?" Accuracy alone is necessary but not sufficient; the sentence must serve the stated writing purpose.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This gives a procedure but does not fully introduce her identity or research area.
- B • Incorrect.** This reports a result without introducing Sen or her field.
- C • Incorrect.** This identifies an action but leaves out her field and the purpose of her work.
- D • Correct.** This identifies who she is and what she studies.

Carry this rule to the next question

For an unfamiliar audience, include the identifying context needed to understand the subject.

Study routine: Notes. [Return to question 95](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q96 • C is correct

Expression of Ideas / Rhetorical Synthesis • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Notes: state the aim rather than the result

The answer in full

The team investigated whether road-marking patterns affect perceived lane width.

Think it through, step by step

1. Sort the notes into roles: aim, method, result, and future work. The first note states what the team wanted to find out.
2. The correct answer restates that research question. It does not report the outcome or the procedure.
3. The word completed matters. The future driving-course test may be related, but it is not the study whose aim is requested. Match both the role and the time frame in the goal.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This describes the method.
- B • Incorrect.** This describes a future plan, not the aim of the completed study.
- C • Correct.** This states the question the study was designed to investigate.
- D • Incorrect.** This is the finding, not the initial aim.

Carry this rule to the next question

For scientific notes, separate the question asked, the procedure used, the result found, and future plans.

Study routine: Study. Return to question 96

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q97 • D is correct

Expression of Ideas / Rhetorical Synthesis • Estimated difficulty: Medium

Notes: summarize the method

The answer in full

They weighed coated and uncoated leaves before and after six hours under the same temperature and humidity conditions.

Think it through, step by step

1. The goal asks how the comparison was made. That requires more than naming the groups. We need to know what was measured and when.
2. The correct sentence supplies the two groups, beginning and ending weights, the six-hour interval, and equal temperature and humidity.
3. The result sentence may sound more informative, but it answers a different question. The method is the procedure that makes the result interpretable. On synthesis questions, useful information is information useful for this particular goal.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This states the result rather than how it was measured.
- B • Incorrect.** This states the aim rather than the method.
- C • Incorrect.** This identifies the groups but omits the measurement of change requested by the goal.
- D • Correct.** This describes the comparison, measurement, and controlled conditions.

Carry this rule to the next question

A method summary should include the actions and measurements that answer the research question.

Study routine: Study. [Return to question 97](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q98 • A is correct

Expression of Ideas / Rhetorical Synthesis • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Notes: report a result without exaggerating it

The answer in full

During the month-long trial, incorrect sorting fell at buildings using picture labels while remaining unchanged at the comparison buildings.

Think it through, step by step

1. Locate the actual before-and-after values: picture buildings drop from 30% to 18%; comparison buildings remain at 29%.
2. Now keep the limits: twelve buildings in each condition and one month of observation. The correct summary does not promise permanent effects or total elimination of errors.
3. Keep the measured outcome and its time limit. The rate fell by 12 percentage points, not 12 percent, and the study cannot promise a lasting effect beyond one month. Also, the picture-label buildings began with a slightly higher rate, not a lower one.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Correct.** This reports the comparison and preserves the observed time window.
- B • Incorrect.** The first part fits the data, but persistence beyond one month was not measured.
- C • Incorrect.** The change from 30% to 18% is 12 percentage points, or a 40% relative decrease. Calling it a 12% decrease gives the wrong size; elsewhere also reaches beyond the comparison buildings.
- D • Incorrect.** The picture-label buildings began at 30%, higher than the comparison buildings' 29%; the proposed explanation also is not established.

Carry this rule to the next question

Keep the study's population, time window, and magnitude attached to its result.

Study routine: Notes. [Return to question 98](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q99 • C is correct

Expression of Ideas / Rhetorical Synthesis • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Notes: form a generalization supported by multiple examples

The answer in full

Both artists use discarded materials to draw attention to the kinds of waste those materials represent.

Think it through, step by step

1. Find the common pattern: discarded net to coastal waste; discarded electronics to electronic waste. The material itself connects to the environmental issue.
2. The correct answer states that relationship for both artists. It goes beyond listing facts but stays within the two examples supplied.
3. Generalize only across the examples supplied. Both artists connect discarded materials with the corresponding waste issue. We do not know that either production process creates no new waste, and only one artist is linked to coastal waste.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

- A • Incorrect.** This shared fact concerns exhibition location, not the requested relationship.
- B • Incorrect.** Using discarded materials does not prove that the whole production process is waste-free.
- C • Correct.** This generalizes the shared material-to-issue relationship across both examples.
- D • Incorrect.** Only Venn's work is connected to coastal waste. No coastal source is given for Renn's electronic devices.

Carry this rule to the next question

A supported generalization captures a shared pattern without expanding beyond the evidence's scope.

Study routine: Divide. [Return to question 99](#)

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

Q100 • D is correct

Expression of Ideas / Rhetorical Synthesis • Estimated difficulty: Hard

Notes: select the detail that supports a specific claim

The answer in full

The seed library stores some crop varieties that regional seed suppliers no longer sell.

Think it through, step by step

1. Break the claim into its key parts: preserve access, varieties, difficult to obtain elsewhere. Find a note that directly links those ideas.
2. The fact that regional suppliers no longer sell some stored varieties is decisive. The library provides access that those suppliers do not.
3. The borrowing system is relevant background, but it does not alone show why these varieties might be hard to obtain otherwise. Choose the most direct support for the whole claim, not simply a true fact about the seed library.

Why every choice succeeds or fails

A • Incorrect. This explains the lending process but does not identify varieties that outside suppliers no longer offer.

B • Incorrect. Date and location do not directly support the claim about access to scarce varieties.

C • Incorrect. This helps assess local suitability but does not establish that varieties are difficult to obtain elsewhere.

D • Correct. This directly connects the library's collection to an alternative source of otherwise harder-to-obtain varieties.

Carry this rule to the next question

For a support goal, identify the missing bridge between the claim and the notes, then choose the detail that supplies it.

Study routine: Notes. Return to question 100

Close the explanation. What is the decisive clue, and why is the nearest wrong choice wrong?

100 words worth learning well

Read meaning → use in context → distinguish the nearest trap → retrieve without looking.

This is a source-grounded study selection, not a verified list of the next test's words. Every entry has an official practice-PDF anchor. Forty-two selected words or searched inflections occur in at least two of the eight reviewed practice PDFs; 94 were also found in the current bank's prompts or choices. The other entries add useful official-material vocabulary and contrasts.

How to read the evidence line

T6 PDF p. 19 means the nineteenth page of the public Test 6 PDF, counting its cover. It is a clickable source location, not a question number. **Papers 2/8** means the searched word or inflection appeared somewhere in two reviewed Reading and Writing sections. **QB 5** means five distinct bank question IDs contained a matched form in the prompt or choices; rationales were excluded.

A word may be an answer, a distractor, or passage vocabulary. Frequency does not mean it was a correct answer. Related versions and reused passages may repeat content across IDs and tests, so these are inventory appearances, not independent test administrations or future probabilities. Searches used explicit regular inflections, not every possible word-family member; PDF extraction can miss text.

A four-pass learning routine

Pass 1: Read the entry and picture the example.

Pass 2: Cover the definition; say a plain synonym and a contrast.

Pass 3: Write a new sentence that makes the intended meaning clear.

Pass 4: Revisit tomorrow and three days later. Spend time on misses, not just familiar words.

Meaning groups

WORDS 1-50	WORDS 51-100
1-10 • Evidence and certainty	51-60 • Distribution and persistence
11-20 • Expectations and importance	61-70 • Scope and academic meanings
21-30 • Clarity and complexity	71-80 • Judgment and attitude
31-40 • Relationships and sequence	81-90 • Evaluation and character
41-50 • Barriers and repair	91-100 • Value and reliability

Words 01-04

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

01 corroborate verb

Meaning: Support a statement with additional evidence.

Example: The dated receipt corroborated her account of the purchase.

Watch the trap: Corroborate supports a claim; it does not necessarily prove every part of it.

T7 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 4 • Example ID: 7aa510fb

02 substantiate verb

Meaning: Give evidence that makes a claim more believable.

Example: The scientist collected measurements to substantiate the proposed link.

Watch the trap: A confident statement alone does not substantiate itself; look for evidence.

T5 PDF p. 7 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: c14daa3c

03 validate verb

Meaning: Confirm that something is sound, appropriate, or working as intended.

Example: Independent measurements helped validate the new measuring method.

Watch the trap: Validate checks soundness; replicate means repeat a procedure or result.

T4 PDF p. 19 • Papers 2/8 • QB 4 • Example ID: e41dfaab

04 undermine verb

Meaning: Make a claim, position, or system weaker.

Example: The missing records undermined confidence in the estimate.

Watch the trap: Think of weakening a foundation. Undermine does not always mean completely disprove.

T6 PDF p. 5 • Papers 3/8 • QB 9 • Example ID: 35b46381

Words 05-08

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

05 qualify verb

Meaning: Limit or add conditions to a statement; also, become eligible.

Example: The researcher qualified her conclusion by limiting it to dry climates.

Watch the trap: In an argument, qualify often means narrow a claim, not earn a certificate.

T5 PDF p. 21 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: df46a2ee

06 plausible adjective

Meaning: Reasonable enough to seem possible or believable.

Example: The broken seal offered a plausible explanation for the leak.

Watch the trap: Plausible is weaker than proven: a sensible explanation can still be wrong.

T7 PDF p. 22 • Papers 1/8 • QB 8 • Example ID: be19faa1

07 empirical adjective

Meaning: Based on observation or experiment.

Example: The proposal lacked empirical support until field measurements became available.

Watch the trap: Contrast empirical evidence with a prediction based only on theory.

T7 PDF p. 23 • Papers 2/8 • QB 5 • Example ID: 8de51658

08 hypothesize verb

Meaning: Propose a possible explanation that can be investigated.

Example: The team hypothesized that shade slowed water loss.

Watch the trap: A hypothesis is a proposal to test, not an established result.

T4 PDF p. 10 • Papers 6/8 • QB 42 • Example ID: a15b3219

Words 09-12

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

09 compelling adjective

Meaning: Strongly convincing or powerfully interesting.

Example: The consistent pattern supplied compelling evidence for further investigation.

Watch the trap: A compelling argument persuades through strong reasons; it need not be emotionally dramatic.

T7 PDF p. 23 • Papers 3/8 • QB 8 • Example ID: f7bd14de

10 skeptical adjective

Meaning: Doubtful and inclined to ask for evidence.

Example: The historian remained skeptical of the undated account.

Watch the trap: Skeptical does not mean refusing all evidence or being certain a claim is false.

T5 PDF p. 22 • Papers 3/8 • QB 7 • Example ID: 64b6427a

11 tentative adjective

Meaning: Not final; open to revision.

Example: With only two samples, the team offered a tentative conclusion.

Watch the trap: Contrast tentative with definitive. Limited evidence often calls for tentative language.

T6 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 0

12 tenuous adjective

Meaning: Weak, slight, or not firmly established.

Example: The link between the two events was tenuous because few records survived.

Watch the trap: A tenuous connection is weak; a tentative conclusion is provisional. The meanings overlap but differ.

T5 PDF p. 19 • Papers 2/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: aa0968dd

Words 13-16

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

13 anomalous adjective

Meaning: Different from the usual or expected pattern.

Example: One anomalous reading was far above all the others.

Watch the trap: An anomaly stands out from a pattern. Unusual does not automatically mean incorrect.

T6 PDF p. 12 • Papers 2/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: e1504a2a

14 atypical adjective

Meaning: Not typical of the group or situation.

Example: The unusually wet season was atypical for the valley.

Watch the trap: Atypical describes a departure from what is usual, not necessarily something impossible.

T4 PDF p. 19 • Papers 2/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 086dd8cc

15 conventional adjective

Meaning: Following common practice or accepted tradition.

Example: The architect replaced the conventional rectangular plan with a circular one.

Watch the trap: Conventional means usual or traditional; it does not mean poor in quality.

T4 PDF p. 8 • Papers 6/8 • QB 13 • Example ID: aa0968dd

16 unprecedented adjective

Meaning: Without a known earlier example.

Example: The archive received an unprecedented number of donations that year.

Watch the trap: Stronger than unusual: unprecedented refers to a lack of precedent, or earlier example.

T10 PDF p. 29 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 74446089

Words 17-20

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

17 inevitable adjective

Meaning: Certain to happen or impossible to avoid.

Example: Without repair, the team considered further damage inevitable.

Watch the trap: Inevitable is stronger than likely. Do not choose it when the passage expresses uncertainty.

T7 PDF p. 18 • Papers 1/8 • QB 5 • Example ID: daa90829

18 substantial adjective

Meaning: Large in amount, degree, or importance.

Example: The revised method produced a substantial reduction in waste.

Watch the trap: A substantial change matters in size or effect. It is not merely detectable.

T4 PDF p. 5 • Papers 7/8 • QB 32 • Example ID: a15b3219

19 negligible adjective

Meaning: So small that it has little importance in context.

Example: The extra label added a negligible amount to the package's weight.

Watch the trap: Negligible can still be measurable. Imperceptible means not detectable or noticeable.

T5 PDF p. 20 • Papers 2/8 • QB 6 • Example ID: 45c03837

20 inconsequential adjective

Meaning: Having little importance or effect.

Example: The small variation was inconsequential to the final decision.

Watch the trap: Focus on consequences: something may be noticeable but still not matter to the outcome.

T6 PDF p. 5 • Papers 2/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 36e2868f

Words 21-24

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

21 obscure verb/adjective

Meaning: To make unclear or hard to see; also, little known.

Example: Clouds obscured the summit; an obscure diary later clarified the expedition's route.

Watch the trap: Check grammar: obscure evidence can mean hide evidence; an obscure source can mean a little-known source.

T5 PDF p. 20 • Papers 3/8 • QB 8 • Example ID: 068f939b

22 imperceptible adjective

Meaning: Too slight to be noticed or detected.

Example: The shift was imperceptible to observers without instruments.

Watch the trap: Perceptible means noticeable. Always check whose ability to detect the change is being described.

T8 PDF p. 4 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: aa5897b8

23 perceptible adjective

Meaning: Able to be noticed or detected.

Example: After the repair, a perceptible hum remained in the room.

Watch the trap: Perceptible does not mean large. Even a faint but noticeable change is perceptible.

T11 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 7f935017

24 conspicuous adjective

Meaning: Easy to notice because it stands out.

Example: The bright new panel was conspicuous among the faded originals.

Watch the trap: Contrast conspicuous with unobtrusive. Standing out is different from being important.

T5 PDF p. 19 • Papers 2/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 95dbdf51

Words 25-28

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

25 prominent adjective

Meaning: Important, well known, or standing out clearly.

Example: A prominent ridge appears near the center of the map.

Watch the trap: Context decides whether prominent means influential or physically noticeable.

T4 PDF p. 15 • Papers 3/8 • QB 12 • Example ID: 403fb4e4

26 manifest verb/adjective

Meaning: To show clearly; or clear and obvious.

Example: The defect manifested itself as a repeated clicking sound.

Watch the trap: Manifest can name an appearance of a condition, not just an explanation of its cause.

T6 PDF p. 19 • Papers 3/8 • QB 6 • Example ID: 7575e417

27 latent adjective

Meaning: Present but not yet active or apparent.

Example: The experiment revealed a latent ability that ordinary observations had missed.

Watch the trap: Latent means hidden or inactive, not absent. Think of a capacity waiting to emerge.

T8 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: dba9eaf8

28 indecipherable adjective

Meaning: Impossible or very difficult to read or make sense of.

Example: Water damage left several lines of the letter indecipherable.

Watch the trap: A text can be physically present yet indecipherable; missing and unreadable are different.

T8 PDF p. 19 • Papers 2/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 4974b053

Words 29-32

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

29 intricate adjective

Meaning: Containing many carefully connected details or parts.

Example: The lock contained an intricate arrangement of small levers.

Watch the trap: Intricate describes complexity, not necessarily confusion or poor design.

T6 PDF p. 15 • Papers 6/8 • QB 11 • Example ID: ed314256

30 superficial adjective

Meaning: Concerned only with the surface or lacking depth.

Example: A superficial comparison noticed the colors but ignored the structures.

Watch the trap: Superficial resemblance can hide important differences. Surface similarity is not full equivalence.

T10 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 5 • Example ID: d1b8a9ad

31 supplant verb

Meaning: Replace something in its role or position.

Example: The new index gradually supplanted the older filing system.

Watch the trap: Supplant replaces. Supplement adds to something that remains in use.

T7 PDF p. 7 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: cce2f8dc

32 supplement verb/noun

Meaning: Add to something to improve or complete it; an addition.

Example: Interviews supplemented the information in the written records.

Watch the trap: A supplement supports or adds to the original; it does not necessarily replace it.

T4 PDF p. 20 • Papers 2/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 23974d6c

Words 33-36

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

33 replicate verb

Meaning: Repeat a study or reproduce a result or object.

Example: A second laboratory attempted to replicate the finding.

Watch the trap: Replication checks whether a result can occur again; explanation alone is not replication.

T11 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 6 • Example ID: 8e6a96f5

34 reconcile verb

Meaning: Show how apparently conflicting things can fit together.

Example: Different sampling dates helped reconcile the surveys' results.

Watch the trap: Reconcile can preserve both findings by explaining their different conditions.

T11 PDF p. 24 • Papers 1/8 • QB 4 • Example ID: ca9dc00f

35 conflate verb

Meaning: Treat distinct things as if they were the same.

Example: The essay conflated popularity with artistic quality.

Watch the trap: Ask which two categories have been incorrectly merged. A connection does not make them identical.

T7 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 0dccbf17

36 derive verb

Meaning: Obtain from a source or develop through reasoning.

Example: The team derived its estimate from several independent records.

Watch the trap: Derived from points to a source. It does not mean identical to that source.

T4 PDF p. 23 • Papers 7/8 • QB 22 • Example ID: 702eb7e3

Words 37-40

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

37 analogous adjective

Meaning: Similar in a relevant relationship or function.

Example: The two devices use analogous methods of storing energy.

Watch the trap: Analogous does not mean identical in every detail; identify the specific useful comparison.

T11 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 4 • Example ID: b0b40727

38 uniform adjective

Meaning: Consistent or the same throughout.

Example: The coating had a uniform thickness across the sample.

Watch the trap: Uniform concerns sameness across parts or cases; universal concerns all members or situations.

T6 PDF p. 21 • Papers 2/8 • QB 11 • Example ID: d95a0bb8

39 subsequent adjective

Meaning: Coming after something else in time or order.

Example: Subsequent surveys covered a wider area.

Watch the trap: Subsequent means later. It does not, by itself, say that the earlier event caused the later one.

T5 PDF p. 14 • Papers 5/8 • QB 16 • Example ID: 69d913d1

40 antecedent noun/adjective

Meaning: Something that comes before; in grammar, a word a pronoun refers to.

Example: The older design was an antecedent of the modern instrument.

Watch the trap: A pronoun's antecedent supplies its reference. In history, an antecedent is an earlier development.

T5 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 5a97d9cd

Words 41-44

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

41 impede verb

Meaning: Slow down or make progress more difficult.

Example: Dense vegetation impeded the survey team's progress.

Watch the trap: Impede need not mean prevent completely. Check whether the action still happened.

T6 PDF p. 11 • Papers 2/8 • QB 5 • Example ID: 086dd8cc

42 circumvent verb

Meaning: Find a way around an obstacle or restriction.

Example: The researchers circumvented the access problem by using remote sensors.

Watch the trap: Circumvent gets around a barrier; it does not necessarily remove or repair that barrier.

T7 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: d5ad34f0

43 stymie verb

Meaning: Block or seriously hinder an effort.

Example: Missing records stymied attempts to identify the builder.

Watch the trap: Stymie stresses an obstacle to progress. Look for a goal that becomes difficult to achieve.

T10 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: e26d23c4

44 exacerbate verb

Meaning: Make an existing problem worse.

Example: The delay exacerbated the shortage of supplies.

Watch the trap: Exacerbate worsens; ameliorate improves. Both usually refer to conditions or problems.

T9 PDF p. 6 • Papers 2/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 662ebff2

Words 45-48

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

45 ameliorate verb

Meaning: Make an unpleasant condition better.

Example: Additional shade helped ameliorate the harsh conditions in the courtyard.

Watch the trap: Ameliorate reduces a problem; it does not promise that the problem disappears completely.

T5 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 0

46 rectify verb

Meaning: Correct an error or put something right.

Example: The revised chart rectified an error in the labels.

Watch the trap: Rectify repairs an identified mistake. Verify that the action actually addresses the problem.

T7 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 1c7fe9be

47 redress verb/noun

Meaning: Correct an imbalance or wrong; a remedy.

Example: The revised selection sought to redress the omission of regional artists.

Watch the trap: Redress often concerns unfairness or imbalance, not merely describing or defending it.

T6 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 0

48 suppress verb

Meaning: Hold back, prevent expression, or reduce activity.

Example: The coating suppressed the growth of mold on the surface.

Watch the trap: Suppress reduces or restrains. Context determines whether it concerns information, emotion, or a process.

T11 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 5 • Example ID: 95388117

Words 49-52

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

49 exploit verb

Meaning: Use effectively; sometimes, use unfairly for one's own benefit.

Example: The device exploits a material's response to heat.

Watch the trap: In science, exploit often means make use of. Do not automatically import its negative social meaning.

T5 PDF p. 5 • Papers 2/8 • QB 7 • Example ID: 1281dfd5

50 implement verb/noun

Meaning: Put a plan into practice; also, a tool.

Example: The council implemented the revised inspection procedure.

Watch the trap: As a verb, implement means carry out. As a noun, an implement is an instrument or tool.

T5 PDF p. 20 • Papers 2/8 • QB 7 • Example ID: 7ae8065c

51 disseminate verb

Meaning: Spread information or ideas widely.

Example: The society disseminated its findings through public lectures.

Watch the trap: Disseminate describes distribution, not necessarily discovery, agreement, or persuasion.

T7 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: c5cba39c

52 demarcate verb

Meaning: Mark or establish a boundary.

Example: A row of stones demarcated the edge of the excavation.

Watch the trap: Think of a line separating areas or categories. Demarcate does not mean connect them.

T7 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 7afb470b

Words 53-56

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

53 reconstitute verb

Meaning: Form again from parts or restore to a usable state.

Example: The conservator reconstituted the pattern from surviving fragments.

Watch the trap: Reconstitute rebuilds or restores; it may involve assembling pieces rather than inventing a new design.

T7 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 7afb470b

54 enact verb

Meaning: Make a proposal into law or put something into effect.

Example: The council enacted a rule limiting traffic near the market.

Watch the trap: Enact is often legal. A proposal has not been enacted merely because someone suggested it.

T11 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 04cbeca3

55 anticipate verb

Meaning: Expect or prepare for; sometimes, come before a later development.

Example: The team anticipated heavy rain and protected its equipment.

Watch the trap: Anticipate can describe expectation or an earlier example. Use the passage's time relationship.

T8 PDF p. 22 • Papers 2/8 • QB 8 • Example ID: ce4448b7

56 impending adjective

Meaning: About to happen, often something concerning.

Example: The impending storm forced the team to postpone its work.

Watch the trap: Impending concerns nearness in time. It does not describe an event already completed.

T5 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 0ed8f24f

Words 57-60

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

57 enduring adjective

Meaning: Lasting for a long time.

Example: The design had an enduring influence on later builders.

Watch the trap: Enduring stresses duration. A brief but intense effect is not necessarily enduring.

T5 PDF p. 19 • Papers 2/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 2b252bbd

58 persistent adjective

Meaning: Continuing despite time, resistance, or attempts to stop it.

Example: A persistent signal remained after the equipment was adjusted.

Watch the trap: Persistent can describe an ongoing condition or determined effort; it need not be positive.

T7 PDF p. 13 • Papers 3/8 • QB 5 • Example ID: fd1095d7

59 resilient adjective

Meaning: Able to recover after difficulty or return to form after pressure.

Example: The flexible material proved resilient after repeated bending.

Watch the trap: Resilient emphasizes recovery, not never experiencing damage or difficulty.

T8 PDF p. 18 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 5effa190

60 dynamic adjective

Meaning: Changing, active, or involving interacting forces.

Example: The model treats the shoreline as a dynamic system.

Watch the trap: Dynamic often contrasts with static. It does not simply mean large or complicated.

T7 PDF p. 25 • Papers 3/8 • QB 9 • Example ID: d696eafa

Words 61-64

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

61 integral adjective

Meaning: Essential to the whole or built into its structure.

Example: Recorded street sounds are integral to the composition.

Watch the trap: Integral is stronger than related or decorative: the element is central to how the whole works.

T10 PDF p. 19 • Papers 2/8 • QB 5 • Example ID: 7bdf094b

62 tangential adjective

Meaning: Only loosely related to the main subject.

Example: The anecdote was interesting but tangential to the argument.

Watch the trap: A tangent moves away from the main line. Tangential information can be true but not central.

T11 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 7b43c0cc

63 peripheral adjective

Meaning: At the outer edge or of secondary importance.

Example: The researcher set aside peripheral issues to address the central question.

Watch the trap: Peripheral contrasts with central. It can describe physical position or relative importance.

T10 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: a756aa95

64 extensive adjective

Meaning: Covering a large area, amount, or range.

Example: The historian conducted extensive research in regional archives.

Watch the trap: Extensive means broad or large in scope; exhaustive means covering all relevant parts.

T7 PDF p. 4 • Papers 4/8 • QB 17 • Example ID: 1755eaf0

Words 65-68

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

65 exhaustive adjective

Meaning: Thorough enough to cover all relevant details or possibilities.

Example: The catalog offered an exhaustive list of the collection's surviving maps.

Watch the trap: Exhaustive is stronger than extensive. Exhausting means tiring; the two are different.

T10 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 0462dac3

66 universal adjective

Meaning: Applying to all members or cases within the stated scope.

Example: The author questioned whether the proposed rule was universal.

Watch the trap: Universal is a strong claim. A single genuine exception can challenge it within that scope.

T7 PDF p. 26 • Papers 4/8 • QB 13 • Example ID: 5d122d45

67 significant adjective

Meaning: Important or large enough to matter; in statistics, meeting a specified evidence criterion.

Example: The archive made a significant contribution to the study.

Watch the trap: Statistically significant does not automatically mean a large or practically important effect.

T4 PDF p. 5 • Papers 8/8 • QB 97 • Example ID: d73a908a

68 approximate adjective/verb

Meaning: Close to the exact value; or come close to matching.

Example: The map gives an approximate distance of eight kilometers.

Watch the trap: Approximate allows some difference. Do not treat an estimate as an exact measurement.

T4 PDF p. 15 • Papers 6/8 • QB 39 • Example ID: f1bfbcd3

Words 69-72

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

69 critical adjective

Meaning: Essential or very important; also, evaluating or finding fault.

Example: The missing record was critical to establishing the date.

Watch the trap: Critical can mean essential, not hostile. Critical analysis can evaluate strengths as well as weaknesses.

T7 PDF p. 6 • Papers 5/8 • QB 20 • Example ID: 11a9f635

70 compound verb/adjective/noun

Meaning: To make a problem worse; made of parts; or a combination of substances.

Example: A second delay compounded the scheduling problem.

Watch the trap: Check the part of speech: compound a problem is different from study a chemical compound.

T6 PDF p. 11 • Papers 5/8 • QB 15 • Example ID: 25176ff8

71 meticulous adjective

Meaning: Extremely careful about small details.

Example: The conservator kept meticulous notes on every repair.

Watch the trap: Meticulous describes care and precision, not necessarily speed or originality.

T6 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 0e3b4967

72 pragmatic adjective

Meaning: Focused on practical results and workable solutions.

Example: The team chose a pragmatic repair that could be completed with available tools.

Watch the trap: Pragmatic asks what works in practice; it does not mean careless or lacking principles.

T8 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 21d95d1d

Words 73-76

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

73 prudent adjective

Meaning: Careful and sensible about possible consequences.

Example: With little evidence available, a cautious conclusion was prudent.

Watch the trap: Prudent means showing good judgment, not being fearful of every possible risk.

T6 PDF p. 4 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 0e033f9b

74 impartial adjective

Meaning: Not favoring one side unfairly.

Example: The panel sought an impartial assessment of both proposals.

Watch the trap: Impartial means unbiased. Indifferent means not caring; fair attention is not indifference.

T9 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 0

75 antagonistic adjective

Meaning: Actively opposed or hostile.

Example: The two groups adopted antagonistic positions in the debate.

Watch the trap: Antagonistic is stronger than merely different. Look for opposition or hostility.

T6 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 27ea642e

76 sanguine adjective

Meaning: Optimistic or confidently hopeful.

Example: Despite the delay, the director remained sanguine about completing the project.

Watch the trap: Sanguine describes a positive expectation. It does not mean certain success is established.

T10 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: d7807ec8

Words 77-80

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

77 contentious adjective

Meaning: Likely to cause disagreement or involving argument.

Example: The proposed change became a contentious issue among residents.

Watch the trap: Contentious concerns dispute. It does not tell you which side is correct.

T4 PDF p. 24 • Papers 2/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 71904085

78 cordial adjective

Meaning: Warm, friendly, and polite.

Example: The scholars maintained a cordial relationship despite their disagreement.

Watch the trap: People can disagree and remain cordial. Friendliness does not require agreement.

T6 PDF p. 4 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 490b205f

79 earnest adjective

Meaning: Sincere and serious in intention.

Example: The student made an earnest effort to understand the difficult passage.

Watch the trap: Earnest describes genuine intention, not necessarily skill or success.

T10 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 4 • Example ID: 411739db

80 shrewd adjective

Meaning: Showing sharp, practical judgment.

Example: Her shrewd comparison revealed the crucial difference between the designs.

Watch the trap: Shrewd often praises perceptive judgment; it does not automatically imply dishonesty.

T11 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: b35e2fdc

Words 81-84

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

81 disparage verb

Meaning: Speak of something as having little value or importance.

Example: The critic disparaged the work as unoriginal.

Watch the trap: Disparage belittles. A balanced critique may identify strengths as well as weaknesses.

T10 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: e26d23c4

82 critique noun/verb

Meaning: A reasoned evaluation; to examine and evaluate.

Example: The essay offers a critique of the model's assumptions.

Watch the trap: Critique is not necessarily a total rejection. Check whether the evaluation is mixed.

T8 PDF p. 22 • Papers 2/8 • QB 10 • Example ID: 4b8eda0a

83 rationalize verb

Meaning: Offer a seemingly reasonable explanation, often to justify a questionable action.

Example: The curator tried to rationalize the omission instead of correcting it.

Watch the trap: In other settings rationalize can mean organize more efficiently. Context decides the sense.

T5 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 0

84 discount verb

Meaning: Give less weight or credibility to; also, lower a price.

Example: The analyst discounted the report because its source could not be verified.

Watch the trap: Academic discount usually means treat as less persuasive, not necessarily reject completely.

T5 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: 1ba5ad7a

Words 85-88

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

85 esteem noun/verb

Meaning: Respect or high regard; to value highly.

Example: Later scholars held the once-neglected poet in high esteem.

Watch the trap: Esteem concerns respect, not how often a name is mentioned or recognized.

T4 PDF p. 8 • Papers 2/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: d74788e1

86 sincerity noun

Meaning: Honesty or genuineness of feeling or intention.

Example: Her willingness to revise the claim demonstrated her sincerity.

Watch the trap: Sincerity is about meaning what one says; it does not guarantee that one's claim is accurate.

T7 PDF p. 21 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: c218cd98

87 unassuming adjective

Meaning: Modest and not trying to attract attention or admiration.

Example: The unassuming inventor rarely spoke about her awards.

Watch the trap: Unassuming does not mean unskilled or unimportant. Modest behavior can accompany great achievement.

T11 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: b35e2fdc

88 pretentious adjective

Meaning: Trying to seem more important, cultured, or impressive than warranted.

Example: The reviewer found the unnecessary technical language pretentious.

Watch the trap: Pretentious concerns an effort to impress. Difficult language is not always pretentious.

T11 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: b35e2fdc

Words 89-92

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

89 recalcitrant adjective

Meaning: Stubbornly resistant to authority, guidance, or change.

Example: The recalcitrant committee refused every proposed revision.

Watch the trap: Recalcitrant means resistant or uncooperative, not merely uncertain or unfamiliar.

T10 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: d7807ec8

90 incongruous adjective

Meaning: Out of place or inconsistent with its surroundings.

Example: A bright plastic sign looked incongruous beside the old stone doorway.

Watch the trap: Incongruous means it does not fit; it need not be ugly or useless by itself.

T11 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: b35e2fdc

91 lucrative adjective

Meaning: Producing substantial profit or financial reward.

Example: Restoring rare instruments became a lucrative business.

Watch the trap: Lucrative concerns money. A respected or enjoyable activity is not necessarily lucrative.

T4 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 6a1194e8

92 tedious adjective

Meaning: Tiring or boring because of length or repetition.

Example: Checking thousands of identical entries was tedious.

Watch the trap: Tedious does not necessarily mean intellectually difficult; simple repetition can be tedious.

T4 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 6a1194e8

Words 93-96

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

93 burdensome adjective

Meaning: Difficult to carry out or placing a heavy demand on someone.

Example: The extra reporting requirement proved burdensome for the small staff.

Watch the trap: A burden can involve time, cost, or effort, not only physical weight.

T11 PDF p. 18 • Papers 1/8 • QB 2 • Example ID: 1bf2173e

94 innocuous adjective

Meaning: Harmless or unlikely to cause offense.

Example: The seemingly innocuous change unexpectedly altered the measurements.

Watch the trap: Seemingly innocuous describes an appearance of harmlessness that later evidence may overturn.

T5 PDF p. 5 • Papers 1/8 • QB 5 • Example ID: 105ea6de

95 infallible adjective

Meaning: Incapable of being wrong or failing.

Example: The researcher warned that no measuring procedure should be treated as infallible.

Watch the trap: Infallible is absolute. Reliable or usually accurate does not mean never wrong.

T4 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: 6a1194e8

96 sophisticated adjective

Meaning: Complex, refined, or developed to a high level.

Example: The model used a sophisticated method for separating overlapping signals.

Watch the trap: Sophisticated does not automatically mean better suited to every task or harder to operate.

T4 PDF p. 19 • Papers 2/8 • QB 7 • Example ID: 3ec184af

Words 97-100

Cover each definition and retrieve it before reading. All examples below are newly written.

97 proponent noun

Meaning: A person who supports or advocates an idea.

Example: A proponent of the proposal explained its expected benefits.

Watch the trap: Proponent supports; opponent opposes. Neither word proves the person's reasoning is sound.

T4 PDF p. 20 • Papers 1/8 • QB 3 • Example ID: b9a3941b

98 beneficiary noun

Meaning: A person or group that receives a benefit.

Example: Local readers were the main beneficiaries of the expanded opening hours.

Watch the trap: The beneficiary receives the benefit; the benefactor supplies help or resources.

T4 PDF p. 20 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: f4166aae

99 outmoded adjective

Meaning: No longer suitable or commonly used because conditions have changed.

Example: The archive replaced an outmoded indexing system.

Watch the trap: Outmoded means outdated, not simply old. An old method may remain useful.

T11 PDF p. 4 • Papers 1/8 • QB 1 • Example ID: bcd924a5

100 warranted adjective

Meaning: Justified or supported by the circumstances or evidence.

Example: The small sample did not make such a broad conclusion warranted.

Watch the trap: Warranted means justified. A possible conclusion is not automatically a well-supported one.

T6 PDF p. 19 • Papers 1/8 • QB 0

Alphabetical vocabulary finder

Use the number to locate the full entry; click the word to jump there.

ameliorate - disparage	disseminate - intricate	latent - resilient	sanguine - warranted
ameliorate · 45	disseminate · 51	latent · 27	sanguine · 76
analogous · 37	dynamic · 60	lucrative · 91	shrewd · 80
anomalous · 13	earnest · 79	manifest · 26	significant · 67
antagonistic · 75	empirical · 7	meticulous · 71	sincerity · 86
antecedent · 40	enact · 54	negligible · 19	skeptical · 10
anticipate · 55	enduring · 57	obscure · 21	sophisticated · 96
approximate · 68	esteem · 85	outmoded · 99	stymie · 43
atypical · 14	exacerbate · 44	perceptible · 23	subsequent · 39
beneficiary · 98	exhaustive · 65	peripheral · 63	substantial · 18
burdensome · 93	exploit · 49	persistent · 58	substantiate · 2
circumvent · 42	extensive · 64	plausible · 6	superficial · 30
compelling · 9	hypothesize · 8	pragmatic · 72	supplant · 31
compound · 70	impartial · 74	pretentious · 88	supplement · 32
conflate · 35	impede · 41	prominent · 25	suppress · 48
conspicuous · 24	impending · 56	proponent · 97	tangential · 62
contentious · 77	imperceptible · 22	prudent · 73	tedious · 92
conventional · 15	implement · 50	qualify · 5	tentative · 11
cordial · 78	incongruous · 90	rationalize · 83	tenuous · 12
corroborate · 1	inconsequential · 20	recalcitrant · 89	unassuming · 87
critical · 69	indecipherable · 28	reconcile · 34	undermine · 4
critique · 82	inevitable · 17	reconstitute · 53	uniform · 38
demarcate · 52	infallible · 95	rectify · 46	universal · 66
derive · 36	innocuous · 94	redress · 47	unprecedented · 16
discount · 84	integral · 61	replicate · 33	validate · 3
disparage · 81	intricate · 29	resilient · 59	warranted · 100

Words are placed alphabetically down each column. Use the full entries for context-sensitive meanings; one synonym cannot cover every possible use.

Turn a miss into a reusable rule

Complete one row for every incorrect or uncertain question. Describe the thinking error, not just the answer letter. Reattempt before reopening the solution.

Q D A T E	WHAT I MISREAD OR ASSUMED	THE CLUE / RULE I NEED	RETEST

Useful error labels: unfamiliar meaning • wrong time • reversed comparison • too broad • invented cause • half-true choice • missing clause boundary • wrong subject • wrong writing goal.

Vocabulary retrieval sheet

Choose ten words you do not yet know securely. Fill the first column, cover the glossary, and complete the other two columns from memory. Check afterward and repeat tomorrow.

WORD	PLAIN MEANING + A CONTRAST	MY OWN CONTEXT SENTENCE

A stronger check than recognizing a word

Can you explain why negligible does not always mean imperceptible? Can you use supplant and supplement in different sentences? Can you distinguish plausible from proven? Knowing the contrast helps you reject SAT distractors.

The last-day checklist

- ☐ **Read for relationships.** Mark although, however, because, rather than, only, not, and time changes. Do not let a small word reverse the logic unnoticed.
- ☐ **Make claims small enough.** Reject guarantees, sole causes, and universal conclusions unless the text supports them. Careful inferences are legitimate; unsupported leaps are not.
- ☐ **Compare the right quantities.** Check groups, time points, units, baselines, and whether the question asks about levels or changes. Percentage points differ from percent change.
- ☐ **Strip the sentence carefully.** Find the real subject and main verb. Remove interruptions temporarily. Restore all words before confirming punctuation.
- ☐ **Make writing serve the goal.** For transitions, name the relationship. For notes, satisfy the precise audience, comparison, or study component requested.
- ☐ **Retrieve your vocabulary.** Say meanings and contrast pairs without looking. Review the words you miss instead of rereading all entries passively.
- ☐ **Review your personal error rules.** Use the diagnostic and mistake log. Spend the final session on the two or three habits most likely to cost you points.

On the actual digital SAT

Reading and Writing has 54 questions across two 32-minute modules. The second module adapts to performance in the first. The official framework includes unscored pretest items; you are not told which they are. Treat each item seriously and use official Bluebook practice to learn the actual interface and pacing. [S2, S3]

Do not assume this guide's numbering predicts exact question positions in your module. Short passages, familiar task families, and similar distractor logic can recur while topics and wording change. Your job is to recognize the reasoning and verify the answer.

Before you finish a practice review

- I can explain the correct answer.
- I can identify the closest wrong answer and its exact flaw.
- I can state the rule without looking.
- I can apply it to a fresh question.

Official sources and audit trail

Research snapshot: September 2026. Links were consulted during preparation; online inventories can change.

S1 SAT dates and deadlines

Source for the October 3, 2026 SAT Weekend date. Students should confirm their own registration details.

S2 SAT Reading and Writing overview

Official domain descriptions and short-passage question format.

S3 Assessment Framework for the Digital SAT Suite

Version 3.01, August 2024. Printed pages 50-51 describe timing and modules; printed page 56 gives domain shares; printed pages 184-185 detail skills. PDF viewer pages are 10 higher.

S4 Current full-length paper practice catalog

Public nonadaptive Tests 4-11 and answer-explanation files. These are not a substitute for adaptive Bluebook practice.

S5 Educator and Student Question Bank overview

Official description and access to practice resources.

S6 SAT Suite Question Bank

SAT → Reading and Writing → all four domains → all difficulties; active practice questions included. Export contained 1,845 distinct IDs across 1,977 PDF pages.

How to reproduce the inventory count

Export the selected bank set with answers and explanations. Split the text at each “Question ID” marker, then count distinct IDs and their domain/skill metadata. Normalize line wraps and the capitalization of “Cross-Text Connections.” The preparation snapshot had 610 Hard, 624 Medium, and 611 Easy items. These are official bank labels, not labels for the original questions in this guide.

No official question passages or answer explanations are reproduced in the practice section. Source links and IDs identify the evidence base; they do not imply College Board approval of this guide. SAT is a trademark of College Board.

Eight official practice-test pairs

The vocabulary anchors throughout the guide link to these question PDFs, using PDF-viewer page numbers.

TEST	QUESTIONS	EXPLANATIONS	R&W; ITEMS
Test 4	Question PDF	Official answer explanations	66
Test 5	Question PDF	Official answer explanations	66
Test 6	Question PDF	Official answer explanations	66
Test 7	Question PDF	Official answer explanations	66
Test 8	Question PDF	Official answer explanations	66
Test 9	Question PDF	Official answer explanations	66
Test 10	Question PDF	Official answer explanations	66
Test 11	Question PDF	Official answer explanations	66

What the vocabulary counts mean

Counts were made within the Reading and Writing portions of these PDFs and within bank prompts and answer choices. Explanations were excluded from the word-frequency counts. Word matching included specified ordinary inflections, such as corroborate/corroborated/corroborating, but not every derivation or synonym. Each test or question ID was counted once per word, even if that word appeared several times inside it.

A word in an incorrect choice still matters for preparation because students must distinguish its meaning. The list balances documented recurrence with usefulness for evidence, degree, attitude, relationships, and near-synonym traps. It is not a mechanically ranked list of the 100 most frequent tokens; common function words would dominate such a list.

Why repetition is not a probability model

The same material can appear in more than one practice source, and bank questions can share passages or closely related versions. These appearances are not random samples of future operational forms. Adaptive routing, unreleased items, item selection, and future revisions are unknown. The guide therefore uses source recurrence as a study signal, not a numerical forecast.

Find official examples by skill

Enter these IDs in the Question Bank search to inspect representative official task structures. They are examples, not a claim of one-to-one copies in this guide.

SKILL	REPRESENTATIVE BANK IDS	LESSON USED
Words in Context	84b5125b; dd0aada1	Read the local explanation and the relationship, not just an isolated word.
Text Structure and Purpose	ca50de52; 82cb7dda	Distinguish a detail's job from its subject matter.
Cross-Text Connections	eb89dcc8; 97e5bf55	Identify an exact response or shared point without inventing agreement.
Central Ideas and Details	87aa7bab; d73a908a	Match the central point and preserve limits.
Command of Evidence	a15b3219; 2903668a	Choose relevant comparative data or a quotation that supports the claim.
Inferences	f1bfbed3; d748c3fd	Combine stated facts into a limited, defensible conclusion.
Boundaries	de55ec71; c3397d25	Protect subject-verb connections and require a complete introduction before a colon.
Form, Structure, and Sense	e38b3e4f; 37e5c794	Track the true subject and attach modifiers to the right noun.
Transitions	2b08f514; e0bd4f8a	Use the precise logical or chronological relationship.
Rhetorical Synthesis	afec1a70; 39ccb463	Select facts that satisfy the specific aim or audience.

The original questions use different illustrative content and wording. They model broad tested skills rather than reconstructing private operational questions or rewriting a released item with names changed.

Teacher and video research

S7 • The Critical Reader: Complete SAT Grammar Rules

Teacher-authored grammar guidance reviewed for clause boundaries, punctuation, subject-verb agreement, and modifier attachment. Useful core rules were checked against official specifications; broad shortcut claims were not adopted as universal rules.

S8 • 1600.io: Broad thoughts on digital SAT reading question types

Public teacher discussion, December 2022. Relevant advice includes matching graph data to the claim, distinguishing purpose from content, looking for shared ground across texts, and using local context for vocabulary. This is teaching commentary, not a source of upcoming test content.

S9 • YouTube: Digital SAT Reading!

Published March 20, 2024. The accessible transcript was retrieved and reviewed for guidance on looking up unfamiliar vocabulary during practice, reading for meaning, and using passage evidence to choose and eliminate answers. Unsupported numerical or score-gain claims were not used.

How public discussion influenced this guide

The most useful contribution was to identify recurring student difficulties: dense inferences, unfamiliar contextual vocabulary, distinctions between plausible distractors, and time pressure. These observations reinforced practice needs already supported by official materials. They did not determine an answer key or an exact list of upcoming words.

Publicly visible discussions are a self-selected sample. A memorable difficult item may be discussed more than a common easy item. Different students can receive different items, and recollections may omit the very wording that determines an answer. The guide therefore uses the official skill framework as its foundation.

Student discussions: useful, but unverified

S10 • September 12, 2026 US discussion

The visible material included questions about vocabulary and module difficulty. The accessible view was limited; no complete form or validated word inventory was inferred.

S10 • August 22, 2026 US discussion

Visible vocabulary discussion included recollections involving anomalous and supplant. Such reports motivated verification against official materials, not acceptance of the recalled choices as a key.

S10 • June 6, 2026 US discussion

Visible discussion included difficult vocabulary, transition wording, and time pressure. The guide addresses these skill issues with original items.

S10 • May 2, 2026 US discussion

Public post-test recollections were considered as anecdotal context, without reproducing a claimed operational test.

S10 • March 14, 2026 US discussion

Visible vocabulary reports again included anomalous. Repetition in discussion is not confirmed recurrence; the glossary's evidence comes from official practice sources.

Claims deliberately not adopted

The guide does not assume that SAT inference questions require no inference, that students can safely skip every note, that the test is graded on a curve tied to that day's students, or that a teacher can know the next form from Reddit. It also does not assume that a complex verb tense is automatically wrong or that a scientific argument cannot express a judgment.

Research coverage includes the web, official publications, public teacher discussion, Reddit, and YouTube. It does not include private forums or an exhaustive survey of all posts and videos. This distinction keeps the preparation advice useful and the evidence claims accurate.

Take the reasoning with you

You do not need the next passage to look familiar. You need its logic to become clear.

When you recognize a contrast, preserve it. When a claim has two parts, support both. When a study has a limit, keep the limit. When a sentence has a long subject, find its real verb. When the task names a goal, make every selected detail serve that goal.

Your final self-check

My strongest skill: _____

The habit I am changing: _____

The rule I will remember under pressure: _____

GOUDA ACADEMY

Practice with evidence. Review with purpose.