Gouda Academy

SUPER NOVEMBER SAT

PREDICTION MOCK TEST

READING & WRITING

54 QUESTIONS | 2 MODULES | 64 MINUTES



COMPLETE EDITION

TEST + ANSWER KEY + EXPLANATIONS

Ready, Genius?

54	2	64
QUESTIONS	MODULES	MINUTES

01 Set your timer

Allow **32 minutes per module**. Each module contains 27 questions. Start Module 2 only when directed; once you begin it, do not return to Module 1.

02 Choose one answer

Read each text and question carefully. Select the best answer from A-D. Use only the information provided unless a question asks about Standard English conventions.

03 Record your responses

Use the answer sheet on the next page. You may mark up this booklet and use blank space for working. Answer every question.

04 Review after the test

Keep pages 32 onward closed during testing. Afterward, use the answer key on page 33 and the explanations beginning on page 34. Identify the clue you missed and explain why each wrong choice fails.

About this mock

This is an independent, fixed-form practice test for the Reading and Writing section. It does not include Math or adaptive routing. "Prediction" describes the practice focus; it does not mean access to future exam questions. Use your raw score to guide review, not as an official SAT score conversion.

Your answers

Name: _____ Date: _____

MODULE 1

27 questions | 32 minutes

1	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D
8	A	B	C	D
9	A	B	C	D
10	A	B	C	D
11	A	B	C	D
12	A	B	C	D
13	A	B	C	D
14	A	B	C	D
15	A	B	C	D
16	A	B	C	D
17	A	B	C	D
18	A	B	C	D
19	A	B	C	D
20	A	B	C	D
21	A	B	C	D
22	A	B	C	D
23	A	B	C	D
24	A	B	C	D
25	A	B	C	D
26	A	B	C	D
27	A	B	C	D

MODULE 2

27 questions | 32 minutes

1	A	B	C	D
2	A	B	C	D
3	A	B	C	D
4	A	B	C	D
5	A	B	C	D
6	A	B	C	D
7	A	B	C	D
8	A	B	C	D
9	A	B	C	D
10	A	B	C	D
11	A	B	C	D
12	A	B	C	D
13	A	B	C	D
14	A	B	C	D
15	A	B	C	D
16	A	B	C	D
17	A	B	C	D
18	A	B	C	D
19	A	B	C	D
20	A	B	C	D
21	A	B	C	D
22	A	B	C	D
23	A	B	C	D
24	A	B	C	D
25	A	B	C	D
26	A	B	C	D
27	A	B	C	D

DO NOT OPEN THE ANSWER GUIDE UNTIL YOU FINISH

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

1

The following text is an original poem about an older sister watching her younger sister discover a favorite story.

She bends above the open page,
her eyes exploring worlds I know.
At every turn, her wonder wakes
before a kingdom bright and strange.
I recall my first journey there,
a joy both thrilling and mysterious.
Now, as she reads, I can scarcely disentangle
her delight from mine when that world was new.

In this poem, the word "disentangle" most nearly conveys the idea of

A) chronicle

B) detect

C) distinguish

D) express

2

Attempts to explain a coastal city's early dance music through a single tradition overlook how the music developed. Rhythms brought by sailors, melodies passed down by local families, and instruments introduced by visiting performers all helped shape its sound. The style therefore emerged from the _____ of traditions that had previously developed along partly separate paths.

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

A) divergence

B) coalescence

C) renunciation

D) diminution

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING
27 QUESTIONS

3

Of the artisan who carved the unsigned wooden chest, I could discover little; of the mind behind the chisel, I believed I understood much. An unusual pattern seemed to suggest training abroad; the absence of customary religious symbols, a private disagreement with tradition. My account of the carver remained _____: each deduction treated a feature of the object as evidence about its maker, though I had no letters or records with which to test those deductions.

Which word most precisely completes the narrator's account?

A) conjectural

B) dispassionate

C) partisan

D) circuitous

4

A few observations can give biologists an incomplete impression of an animal's habits, but networks of tracking devices allow them to test those impressions against much broader evidence. In one study, researchers recorded hunting at dusk by a reef species at nearly every monitoring station around an island, demonstrating how _____ this behavior was within the population.

Which choice most effectively completes the text?

A) deliberate

B) conspicuous

C) consequential

D) pervasive

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

5

In a championship tennis final, a player saved two match points before recovering to win the deciding set. Spectators who had expected the contest to end within seconds instead witnessed a reversal that was replayed and discussed for decades. Given both the narrow margin and the scale of the comeback, the match left an _____ impression on the sport's history.

Which choice most effectively completes the text while preserving its logic and precision?

A) equivocal

B) ephemeral

C) incidental

D) indelible

6

In a tabletop strategy game, competitors build armies from units with different strengths and weaknesses.

Soren has played casually for several years but now plans to enter tournaments. To improve, he studies six expert players, each with a distinct approach and a broad range of units. Identifying the habits that distinguish these players requires him to combine a large amount of information. His friend Talia studies only one of those experts. Talia has substantially less information to organize because _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A) studying additional experts would probably be impossible for Talia.

B) Talia probably has less ambitious competitive goals than Soren does.

C) Talia need not distinguish among the tactical habits of several different experts.

D) Talia will encounter only a narrow range of units while studying one expert.

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

7

A historian studying environmental laws finds two timelines: one records when each law was approved, and the other records when its penalties began to be enforced. Both rely on accurate official records, yet they put the laws in different orders. *The Clean Air Act was approved four years before the River Protection Act, but its penalties began three years after the river law's penalties did.* The historian argues that neither timeline is necessarily wrong. An account of the laws must identify which milestone it follows; treating approval and enforcement as the same event can produce misleading claims about which law came first.

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

A) It identifies administrative delays as the cause of the reversal in the order of the two laws.

B) It illustrates how two valid milestones can produce different orders, supporting the need to distinguish between those milestones.

C) It presents a disagreement that the historian settles by treating enforcement records as more reliable than approval records.

D) It reveals a flaw in approval records that leads the historian to question their accuracy.

8

Researchers compared weekday prices and attendance at two coworking cafés in the same city over four months. Café Alpha charged $18.50 for a day pass and averaged 840 visits per week. Café Beta charged $26.50 for the same type of pass yet averaged 1,190 visits per week.

Which choice is best supported by the economists' findings?

A) Further price reductions at Café Alpha would probably close the attendance gap.

B) Differences in attendance cannot be explained by day-pass price alone.

C) Café Beta's greater attendance shows that its location is easier to reach.

D) Café Beta's higher attendance shows that visitors consider its pass better overall value.

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

9

Even after a coal mine closes, pumps, vents, and safety sensors continue to consume electricity. Seeking to offset this energy burden, engineers examined a flooded mine whose water stayed warmer than the winter air aboveground. They circulated the water through heat exchangers to help warm nearby buildings. The electricity saved in heating the buildings exceeded the electricity used by the circulation pumps. During long periods of extreme cold, however, heat was drawn from the surrounding rock faster than it was replenished, reducing these savings. The engineers therefore recommended using the mine to supplement conventional heating rather than replace it.

Which statement best captures the passage's central point?

A) Combining mine-water heating with conventional systems prevents the surrounding rock from losing heat.

B) Mine-water heating saves electricity only if the initial temperature difference remains completely unchanged.

C) Closed mines can reduce reliance on conventional heating, although severe weather may limit the benefits.

D) Heating buildings with mine water can lower the electricity needed to operate the mine's safety sensors.

10

Vivid eyewitness testimony may influence arbitrators differently depending on the strength of the physical evidence. A study that varies vividness but uses only strong evidence cannot reveal whether vividness has a different effect when evidence is weak. To address this limitation, researchers designed a simulated trial in which testimony vividness and evidence strength were varied independently. They wanted to determine whether vividness had a greater influence when the evidence was inconclusive than when it was decisive.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

A) The researchers designed a study to explain why vividness is more influential when evidence is weak.

B) The researchers investigated whether the influence of vividness changes with the strength of the evidence.

C) The researchers designed a study to find out whether vividness matters more than evidence strength.

D) The researchers improved earlier studies by keeping evidence strength constant while varying vividness.

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

11

It was a bitter evening on our narrow harbor street. For four days the furnace had clanked without warming the house. My grandparents sat by the window discussing shipping routes, though I cared only about my freezing fingers. Across the road, dockworkers hurried toward the wharf as a rusty fuel barge passed the harbor wall, its chains rattling. I barely looked up. The floor beneath my boots felt like ice. Then, through the gull cries and the hiss of the radiators, a bright rhythm of handbells and kettle whistles drifted down the lane. I was out the gate before the hot-chestnut cart came into view.

Which detail most clearly conveys how the narrator recognizes that the hot-chestnut cart is approaching?

A) Feeling the cold floor beneath their boots.

B) Hearing a bright rhythm of handbells and whistles.

C) Hearing a discussion about shipping routes.

D) Seeing a rusty barge pass the harbor wall.

12

Before checking the architect's original plans, a conservator restoring a concrete pavilion proposed smoothing several jagged ridges along its roofline. He attributed the irregular shapes to decades of frost damage. The plans, however, showed each ridge in exactly the position where it appeared on the building. Smoothing those surfaces would therefore have changed the intended design rather than restored it.

How does the underlined sentence contribute to the passage's reasoning?

A) It identifies a structural problem that the plans help the conservator repair.

B) It proposes a cause of the irregular shapes that the plans confirm while questioning the proposed repair.

C) It describes damage that the plans show to be less widespread than the conservator had assumed.

D) It supplies the reason for a proposed change whose underlying assumption is later disproved by the plans.

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

13

Orchid societies often encourage breeders to develop unusual hybrids, both to attract public interest and to discover traits overlooked by familiar breeding methods. Yet flower competitions reward conformity in important ways. As judging standards become widely known, breeders increasingly favor reliable combinations of petal symmetry, color, and flower arrangement. Crosses that score poorly are gradually abandoned. Thus, even when novelty is praised, competitive incentives can steer breeders toward a predictable model.

What role does the underlined sentence play in the passage as a whole?

A) It introduces an approach whose influence is later shown to be limited by broader competitive pressures.

B) It lists the competitive advantages that breeders are guaranteed to gain through unusual hybrids.

C) It describes an initiative that the passage later identifies as the cause of breeders' preference for standard designs.

D) It describes a practice that the rest of the passage explains as a result of competition rules.

14

Lithium Extraction in Three Trials

Method	Mass extracted (kg)	Available lithium extracted
Solar evaporation	84	55%
Sorbent adsorption	74	88%
Electrodialysis	65	68%

A laboratory tested three methods of extracting lithium from brine. Each method used a different sample, and the samples differed in initial lithium content and other dissolved materials. An executive claimed that solar evaporation recovered available lithium most thoroughly because it extracted the greatest mass. A geochemist challenged that conclusion but warned that the trials did not separate the effects of the methods from those of the samples. The geochemist's position is best supported by the observation that _____

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

A) solar evaporation extracted more mass but a lower percentage than electrodialysis did, proving that sample composition entirely explains the percentage difference.

B) solar evaporation's greater extracted mass proves the executive's claim, regardless of the percentage recovered.

C) solar evaporation extracted a higher percentage than electrodialysis did, although the trials do not establish the cause of that advantage.

D) sorbent adsorption extracted a higher percentage than solar evaporation did despite extracting less mass, although the trials do not establish the cause of that advantage.

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

15

Wavelength Ranges Passed by Four Filters

Filter	Minimum (nm)	Maximum (nm)
P	350	480
Q	450	590
R	570	720
S	470	680

A sensor must detect signals continuously from 380 to 650 nanometers (nm). Each filter passes signals throughout its listed range and blocks them outside that range. Filters operate in separate parallel channels, so the sensor detects a signal wherever at least one filter passes it. A technician correctly notes that every pair of filters excluding S leaves a gap in the required range. He concludes that S is indispensable: without it, continuous detection is impossible.

Which choice most effectively uses the data to evaluate the technician's conclusion?

A) The conclusion is undermined: P extends below 380 nm and R above 650 nm, so those two filters alone provide continuous coverage.

B) The conclusion is supported: P and S are the only pair that spans the required range, so S cannot be replaced.

C) The conclusion is undermined: Q overlaps with both P and R, so those three filters together cover the full required range without S.

D) The conclusion is supported: no wavelength falls within the ranges of P, Q, and R simultaneously, making continuous coverage impossible.

16

Researchers compared two translation systems, Kestrel and Albatross, using texts neither system had encountered during training. Shorter translations earned higher conciseness ratings; translations preserving more of the original meaning earned higher fidelity ratings. A combined score gave equal weight to those two ratings. Kestrel's combined score was higher. A reviewer therefore claimed that Kestrel's advantage was not just brevity: its translations also preserved meaning more accurately.

Which finding, if true, would most directly undermine the commentator's assertion?

A) Giving fidelity more weight reduced Kestrel's combined lead but did not eliminate it.

B) Kestrel's advantage in conciseness was larger than its advantage in fidelity.

C) Kestrel's translations omitted a larger share of the original meaning than Albatross's did.

D) Both systems scored higher for fidelity than for conciseness.

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

17

Text 1
A museum catalog lists four times as many early workshop notebooks with red cloth covers as with blue cloth covers. Historian Lena Park argues that red cloth was probably cheaper, making it the usual choice for workshop owners. She treats the catalog's proportions as evidence of the original pattern of use.

Text 2
Archivist Omar Bell discovered that the museum's first collectors had accepted notebooks mainly from a dealer who advertised red-covered workshop records. In a later search that did not depend on that dealer, Bell found many additional notebooks, most with blue covers.

Which criticism of Pendelton's interpretation in Text 1 is most directly supported by Rostova's findings in Text 2?

A) Park assumes that the catalog reflects original use despite a selection process that favored one cover type.

B) Park fails to recognize a wider variety of covers, although her explanation of their relative frequency remains secure.

C) Park overlooks proof that blue cloth was the most common cover material in all workshops.

D) Park explains the abundance of red covers through cost rather than through their greater durability.

18

Engineers testing noise-reducing earmuffs found that the devices could limit the low rumble of aircraft engines. In one prototype, much of the reduction was attributed to three internal components the engineers considered _____ foam barriers, paired microphones, and a phase-inverting processor.

Which choice results in a sentence that follows the conventions of Standard English?

A) indispensable;

B) indispensable,

C) indispensable

D) indispensable—

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

19

Originally a handwritten newsletter for a mushroom-study club, *Spore Print* consisted mainly of outing schedules, collecting advice, and reports from amateur observers. Over the following decades, however, the publication grew in circulation and _____ its informal notes gradually gave way to research papers by leading specialists.

Which choice results in a sentence that follows the conventions of Standard English?

A) rigor,

B) rigor, and

C) rigor and

D) rigor

20

Schools of herring often change direction as food becomes more abundant in different areas. From above, these movements can look centrally directed; no single fish leads the school, _____ fish near the front may turn toward a richer feeding area before the others follow.

Which choice completes the passage while adhering to the conventions of Standard English?

A) however. Several

B) however, several

C) however several

D) however and several

READING AND WRITING
27 QUESTIONS

21

Radar measurements from NASA's Magellan mission can be used to construct maps of Venus's surface. Inspired by such maps, cartographic _____ transformed the elevation data into a three-dimensional sculpture, giving the landscape a form that visitors could explore by touch.

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

A) designers Clara Vance and Julian Sterling,

B) designers, Clara Vance and Julian Sterling

C) designers, Clara Vance and Julian Sterling,

D) designers Clara Vance and Julian Sterling

22

Collectors have described an unsigned landscape as unquestionably the work of a celebrated painter because it resembles her other paintings. That resemblance makes the attribution plausible rather than _____ the same technique was also used by several of her contemporaries.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition and correct punctuation?

A) certain, however;

B) certain; however,

C) certain, however,

D) certain however,

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING
27 QUESTIONS

23

A word can be translated accurately in isolation yet misleadingly in context: selecting one accepted meaning may erase an ambiguity essential to a passage. _____ in a fictional legal drama, the word *charge* refers both to an accusation and to a responsibility. A translation that preserves only the first meaning loses the tension between blaming the protagonist and entrusting her with a duty.

Which transition most logically connects the two sentences?

A) For instance,

B) Accordingly,

C) In other words,

D) Nevertheless,

24

An archaeologist studying a granary's records finds that scribes usually named the village sending each grain shipment but rarely recorded the amount delivered. This gap prevents her from determining whether villages sending more shipments also supplied more grain. _____ she can use the recorded village names to map the granary's trading connections.

Which transition most clearly expresses the relationship between the ideas in the passage?

A) Similarly,

B) Nevertheless,

C) Consequently,

D) More precisely,

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING
27 QUESTIONS

25

While preparing a profile of fictional musician Maya Rios, a writer takes these notes:

- For this profile, professional musical work means paid work.
- A scholar is an unpaid beginner; an apprentice is an unpaid advanced trainee; an ensemble player receives a salary; a tour soloist receives a fee.
- 2002-2007: Rios was a violin scholar.
- 2004-2010: Rios was a piano apprentice.
- 2008-2014: Rios was a cello ensemble player.
- 2011-2019: Rios was a viola tour soloist.

The writer wants to open the chronological profile by identifying the earliest point in Rios's professional work. Which choice best achieves this goal?

A) Rios began professional musical work in 2008 as a salaried cello ensemble player, before undertaking paid viola tours.

B) Rios began performing professionally on viola in 2011, after earlier activity on violin, piano, and cello.

C) By 2004, Rios had progressed to advanced piano training.

D) Rios began her musical training in 2002 as a violin scholar.

26

While researching a fictional filmmaker, a student takes these notes:

- Lina Sayegh directs independent films.
- Sayegh screened an early version of *The Glass Garden* in May 2021.
- Sayegh and Lantern Pictures released an extended version in August 2021.
- Sayegh's book *Notes from the Set* was published in September 2021.

The student wants to emphasize how soon before the publication of *Notes from the Set* the extended film was released. Which choice best achieves this goal?

A) The book was published in September 2021, just one month before the extended film appeared.

B) Sayegh screened an early version in May 2021, three months before the extended version appeared.

C) Sayegh and Lantern Pictures released the extended film in August 2021, just one month before the book appeared.

D) The early version appeared in May 2021, four months before the book was published.

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

27

A journalist comparing proposals for operating a regional airport takes these notes:

- Under the Vance system, each company submits a financial bid and an environmental plan.
- The financial bid contributes 65% of a combined score; the environmental plan contributes 35%.
- The highest combined score wins. A strong environmental plan can offset a lower financial bid.
- Under the Thorne system, companies must first meet financial and environmental requirements.
- Exceeding those requirements earns no extra credit.
- Among eligible companies, the highest financial bid wins.

The journalist wants to explain why the highest financial bid does not guarantee victory under either system. Which choice best achieves this goal?

A) Both systems give the highest bid priority once environmental requirements are met, although Vance uses a weighted score.

B) Both systems let strong environmental credentials compensate for lower bids among eligible companies.

C) Under Vance, another scored component can outweigh the bid advantage; under Thorne, a company must qualify before its bid can win.

D) Both systems favor lower bids because environmental considerations carry more weight than financial offers.

STOP

End of Module 1

You may check your answers in this module until time is called. Do not begin Module 2 until directed.

END OF MODULE 1

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READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

1

A wildlife crossing would include a dense screen of vegetation that prevents migrating elk from seeing nearby maintenance crews. The screen would not form a physical barrier between the animals and the roadwork. Its calming effect would therefore be _____: it could reduce disturbances even during repairs, provided the crews remained hidden.

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

A) illusory

B) contingent

C) intrinsic

D) invariable

2

In a fictional account of an engineering project, Amira Nasser's calculations enabled a team to solve a difficult design problem. Yet her place in public accounts remained more _____ than that of project director Elias Ward. While confidentiality rules prevented Nasser from discussing her work, Ward gave interviews that emphasized his leadership without acknowledging the calculations on which the project's success depended.

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

A) derivative

B) transitory

C) contentious

D) peripheral

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

3

While playing a territorial strategy game, Julian treated every disputed border as though it determined the fate of an empire. With two opponents preparing an alliance against him, Julian, _____ by tactical intuition and a long-standing tendency to strike before hostile coalitions could form, launched a surprise attack.

Which choice most logically and precisely completes the text?

A) impelled

B) confounded

C) chastened

D) tempered

4

Histories of personal computing often trace developments that led to the success of graphical interfaces. Earlier keyboard-centered machines appear mainly as failed alternatives. One historian instead uses contemporary sales records and reviews to reconstruct the promise those machines held before graphical interfaces became dominant. Her approach is _____ because it organizes the history around unrealized possibilities rather than the eventual winner.

Which word most precisely completes the passage?

A) indiscriminate

B) conjectural

C) heterodox

D) anachronistic

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

5

A city hoped to make its bus shelters more welcoming after dark. Officials considered heated benches, brighter lighting, and background music, choosing music because it cost least to install. Yet shelter use declined. Analysts suggested that the music was so loud that waiting became unpleasant, thereby _____ riders who might otherwise have used the shelters.

Which choice best completes the text in a way that is consistent with the passage's logic?

A) antagonizing

B) alienating

C) affronting

D) acclimating

6

The following text is from an original fictional narrative.

The envoy called the council's offer a restoration. Cassius, who had spent fourteen years in exile, read it twice. His portrait would return to the hall; his name would appear on decisions he had no power to change. He had once mistaken such ceremony for authority. Now he observed calmly that the council would scarcely have countenanced his return had it expected him actually to govern.

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

A) Recognized

B) Anticipated

C) Advocated

D) Sanctioned

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

7

Podcast Advertising During One Quarter

Creator / format	Episodes	Downloads	Ad revenue
Mercer / limited series	20	80,000	$1,600
Sterling / news	50	200,000	$2,000
Vance / limited series	15	80,000	$1,200
Thorne / news	40	100,000	$1,000

A media economist distinguishes total podcast advertising revenue from revenue per download. A frequently released program may have more downloads overall than a limited series. However, a program with lower total revenue can still earn more per download. This contrast is illustrated by _____

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

A) Vance and Thorne, whose revenue ranking stays the same when calculated per episode.

B) Sterling and Thorne, whose total revenues differ in the same proportion as their downloads.

C) Mercer and Vance, who had equal downloads but different total revenues.

D) Mercer and Sterling, whose revenue ranking reverses when revenue is calculated per download.

8

Model Amphitheater Classifications

Model	Seating angle	Resonators	Stage area (m²)	Class
A	26°	14	310	I
B	25°	13	300	II
C	18°	7	480	I

A researcher classified three model amphitheaters using seating angle, number of resonator vessels, and stage area. Class I was the higher acoustic classification; Class II was the lower one. The table gives the measurements and classifications.

Taken together, the data most strongly support which conclusion?

A) Larger seating angles and more resonators were not consistently associated with a higher classification.

B) Stage area was more important to classification than either other feature.

C) A stage area of at least 310 square meters guarantees Class I.

D) A sufficiently large stage area always compensates for low values in the other features.

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

9

For twenty-five years I had displayed the agreement where visitors could admire its seals without studying its terms. Yesterday I read it again. How cleverly we had written that the strait belonged to neither republic, and how carefully we had avoided saying who could collect tolls! I remembered the exhausted delegates signing, each finding his own leader's wishes safely reflected in the wording. I had taken their agreement as a tribute to my skill. Now the document seemed less a settlement than an elegant delay: we had dressed the old dispute in language acceptable to both governments.

Which statement best captures the narrator's realization upon rereading the concordat?

A) The delegates, like the narrator, failed to notice that the two sides interpreted the agreement differently.

B) The apparent success depended on wording that allowed conflicting interpretations while leaving the main dispute unresolved.

C) The delegates signed mainly because they were tired rather than because they considered the agreement fair.

D) The agreement resolved the immediate conflict without making either leader admit defeat.

10

Researchers tested whether immersive stories increase voluntary use of a learning app. Participants used story-rich lessons, lessons with little story content, or a fixed exercise list. After twenty required minutes, they could stop. Those using story-rich lessons continued longer. Designer Maya Lin argued that this resulted from external rewards, such as bonus tokens and collectible titles, rather than from the stories. The researchers measured both rewards. Titles could provide additional incentives beyond tokens.

Which of the following findings would provide the strongest evidence against Lin's claim?

A) Bonus tokens were awarded much more often in story-rich lessons than in lessons with little story content.

B) Lessons with little story content offered fewer collectible titles than story-rich lessons did.

C) Bonus tokens were awarded at approximately the same rate in both types of lesson.

D) Story-rich lessons offered fewer collectible titles and awarded fewer external rewards overall per minute than lessons with little story content did.

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

11

The following text is an original poem about a ranger alone in a mountain lookout.

The valley settles into dusk,
Its pines now barely stir;
Along the creek, each cabin darkens,
While mine alone resists the blur.
My lamp casts light across the glass,
Then leaves the ridge unseen;
Below, the others share their evening,
And miles of silence lie between.

Which choice most accurately captures the central idea of the text?

A) The light from the lamp gives the speaker a reassuring sense of stability as night falls.

B) The quietness of the valley causes the speaker to imagine that its cabins are moving farther away.

C) From a high position, the speaker observes the valley gradually growing dark.

D) The speaker's solitary watch heightens a feeling of separation from the community below.

12

Corporate apologies often address injured customers, but that does not establish whose response matters most to the company. Researchers asked communications managers to choose between apologies for a fictional product recall. All versions admitted the same harm and offered the same compensation; only the wording changed. The researchers proposed that managers would prioritize protecting the company's reputation among unaffected observers over obtaining forgiveness from injured customers.

Which result would most strongly support Nair and Koester's proposed explanation?

A) Unaffected observers trusted the company more after learning that injured customers accepted its apology.

B) Managers preferred wording addressed directly to injured customers even when all versions would receive equal media coverage.

C) Managers rejected edits that increased injured customers' forgiveness but reduced unaffected observers' trust, and accepted edits with the opposite effects.

D) Managers preferred wording that both injured customers and unaffected observers rated more favorably.

READING AND WRITING
27 QUESTIONS

13

Mateo's dramatic reports have become a joke among his colleagues. His assignments seem always to involve unlikely adventures, and his habit of exaggerating details has made the others skeptical. When he described helping passengers escape from a stalled streetcar, they dismissed the event as another invention. That evening, however, a news broadcast showed him guiding passengers away from the damaged vehicle. The footage does not confirm every story he has told, but it suggests that his colleagues sometimes _____

Which choice best completes the passage in context?

A) require outside confirmation before accepting any report Mateo makes.

B) believe that Mateo deliberately seeks danger because he likes describing it.

C) mistake a tendency to dramatize events for a tendency to invent the events themselves.

D) assume that the most unusual details are the ones Mateo is most likely to exaggerate.

14

In tennis, a player may approach the net to force a weak return rather than remain at the baseline.

Two players approached the net after 15 percent of the serves reviewed. However, one concentrated these approaches on points when the opponent was pulled far to one side; the other approached without regard to the opponent's position. Because the value of approaching the net partly depends on the chance of forcing a weak return, the equal percentages _____

Which conclusion most reasonably follows from the analysis?

A) show equal approach rates without demonstrating equal judgment about when to approach.

B) show that the more selective player faced more opponents who struggled with wide serves.

C) conceal differences that can be resolved simply by counting each player's total net approaches.

D) demonstrate equal tactical judgment despite possible differences in the results.

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

15

Engineers compared two climbing procedures for delivery drones. For each drone, they allocated exactly the same total time to completed ascents under each procedure; descent and waiting time were excluded. Every ascent begun was completed. The updraft procedure produced both a faster best ascent and a lower median ascent time for every drone, yet each drone completed fewer ascents with it. A display showing only best times would therefore hide the fact that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A) the higher mean made the updraft procedure less effective for achieving a best-time record.

B) the updraft procedure improved only unusually fast ascents, not the median ascent.

C) the updraft procedure lowered the median ascent time but increased the mean ascent time.

D) the standard procedure produced more ascents because its slowest ascents were closer to its median.

16

In the original poem "The Bronze Figure," a speaker considers a city's late celebration of a reformer it once rejected. The speaker suggests that the tribute changes the reformer's message to protect the city from his criticism.

Which excerpt from the poem would best support this interpretation?

A) "We trimmed his accusation for the plaque / Until it sounded like applause for us; / The voice we would not welcome in our halls / We now declare our faithful guide and trust."

B) "The crowd that would not hear him fills the square; / His name shines brightly on the flags above. / Yet ask what wrong he struggled to repair, / And each recalls a different cause he loved."

C) "We placed his statue where the judges sat / And carved their sentence underneath his name; / Let those who praise the courage of the dead / Read what the living suffered for that fame."

D) "His words, once driven from the public square, / Return upon the lips of those we shun; / We raise his statue higher every year, / Yet cannot claim his restless work is done."

CONTINUE

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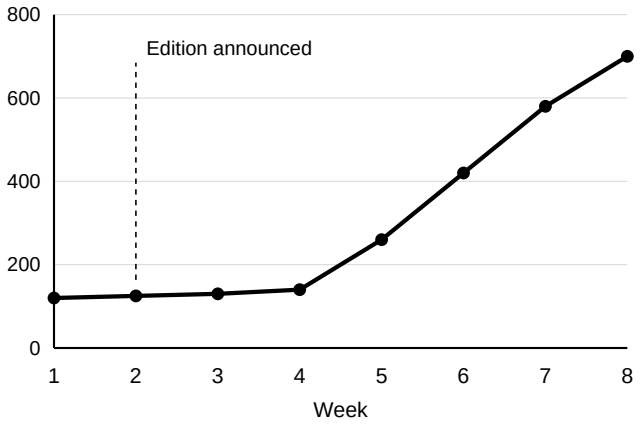
READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

17

Searches for "dune country"

Daily searches recorded at the end of each week



A publisher announced a new illustrated edition of a fictional novel titled *Dune Country* and tracked daily searches for "dune country." The graph shows the overall trend. However, an audit of a random sample of queries found that daily searches specifically about the novel or its new edition stayed roughly constant.

Which finding, if true, would best resolve this apparent discrepancy?

A) A new audiobook of the novel generated increasing searches specifically about the book rather than its illustrated edition.

B) A video-game rumor increased searches for the game's title, leading users to pages that happened to mention "dune country."

C) During the latter half of the period, widely shared reports about coastal erosion increasingly led people to search for "dune country" as a name for the affected region.

D) Novel-related searches formed a smaller percentage of all searches for "dune country" near the end of the period.

18

Mean Coral Growth (milligrams)

Trial	Low acidity / low flow	Low acidity / high flow	High acidity / low flow	High acidity / high flow
B12	48	61	39	52
F34	54	67	45	58
H78	50	58	42	63
L90	58	70	49	62
W15	52	65	44	56

Biologists predicted that higher water acidity would reduce coral growth and that faster water flow might lessen this reduction. They conducted five trials using fragments of the same coral genotype under four combinations of acidity and flow. Most results supported the predicted reduction, but one comparison reversed it: _____

Which choice most effectively draws on the table's data to complete the passage?

A) in F34 at high acidity, growth rose from 45 to 58 milligrams when flow increased.

B) in H78 under high flow, growth was 63 milligrams at high acidity but 58 milligrams at low acidity.

C) in H78 under low flow, growth was 50 milligrams at low acidity but 42 milligrams at high acidity.

D) L90 produced 70 milligrams at low acidity and high flow but 49 milligrams at high acidity and low flow.

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

19

A governor might treat fewer public protests as evidence that stricter policing has secured support. Yet outward quiet can reflect approval, fear, or a temporary retreat by organizers. Even proof that fear caused the decline would not settle the matter. In one province, people who see resistance as hopeless may stop protesting; in another, strong underground networks may allow frightened residents to resist less visibly. A policy praised for calming one province could therefore have different effects elsewhere that public protest counts fail to reveal.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A) To argue that private opinion should replace public behavior as the sole measure of political control

B) To identify conditions that guarantee a lasting end to resistance

C) To explain why stricter policing usually changes only the outward form of resistance

D) To question whether apparent success provides enough reason to extend a method of political control

20

Historians traced glassmakers' careers using plaques that recorded major commissions. Names and dates allowed them to connect projects by the same maker, and independent records confirmed many of those sequences. Yet ordering a plaque cost money, which steady commercial success made easier to obtain. The historians therefore distinguished the accuracy of the careers they reconstructed from how well those careers represented the whole trade.

Which limitation of the study is most strongly supported by the passage?

A) Wealth differences may have made dates on the plaques less accurate.

B) Independent records can confirm dates but cannot confirm the identity of the maker.

C) The surviving plaques may overrepresent commercially successful glassmakers.

D) Missing short careers may make the recorded sequences of longer careers inaccurate.

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

21

In a fictional film review, the critic describes how director Nora Vale's _____ brings a celebrated adventure novel to the screen. Its central character, a navigator crossing an unmapped ocean, gives the story its focus.

Which completion makes the sentence grammatically correct?

A) film Beyond the Harbor

B) film; Beyond the Harbor

C) film: Beyond the Harbor

D) film, Beyond the Harbor,

22

An orchestra's reconstruction of an unfinished piece was praised for its fidelity to the composer. Surviving drafts confirm that most of the music follows the composer's _____ the closing section comes from a pupil's arrangement that conflicts with the composer's instructions.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition and correct punctuation?

A) markings, however;

B) markings; however,

C) markings, however,

D) markings however,

READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

23

A modern copy of an ancient statue may reproduce its appearance without sharing its history. To evaluate a claim that a marble fragment came from a particular excavation, museum curator and stone _____ whose research concerns ancient quarries, would compare the fragment with securely documented samples.

Which choice completes the passage in accordance with the conventions of Standard English?

A) analyst Elena Rostova,

B) analyst, Elena Rostova

C) analyst Elena Rostova

D) analyst, Elena Rostova,

24

Three fictional films adapt the same folktale. *The Silver Lantern* closely follows its characters and sequence of events. *City of Lanterns* takes a looser approach, moving the tale's conflict between loyalty and ambition to a modern city rather than retelling its plot. _____ *The Last Signal* places the same conflict aboard an orbiting research station, using new characters and events.

Which transition most effectively conveys the relationship between the ideas?

A) For that very reason,

B) As a more specific example of the second film,

C) Despite this apparent similarity,

D) In a similar vein,

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING
27 QUESTIONS

25

The records of a fictional horse-breeding association are kept in Bellara, a town in a mountain valley. _____ an annual exhibition celebrates the region's horses and riding traditions.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

A) There,

B) In particular,

C) Accordingly,

D) Ultimately,

26

A student comparing a fictional game with its screen adaptation takes these notes:

- *Ashfall* is a survival game. Players cross dangerous districts while managing limited medicine and energy.
- Director Mira Chen's adaptation follows an original protagonist, Tessa, through a new story in the same fictional world.
- The game's experienced protagonist, Orrin, is not the film's main character; Chen did not want to repeat his story.
- Tessa must cross dangerous districts while managing limited medicine and energy.
- Several equipment designs in the film closely resemble those in the game.

The student wants to explain how the new story remains faithful to the game. Which choice best uses the notes to achieve this goal?

A) Chen chose Tessa because repeating Orrin's story would have been unnecessary.

B) The film gives a new protagonist the game's central survival constraints, preserving its experience without repeating its original story.

C) Although Tessa is a different character, the film preserves Orrin's original story through her experiences.

D) The film's faithfulness lies in the appearance of its equipment rather than in the pressures shaping its characters' decisions.

CONTINUE

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READING AND WRITING

27 QUESTIONS

27

A student comparing two versions of a fictional hand game takes these notes:

- Players reveal symbols simultaneously. Matching symbols produce a tie.
- In the three-symbol version, serpent defeats captain, captain defeats falcon, and falcon defeats serpent.
- A four-symbol version keeps those results and adds a sentinel.
- Sentinel defeats captain and falcon but loses to serpent.

The student wants to explain why sentinel and captain are not interchangeable despite identical results against serpent and falcon. Which choice best achieves this goal?

A) They both defeat falcon and lose to serpent, giving them the same results against those two symbols.

B) Because they have identical results against the other two symbols, a direct matchup between them is a tie.

C) They have identical results against serpent and falcon, but their direct matchup produces a winner rather than a tie.

D) Sentinel defeats an opponent that defeats captain while keeping captain's advantage over falcon.

STOP

End of Module 2

You may check your answers in this module until time is called. Do not return to Module 1.

END OF MODULE 2

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Find the clue. Prove the answer.

Genius, your goal is to explain the choice - not just remember its letter.

1 **FIND THE CLUE**

Locate the exact words, figures, or sentence structure that control the answer.

2 **PREDICT**

Say what the answer needs to mean in simple English before judging the choices.

3 **PROVE IT**

Connect the evidence to the answer. For tables, check the numbers; for grammar, identify the clauses.

4 **ELIMINATE THE TRAPS**

Explain the specific flaw in each wrong option: extra information, contradiction, overstatement, wrong relationship, or incomplete goal.

5 **KEEP THE RULE**

Write one short rule you can apply to a different question next time.

Use the results well

Score each correct answer as one point. Record Module 1 /27, Module 2 /27, and total /54. This fixed-form mock has no validated SAT scaled-score conversion. Review both missed questions and correct guesses.

CLUE → PREDICTION → PROOF → TRAPS → RULE

Check, then explain.

MODULE 1

Question	Answer	Explanation page
1	**C**	34
2	**B**	35
3	**A**	36
4	**D**	37
5	**D**	38
6	**C**	39
7	**B**	40
8	**B**	41
9	**C**	42
10	**B**	43
11	**B**	44
12	**D**	45
13	**A**	46
14	**D**	47
15	**C**	48
16	**C**	49
17	**A**	50
18	**D**	51
19	**B**	52
20	**A**	53
21	**D**	54
22	**A**	55
23	**A**	56
24	**B**	57
25	**A**	58
26	**C**	59
27	**C**	60

MODULE 2

Question	Answer	Explanation page
1	**B**	61
2	**D**	62
3	**A**	63
4	**C**	64
5	**B**	65
6	**D**	66
7	**D**	67
8	**A**	68
9	**B**	69
10	**D**	70
11	**D**	71
12	**C**	72
13	**C**	73
14	**A**	74
15	**C**	75
16	**A**	76
17	**C**	77
18	**B**	78
19	**D**	79
20	**C**	80
21	**A**	81
22	**B**	82
23	**A**	83
24	**D**	84
25	**A**	85
26	**B**	86
27	**C**	87

Module 1: ____ /27 **Module 2: ____ /27** **Total: ____ /54**

SELECT A QUESTION ROW TO JUMP TO ITS EXPLANATION

Words in context: distinguish two feelings

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

"her delight from mine" and "when that world was new"

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The speaker cannot easily separate her sister's present joy from her own remembered joy.

03 PROVE IT

1. The younger sister is enjoying the story now. The older sister remembers enjoying it earlier.
2. The word must describe telling these two feelings apart. In this context, **disentangle** means **distinguish**.
3. Substitute the answer: "I can scarcely distinguish her delight from mine." The comparison still makes sense.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Chronicle** means record events. The poem is not about difficulty recording the feelings.

B | ELIMINATE. **Detect** means notice something. She already notices the joy; separating the two sources of it is the issue.

C | CORRECT. **Distinguish** means tell apart. This matches the two feelings and the word "from."

D | ELIMINATE. **Express** means communicate. Nothing says the speaker cannot describe her feelings.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Do not choose a word just because it is related to the passage. Match the exact job it performs in the sentence.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Words in context: combining traditions

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

Sailors' rhythms, family melodies, and visiting performers' instruments all shaped one style.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The blank should mean merging or coming together.

03 PROVE IT

1. The passage rejects a single origin. It identifies several traditions that contributed to the same music.
2. **Coalescence** means the joining of separate things into one whole. It captures both the separate beginnings and the combined result.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Divergence** means moving apart. It reverses the direction: the traditions came together.

B | CORRECT. **Coalescence** means coming together. That is exactly what the list of contributions shows.

C | ELIMINATE. **Renunciation** means giving something up. The traditions contributed to the style; they were not rejected.

D | ELIMINATE. **Diminution** means reduction. The passage does not say the traditions became smaller or weaker.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Turn the clues into a simple word before reading the choices: "combine" is enough to find the answer.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

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Words in context: evidence versus guesswork

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

"seemed to suggest" and "no letters or records" to test the deductions

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The account is based on uncertain inference, not verified facts.

03 PROVE IT

1. The narrator uses patterns on a chest to guess details about its maker.
2. There is no independent evidence confirming the guesses. **Conjectural** means based on guesses or incomplete evidence.
3. The narrator may sound confident, but confidence does not turn a guess into proof.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. **Conjectural** matches deductions that have not been checked against records.

B | ELIMINATE. **Dispassionate** means emotionally detached. The passage does not establish the narrator's emotional neutrality.

C | ELIMINATE. **Partisan** means favoring a side or group. No competing sides are discussed.

D | ELIMINATE. **Circuitous** means indirect or roundabout. The issue is certainty, not the route of the explanation.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Words such as "seems," "suggests," and "cannot verify" often signal uncertainty.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Words in context: widespread behavior

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

Hunting was recorded at "nearly every monitoring station."

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The behavior is widespread across the monitored population.

03 PROVE IT

1. The number of locations is the decisive clue. This is not just one isolated sighting.
2. **Pervasive** means spread throughout an area or group. It matches observations across almost all the stations.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Deliberate** means intentional. The data concern where the behavior occurs, not the animals' intentions.

B | ELIMINATE. **Conspicuous** means easy to notice. Something can occur widely without being easy to see.

C | ELIMINATE. **Consequential** means important in its effects. Widespread occurrence does not establish importance.

D | CORRECT. **Pervasive** directly matches the wide distribution of the behavior.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Match the dimension being measured: many locations supports "widespread," not "important" or "noticeable."

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Words in context: a lasting impression

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

The reversal was "replayed and discussed for decades."

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The impression lasted and was not easily forgotten.

03 PROVE IT

1. The close finish explains why the match was striking. The decades of discussion show its lasting effect.
2. **Indelible** literally means unable to be erased. An indelible impression is one people cannot easily forget.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Equivocal** means ambiguous or open to different interpretations. The passage emphasizes permanence, not uncertainty.

B | ELIMINATE. **Ephemeral** means short-lived. It directly contradicts the long-lasting memory.

C | ELIMINATE. **Incidental** means secondary or minor. That clashes with the match's lasting importance.

D | CORRECT. **Indelible** matches an impression that remains vivid for decades.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

A dramatic event is not automatically the clue. Here, "for decades" tells you the exact meaning needed.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Logical completion: one expert versus several

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

Soren compares six distinct approaches; Talia studies only one.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Talia does not need to compare differences among several players.

03 PROVE IT

1. Both students may study many units and many matches. Studying one expert does not necessarily mean seeing few units.
2. The extra task for Soren is separating the habits of six different people. Talia does not have that comparison task.
3. Choose the explanation that follows from the stated difference, without inventing a difference in ambition or ability.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This changes "less information" into "impossible." The passage never establishes that limit.

B | ELIMINATE. This invents a difference in goals. Talia may be just as ambitious as Soren.

C | CORRECT. This identifies the comparison task Talia avoids by studying only one expert.

D | ELIMINATE. This confuses fewer players with fewer unit types. One expert can use many types.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Fewer sources does not necessarily mean less variety within each source. Identify the exact task that disappears.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Text function: an example supports a principle

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

Approval puts the air law first; enforcement puts the river law first.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The italicized sentence demonstrates why the two milestones must be distinguished.

03 PROVE IT

1. The general problem is two accurate timelines with different orders.

2. The italicized sentence gives a concrete case: one law leads on approval but follows on enforcement.

3. The final sentence explains the lesson: say which milestone you mean. The example supports that lesson.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The sentence gives dates, not a reason for the delay. Administrative causes are extra information.

B | CORRECT. This accurately connects the specific example to the historian's larger argument.

C | ELIMINATE. The historian does not rank one record set above the other. Both can be accurate.

D | ELIMINATE. The example does not expose inaccurate records. It exposes the danger of mixing two valid milestones.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

For a function question, ask "Why is this sentence here?" rather than merely summarizing what it says.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Inference: avoid unsupported causes

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

The more expensive café also has more visits.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Price alone is insufficient to explain the attendance difference.

03 PROVE IT

1. The figures establish a price difference and an attendance difference. They do not measure location, service, or perceived value.
2. Several factors could influence attendance. The safest conclusion acknowledges that price alone does not explain the observed pattern.
3. Do not choose a possible explanation as though the researchers actually tested it.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This predicts the effect of a price cut that the study did not test.

B | CORRECT. This stays within the evidence without claiming which additional factor explains the difference.

C | ELIMINATE. An easier location is possible, but accessibility was not measured.

D | ELIMINATE. Better value is possible, but the researchers did not measure customers' perceptions.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

"Could be true" is weaker than "supported by the evidence." Do not invent a cause.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Central idea: a benefit with a limit

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

The system saves electricity, but extreme cold reduces those savings; it should supplement ordinary heating.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Mine water can help heat buildings, but it is not a complete replacement in all conditions.

03 PROVE IT

1. The passage first introduces the ongoing energy problem, then describes a useful heating method.

2. The final part adds a limitation: heat is depleted during extended cold spells.

3. The main idea must include both the benefit and the limit, without promising that the limitation can be eliminated.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. "Prevents" is too strong. The passage recommends a combined system but does not prove it prevents heat loss.

B | ELIMINATE. "Only" and "completely unchanged" impose a condition the passage never states. Savings may decline without vanishing.

C | CORRECT. This includes both reduced reliance on conventional heating and weather-related limits.

D | ELIMINATE. This confuses offsetting an energy burden with reducing the power used by the sensors themselves.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

A strong central-idea answer often combines the main finding with its main qualification.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Main idea: a research question is not a finding

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

The researchers vary both factors to ask whether vividness has different effects at different evidence strengths.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

They are testing how the effect of vividness depends on evidence strength.

03 PROVE IT

1. The design changes vividness and evidence strength independently. This allows comparisons across combinations.
2. The passage states what the researchers want to find out; it does not report their result.
3. The answer must describe the interaction they are testing, not assume an outcome or turn it into a contest between two factors.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This assumes vividness is stronger with weak evidence and asks why. The study is still testing whether that is true.

B | CORRECT. This describes the actual question without pretending it has already been answered.

C | ELIMINATE. This asks which factor matters more overall. That differs from asking whether one factor's effect changes with the other.

D | ELIMINATE. This repeats the limitation the new design fixes: keeping evidence strength constant.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Keep "testing whether" separate from "explaining why." The second assumes a result that the first has not established.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Detail: identify the actual signal

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

The narrator hears handbells and kettle whistles before the cart comes into view.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The sound announces the approaching cart.

03 PROVE IT

1. The passage contains several sights, sounds, and feelings. Only one immediately leads the narrator to run outside.

2. The cart is not yet visible. Its distinctive bells and whistles provide the recognition cue.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The cold floor explains discomfort, not recognition of an approaching vehicle.

B | CORRECT. The bells and whistles arrive just before the narrator reacts and before the cart is seen.

C | ELIMINATE. The grandparents' discussion is background conversation, not a signal from the cart.

D | ELIMINATE. The barge is a different vehicle and barely interests the narrator.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Follow the event sequence. Background details may be vivid without answering the question.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Text function: a reason later disproved

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

He thinks the ridges are frost damage; the plans show they were intentional.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The underlined sentence explains why he first wanted to smooth the ridges.

03 PROVE IT

1. If frost caused the shapes, smoothing them could seem like restoration. That is the conservator's initial reasoning.
2. The plans show the shapes were part of the design. This removes the basis for his proposed change.
3. The underlined sentence therefore supplies a justification that later evidence undermines.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The plans do not help repair a proven defect; they show that the supposed defect was intentional.

B | ELIMINATE. This reverses the evidence. The plans contradict the frost-damage explanation.

C | ELIMINATE. The plans do not show a smaller amount of damage. They show that these ridges were specified by the architect.

D | CORRECT. This correctly identifies the initial reason and the later evidence that defeats it.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Track who believes a claim and whether the rest of the passage confirms or rejects it.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Text function: novelty meets competitive pressure

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

The opening encourages unusual hybrids; the rest explains how judging rewards predictable designs.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The opening introduces an approach whose influence is later limited.

03 PROVE IT

1. The societies encourage experimentation. That is the idea introduced by the underlined sentence.
2. The word "Yet" turns to a competing force: reliable high-scoring designs.
3. The passage does not say novelty causes conformity. It says another incentive constrains novelty.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. This captures the contrast between encouraging novelty and the pressures limiting it.

B | ELIMINATE. "Guaranteed" is too strong. Possible discoveries and public interest are motivations, not guaranteed competitive wins.

C | ELIMINATE. This wrongly makes the novelty initiative the cause of standardization. The passage points to judging incentives instead.

D | ELIMINATE. This reverses the relationship. The opening practice is not explained as a product of the judging rules.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Contrast words help reveal structure: first an approach, then a force that limits it.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Table evidence: amount, percentage, and confounding

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

Solar: 84 kg at 55%. Sorbent: 74 kg at 88%. Samples also differ.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The smaller recovered mass can represent a more complete recovery of the available lithium.

03 PROVE IT

1. The executive's claim concerns how thoroughly available lithium was recovered. Percentage measures that more directly than kilograms.

2. Sorbent adsorption recovers 88%, compared with solar evaporation's 55%, despite its smaller mass. This defeats the mass-only argument.

3. However, different samples were used. We cannot conclude that the method alone caused the percentage difference.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The comparison is true, but the causal claim is not. The trials do not show that sample composition entirely explains the result.

B | ELIMINATE. This repeats the mistake. More kilograms do not prove a greater share of the available lithium was recovered.

C | ELIMINATE. The numerical comparison is false: 55% is lower than 68%, not higher.

D | CORRECT. This gives the decisive percentage comparison and correctly preserves the uncertainty about its cause.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Check the number first, then the conclusion attached to it. A true statistic can support an unjustified claim.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Table reasoning: connect overlapping ranges

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

P overlaps Q from 450-480 nm; Q overlaps R from 570-590 nm.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

P + Q + R can form one continuous chain without S.

03 PROVE IT

1. P covers 350-480, Q covers 450-590, and R covers 570-720. The overlap at each handoff prevents a gap.
2. Their combined coverage is 350-720 nm, which includes the full required 380-650 nm sweep.
3. The technician tested pairs, then made a claim about every possible combination. A successful three-filter combination disproves that claim.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. P and R cover the endpoints but leave a gap between 480 and 570 nm.

B | ELIMINATE. Showing that one pair works does not show that all other larger combinations fail.

C | CORRECT. This correctly bridges the middle with Q and demonstrates continuous coverage without S.

D | ELIMINATE. All three need not work at one shared wavelength. Separate overlaps are enough to form a continuous chain.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Covering both endpoints is not the same as covering everything between them. Look for gaps and bridges.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Weaken: a combined score hides a trade-off

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

The overall score averages conciseness and fidelity, but the reviewer claims higher fidelity specifically.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Show that Kestrel preserves less meaning, even though its combined score is higher.

03 PROVE IT

1. A system can win on a combined score by doing extremely well on one component. It need not win on both.

2. More omitted meaning means lower fidelity. That directly contradicts the reviewer's claim about accuracy.

3. For example, scores of 10 and 4 average 7, while scores of 6 and 6 average 6. The overall winner can lose on the second component.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. Changing the weight changes the combined score, but a remaining lead does not establish which system has higher fidelity.

B | ELIMINATE. This still says Kestrel has a fidelity advantage, so it does not contradict the reviewer.

C | CORRECT. More omitted meaning directly means less fidelity, undermining the claim of greater accuracy.

D | ELIMINATE. This compares components within each system, not the systems' fidelity against one another.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

When a claim concerns one component, test that component. Do not let a combined score distract you.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Cross-text reasoning: selection bias

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

The catalog relied heavily on a dealer advertising red-covered records.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The catalog may reflect how items were selected, not how common they originally were.

03 PROVE IT

1. Text 1 treats the catalog as a representative sample of historical workshop use.

2. Text 2 reveals a selection process favoring red covers. It also finds many blue-covered notebooks through another route.

3. This weakens the inference from catalog proportions to historical proportions. It does not prove that blue was most common everywhere.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. This identifies the assumption Text 2 challenges: a biased catalog may not represent original use.

B | ELIMINATE. The new evidence directly weakens the frequency explanation; it does not leave that explanation secure.

C | ELIMINATE. Too extreme: finding additional blue notebooks does not establish the proportions across all workshops.

D | ELIMINATE. Durability is not tested or established in either text.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Ask who or what was likely to enter the sample. A biased sample can produce a misleading historical picture.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Boundaries: introduce an explanatory list

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

The sentence names "three internal components" and then lists exactly three.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

A dash can introduce the list explaining which components are meant.

03 PROVE IT

1. Before the blank, the main sentence is complete: "Much of the reduction was attributed to three internal components the engineers considered indispensable."

2. The words after the blank identify those components: barriers, microphones, and a processor.

3. A single dash can introduce this explanatory list at the end of a sentence. A colon would also work in principle, but it is not offered.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. A semicolon normally joins independent clauses. The list after it is not an independent clause.

B | ELIMINATE. The comma alone does not properly introduce this stand-alone explanatory list.

C | ELIMINATE. With no punctuation, "indispensable foam barriers" incorrectly runs the evaluation into the list.

D | CORRECT. The dash correctly introduces the list that explains the complete statement.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Find the complete statement first. Then ask whether what follows is another sentence or an explanation/list.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Boundaries: join two independent clauses

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

Clause 1: "the publication grew ..." Clause 2: "its informal notes ... gave way ..."

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Use a comma plus a coordinating conjunction between the two complete clauses.

03 PROVE IT

1. "The publication grew in circulation and rigor" can stand as a complete sentence.

2. "Its informal notes gradually gave way to research papers" is another complete sentence.

3. The correct completion supplies **rigor, and**. The first "and" links circulation and rigor; the second joins the clauses.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. A comma alone creates a comma splice.

B | CORRECT. A comma followed by "and" correctly joins the complete clauses.

C | ELIMINATE. "Rigor and" lacks the comma needed here between the two long independent clauses.

D | ELIMINATE. No punctuation or conjunction creates a run-on sentence.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Do not count conjunctions blindly. Identify what each "and" connects: two nouns or two complete clauses.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Boundaries: however is not a joining conjunction

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

"No single fish leads the school" and "Several fish ... may turn" are complete clauses.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Finish the first sentence, then begin "Several fish ..." as a new one.

03 PROVE IT

1. The contrast is between movements that look centrally directed and the absence of a single leader. "However" closes that contrasting statement.

2. Read the correct result: "... no single fish leads the school, however. Several fish near the front may turn ..."

3. A comma before "however" does not allow it to join another independent clause. The period supplies the required boundary.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. The period ends the first statement, and capitalized "Several" begins the next.

B | ELIMINATE. This creates a comma splice: two complete clauses joined only by commas and "however."

C | ELIMINATE. This leaves "however several fish" without a proper boundary between the complete clauses.

D | ELIMINATE. This does not correctly punctuate the ending "however" or the clause connection.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

However is a transition, not FANBOYS. It cannot repair a comma splice by itself.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Form and structure: a title followed by names

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

The sentence needs the subject "cartographic designers Clara Vance and Julian Sterling" followed by "transformed."

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Keep the title, names, and verb connected without unnecessary commas.

03 PROVE IT

1. "Cartographic designers" is a role label immediately followed by the names that identify the people.
2. Together, the role and names form the subject. The verb is "transformed."
3. The sentence needs neither commas around the identifying names nor a comma between the full subject and its verb.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The comma after Sterling separates the subject from its verb.

B | ELIMINATE. This wrongly separates the role label from the names that identify the designers.

C | ELIMINATE. The commas wrongly treat the names as a removable interruption after this identifying role label.

D | CORRECT. This keeps the role, identifying names, and verb together correctly.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Try the skeleton: "Designers Clara and Julian transformed the data." Do not put a comma between that subject and verb.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Boundaries and logic: where however belongs

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

Collectors claim certainty. The writer responds that the attribution is only plausible. The final clause explains why.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

However should mark the writer's qualification of the collectors' claim.

03 PROVE IT

1. Sentence 1 says the painting is unquestionably authentic. Sentence 2 reduces that certainty: the evidence makes the attribution plausible, not certain.

2. Thus, "however" belongs with the second statement: "... plausible rather than certain, however; ..."

3. The following independent clause supports that qualification by explaining that other painters used the technique. A semicolon correctly joins those clauses.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. This places "however" with the qualification and uses a semicolon before the next independent clause.

B | ELIMINATE. This places "however" with the final explanation, implying a contrast where the explanation actually supports the qualification.

C | ELIMINATE. The comma after "however" leaves two independent clauses joined only by commas.

D | ELIMINATE. This lacks the required punctuation around the ending transition and between the clauses.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Grammar narrows the choices; logic finishes the job. Attach however to the idea that actually contrasts with what came before.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Transitions: general claim to example

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

The first sentence states a translation problem; the drama demonstrates that problem with "charge."

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Use a transition meaning "here is one case."

03 PROVE IT

1. The opening gives the broad principle: one accepted meaning can erase an important ambiguity.
2. The next sentence illustrates it: "charge" has two relevant meanings, but the translation keeps only one.
3. "For instance" introduces that specific illustration.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. "For instance" correctly introduces a specific example of the general problem.

B | ELIMINATE. "Accordingly" signals a result. The second sentence illustrates the claim rather than reporting its consequence.

C | ELIMINATE. "In other words" usually restates the same point. This sentence adds a concrete case instead.

D | ELIMINATE. "Nevertheless" signals contrast. The example supports the first sentence.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Label the relationship before choosing: rule → example calls for an example transition.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Transitions: a limitation followed by remaining value

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

Missing quantities prevent one analysis, but the village names still permit another.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Use a contrast meaning "despite that limitation."

03 PROVE IT

1. The first part explains what the records cannot establish: whether more shipments mean more grain.
2. The next part identifies a different use that remains possible: mapping trading connections.
3. "Nevertheless" marks useful information available despite the earlier limitation.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. "Similarly" treats the two statements as parallel, missing the cannot/can contrast.

B | CORRECT. "Nevertheless" correctly contrasts the limitation with the remaining use.

C | ELIMINATE. "Consequently" would make mapping a result of the missing quantities. The names, not the omission, make it possible.

D | ELIMINATE. "More precisely" would clarify the limitation, but the sentence introduces a different benefit.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

When a passage moves from "cannot do X" to "can still do Y," look for a contrast transition.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Rhetorical synthesis: the earliest qualifying event

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

Professional means paid. The 2002 and 2004 roles are unpaid; the 2008 role is salaried.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The earliest professional work begins in 2008.

03 PROVE IT

1. Do not simply choose the earliest date. First apply the definition of "professional."

2. Exclude the unpaid scholar and apprentice roles. Compare the remaining paid roles: 2008 and 2011.

3. The 2008 cello role is the first qualifying event. The answer should explicitly identify it as the beginning of paid work.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. This identifies the earliest paid role and correctly places it before the later paid tours.

B | ELIMINATE. This identifies paid viola work in 2011, but it misses the earlier paid cello role in 2008.

C | ELIMINATE. This gives advanced training, which is still unpaid.

D | ELIMINATE. This gives the earliest training date, but training is unpaid and therefore does not meet the stated definition.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Filter by the condition first; compare dates second. Earliest overall is not always earliest qualifying.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

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Rhetorical synthesis: time gap and direction

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

Extended film: August 2021. Book: September 2021.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The extended film appeared one month before the book.

03 PROVE IT

1. The goal names two events: the extended release and the book. Ignore the early screening date.

2. August comes immediately before September. The gap is one month.

3. The correct choice must get the events, interval, and before/after direction right.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The interval is one month, but the order is reversed: the book appeared after the extended film.

B | ELIMINATE. This compares the early screening with the extended release, not the book.

C | CORRECT. This uses the requested events and correctly states the one-month interval and direction.

D | ELIMINATE. This compares the early screening with the book, not the extended release.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

For date questions, check three things: right events, right gap, right direction.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Rhetorical synthesis: scoring versus eligibility

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

Vance combines two scores. Thorne first requires qualification, then compares bids.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The highest bid can fail for a different reason under each system.

03 PROVE IT

1. Under Vance, a company can offer the highest bid but lose because another company has a stronger combined score.

2. Under Thorne, the highest bidder can fail to qualify. However, the highest bid among qualified companies wins.

3. A correct synthesis must preserve this difference. Thorne does not award extra points for exceeding the requirements.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This incorrectly gives the bid automatic priority under Vance once conditions are met. Vance uses the combined score.

B | ELIMINATE. This wrongly turns Thorne's pass/fail requirements into extra scoring advantages.

C | CORRECT. This correctly distinguishes a second scored factor from an eligibility screen.

D | ELIMINATE. The environmental component is 35%, not a majority, and Thorne has no environmental scoring weight.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

A requirement lets you enter the competition. A scored factor helps decide who wins. Do not confuse the two.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Words in context: a condition must hold

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

The screen works "provided the crews remained hidden."

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Its effect depends on a condition.

03 PROVE IT

1. The vegetation does not physically prevent encounters. Its effect comes from hiding the crews.
2. That effect depends on the animals continuing not to see the workers. **Contingent** means dependent on a condition.
3. A psychological effect can be real even when there is no physical barrier.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Illusory** means not real. The calming effect can be real even though the screen is not a barrier.

B | CORRECT. **Contingent** matches the condition introduced by "provided."

C | ELIMINATE. **Intrinsic** means belonging to something by its nature. The effect depends on circumstances, not an unconditional built-in quality.

D | ELIMINATE. **Invariable** means unchanging. The text explicitly gives a condition that limits the effect.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Provided, if, unless, and depends on often signal that something is conditional.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

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Words in context: contribution versus recognition

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

Nasser's work was essential, but public accounts emphasized Ward and omitted her calculations.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Her public role was less central or less prominent.

03 PROVE IT

1. The sentence describes her place in public accounts, not the importance of her actual work.
2. **Peripheral** means at the edges rather than at the center. It fits someone whose contribution receives limited attention.
3. Notice the contrast: important contribution, limited recognition.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Derivative** means based on or copied from another source. Nothing says her calculations were copied.

B | ELIMINATE. **Transitory** means temporary. The issue is prominence, not how long the account lasted.

C | ELIMINATE. **Contentious** means causing disagreement. The passage discusses limited recognition, not a public dispute.

D | CORRECT. **Peripheral** describes her less central position in public accounts.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Identify what the adjective describes. The answer concerns her recognition, not the quality of her work.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Words in context: motivation to act

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

Julian's intuition and tendency to strike early lead him to launch an attack.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

He was driven or pushed to act by those factors.

03 PROVE IT

1. The phrase "by tactical intuition" identifies what motivates Julian.

2. Impelled means driven or urged into action. It connects the motives to the attack.

3. The other options describe being humbled, confused, or restrained, which does not match the decisive offensive.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. Impelled means driven to act and fits both stated motives.

B | ELIMINATE. Confounded means confused. The passage gives a motive for action rather than confusion.

C | ELIMINATE. Chastened means humbled or subdued after an experience. No such experience is described.

D | ELIMINATE. Tempered means moderated or restrained. Julian acts on his tendency rather than restraining it.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Ask whether the context pushes action forward or holds it back. The blank must match that direction.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Words in context: a departure from convention

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

Most histories focus on the eventual winner; this historian centers unrealized possibilities.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Her method departs from the usual approach.

03 PROVE IT

1. The passage sets up a standard historical method and then contrasts another one with it.
2. **Heterodox** means departing from accepted or conventional views. It describes the change in organizing principle.
3. The historian uses records from the period, so the unconventional focus is not the same as unsupported guesswork.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Indiscriminate** means lacking careful selection. The historian has a clear, deliberate focus.

B | ELIMINATE. **Conjectural** means based on uncertain guesses. The passage emphasizes contemporary evidence.

C | CORRECT. **Heterodox** captures a departure from the conventional way of telling the history.

D | ELIMINATE. **Anachronistic** means putting something in the wrong historical time. No time mismatch is described.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Unusual does not mean unsupported. A method can be unconventional and still evidence-based.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Words in context: making people withdraw

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

The music made waiting unpleasant, and shelter use fell.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The music was putting riders off using the shelters.

03 PROVE IT

1. The intended result was a more welcoming place, but the observed result was fewer users.
2. **Alienating** means making people feel unwelcome or disconnected. Here it explains why riders stay away.
3. The passage does not establish that the riders were insulted or made actively hostile.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Antagonizing** means provoking hostility. That adds a stronger reaction than the passage supports.

B | CORRECT. **Alienating** best captures discouraging riders from using a place that feels unwelcoming.

C | ELIMINATE. **Affronting** means insulting or offending. Unpleasant noise does not necessarily amount to an insult.

D | ELIMINATE. **Acclimating** means helping someone adjust. That suggests becoming comfortable, the opposite of the observed effect.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Choose the precise effect supported by the evidence. Discomfort and withdrawal do not automatically mean anger.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Words in context: permission versus support

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

The council allows Cassius to return but gives him no real authority.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The council would not have permitted his return if it expected him to rule.

03 PROVE IT

1. Cassius recognizes that the offer restores symbols of authority, not governing power.
2. In "would scarcely have countenanced his return," the word means allowed or approved it.
3. **Sanctioned** can mean authorized. That is its relevant meaning here, not punished.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. **Recognized** means acknowledged. Acknowledging an event is not the same as permitting it.

B | ELIMINATE. **Anticipated** means expected. The issue is allowing the return, not predicting it.

C | ELIMINATE. **Advocated** means actively argued in favor of. The passage requires only permission, not enthusiastic support.

D | CORRECT. **Sanctioned**, meaning authorized or permitted, matches the council's control over his return.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Use context to select a word's relevant meaning. Sanction can mean permission or a penalty; here it means permission.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Table reasoning: total versus per-unit value

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

Mercer: $1,600 / 80,000 downloads. Sterling: $2,000 / 200,000 downloads.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Sterling leads in total revenue, but Mercer leads per download.

03 PROVE IT

1. Mercer earns $1,600 ÷ 80,000 = **$0.02 per download**.

2. Sterling earns $2,000 ÷ 200,000 = **$0.01 per download**.

3. Sterling has the larger total ($2,000 versus $1,600), but Mercer earns twice as much per download. That is the requested reversal.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This uses revenue per episode, the wrong denominator, and describes no reversal.

B | ELIMINATE. Sterling and Thorne both earn $0.01 per download. Their rankings do not reverse.

C | ELIMINATE. Equal downloads with different revenue illustrates a different relationship, not a total-versus-rate ranking reversal.

D | CORRECT. This pair reverses order exactly as the passage describes.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Write the unit under the number: total dollars, dollars per download, and dollars per episode answer different questions.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Table inference: resist inventing the scoring rule

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

Model C has a smaller angle and fewer resonators than B, yet C earns the higher class.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

More of those two features does not consistently mean a better class.

03 PROVE IT

1. Compare B with C: B has 25° and 13 resonators; C has 18° and 7. Nevertheless, B is Class II and C is Class I.

2. This counterexample disproves a consistent link between larger values on those features and higher classification.

3. The table does not reveal the weighting formula, a guaranteed threshold, or a rule applying to every possible model.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. This makes a limited conclusion directly demonstrated by B and C.

B | ELIMINATE. This invents a relative importance ranking that the table does not provide.

C | ELIMINATE. The observed examples do not establish that every model above 310 square meters must qualify.

D | ELIMINATE. "Always" goes beyond three examples and assumes a compensation rule not supplied.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

A few examples may disprove a universal rule, but they rarely establish a new universal rule.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Literary inference: agreement without resolution

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

Each delegate found a different leader's wishes in the wording; the narrator now calls the result an "elegant delay."

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The agreement appeared successful because it hid rather than settled the dispute.

03 PROVE IT

1. The ownership language avoids the practical question of who may collect tolls.
2. Each side could interpret the wording in its own favor. This made signing possible without resolving the disagreement.
3. The narrator now separates an impressive document from a genuine settlement.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The passage does not say the delegates failed to notice different interpretations. Their favorable readings are the point.

B | CORRECT. This captures the apparent success, competing interpretations, and unresolved core issue.

C | ELIMINATE. Their exhaustion is mentioned, but it is not established as the main reason for signing.

D | ELIMINATE. This says the conflict was resolved, contradicting the narrator's conclusion that the dispute was merely delayed.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

In reflective passages, compare the narrator's old interpretation with the new one.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Weaken an alternative explanation

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

Lin attributes longer use to external rewards. The strongest counterevidence gives the longer-used lessons fewer rewards overall.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Look for a reward pattern that runs against Lin's explanation.

03 PROVE IT

1. If extra external rewards explain longer use, evidence of more rewards would support Lin.

2. Fewer rewards per minute in the story-rich lessons points in the opposite direction. Fewer collectible titles also weakens the proposed mechanism.

3. Equal token rates alone are weaker: titles are another reward source. This is why the overall-reward comparison is more decisive. It weakens Lin without proving stories are the sole cause.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. More frequent tokens in the longer-used lessons support the reward explanation.

B | ELIMINATE. Fewer titles in the low-story lessons mean more titles in the story-rich lessons, again supporting Lin.

C | ELIMINATE. Equal token rates weaken one route, but title rewards could still differ. This does not address the whole reward explanation.

D | CORRECT. Fewer titles and a lower overall reward rate directly oppose the proposed reason for longer use.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Challenge the alternative cause itself. Evidence about the complete mechanism is stronger than evidence about just one part.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Poetry central idea: setting reveals a feeling

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

"mine alone," "the others share their evening," and "miles of silence lie between"

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The ranger's watch emphasizes separation from the community below.

03 PROVE IT

1. The poem contrasts the ranger's isolated position with the shared evening in the valley.
2. The final line turns physical distance into a feeling of separation.
3. A central-idea answer should include that emotional meaning, not only describe the scenery.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The lamp is present, but the poem does not describe it as reassuring. The final lines emphasize separation rather than stability.

B | ELIMINATE. The poem does not suggest that the cabins seem to move. It describes distance and separation without that imagined movement.

C | ELIMINATE. This describes some scenery but misses the contrast with the community and the feeling of isolation.

D | CORRECT. This captures both the solitary watch and the speaker's separation from others.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

In a poem, ask what the images reveal about the speaker, not just what landscape they depict.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

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Strengthen: a trade-off reveals a priority

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

The hypothesis says managers care more about unaffected observers' trust than injured customers' forgiveness.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Find a situation where those goals conflict and managers choose observers' trust.

03 PROVE IT

1. If both audiences like a statement, we cannot tell which audience managers prioritize.
2. The revealing case makes one audience respond better while the other responds worse.
3. Rejecting more forgiveness when it costs trust, and accepting more trust when it costs forgiveness, directly demonstrates the proposed priority.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. Both audiences respond positively, so this does not reveal which matters more when their interests conflict.

B | ELIMINATE. The wording's addressee does not establish whose reaction is the real priority. The passage explicitly makes that distinction.

C | CORRECT. This forces the relevant trade-off and shows managers consistently choosing the unaffected observers' trust.

D | ELIMINATE. Again, both groups improve. The choice could be driven by either group.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

To test "X matters more than Y," find a case where helping X harms Y and observe the choice.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Logical completion: exaggeration is not invention

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

Independent footage confirms an event the colleagues dismissed as invented.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

They may confuse exaggerated storytelling with wholly fabricated events.

03 PROVE IT

1. Mateo's habit of dramatizing details gives the colleagues a reason to be cautious.

2. However, the broadcast confirms that at least this underlying event occurred.

3. The narrow conclusion is that they sometimes reject real events because of his storytelling style. The footage does not validate every anecdote.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This says they require confirmation for any report. The passage supports only a narrower conclusion about some mistaken judgments.

B | ELIMINATE. This invents a motive for seeking danger. The passage provides no evidence for it.

C | CORRECT. This distinguishes embellishing a real event from inventing an event, exactly what the footage reveals.

D | ELIMINATE. This concerns which details he exaggerates. It does not explain their mistake in rejecting the entire event.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Separate whether an event happened from whether every detail in its retelling is accurate.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Inference: equal rates, different decisions

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

Both players approach at 15%, but only one selects favorable situations.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The same rate does not prove the same quality of judgment.

03 PROVE IT

1. The percentages measure how often the players approach the net, not how wisely they choose the moments.
2. One player considers opponent position; the other does not. That difference is hidden by the shared rate.
3. The passage supports a distinction in selection strategy, not a conclusion about all match outcomes or the opponents each player faced.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. This preserves the measured equality while recognizing what the percentages cannot establish.

B | ELIMINATE. This invents a difference in the opponents faced. The passage describes how the players choose moments.

C | ELIMINATE. Total counts still do not reveal whether the approaches occurred in favorable situations.

D | ELIMINATE. This treats equal frequency as equal judgment, which the detailed analysis directly challenges.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

A summary rate tells you "how often." It may not tell you "when," "why," or "how well."

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Logical deduction: mean versus median

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

Equal total ascent time, but fewer completed ascents under the updraft procedure.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The updraft procedure must have the higher mean ascent time.

03 PROVE IT

1. Mean = total time ÷ number of ascents. With the same numerator, fewer ascents make the mean larger.
2. For example, 100 minutes ÷ 10 ascents = 10 minutes; 100 ÷ 5 = 20 minutes. These numbers illustrate the rule, not the study's actual values.
3. A median is the middle value, not the total divided by count. A few long ascents can raise the mean while the median and best time are lower.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The passage already says the updraft procedure produced a faster best time, so it was not less effective on that measure.

B | ELIMINATE. This contradicts the stated improvement in the median.

C | CORRECT. This combines the stated lower median with the higher mean forced by the equal-total-time comparison.

D | ELIMINATE. This invents a specific explanation about the slowest ascents that the summary data do not establish.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

When the total is fixed, a smaller count means a larger average. Do not confuse mean, median, and best value.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Textual evidence: match both parts of the claim

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

The claim says the city changes the reformer's message and shields itself from his criticism.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Find lines where criticism is edited into praise.

03 PROVE IT

1. A tribute alone would support only the idea of late celebration. The question asks for something more specific: changing the message to protect the city.

2. The selected lines trim an accusation until it sounds like applause. That directly shows both the alteration and its self-protective purpose.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. The accusation becomes applause for the city: direct evidence of changing the message to avoid its challenge.

B | ELIMINATE. People remember different causes, but this does not clearly show the city editing criticism to protect itself.

C | ELIMINATE. These lines preserve the judges' sentence and invite readers to confront past suffering. They do not show criticism being softened into praise.

D | ELIMINATE. These lines suggest the reformer's work remains unsettled and still challenges the city, rather than being safely neutralized.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

A matching topic is not enough. The best evidence supports every important part of the claim.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Graph reasoning: a shared search term

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

All searches rise, but searches about the novel stay roughly constant.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

An increase in searches about something else with the same name can explain the difference.

03 PROVE IT

1. Total searches = novel-related searches + other searches. If the first part stays flat while the total rises, the other part must rise.
2. Reports about a region called "dune country" generate the exact tracked search phrase for a non-book reason.
3. A lower book-related percentage follows from that pattern but does not itself explain what caused the added searches.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. The audiobook is still about the novel, so rising searches for it conflict with the audit's flat novel-related count.

B | ELIMINATE. These searches use the video game's title. Mentioning "dune country" on a result page does not mean people searched that exact phrase.

C | CORRECT. This supplies a growing, non-book reason to use the same search phrase, reconciling the two observations.

D | ELIMINATE. This restates a mathematical consequence of flat book searches and a rising total; it does not identify the source of the increase.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

A search term is not the same as a topic. Shared names can combine unrelated interests in one graph.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Table evidence: isolate one changed variable

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

In H78 at high flow, growth rises from 58 to 63 as acidity rises.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Find higher acidity producing more growth while flow stays the same.

03 PROVE IT

1. The predicted pattern is less growth at higher acidity. To test it, compare entries with the same flow level.
2. For H78 under high flow, low acidity gives 58 and high acidity gives 63. That is an increase of 5 milligrams, reversing the prediction.
3. Changing both acidity and flow in one comparison would make the effect harder to interpret.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This changes flow while acidity stays high. It addresses the effect of flow, not a reversal of the acidity prediction.

B | CORRECT. This holds flow constant and shows greater growth at higher acidity, the required reversal.

C | ELIMINATE. This is the expected decrease: 50 to 42 under low flow.

D | ELIMINATE. This changes both acidity and flow and does not show higher acidity producing more growth.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

To test the effect of one variable, hold the other variable constant. Compare matching rows and conditions.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Main purpose: apparent success may not transfer

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

Fewer visible protests can have different meanings, and a policy may have different effects in different provinces.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The writer questions whether apparent success justifies extending the policy.

03 PROVE IT

1. The passage first challenges the interpretation of quiet streets: approval is only one possible explanation.
2. It then challenges transfer to other places: underground networks may produce a different reaction.
3. Together these points question an easy move from "this looked successful" to "use it more widely."

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. "Sole measure" is too extreme. The passage criticizes relying on public counts alone but does not prescribe only private opinion.

B | ELIMINATE. The passage emphasizes uncertainty, not conditions guaranteeing permanent success.

C | ELIMINATE. "Usually" claims a general pattern the passage does not establish. It offers possibilities, not a universal tendency.

D | CORRECT. This captures both the uncertainty about success and the problem with extending the approach.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

A main-purpose answer should reflect what the author is doing: questioning a conclusion, not announcing a universal rule.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Study limitation: accuracy versus representativeness

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

Dates can be verified, but successful glassmakers were better able to pay for plaques.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

The recorded careers may be accurate yet unrepresentative of the trade.

03 PROVE IT

1. Independent records support the chronology for the glassmakers who appear in the data.
2. But paying for plaques creates a selection problem. Commercially successful makers are more likely to leave records.
3. The limitation concerns which careers enter the sample, not necessarily whether the recorded dates are wrong.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This turns a documentation-access problem into a date-accuracy problem without evidence.

B | ELIMINATE. The passage says names and records connect projects to makers; it does not establish this identity failure.

C | CORRECT. This directly follows from the link between commercial success and the ability to commission plaques.

D | ELIMINATE. Missing careers can bias the sample without making the sequences for recorded careers inaccurate.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Accurate records are not automatically representative records. Ask both "Is this correct?" and "Who is missing?"

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

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Form and structure: an identifying title

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

The noun "film" is immediately identified by the title "Beyond the Harbor."

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Keep the noun and identifying title together without punctuation.

03 PROVE IT

1. The phrase is "Nora Vale's film Beyond the Harbor." The title identifies which film the critic discusses.
2. Nothing in the context makes the title a parenthetical interruption.
3. A colon or semicolon cannot split the noun from the title in this structure.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. This correctly keeps the noun and identifying title together.

B | ELIMINATE. A semicolon separates independent clauses, not a noun from its title.

C | ELIMINATE. The words before the colon do not form a complete independent clause.

D | ELIMINATE. The commas treat the title as extra, nonessential information, although it identifies the film here.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Name labels such as "the film Title" or "the novel Title" usually stay together when the title identifies the work.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Boundaries and logic: however introduces an exception

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

Most music follows the composer; the closing section conflicts with the composer.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

However belongs with the contrasting closing-section statement.

03 PROVE IT

1. The opening praise and the statement about most of the music agree with one another.
2. The contrast begins with "the closing section." Put "however" at the start of that contrasting clause.
3. Both clauses are complete, so the correct pattern is **independent clause; however, independent clause**.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This attaches "however" to the statement about fidelity, which supports rather than contrasts with the opening praise.

B | CORRECT. This ends the first clause with a semicolon and correctly attaches "however" to the exception that follows.

C | ELIMINATE. This joins two independent clauses with commas and "however," creating a comma splice.

D | ELIMINATE. This lacks a correct clause boundary and proper transition punctuation.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Read the ideas, not just the punctuation. Put however with the exception or contrasting statement.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Form and structure: title, name, then extra information

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

The name identifies the analyst; the "whose" clause adds information about that named person.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Use no comma before the name, but use one before "whose."

03 PROVE IT

1. The subject is "museum curator and stone analyst Elena Rostova." The role label leads directly into the name.
2. The clause "whose research concerns ancient quarries" adds extra information and is enclosed by commas.
3. The passage already supplies the closing comma after "quarries." The answer must supply the opening comma after "Rostova."

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. This keeps title and name together and opens the nonessential clause correctly.

B | ELIMINATE. This puts the comma in the wrong place: before the name rather than before "whose."

C | ELIMINATE. This omits the opening comma for the extra "whose" clause, leaving only its closing comma.

D | ELIMINATE. This adds an unnecessary comma between the role label and the identifying name.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Check both sides of an interruption. A nonessential clause needs an opening and a closing comma.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Transitions: two parallel examples

ANSWER
D

01 FIND THE CLUE

Both later films move the folktale's conflict into new settings with new plots.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Introduce the third film as similar to the second film's approach.

03 PROVE IT

1. The first film closely follows the tale. The second reuses its conflict in a new city story.
2. The third similarly reuses that conflict in a new space-station story.
3. The relevant link is between the second and third films: two loose adaptations in parallel.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This claims the second film caused the third approach. No cause is established.

B | ELIMINATE. The third film is not a more specific example of the second film; it is a separate adaptation.

C | ELIMINATE. "Despite" signals contrast, but the third film follows a similar adaptation strategy.

D | CORRECT. "In a similar vein" correctly introduces another example of a comparable approach.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Check the closest ideas being connected. A passage can contrast the first example and then compare the next two.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

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Transitions: a location reference

ANSWER
A

01 FIND THE CLUE

The first sentence introduces Bellara; the next tells what happens in that town.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Use a word meaning "in that place."

03 PROVE IT

1. The exhibition is located in the town just named.

2. "There" points back to Bellara and connects the sentences without adding an unsupported cause or sequence.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | CORRECT. "There" means in Bellara and makes the intended location clear.

B | ELIMINATE. "In particular" would single out a specific part of a broader claim. The connection here is location.

C | ELIMINATE. "Accordingly" implies the exhibition happens because the records are stored there. The passage gives no such cause.

D | ELIMINATE. "Ultimately" suggests a final stage or result. No sequence leading to the exhibition is given.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

Not every connection is cause, contrast, or example. Sometimes the needed link is simply place.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

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Rhetorical synthesis: new plot, same defining constraints

ANSWER
B

01 FIND THE CLUE

The game and film both require survival with limited medicine and energy, but the protagonist and story change.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Faithfulness comes from preserving the central pressures while changing the narrative.

03 PROVE IT

1. The goal asks how a new story can still be faithful. The answer must address both change and continuity.

2. The new protagonist and events supply the change. The shared resource limits and dangerous districts supply the continuity.

3. Equipment resemblance is mentioned, but the strongest synthesis explains the experience driving the characters' decisions.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This explains the reason for a new protagonist but not how the adaptation remains faithful.

B | CORRECT. This combines the new story with the preserved survival constraints, answering both parts of the goal.

C | ELIMINATE. This contradicts the notes: the film does not preserve Orrin's original story.

D | ELIMINATE. This focuses on appearance and explicitly rejects the shared decision-making pressures that the notes emphasize.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

For a two-part goal, demand a two-part answer. Explain both what changes and what stays central.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.

Rhetorical synthesis: compare the missing matchup

ANSWER
C

01 FIND THE CLUE

Sentinel and captain match against serpent and falcon, but sentinel defeats captain.

02 PREDICT IN SIMPLE ENGLISH

Their direct matchup separates them.

03 PROVE IT

1. Against serpent, both lose. Against falcon, both win. Those comparisons make them look interchangeable.
2. But captain versus captain is a tie, while sentinel versus captain is a sentinel win.
3. A comparison must include the direct matchup. Matching against two outside options does not establish complete equivalence.

04 CHECK EVERY CHOICE

A | ELIMINATE. This is true but merely repeats the similarity; it does not explain why they are not interchangeable.

B | ELIMINATE. This contradicts the explicit rule that sentinel defeats captain. Different symbols do not become a matching-symbol tie.

C | CORRECT. This identifies the shared outside results and the crucial head-to-head difference.

D | ELIMINATE. This falsely claims sentinel beats an opponent that defeats captain. Both lose to serpent.

05 GENIUS TAKEAWAY

When two things look equivalent, check whether the comparison has left out a case that matters.

EXPLAIN IT. THEN TRY IT AGAIN.