

GMAT Verbal Question Bank

SENTENCE CORRECTION

- 1) The Baldrick Manufacturing Company has for several years followed a policy aimed at decreasing operating costs and improving the efficiency of its distribution system.
 - A) aimed at decreasing operating costs and improving
 - B) aimed at the decreasing of operating costs and to improve
 - C) aiming at the decreasing of operating costs and improving
 - D) the aim of which is the decreasing of operating costs and improving
 - E) with the aim to decrease operating costs and to improve

- 2) *The Federalist* papers, a strong defense of the United States Constitution and important as a body of work in political science as well, represents the handiwork of three different authors.
 - A) and important as a body of work in political science as well, represents
 - B) as well as an important body of work in political science, represent
 - C) and also a body of work of importance in political science is representing
 - D) an important body of work in political science and has been representative of
 - E) and as political science an important body of work too, represent

- 3) Although the term "psychopath" is popularly applied to an especially brutal criminal, in psychology it is someone who is apparently incapable of feeling compassion or the pangs of conscience.
 - A) it is someone who is
 - B) it is a person
 - C) they are people who are
 - D) it refers to someone who is
 - E) it is in reference to people

- 4) A representative of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor contends that employers who offer benefits which permit that employees can balance home and work responsibilities better, realizing gains in attendance, recruiting, and retention.
 - A) which permit that employees can balance home and work responsibilities better, realizing
 - B) which permit employees balancing home and work responsibilities better will realize
 - C) that permit employees to balance the responsibilities of home and work better will realize
 - D) that permit employees a better balance between the responsibilities of home and work, thus realizing

- E) such that employees are permitted a balance between home and work responsibilities, and they will realize
- 5) Parliament did not accord full refugee benefits to twelve of the recent immigrants because it believed that to do it rewards them for entering the country illegally.
- A) to do it rewards
 - B) doing it rewards
 - C) to do this would reward
 - D) doing so would reward
 - E) to do it would reward
- 6) Many policy experts say that shifting a portion of health-benefit costs back to the workers helps to control the employer's costs, but also helps to limit medical spending by making patients more careful consumers.
- A) helps to control the employer's costs, but also helps
 - B) helps the control of the employer's costs, and also
 - C) not only helps to control the employer's costs, but also helps
 - D) helps to control not only the employer's costs, but
 - E) not only helps to control the employer's costs, and also helps
- 7) The plot of *The Bostonians* centers on the rivalry between Olive Chancellor, and active feminist, with her charming and cynical cousin, Basil Ransom, when they find themselves drawn to the same radiant young woman whose talent for public speaking has won her an ardent following.
- A) rivalry between Olive Chancellor, an active feminist, with her charming and cynical cousin, Basil Ransom
 - B) rivals Olive Chancellor, an active feminist, against her charming and cynical cousin, Basil Ransom
 - C) rivalry that develops between Olive Chancellor, an active feminist, and Basil Ransom, her charming and cynical cousin
 - D) developing rivalry between Olive Chancellor, an active feminist, with Basil Ransom, her charming and cynical cousin
 - E) active feminist, Olive Chancellor, and the rivalry with her charming and cynical cousin Basil Ransom
- 8) Despite protests from some waste-disposal companies, state health officials have ordered the levels of bacteria in seawater at popular beaches to be measured and that the results be published.
- A) the levels of bacteria in seawater at popular beaches to be measured and that the results be
 - B) that seawater at popular beaches should be measured for their levels of bacteria, with the results being.

- C) the measure of levels of bacteria in seawater at popular beaches and the results to be
 - D) seawater measured at popular beaches for levels of bacteria, with their results
 - E) that the levels of bacteria in seawater at popular beaches be measured and the results.

- 9) While larger banks can afford to maintain their own data-processing operations, many smaller regional and community banks are finding that the cost associated with upgrading data-processing equipment and with the development and maintenance of new products and technical staff are prohibitive.
 - A) cost associated with
 - B) costs associated with
 - C) costs arising from
 - D) cost of
 - E) costs of

- 10) For almost a hundred years after having its beginning in 1788, England exiled some 160,000 criminals to Australia.
 - A) For almost a hundred years after having its beginning in 1788.
 - B) Beginning in 1788 for a period of a hundred years.
 - C) Beginning a period of almost a hundred years, in 1788.
 - D) During a hundred years, a period beginning in 1788.
 - E) Over a period of a hundred years beginning in 1788.

- 11) Eating saltwater fish may significantly reduce the risk of heart attacks and also aid for sufferers of rheumatoid arthritis and asthma, according to three research studies published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*
 - A) significantly reduce the risk of heart attacks and also aid for
 - B) be significant in reducing the risk of heart attacks and aid for
 - C) significantly reduce the risk of heart attacks and aid
 - D) cause a significant reduction in the risk of heart attacks and aid to
 - E) significantly reduce the risk of heart attacks as well as aiding

- 12) By a vote of 9 to 0, the Supreme Court awarded the Central Intelligence Agency board discretionary powers enabling it to withhold from the public the identities of its sources of intelligence information.
 - A) enabling it to withhold from the public
 - B) for it to withhold from the public
 - C) for withholding disclosure to the public of
 - D) that enable them to withhold from public disclosure
 - E) that they can withhold public disclosure of

13) As business grows more complex, students majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly successful in the job market.

- A) majoring in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming increasingly
- B) who major in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are becoming more and more
- C) who majored in specialized areas such as those of finance and marketing are being increasingly
- D) who major in specialized areas like those of finance and marketing have been becoming more and more
- E) having majored in such specialized areas as finance and marketing are being increasingly

14) Inuits of the Bering Sea were in isolation from contact with Europeans longer than Aleuts or Inuits of the North Pacific and Northern Alaska.

- A) in isolation from contact with Europeans longer than
- B) isolated from contact with Europeans longer than
- C) in isolation from contact with Europeans longer than were
- D) isolated from contact with Europeans longer than were
- E) in isolation and without contacts with Europeans longer than

15) Once the economic and social usefulness of the motorcar was demonstrated and with its superiority to the horse being proved, much of the early hostility to it in rural regions disappeared.

- A) and with its superiority to the horse being
- B) and its superiority over the horse had been
- C) and its superiority to the horse
- D) its superiority over the horse
- E) with its superiority to the horse having been

16) Minnesota is the only one of the contiguous forty-eight states that still has a sizable wolf population, and where this predator remains the archenemy of cattle and sheep.

- A) that still has a sizable wolf population, and where
- B) that still has a sizable wolf population, where
- C) that still has a sizable population of wolves, and where
- D) where the population of wolves is still sizable;
- E) where there is still a sizable population of wolves and where

17) Pablo Picasso, the late Spanish painter, credited African art with having had a strong influence on his work.

- A) with having had

- B) for its having
- C) to have had
- D) for having
- E) in that it had

18) Judicial rules in many states require that the identities of all prosecution witnesses are made known to defendants so they can attempt to rebut the testimony, but the Constitution explicitly requires only that the defendant have the opportunity to confront an accuser in court.

- A) that the identities of all prosecution witnesses are made known to defendants so they can attempt to rebut
- B) that the identities of all prosecution witnesses be made known to defendants so that they can attempt to rebut
- C) that the defendants should know the identities of all prosecution witnesses so they can attempt a rebuttal of
- D) the identities of all prosecution witnesses should be made known to defendants so they can attempt rebutting
- E) making known to defendants the identities of all prosecution witnesses so that they can attempt to rebut

19) Quasars, at billions of light-years from Earth the most distant observable objects in the universe, believed to be the cores of galaxies in an early stage of development.

- A) believed to be
- B) are believed to be
- C) some believe them to be
- D) some believe they are
- E) it is believed that they are

20) The colorization of black-and-white films by computers is defended by those who own the film rights, for the process can mean increased revenues for them; many others in the film industry, however, contend that the technique degrades major works of art, which they liken to putting lipstick on a Greek statue.

- A) which they liken to putting lipstick on a Greek statue
- B) which they liken to a Greek statue with lipstick put on it
- C) which they liken to lipstick put on a Greek statue
- D) likening it to a Greek statue with lipstick put on it
- E) likening it to putting lipstick on a Greek statue

CRITICAL READING

- 1) Child's World, a chain of toy stores, has relied on a "supermarket concept" of computerized inventory control and customer self-service to eliminate the category of sales clerks from its force of employees. It now plans to employ the same concept in selling children's clothes. The plan of Child's World assumes that:
 - A) supermarkets will not also be selling children's clothes in the same manner
 - B) personal service by sales personnel is not required for selling children's clothes successfully
 - C) the same kind of computers will be used in inventory control for both clothes and toys at Child's World
 - D) a self-service plan cannot be employed without computerized inventory control
 - E) sales clerks are the only employees of Child's World who could be assigned tasks related to inventory control

- 2) Continuous indoor fluorescent light benefits the health of hamsters with inherited heart disease. A group of them exposed to continuous fluorescent light survived twenty-five percent longer than a similar group exposed instead to equal periods of indoor fluorescent light and of darkness.
The method of the research described above is most likely to be applicable in addressing which of the following Questions?
 - A) Can industrial workers who need to see their work do so better by sunlight or by fluorescent light?
 - B) Can hospital lighting be improved to promote the recovery of patients?
 - C) How do deep-sea fish survive in total darkness?
 - D) What are the inherited illnesses to which hamsters are subject?
 - E) Are there plants that require specific periods of darkness in order to bloom?

- 3) Millions of identical copies of a plant can be produced using new tissue-culture and cloning techniques.
If plant propagation by such methods in laboratories proves economical, each of the following, if true, represents a benefit of the new techniques to farmers EXCEPT:
 - A) The techniques allow the development of superior strains to take place more rapidly, requiring fewer generations of plants grown to maturity.
 - B) It is less difficult to care for plants that will grow at rates that do not vary widely.
 - C) Plant diseases and pests, once they take hold, spread more rapidly among genetically uniform plants than among those with genetic variations.
 - D) Mechanical harvesting of crops is less difficult if plants are more uniform in size.

- E) Special genetic traits can more easily be introduced into plant strains with the use of the new techniques.
- 4) Which of the following best completes the passage below?
Sales campaigns aimed at the faltering personal computer market have strongly emphasized ease of use, called user-friendliness. This emphasis is oddly premature and irrelevant in the eyes of most potential buyers, who are trying to address the logically prior issue of whether
- A) user-friendliness also implies that owners can service their own computers
 - B) personal computers cost more the more user-friendly they are
 - C) currently available models are user-friendly enough to suit them
 - D) the people promoting personal computers use them in their own homes
 - E) they have enough sensible uses for a personal computer to justify the expense of buying one
- 5) A weapons-smuggling incident recently took place in country Y. We all know that Y is a closed society. So Y's government must have known about the weapons. Which of the following is an assumption that would make the conclusion above logically correct?
- A) If a government knows about a particular weapons-smuggling incident, it must have intended to use the weapons for its own purposes.
 - B) If a government claims that it knew nothing about a particular weapons-smuggling incident, it must have known everything about it.
 - C) If a government does not permit weapons to enter a country, it is a closed society.
 - D) If a country is a closed society, its government has a large contingent of armed guards patrolling its borders.
 - E) If a country is a closed society, its government has knowledge about everything that occurs in the country.
- 6) Banning cigarette advertisements in the mass media will not reduce the number of young people who smoke. They know that cigarettes exist and they know how to get them. They do not need the advertisements to supply that information.
The above argument would be most weakened if which of the following were true?
- A) Seeing or hearing an advertisement for a product tends to increase people's desire for that product.
 - B) Banning cigarette advertisements in the mass media will cause an increase in advertisements in places where cigarettes are sold.
 - C) Advertisements in the mass media have been an exceedingly large part of the expenditures of the tobacco companies.
 - D) Those who oppose cigarette use have advertised against it in the mass media ever since cigarettes were found to be harmful.

- E) Older people tend to be less influenced by mass-media advertisements than younger people tend to be.
- 7) People tend to estimate the likelihood of an event's occurrence according to its salience; that is, according to how strongly and how often it comes to their attention. By placement and headlines, newspapers emphasize stories about local crime over stories about crime elsewhere and about many other major events. It can be concluded on the basis of the statements above that, if they are true, which of the following is most probably also true?
- A) The language used in newspaper headlines about local crime is inflammatory and fails to respect the rights of suspects.
 - B) The coverage of international events in newspapers is neglected in favor of the coverage of local events.
 - C) Readers of local news in newspapers tend to overestimate the amount of crime in their own localities relative to the amount of crime in other places.
 - D) None of the events concerning other people that are reported in newspapers is so salient in people's minds as their own personal experiences.
 - E) The press is the news medium that focuses people's attention most strongly on local crimes.
- 8) By analyzing the garbage of a large number of average-sized households, a group of modern urban anthropologists has found that a household discards less food the more standardized-made up of canned and prepackaged foods-its diet is. The more standardized a household's diet is, however, the greater the quantities of fresh produce the household throws away. Which of the following can be properly inferred from the passage?
- A) An increasing number of households rely on a highly standardized diet.
 - B) The less standardized a household's diet is, the more nonfood waste the household discards.
 - C) The less standardized a household's diet is, the smaller is the proportion of fresh produce in the household's food waste.
 - D) The less standardized a household's diet is, the more canned and prepackaged foods the household discards as waste.
 - E) The more fresh produce a household buys, the more fresh produce it throws away.

Questions 9-10 are based on the following.

In the past, teachers, bank tellers, and secretaries were predominantly men; these occupations slipped in pay and status when women largely occupied them. Therefore, if women become the majority in currently male-dominated professions like accounting, law, and medicine, the income and prestige of these professions will also drop.

- 9) The argument above is based on another argument that contains

- A) circular reasoning
- B) an attempt to refute a generalization by means of an exceptional case
- C) an analogy between the past and the future
- D) an appeal to popular beliefs and values
- E) an attack on the character of the opposition.

10) Which of the following, if true, would most likely be part of the evidence used to refute the conclusion above?

- A) Accountants, lawyers, and physicians attained their current relatively high levels of income and prestige at about the same time that the pay and status of teachers, bank tellers, and secretaries slipped.
- B) When large numbers of men join a female-dominated occupation, such as airline flight attendant, the status and pay of the occupation tend to increase.
- C) The demand for teachers and secretaries has increased significantly in recent years, while the demand for bank tellers has remained relatively stable.
- D) If present trends in the awarding of law degrees to women continue, it will be at least two decades before the majority of lawyers are women.
- E) The pay and status of female accountants, lawyers, and physicians today are governed by significantly different economic and sociological forces than were the pay and status of female teachers, bank tellers, and secretaries in the past.

11) An electric-power company gained greater profits and provided electricity to consumers at lower rates per unit of electricity by building larger-capacity more efficient plants and by stimulating greater use of electricity within its area. To continue these financial trends, the company planned to replace an old plant by a plant with triple the capacity of its largest plant.

The company's plan as described above assumed each of the following EXCEPT:

- A) Demand for electricity within the company's area of service would increase in the future.
- B) Expenses would not rise beyond the level that could be compensated for by efficiency or volume of operation, or both.
- C) The planned plant would be sufficiently reliable in service to contribute a net financial benefit to the company as a whole.
- D) Safety measures to be instituted for the new plant would be the same as those for the plant it would replace.
- E) The tripling of capacity would not result in insuperable technological obstacles to efficiency.

Questions 12-13 are based on the following

Meteorologists say that if only they could design an accurate mathematical model of the atmosphere with all its complexities, they could forecast the weather with real precision.

But this is an idle boast; immune to any evaluation, for any inadequate weather forecast would obviously be blamed on imperfections in the model.

12) Which of the following, if true, could best be used as a basis for arguing against the author's position that the meteorologists' claim cannot be evaluated?

- A) Certain unusual configurations of data can serve as the basis for precise weather forecasts even though the exact causal mechanisms are not understood.
- B) Most significant gains in the accuracy of the relevant mathematical models are accompanied by clear gains in the precision of weather forecasts.
- C) Mathematical models of the meteorological aftermath of such catastrophic events as volcanic eruptions are beginning to be constructed.
- D) Modern weather forecasts for as much as a full day ahead are broadly correct about 80 percent of the time.
- E) Meteorologists readily concede that the accurate mathematical model they are talking about is not now in their power to construct.

13) Which of the following, if true, would cast the most serious doubt on the meteorologists' boast, aside from the doubt expressed in the passage above?

- A) The amount of energy that the Earth receives from the Sun is monitored closely and is known not to be constant.
- B) Volcanic eruptions, the combustion of fossil fuels, and several other processes that also cannot be quantified with any accuracy are known to have a significant and continuing impact on the constitution of the atmosphere.
- C) As current models of the atmosphere are improved, even small increments in complexity will mean large increases in the number of computers required for the representation of the models.
- D) Frequent and accurate data about the atmosphere collected at a large number of points both on and above the ground are a prerequisite for the construction of a good model of the atmosphere.
- E) With existing models of the atmosphere, large-scale weather patterns can be predicted with greater accuracy than can relatively local weather patterns.

14) Of the countries that were the world's twenty largest exporters in 1953, four had the same share of total world exports in 1984 as in 1953. These countries can therefore serve as models for those countries that wish to keep their share of the global export trade stable over the years.

Which of the following, if true, casts the most serious doubt on the suitability of those four countries as models in the sense described?

- A) Many countries wish to increase their share of world export trade, not just keep it stable.
- B) Many countries are less concerned with exports alone than with the balance between exports and imports.

- C) With respect to the mix of products each exports, the four countries are very different from each other.
- D) Of the four countries, two had a much larger, and two had a much smaller, share of total world exports in 1970 than in 1984.
- E) The exports of the four countries range from 15 percent to 75 percent of the total national output.

Questions 15-16 are based on the following

In the United States, the Postal Service has a monopoly on first-class mail, but much of what is sent first class could be transmitted electronically. Electronic transmittal operators argue that if the Postal Service were to offer electronic transmission, it would have an unfair advantage, since its electronic transmission service could be subsidized from the profits of the monopoly.

- 15) Which of the following, if each is true, would allay the electronic transmittal operators' fears of unfair competition?
- A) If the Postal Service were to offer electronic transmission, it could not make a profit on first-class mail.
 - B) If the Postal Service were to offer electronic transmission, it would have a monopoly on that kind of service.
 - C) Much of the material that is now sent by first-class mail could be delivered much faster by special package couriers, but is not sent that way because of cost.
 - D) There is no economy of scale in electronic transmission-that is, the cost per transaction does not go down as more pieces of information are transmitted.
 - E) Electronic transmission will never be cost-effective for material not sent by first-class mail such as newspapers and bulk mail.
- 16) Which of the following Questions can be answered on the basis of the information in the passage above?
- A) Is the Postal Service as efficient as privately owned electric transmission services?
 - B) If private operators were allowed to operate first-class mail services, would they choose to do so?
 - C) Do the electronic transmission operators believe that the Postal Service makes a profit on first-class mail?
 - D) Is the Postal Service prohibited from offering electronic transmission services?
 - E) Is the Postal Service expected to have a monopoly on electronic transmission?
- 17) Lists of hospitals have been compiled showing which hospitals have patient death rates exceeding the national average. The data have been adjusted to allow for

differences in the ages of patients.

Each of the following, if true, provides a good logical ground for hospitals to object to interpreting rank on these lists as one of the indices of the quality of hospital care EXCEPT:

- A) Rank order might indicate insignificant differences, rather than large differences, in numbers of patient deaths.
- B) Hospitals that keep patients longer are likely to have higher death rates than those that discharge patients earlier but do not record deaths of patients at home after discharge.
- C) Patients who are very old on admission to a hospital are less likely than younger patients to survive the same types of illnesses or surgical procedures.
- D) Some hospitals serve a larger proportion of low-income patients, who tend to be more seriously ill when admitted to a hospital.
- E) For-profit hospitals sometimes do not provide intensive-care units and other expensive services for very sick patients but refer or transfer such patients to other hospitals.

- 18) Teresa: Manned space flight does not have a future, since it cannot compete economically with other means of accomplishing the objectives of space flight.
Edward: No mode of human transportation has a better record of reliability: two accidents in twenty-five years. Thus manned space flight definitely has a positive future.

Which of the following is the best logical evaluation of Edward's argument as a response to Teresa's argument?

- A) It cites evidence that, if true, tends to disprove the evidence cited by Teresa in drawing her conclusion.
- B) It indicates a logical gap in the support that Teresa offers for her conclusion.
- C) It raises a consideration that outweighs the argument Teresa makes.
- D) It does not meet Teresa's point because it assumes that there is no serious impediment to transporting people into space, but this was the issue raised by Teresa.
- E) It fails to respond to Teresa's argument because it does not address the fundamental issue of whether space activities should have priority over other claims on the national budget.

- 19) Black Americans are, on the whole, about twice as likely as White Americans to develop high blood pressure. This likelihood also holds for westernized Black Africans when compared to White Africans.

Researchers have hypothesized that this predisposition in westernized Blacks may reflect an interaction between western high-salt diets and genes that adapted to an environmental scarcity of salt.

Which of the following statements about present-day, westernized Black Africans, if true, would most tend to confirm the researchers' hypothesis?

- A) The blood pressures of those descended from peoples situated throughout their history in Senegal and Gambia, where salt was always available, are low.
 - B) The unusually high salt consumption in certain areas of Africa represents a serious health problem.
 - C) Because of their blood pressure levels, most White Africans have markedly decreased their salt consumption.
 - D) Blood pressures are low among the Yoruba, who, throughout their history, have been situated far inland from sources of sea salt and far south of Saharan salt mines.
 - E) No significant differences in salt metabolism have been found between those people who have had salt available throughout their history and those who have not.
- 20) The following proposal to amend the bylaws of an organization was circulated to its members for comment.
- When more than one nominee is to be named for an office, prospective nominees must consent to nomination and before giving such consent must be told who the other nominees will be.
- Which of the following comments concerning the logic of the proposal is accurate if it cannot be known who the actual nominees are until prospective nominees have given their consent to be nominated?
- A) The proposal would make it possible for each of several nominees for an office to be aware of who all of the other nominees are.
 - B) The proposal would widen the choice available to those choosing among the nominees.
 - C) If there are several prospective nominees, the proposal would deny the last nominee equal treatment with the first.
 - D) The proposal would enable a prospective nominee to withdraw from competition with a specific person without making that withdrawal known.
 - E) If there is more than one prospective nominee, the proposal would make it impossible for anyone to become a nominee.

READING COMPREHENSION (2 passages)

Passage 1

No very satisfactory account of the mechanism that caused the formation of the ocean basins has yet been given. The traditional view supposes that the upper mantle of the earth behaves as a liquid when it is subjected to small forces for long periods and that differences in temperature under oceans and continents are sufficient to produce convection in the mantle of the earth with rising convection currents under the mid-ocean ridges and sinking currents under the continents. Theoretically, this convection would carry the continental plates along as though they were on a **conveyor belt** and would provide the forces needed to produce the split that occurs along the ridge. This view may be correct: it has the advantage that the currents are driven by temperature differences that themselves depend on the position of the continents. Such a back-coupling, in which the position of the moving plate has an impact on the forces that move it, could produce complicated and varying motions. On the other hand, the theory is implausible because convection does not normally occur along lines. And it certainly does not occur along lines broken by frequent offsets or changes in direction, as the ridge is. Also, it is difficult to see how the theory applies to the plate between the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the ridge in the Indian Ocean. This plate is growing on both sides, and since there is no intermediate trench, the two ridges must be moving apart. It would be odd if the rising convection currents kept exact pace with them. An alternative theory is that the sinking part of the plate, which is denser than the hotter surrounding mantle, pulls the rest of the plate after it. Again it is difficult to see how this applies to the ridge in the South Atlantic, where neither the African nor the American plate has a sinking part. Another possibility is that the sinking plate cools the neighboring mantle and produces convection currents that move the plates. This last theory is attractive because it gives some hope of explaining the enclosed seas, such as the Sea of Japan. These seas have a typical oceanic floor, except that the floor is overlaid by several kilometers of sediment. Their floors have probably been sinking for long periods. It seems possible that a sinking current of cooled mantle material on the upper side of the plate might be the cause of such deep basins. The enclosed seas are an important feature of the earth's surface, and seriously require explanation in because, addition to the enclosed seas that are developing at present behind island arcs, there are a number of older ones of possibly similar origin, such as the Gulf of Mexico, the Black Sea, and perhaps the North Sea.

- 1) According to the traditional view of the origin of the ocean basins, which of the following is sufficient to move the continental plates?
 - A) Increases in sedimentation on ocean floors
 - B) Spreading of ocean trenches

- C) Movement of mid-ocean ridges
 - D) Sinking of ocean basins
 - E) Differences in temperature under oceans and continents
- 2) It can be inferred from the passage that, of the following, the deepest sediments would be found in the:
- A) Indian Ocean
 - B) Black Sea
 - C) Mid-Atlantic
 - D) South Atlantic
 - E) Pacific
- 3) The author refers to a "conveyor belt" in the passage to
- A) illustrate the effects of convection in the mantle
 - B) show how temperature differences depend on the positions of the continents
 - C) demonstrate the linear nature of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge
 - D) describe the complicated motions made possible by back-coupling
 - E) account for the rising currents under certain mid-ocean ridges
- 4) The author regards the traditional view of the origin of the oceans with
- A) slight apprehension
 - B) absolute indifference
 - C) indignant anger
 - D) complete disbelief
 - E) guarded skepticism
- 5) According to the passage, which of the following are separated by a plate that is growing on both sides?
- A) The Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan
 - B) The South Atlantic Ridge and the North Sea Ridge
 - C) The Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic Ridge
 - D) The Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the Indian Ocean Ridge
 - E) The Black Sea and the Sea of Japan
- 6) Which of the following, if it could be demonstrated, would most support the traditional view of ocean formation?
- A) Convection usually occurs along lines.
 - B) The upper mantle behaves as a dense solid.
 - C) Sedimentation occurs at a constant rate.
 - D) Sinking plates cool the mantle.
 - E) Island arcs surround enclosed seas.
- 7) According to the passage, the floor of the Black Sea can best be compared to a
- A) rapidly moving conveyor belt
 - B) slowly settling foundation
 - C) rapidly expanding balloon

- D) violently erupting volcano
 - E) slowly eroding mountain
- 8) Which of the following titles would best describe the content of the passage?
- A) A Description of the Oceans of the World
 - B) Several Theories of Ocean Basin Formation
 - C) The Traditional View of the Oceans
 - D) Convection and Ocean Currents
 - E) Temperature Differences Among the Oceans of the World

Passage 2

The fossil remains of the first flying vertebrates, the pterosaurs, have intrigued paleontologists for more than two centuries. How such large creatures, which weighed in some cases as much as a piloted hang-glider and had wingspans from 8 to 12 meters, solved the problems of powered flight, and exactly what these creatures were—reptiles or birds—are among the questions scientists have puzzled over.

Perhaps the least controversial assertion about the pterosaurs is that they were reptiles. Their skulls, pelvises, and hind feet are reptilian. The anatomy of their wings suggests that they did not evolve into the class of birds. In pterosaurs a greatly elongated fourth finger of each forelimb supported a wing like membrane. The other fingers were short and reptilian, with sharp claws. In birds the second finger is the principal strut of the wing, which consists primarily of feathers. If the pterosaurs walked on all fours, the three short fingers may have been employed for grasping. When a pterosaur walked or remained stationary, the fourth finger, and with it the wing, could only turn upward in an extended inverted V-shape along each side of the animal's body. The pterosaurs resembled both birds and bats in their overall structure and proportions. This is not surprising because the design of any flying vertebrate is subject to aerodynamic constraints. Both the pterosaurs and the birds have hollow bones, a feature that represents a savings in weight. In the birds, however, these bones are reinforced more massively by internal struts.

Although scales typically cover reptiles, the pterosaurs probably had hairy coats. T.H. Huxley reasoned that flying vertebrates must have been warm-blooded because flying implies a high rate of metabolism, which in turn implies a high internal temperature. Huxley speculated that a coat of hair would insulate against loss of body heat and might streamline the body to reduce drag in flight.

The recent discovery of a pterosaur specimen covered in long, dense, and relatively thick hairlike fossil material was the first clear evidence that his reasoning was correct. Efforts to explain how the pterosaurs became air-borne have led to suggestions that they launched themselves by jumping from cliffs, by dropping from trees. Or even by rising into light winds from the crests of waves. Each hypothesis has its difficulties. The first wrongly assumes that the pterosaurs' hind feet resembled a bat's and could serve as hooks by which the animal could hang in preparation for flight. The second hypothesis seems unlikely because large pterosaurs could not have landed in trees without damaging their wings. The third calls for high waves to channel updrafts. The wind that made such

waves however, might have been too strong for the pterosaurs to control their flight once airborne.

- 1) It can be inferred from the passage that scientists now generally agree that the
 - A) enormous wingspan of the pterosaurs enabled them to fly great distances
 - B) structure of the skeleton of the pterosaurs suggests a close evolutionary relationship to bats
 - C) fossil remains of the pterosaurs reveal how they solved the problem of powered flight
 - D) pterosaurs were reptiles
 - E) pterosaurs walked on all fours
- 2) The author views the idea that the pterosaurs became airborne by rising into light winds created by waves as
 - A) revolutionary
 - B) unlikely
 - C) unassailable
 - D) probable
 - E) outdated
- 3) According to the passage, the skeleton of a pterosaur can be distinguished from that of a bird by the
 - A) size of its wingspan
 - B) presence of hollow spaces in its bones
 - C) anatomic origin of its wing strut
 - D) presence of hook-like projections on its hind feet
 - E) location of the shoulder joint joining the wing to its body
- 4) The ideas attributed to T.H. Huxley in the passage suggest that he would most likely agree with which of the following statements?
 - A) An animal's brain size has little bearing on its ability to master complex behaviors.
 - B) An animal's appearance is often influenced by environmental requirements and physical
 - C) capabilities.
 - D) Animals within a given family group are unlikely to change their appearance dramatically over a period of time.
 - E) The origin of flight in vertebrates was an accidental development rather than the outcome
 - F) of specialization or adaptation.
 - G) The pterosaurs should be classified as birds, not reptiles.
- 5) It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is characteristic of the pterosaurs?
 - A) They were unable to fold their wings when not in use.
 - B) They hung upside down from branches as bats do before flight.

- C) They flew in order to capture prey.
 - D) They were an early stage in the evolution of the birds.
 - E) They lived primarily in a forest like habitat.
- 6) Which of the following best describes the organization of the last paragraph of the passage?
- A) New evidence is introduced to support a traditional point of view.
 - B) Three explanations for a phenomenon are presented, and each is disputed by means of
 - C) specific information.
 - D) Three hypotheses are outlined, and evidence supporting each is given.
 - E) Recent discoveries are described, and their implications for future study are projected
 - F) A summary of the material in the preceding paragraphs is presented, and conclusions are
 - G) drawn.
- 7) It can be inferred from the passage that some scientists believe that pterosaurs
- A) lived near large bodies of water
 - B) had sharp teeth for tearing food
 - C) were attacked and eaten by larger reptiles
 - D) had longer tails than many birds
 - E) consumed twice their weight daily to maintain their body temperature