

RC Solutions

Passage 1

1. *Apocalypse Now Redux* and *Apocalypse Now* were discussed in the final two paragraphs. In the third paragraph, *Apocalypse Now* is described as a film that was released years after the conflict it portrayed and had a more complex view of the war. In the last paragraph, *Apocalypse Now Redux* is presented as further evidence that the pattern discussed in this passage continues. That pattern is that war movies presented less glorified and more layered portrayals when the conflict was further in the past. Thus, the correct answer will note that its perspective was more complex and morally ambiguous.

(A) This choice distorts the meaning of the passage. While the last paragraph notes that film audiences are more diverse, this is not connected to the information provided about *Apocalypse Now Redux*.

(B) CORRECT. The last paragraph notes that the extra footage was not originally included because it might repel audiences. Thus, the updated film's portrayal of war must be less appealing and more ambiguous than that of the original.

(C) This choice indicates a change in the opposite direction; the last paragraph indicates that the additional footage made the film's perspective on war harsher as opposed to more glorified.

(D) The passage indicates that not all war movies had the same tone, and the answer choice does not specify which "other movies" are referred to; therefore, this choice is incorrect.

(E) There is no mention of any removed footage in the passage. As it is not possible to know if any footage was removed, this choice is incorrect.

2. The theme of the passage is that the glories of war were emphasized in films made during the conflict but questioned in those made years afterward. In the second paragraph, *All Quiet on the Western Front* is cited as an example from the latter category. Therefore, its portrayal of combat would have the least in common with a film made during a conflict.

(A) In the last paragraph, *Jarhead* is listed as a film that was made years after the conflict it portrayed and had an ambivalent attitude to its topic. Thus, it can be inferred that it would resemble *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Remember that any information gleaned from seeing the film is outside knowledge. If this information cannot be deduced from the passage, it cannot be used to answer a question.

(B) In the third paragraph, *Apocalypse Now* is listed as a film that was made years after the conflict it portrayed and had an ambivalent attitude to its topic. Thus, it can be inferred that it would resemble *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

(C) In the second paragraph, *The Bridge on the River Kwai* is described as a film that was made years after the conflict it portrayed and showed the moral confusion of war. Thus, it can be inferred that it would resemble *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

(D) In the third paragraph, *Platoon* is described as a film that was made years after the conflict it portrayed and had an ambivalent attitude to its topic. Thus, it can be inferred that it would resemble *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

(E) CORRECT. In both the second and third paragraphs, *Guadalcanal Diary* is mentioned as a film made in wartime. In the second paragraph, it is listed as an example of a film that portrayed the “‘the ultimate sacrifice’ as a noble and undoubted good.” In contrast, the first paragraph states that “*All Quiet on the Western Front* put forth an anti-war message by displaying the horrors of combat.” Thus, *Guadalcanal Diary* must be the portrayal of combat that least resembles that in *All Quiet on the Western Front*.

3. The second sentence of the second paragraph reads “After America declared war against Germany during World War I, the still infant film industry glorified the fight against “the Hun.” Thus, it must follow that the Germans are referred to by that name. GMAT inferences generally follow directly from the text of the passage.

(A) There is no direct evidence in the passage that indicates this meaning for “the Hun.” Furthermore, the use of quotation marks indicates that the reference is not literal.

(B) There is no direct evidence in the passage that indicates this meaning for “the Hun.”

(C) There is no direct evidence in the passage that indicates this meaning for “the Hun.” The fact that the Hungarians were then part of Austro-Hungary is outside knowledge which cannot be deduced from the passage.

(D) CORRECT. Since the passage states that America declared war on Germany, it must follow that the Germans were “the Hun” against whom America was fighting.

(E) There is no direct evidence in the passage that indicates this meaning for “the Hun.” GMAT inferences must follow from the text of the passage.

4. The passage clearly enunciates in the first paragraph that it plans to illustrate the cyclical pattern of the tone of Hollywood war movies. The second and third paragraphs trace the pattern's history through the last century, and then the passage ends by returning to the resilience of that cycle. Thus, the main point of the passage must reference establishing and describing the recurring pattern over time.

(A) This choice does not address the cyclical pattern; instead, it suggests a point not made in the passage.

(B) This is a minor detail mentioned in the last paragraph, not the main point. Furthermore, this choice ignores the issue of a cyclical pattern.

(C) CORRECT. This choice reiterates the theme that a pattern is durable, despite the doubts of some during “those days of social change” -- i.e., the late 1960's. This choice exactly mirrors the structure of the passage, which makes this point, provides historical evidence, and then reiterates that the pattern continues to endure.

(D) Besides its extreme quality, this choice is incorrect because it distorts the meaning. The passage's assertion that a more nuanced view of America's conflicts emerges in movies made years later cannot automatically be equated with a lack of support.

(E) This choice presents an irrelevant comparison. The passage is only concerned with the existence of this pattern and does not address the relative influence of various individuals.

5. The last paragraph begins by noting that the changes in the industry and audience have not changed the pattern discussed. The paragraph ends by stating that this aspect of the film industry, that is, the pattern discussed, remains intact. The correct answer should reflect this point.

(A) CORRECT. This choice correctly summarizes the point made in the first and last sentences of the last paragraph: that this pattern continues despite changes in the industry and audience.

(B) This choice is too extreme. The passage merely says that one pattern of the film industry has not changed. The last paragraph acknowledges that changes in the industry have occurred.

(C) This choice is incorrect as the last paragraph explicitly states that the pattern discussed largely continues.

(D) In the last paragraph, *Jarhead* and *Apocalypse Now Redux* are mentioned as examples proving that the discussed pattern continues. Thus, they cannot be fundamentally different from other war movies.

(E) The point of the last paragraph is that the pattern of the last century continues. Thus, it cannot make the point that war movies have changed in response to changes in the audience.

6. In the second paragraph, *The Bridge on the River Kwai* is mentioned as a post-WWII example of the continuing pattern of war movies becoming more ambivalent years after the conflict. The phrases “once again” and “for example” highlight this. In the third paragraph, the movie is again mentioned as an example of a more complex view of war. Thus, the correct answer must follow from these points.

(A) This is incorrect; the author does not discuss the quality of the movie or the merit of any awards.

(B) The passage does not compare the intelligence or crafting of these, or any, films; it merely discusses their tone and approach to the depiction of war. A movie could present a glorified depiction of war and also be very intelligent and well-crafted.

(C) This is incorrect. The passage indicates that there were movies with ambivalent perspectives produced after the first war, citing *All Quiet on the Western Front* as an example. Furthermore, the phrase “once again” indicates that it was not the first to have such a tone.

(D) CORRECT. The third paragraph states that *Guadalcanal Diary* was much closer in tone to *The Green Berets* and contrasts those two to *The Bridge on the River*

Kwai. This contrast is in terms of the greater ambivalence and moral confusion shown in *The Bridge on the River Kwai*.

(E) The passage does not mention the financial success, or lack thereof, of any of the movies it discusses.

Passage 2

1.

The correct answer to this question will be a claim that must follow from text contained in the passage. This question does not provide any clues as to where the justifying text will be found.

(A) The first paragraph mentions that the the Javan rhino is the most endangered species of large mammal. However, it does not have to be true that it is one of the most endangered animals, a category that is far broader than mammals.

(B) CORRECT. The first paragraph states that very little is known about the life of the Javan rhino. The passage does indicate, however, that scientists have been able to extract information on the species' DNA from gathered dung. The paragraph also suggests that very little information about female Javan rhinos has been gained, given that scientists only recently discovered whether or not females of the species even have horns. Thus, one can infer that more is known about the genetics of the Javan rhino than its mating patterns.

(C) The second paragraph indicates that hunters slaughtered many rhinos, but it does not mention where. Furthermore, it does not have to be true that more rhinos were killed in Vietnam simply because fewer rhinos remain there.

(D) The passage only discusses the Javan rhino; therefore, a generalization about the extinction of "most animals" is not supported by the passage.

(E) The passage does not mention other survival factors for a species or rank them; therefore, this inference is not supported by the passage.

2.

In the second paragraph, after citing human actions as the cause of the Javan rhino's plight, the author goes on to mention that the population in Vietnam is probably not viable and that human efforts in Indonesia, such as the protection of the rhino on the Ujung Kulun peninsula, have had mixed results. The passage ends with the thought that human benevolence is not helping the rhinos much more than past maltreatment. Thus, the correct answer will note the problems with current human efforts.

(A) The author is certainly not optimistic, as the passage mentions that in Vietnam the outlook is doubtful and in Indonesia, problems plague the effort. It is possible, although not certain, that the author considers the effort worthwhile.

(B) The author gives no indication that he or she believes the effort is pointless. Furthermore, especially in Indonesia, the passage does not indicate a certainty that it will fail.

(C) The passage does not at all discuss the profitability of the effort. It is possible, although not certain, that the author considers the effort idealistic.

(D) CORRECT. The discussion of the mixed results and poor prognosis for the population in Vietnam justifies “problematic.” The last sentence of the passage, observing that benevolence has proved little better than maltreatment justifies “ironic.” Also, the author references the ironic quality of human protection of the Javan rhino in the 8th sentence in the 2nd paragraph, “Ironically, however, the lack of human disturbance allows mature forests to replace the shrubby vegetation the animals prefer.”

(E) The passage indicates that the efforts have been much less than entirely successful but does not indicate any confusion related to the current efforts. It is possible for efforts to be less than fully successful without being confused. Furthermore, it does not at all address the idea that any particular heroism is involved.

3.

The author mentions the number of horns in the first paragraph in the course of describing the Javan rhino. The correct answer must follow from this text.

(A) Although the Javan rhino is described as rare, the discussion of extinction is in the second paragraph,. Furthermore, the vitality of the African rhino is not mentioned.

(B) The passage contrasts the number of horns of the Javan rhino to that of the African and Sumatran rhinos. However, the author makes a parallel comparison to the Indian rhino because both species have one horn.

(C) The passage only discusses the Javan rhino’s evolution into a separate subspecies in the second paragraph in a completely different context,; no direct link is drawn between this evolution and the Javan rhino’s single horn.

(D) CORRECT. The author mentions the Javan rhino’s single horn in conjunction with a general description of the Javan rhino. The passage then goes on to discuss its habitat and the scientific knowledge to date. Thus, the author included this detail to add depth to his or her description.

(E) The passage only states that until recently scientists were unsure if females had horns, and no definitive answer is given. Furthermore, this point is mentioned in a different context, after the passage has finished describing the Javan rhino.

4.

The first paragraph describes the Javan rhino and indicates how little is known about it. This should be reflected in the answer. It is the second paragraph that relates the effects of human activity on the rhinos and their chances for survival.

(A) This choice is too broad, as the paragraph focuses on the Javan rhino and only mentions its differences from some other rhinos to distinguish the species from others.

(B) This answer choice describes the topic of the second paragraph, not the first.

(C) CORRECT. The first paragraph provides the known facts about the Javan rhino and indicates that much remains unknown.

(D) The steps taken to save the Javan rhino are only mentioned in the second paragraph; they do not appear in the first paragraph.

(E) The first paragraph only indicates the respective number of rhinos in Indonesia and Vietnam in passing, and does not mention the differences between the two groups. The fact that the two have evolved into separate sub-species is mentioned only in the second paragraph.

5.

The passage mentions the Ujung Kulon peninsula in the second paragraph. Immediately before that, the passage states that Indonesian Javan rhinos cannot supplement those in because they have evolved into separate sub-species. The correct answer choice will rely upon this fact.

(A) CORRECT. This choice rephrases the information in the second paragraph which states that the Indonesian Javan rhinos have evolved into a separate sub-species.

(B) The passage does not mention the aquatic abilities of the Javan rhino nor can it be assumed that they would have to get there without human assistance.

(C) The passage does not discuss the funds available in either country; therefore this choice is incorrect.

(D) The passage does not mention the difficulty involved in capturing a rhino; therefore this choice is incorrect.

(E) The passage does not mention terrorist activity at all; therefore, this choice is incorrect.

6.

In the second paragraph, the passage states that the “near extinction of the Javan rhino is the direct result of human actions.” The correct answer must be justified by that statement.

(A) Rhino deaths at the hands of farmers are mentioned as a detail and as just one of the human actions responsible. It does not single farmers out as the primary cause of the Javan rhino’s near extinction.

(B) The passage mentions the separation of from the mainland to explain why the Javan rhino population in Vietnam cannot be supplemented by rhinos from Ujung Kulon. It is not discussed as a reason for the near extinction of the Javan rhino.

(C) Rhino deaths at the hands of hunters are mentioned as a detail and as just one of the human actions responsible. It does not single hunters out as the primary cause of the Javan rhino’s near extinction.

(D) The passage does not say that current human efforts are at all responsible for the near extinction of the Javan rhino. Instead, it indicates that current benevolent human efforts may not prove sufficient to save them.

(E) CORRECT. The beginning of the second paragraph clearly states that human actions, taken as a whole, have directly caused the near extinction of the Javan rhino.

Passage 3

1.

The best way to answer a question that asks for information NOT indicated in the passage is to quickly skim through the passage and eliminate any answer choice that IS indicated in the passage.

(A) CORRECT. The passage states several times that Mexico's population growth is diminishing due to the country's declining birth rate. However, the passage never suggests that Mexico's population itself is diminishing.

(B) The third paragraph states that, on average, a Mexican woman had just fewer than seven children in 1968. Today the average number of children born to a Mexican woman is slightly more than two, or approximately one-third of the 1968 figure.

(C) The first paragraph states that U.S. employers are still counting on a steady flow of labor from Mexico. To reinforce this contention, the final sentence of the first paragraph says this flow might "one day" diminish, indicating that at present it is continuing.

(D) The final paragraph states that Mexico's population is aging. This aging of the population naturally results from the declining number of babies born in Mexico. As fewer babies are born, the average age of the population gradually increases.

(E) The third and final paragraphs indicate that a healthy middle class in Mexico is a hope and a goal but that it is far from a foregone conclusion.

2.

The correct answer to an inference question must be directly supported by evidence from the text. The passage states that U.S. employers of Mexican immigrants often provide low-skilled, low-paying jobs to individuals who "are often more than willing to work for wages well below both the U.S. minimum wage and the poverty line."

(A) No information is provided concerning the amount of money paid to American citizens. It is possible that there are many Americans who also work for wages well below both the U.S. minimum wage and the poverty line.

(B) CORRECT. If some of these immigrant workers are accepting wages "well below the U.S. minimum wage," their American employers must be violating wage laws (i.e. paying wages below what the U.S. minimum wage requires).

(C) Nothing in the passage suggests the particular industry of these employers. This answer is outside the scope of the argument, and assumes knowledge from sources other than the passage.

(D) The passage does not suggest that, without labor from Mexico, these employers will be forced to close. This answer is both too predictive and outside the scope of the argument.

(E) The passage suggests nothing about how these employers either regard or treat their workers. Moreover, indication that these employers show “no concern” is too extreme to be inferred from the passage.

3.

A keen understanding of the main idea of the passage, in combination with a well developed sketch of the passage to help you quickly access the pertinent information, will help you to accurately eliminate incorrect answer choices.

(A) In both the first and fourth paragraphs the author indicates that the supply of Mexican labor to the United States might diminish over time if certain conditions in Mexico continue to change. The author does not believe this to be a foregone conclusion. Moreover, the author never hints that this hypothetical labor vacuum will have to be filled by other immigrant groups.

(B) The author speaks only of Mexico and its challenges. It is beyond the scope of the passage to assume what the author might believe, in general, about countries with large populations. Additionally, the passage never quantifies the definition of a “large population.”

(C) In the first paragraph, the author says Mexican immigrants are “more than willing to work for wages well below both the U.S. minimum wage and the poverty line.” Thus, the workers themselves seem not to feel taken advantage of.

(D) Similar to answer choice B, this answer choice asks about the author’s attitude toward countries other than Mexico. The passage, however, discusses only Mexico and its policies and challenges.

(E) CORRECT. In the final paragraph, the author indicates that “the growth of a healthy middle class is far from a foregone conclusion. The critical challenge for Mexico is what it does with the next 20 years.” Then, the author indicates the steps that Mexico must take. Thus, the author obviously believes that Mexico does not currently have the infrastructure to develop a healthy middle class. The key, for the author, is whether Mexico is willing and able to build this infrastructure.

4.

The final paragraph primarily explains why the development of a healthy middle class, an important factor in limiting the desire of many Mexicans to migrate to the United States, is not a foregone conclusion.

(A) The final paragraph actually explains why a dramatic reduction of Mexican immigration to the United States is still an uncertainty.

(B) Mexico's family planning campaign was not mentioned in the final paragraph.

(C) CORRECT. The final paragraph explains that Mexico must take specific actions to foster the development of a healthy middle class. Without a healthy middle class, the author believes that large numbers of Mexicans will continue to seek work in the United States.

(D) Though the author does mention that Mexico must invest in infrastructure, no mention is made of the types of infrastructure this investment should benefit.

(E) Though the final paragraph reinforces that Mexican immigration to the United States and thus Mexican labor might one day dramatically decline, this answer choice goes too far by stating that this "will" definitely happen. Further, is too great a leap to assume that the purpose of the paragraph is to explicitly put American employers on notice. Nothing in the paragraph, or the passage, suggests this intention.

Passage 4

1.

"Except" questions require us to test the five answer choices to determine the "odd one out." It is beneficial to use the True / False technique: label each answer choice with a T or an F and look for the odd one out (which, in this case, we should expect to be an F).

(A) True. The third sentence of the second paragraph characterizes changing weather patterns due to global warming as a subtle effect of human activities.

(B) True. The first two sentences of the second paragraph classify both toads and frogs as amphibians. Later in the second paragraph, the passage explains that amphibians have permeable skin.

(C) True. The third sentence of the second paragraph states explicitly that scientists "hypothesize" that human activity is responsible for the global decline of amphibious populations. Since a hypothesis is an educated guess rather than a fact, it is true that human activity may not be responsible for the decline.

(D) True. The second sentence of the first paragraph states that money was raised in the United States to establish the Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve.

(E) CORRECT. False. The passage offers no information about the number of salamander species in Costa Rica that have disappeared since the late 1980s. We cannot assume that this omission indicates a lesser number than either toad or frog species.

2.

The correct answer to an inference question on the GMAT must be supported by evidence from the text without need for external information.

(A) The passage states that twenty of the fifty species of frogs and toads known to once inhabit a 30-square-kilometer area near Monteverde have disappeared. Nothing is implied about the areas of Costa Rica farther from Monteverde.

(B) CORRECT. The passage suggests that amphibians are able to offer humans early notification of the deterioration of the environment because of the amphibians' permeable skin. Thus, permeable skin must be a characteristic that humans do not possess.

(C) No causal relationship between the build-up of pollutants in the atmosphere and a decrease in atmospheric ozone is suggested in the passage.

(D) The author states that humans would be wise to heed the warning offered by the decline of amphibious populations, but nothing suggests that humans normally do not take signals of environmental deterioration seriously.

(E) The passage does not compare Costa Rica's environmental problems to those of other countries.

3.

In the second paragraph, the author mentions "the more subtle effects of human activity on the world's ecosystems," and then lists three of these effects: the build-up of pollutants, the decrease in atmospheric ozone, and changing weather patterns due to global warming, all of which, scientists hypothesize, "are beginning to take their toll." The key to answering this question correctly is to recognize, in context, what these effects have in common.

(A) Nowhere does the passage suggest or imply that these changes are not easily recognized by sophisticated testing equipment.

(B) CORRECT. All of these effects happen on a global scale, so their immediate consequences on specific ecosystems are difficult to recognize. Furthermore, the passage states these effects are "beginning to take their toll," indicating that the effects happen over time.

(C) Scientists hypothesize that these effects do affect amphibians, but nothing in the passage indicates that only small animal species such as amphibians are affected. In fact, the final sentence of the passage indicates that humans too might be affected by these environmental changes.

(D) The passage states that scientists hypothesize about the consequences of these subtle effects; this indicates that scientists do in fact discuss these effects.

(E) The passage indicates that the consequences of these effects are global, causing disruptions in amphibious populations "the world over."

4.

This question is really just a disguised inference question. The correct answer to an inference question must be directly supported by evidence from the text.

(A) CORRECT. The first sentence of the passage states that the beauty of Costa Rica's golden toad was one factor that generated interest from a public normally unconcerned with amphibians. Thus, many amphibians must not be considered beautiful.

(B) The passage indicates that habitat preservation in isolation - no matter the size of the habitat - was not enough to save the golden toad. Instead, scientists theorize that broader ecological issues are harming the world's amphibious populations.

(C) The second paragraph tells us that amphibian populations have been declining around the world.

(D) This is a misinterpretation of the analogy used in the second paragraph. The author is implying that amphibians may provide humans an early warning for detrimental changes to the environment, just as canaries provide humans an indication of detrimental conditions in coal mines.

(E) The final sentence of the passage indicates that humans would be wise to recognize the potential environmental deterioration signified by declining amphibious population, but it is too extreme to infer that no humans consider this decline a threat to humans. In fact, the author of the passage seems to consider it a threat!

5.

The first paragraph of the passage discusses a specific case in which a particular amphibian mysteriously disappeared from its habitat and suggests that humans may have been in some way responsible for its demise. The second paragraph explains that declining amphibious populations are actually a global trend and hypothesizes that a variety of human activities are harming these environmentally sensitive animals.

(A) The example of the golden toad is too narrow and specific to be the primary purpose of the passage. Instead, the golden toad is used as an example of a much larger trend.

(B) Though this answer choice is on the right track, it is too extreme to say that human activity is "undoubtedly" to blame for the global decline of amphibian populations. Instead the passage indicates that scientists "hypothesize" that human activity is responsible.

(C) An attempt to convince humans to minimize the output of pollutants is never mentioned in the passage.

(D) CORRECT. The passage discusses the mysterious disappearance of amphibious populations worldwide and hypothesizes that subtle effects on ecosystems resulting from human activity may be responsible for these disappearances.

(E) The final sentence of the passage does urge humans to pay attention to declining amphibian populations, but this is not the primary purpose of the passage.

Moreover, the passage specifically discusses amphibians, while this answer choice broadly mentions "important environmental changes" rather than focusing on amphibians.

Passage 5

1.

The first paragraph of the passage introduces the reasons that the Egyptian government undertook to build the Aswan Dam and also lists the main benefits of the completed dam. The second paragraph begins with an example of a positive result, but then offers a significant and unexpected negative consequence. It ends by stating that "it is difficult to draw... conclusions" when there are strong positive and negative effects, "but it would be untenable" to say that the dam shouldn't have been built. The first half of this last sentence indicates the author's acknowledgment that this is a complex topic without any one right opinion or answer. The second half, though, states that the author disagrees with those who believe the dam should not have been built.

(A) The answer is too extreme; the author discusses only one example in the passage and does not make any sweeping conclusions. He does not imply that anything that achieves its goals should be carried out.

(B) Although this may be a reasonable stance in the real world, it is out of scope. The author does not discuss what planners should or should not expect anywhere in the passage.

(C) CORRECT. The passage essentially states that, despite mixed consequences, we cannot defend the position that the dam should not have been built, as the last sentence indicates that "it would be untenable to assert that the Egyptian government should never have built the Aswan Dam." This mirrors the idea that "unpredictable" or mixed results do not necessarily lead to "condemning the entire endeavor."

(D) Although this may be a reasonable stance in the real world, it is out of scope. Nowhere in the passage does the author discuss what actions should be taken before starting sizable projects.

(E) Although this may be a reasonable stance in the real world, it is out of scope. The author does not discuss what criteria to use in order to decide whether to denounce a project. In fact, the author states that it is "difficult to draw definite conclusions" even though the positive and negative outcomes are known in this circumstance.

2.

The passage is fairly balanced but turns positive at the end. The author first states the intended positive consequences and acknowledges the unintended negative effects of the dam before stating, in the last sentence, that the dam was ultimately successful. The author concludes this last sentence by giving the opinion (very mildly stated) that the dam should have been built.

- (A) While the author does show mild support for the project, there is no sign of inconsistency in the author's support. The author does not switch viewpoints regarding the merits of the Aswan Dam, even while weighing the pros and cons.
- (B) While most of the passage maintains a fairly neutral tone, the final sentence states the author's opinion that the dam should have been built. This undermines a position of "strict" neutrality.
- (C) While the author does ultimately show support for the project, it is very mild. "Keen enthusiasm" is much too optimistic a phrase to describe this passage.
- (D) CORRECT. The author examines both sides of the issue before asserting that the dam should have been built; this reflects a mild endorsement.
- (E) Though the author mentions some negative effects of the dam, he ultimately concludes it should have been built; this cannot be categorized as "opposition" to the project.

3.

Inference questions require us to draw a conclusion based only upon the information presented in the passage.

- (A) The passage states that "before the dam" was built, blocking the flow of silt, "the Nile floodplain was famously productive." However, this choice goes too far by stating that crops "cannot" grow without silt. In fact, the passage indicates that farmers still grow crops on the land, despite the lack of silt in the soil.
- (B) While it is reasonable to suppose that some farmers feel this way, the passage does not provide any information about the farmers' approval or disapproval of the dam.
- (C) CORRECT. In the second paragraph, the passage states "before the dam, the Nile floodplain was famously productive" and goes on to say that farmers now have to use artificial fertilizers. This implies that the land is not as fertile as it was before the dam was built.
- (D) This idea was presented in paragraph one as a reason for the government to build the dam, but the rest of the passage does not address whether the government succeeded in this goal.
- (E) This choice contradicts the last sentence of the passage, in which the author disagrees with those who think the dam should not have been built.

4.

The question asks for the significance of the author's statement about the quantity of electricity produced by the dam, not just for the significance of the fact that the dam generated electricity at all. The correct answer will have something to do with the author's desire to highlight the magnitude of this particular benefit of the dam.

- (A) The passage does not comment on Egypt's other electricity needs (and, in fact, the passage tells us that the dam provided only half of the country's output, so Egypt did have other sources of electricity).

(B) CORRECT. The author quantified the output in order to demonstrate the magnitude of this particular benefit.

(C) Although the author concludes the passage by mildly indicating that the positive effects outweighed the negative, the only positive effect he mentions there is the lack of flooding. Moreover, he does not argue that any one effect of the dam is more "important" than any other effect.

(D) The passage did not provide or imply any expectations for the magnitude of the electricity output.

(E) The sentence in question does not mention anything about negative effects, nor does it contrast the positive and negative effects. Although the second paragraph as a whole might be considered a contrast of the positive and negative effects of the dam, the author would not need to quantify the electricity output in order to make such a contrast.

5.

In the first paragraph, the passage introduces a problem (flooding) and a solution (the Aswan Dam). In the second, the passage notes that the dam had both the intended positive effects and some unexpected negative consequences. The author concludes by noting that, despite the negative effects, the dam did accomplish its primary intended goal; the author also explicitly rejects the idea that the dam should not have been built.

(A) CORRECT. The passage discusses the "varied effects" (positive and negative consequences) that resulted from a plan that generally succeeded.

(B) The conclusion of the passage supports the idea that the author thinks the advantages outweighed the disadvantages, not vice versa. In addition, the adverb "usually" raises a red flag; the author presents only one example and makes no attempt to draw a universal conclusion.

(C) This choice contradicts the last sentence of the passage ("it would be untenable..."); the author does not agree with those who think the dam should not have been built.

(D) The passage discussed a problem (flooding), a solution (the Aswan Dam), and some positive and negative effects of the project. The passage did not focus on the implementation of the project, i.e., the construction of the dam.

(E) The main idea encompasses both positive and negative effects, not just the negative ones. In addition, the author makes no comment or claim about poor planning.

6.

Specific detail EXCEPT questions require us to search the passage for four details which are mentioned in the passage; the fifth is not mentioned and is, therefore, the

right answer. One helpful technique is to label each answer choice with a T (for "true") if you find it in the passage and an F (for "false") if you cannot.

(A) True. The last sentence of the first paragraph says the dam will "supply a steady source of water for residents and agricultural activities."

(B) True. The first sentence of the second paragraph says "the dam provided approximately half of Egypt's entire electricity output."

(C) True. The second sentence of the first paragraph says that the dam would "enable the country's economic development to be on a par with that of Western nations," and it is clear from the passage that the actual completion of the dam served to move Egypt toward this goal.

(D) True. The last sentence of the first paragraph says the dam "would prevent the annual flooding" and the last sentence of the second paragraph confirms that the dam succeeded in this goal.

(E) CORRECT. False. In fact, the opposite is true; the dam led farmers to use fertilizers which caused pollution and harmed the animal and plant life in the area.

Passage 7

1.

This question asks which is most analogous to the process through which an LCD display presents different colors. The fifth and sixth sentences of the second paragraph read, "LCDs that are capable of producing color images, such as in televisions and computers, reproduce colors through a process of subtraction, blocking out particular color wavelengths from the spectrum of white light until only the desired color remains. It is the variation of the intensity of light permitted to pass through the matrix of liquid crystals that enables LCD displays to present images full of gradations of different colors."

This process of subtraction consists of taking a large number of elements, in this case wavelengths of light, and carefully blocking out certain of them while allowing only certain others to get through. We should look for an answer that mirrors this precise process of subtraction.

(A) This answer choice describes a process that does not result in only certain elements passing through. Each grain of sand is equally capable of falling through the hourglass; in fact, all of it will eventually pass through, although it will happen at a slower rate than it might because the opening is partially blocked.

(B) A series of filters that separate out all of the elements of a mixture is not analogous to filtering out only certain elements and letting others "pass through" to together create the end result.

(C) A soundproofed recording studio blocks all sound, not only certain elements of it. Hence, this is very different from the process described regarding an LCD display.

(D) CORRECT. A piece of construction paper with outlines of characters cut out would allow certain spaces of light to pass while blocking others, resulting in a refined mixture that has a certain meaning (e.g. the word, "Apple"). This is closely analogous to the process of subtraction through which LCD displays different colors.

(E) An air vent that expels warm air does not carefully select remaining elements, and all of the elements that pass through are indistinguishable from each other.

2.

The third and fourth sentences of the second paragraph of the passage indicate that, in LCD displays, electricity is used to untwist liquid crystals in order to filter white light from a lamp. Also the second sentence of the third paragraph reads that "the amount of power required to untwist the crystals to display images, even dark ones, is much lower than that required for analogous processes" As a result, it can be inferred that LCDs require more electricity to produce dark images as opposed to lighter images. The correct answer choice will involve a set of images that have a high degree of darkness, and thus a high level of electricity use.

(A) There is no indication in the passage that LCDs require more electricity to display computer-generated special effects than any other images, or that these special effects are dark images.

(B) There is no indication in the passage that LCDs require more electricity to display video game graphics than any other images, or that these graphics are dark images.

(C) There is no indication in the passage that LCDs require more electricity to display video game graphics than any other images; further, a "bright" image cannot also be dark.

(D) There is no indication in the passage that LCDs require more electricity to display photorealistic images than any other images, or that these images are dark images.

(E) CORRECT. A filmed scene set inside a cave with minimal lighting would certainly be classified as a dark image, which we can infer will use more electricity than a lighter image.

3.

This is a specific question that asks us which answer choice is not indicated in the passage as an advantage of LCD displays relative to other display technologies. In order to answer this question, one must examine each answer choice and determine if it is mentioned in the passage.

(A) The second sentence of the third paragraph reads, "The amount of power required to untwist the crystals to display images, even dark ones, is much lower than that required for analogous processes using other technologies, such as plasma." The passage indicates that LCD displays consume less power than other display technologies.

(B) The fourth sentence of the third paragraph reads, "Moreover, the number of pixels per square inch on an LCD display is typically higher than that for other display technologies, so LCD monitors are particularly good at displaying large amounts of data with exceptional clarity and precision." The passage indicates that LCD displays generally have more pixels per square inch.

(C) The third sentence of the third paragraph reads, "The dense array of crystals displays images from computer or other video graphics sources extremely well, with full color detail, no flicker, and no screen burn-in." The passage indicates that LCD displays can present video graphics images with no flicker or interruption.

(D) The second sentence of the first paragraph reads, "The dominant technology currently used in most consumer product displays is the active matrix liquid crystal diode display (LCD)." The passage indicates that the technology is a widely adopted standard, which would logically have certain advantages (e.g. the technology has been widely tested and is known to work).

(E) CORRECT. While the passage indicates that LCDs are the result of rapid technological progress in the past decade and the dominant technology currently used, the passage does not indicate that LCDs are the most advanced technology. There may be a more cutting edge technology (e.g. LEDs, or Light Emitting Diodes) available for certain applications. Also, the passage does not cite any specific functional advantage to being the latest and most advanced.

4.

This is a general question that asks about the tone of the passage. In order to answer this question, it is useful to briefly examine and summarize the respective paragraphs.

Paragraph 1: LCDs have become the dominant display technology in the past decade.

Paragraph 2: LCDs function by channeling electricity to untwist crystals to block light in order to form colors.

Paragraph 3: LCDs present advantages relative to other display technologies, particularly for certain uses.

The correct answer will effectively identify the tone adopted in these paragraphs.

(A) It is too strong to categorize the author's tone as "advocacy," as the first two paragraphs are purely explanatory. The third paragraph, though listing advantages of LCD displays, does not advocate their use.

(B) Although the first paragraph does mention the time frame and context of the development of LCD displays, neither the second nor third paragraph could be classified as part of a historical discussion, and no contrast is drawn. Thus, it would be inaccurate to characterize the tone of the passage as that of a historical discussion.

(C) CORRECT. The passage objectively explains the background, functioning, and advantages of LCD displays.

(D) The passage does not indicate any questioning, skepticism, or exploration in its text, and is more technical than intellectual in tone.

(E) Although one could argue that the passage implicitly approves of the development of this new technology, the passage does not advocate for a particular point of view, and there is no evidence of any qualification in its explanation of the functioning and advantages of LCD displays.

Passage 8

1.

The passage states the following about the astronauts' arm movements: "While the astronauts did not adapt to the conditions in space for some time, by day 15 of the experiment, the amplitude of the premature arm movements decreased and a new well-timed arm movement immediately preceded the catch." The question asks for an inference about what was occurring BEFORE day 15, during the period when the astronauts were having trouble adjusting to the conditions in space. This inference should be provable from the passage.

(A) The passage does not discuss the height of the astronauts arm movements. While the passage mentions the amplitude, or abundance, of the premature arm movements, it never mentions the altitude, or height, of those movements.

(B) The astronauts arm movements tended to be premature, or too early, during the first two weeks of the experiment. This is the exact opposite of the inference in this answer choice – that the astronauts adjusted their arms at the latest possible time.

(C) Little can be inferred about the relative number of arm movements made by the astronauts in attempting to catch the ball. If anything, the fact that the astronauts tended to move their arms prematurely might suggest that they made a greater number of arm movements than they would have on earth.

(D) The passage mentions that by day 15 "a new well-timed arm movement immediately preceded the catch." One might infer that this new arm movement was absent during the previous two weeks. However, this does not mean that the astronauts' arms were stationary for a full two seconds immediately preceding the catch. No mention of specific time frames is ever made or hinted to in the passage.

(E) CORRECT. The astronauts moved their arms prematurely during the first two weeks of the experiment. This means that they adjusted their arms sooner than was necessary to catch the ball.

2.

The question asks for some information that would support the theory that the brain has built-in knowledge of gravity. The correct answer choice must demonstrate that gravity is not a principle that individuals learn about exclusively through observation and experience, but instead that they are born with some instinctual understanding of downward acceleration.

(A) An individual's hand-eye coordination generally requires some understanding of gravity. For example, one's ability to see a thrown ball and then catch it is, at least in some measure, dependent on the individual's understanding that gravity will be pulling the ball downward. However, the fact that this coordination tends to diminish as one gets older suggests nothing as to whether the brain has built-in knowledge of gravity.

(B) CORRECT. The fact that infants placed above the ground fear falling without ever having experienced it before strongly suggests that their brains are hard-wired with some knowledge of gravity. If the infants did not understand the tendency of objects, including themselves, to accelerate down toward the earth, they would have no reason to become fearful when placed on a glass tabletop.

(C) The disorientation that astronauts experience after departing earth for space may in some way be impacted by the difference between gravitational conditions on earth and in space. However, this has no bearing on whether the brain has built-in knowledge of gravity or not.

(D) The fact that most young children can learn to catch a ball suggests only that they can learn to anticipate the effect of gravitational forces on a ball. It suggests nothing about whether these children understand these forces a priori.

(E) The fact that this is counter-intuitive to most individuals, far from supporting the notion that the brain has built-in knowledge of gravity, actually suggests that people don't fully understand how gravity truly works.

3.

The first paragraph of the passage states that the ball-catching space experiment suggests that "the brain can adapt to environments in which the force of downward acceleration is less pronounced than it is on earth." Since the passage compares conditions in space to conditions on earth, the "environment" referred to here must be that in space. Thus, while gravity exists in space, it is less pronounced than on earth.

(A) The passage implies that gravity is "less pronounced" in space, not that it does not exist at all.

(B) According to the passage, the "astronauts' anticipation of the ball's motion was slightly off." The fact that the anticipation was "slightly" off, as opposed to completely off, implies that, contrary to this answer choice, humans do experience some, albeit less, gravity in space than they do on earth.

(C) CORRECT. The opening paragraph uses the phrase "less pronounced" to describe the difference in gravitational conditions in space and on earth. Moreover, the passage states that astronauts had "premature arm movements" when attempting to catch balls in space, implying to researchers that the astronauts were faced with a weaker downward acceleration in space than they had anticipated based on their brains' earth-centric wiring.

(D) No text in the passage implies that the force of gravity is the same on earth as in space. On the contrary, the entire experiment provides evidence that contradicts this assertion.

(E) The passage does not mention any weightless sensation experienced by humans in space.

4.

The last paragraph comments on the potential “practical benefits” of the research experiment described earlier in the passage. In so doing, it presents the broad implications of the ball-catching space experiment which is explained with careful detail in earlier paragraphs.

(A) The last paragraph does not provide any alternate point of view to McIntyre’s analysis of the ball-catching experiment.

(B) Although the final paragraph builds on the main points of the previous paragraphs, it does not summarize them in any way. The earlier paragraphs provide a description and analysis of the ball-catching experiment. In contrast, the final paragraph comments on the practical implications of the experiment.

(C) There is no ambiguous issue raised in the second paragraph.

(D) CORRECT. The earlier paragraphs of the passage have a narrow focus in that they are chiefly concerned with a specific description and interpretation of the ball-catching experiment. The final paragraph opens up this focus by commenting on the broader implications of the experiment, such as the practical benefits this new understanding might have on safe space travel and on potential treatment for certain coordination problems.

(E) No specific researchers are mentioned in the final paragraph. Moreover, although the final paragraph comments on potential areas for further research, no challenge is explicitly presented to scientists.

5.

The first paragraph of the passage presents two conclusions drawn from the ball-catching experiment: (1) “the brain contains an internal model of gravity that is both powerful and persistent and (2) “the brain can adapt” to environments where gravity is less pronounced than it is on earth. The second paragraph describes the experiment in-depth and demonstrates how scientists arrived at the first conclusion. The third paragraph demonstrates how scientists came to the second conclusion. The fourth and final paragraph identifies some practical benefits that the experiment might have. The correct answer choice must relate to most of the four paragraphs and, since this is a long passage, it must be closely tied to the all-important first paragraph.

(A) CORRECT. This choice directly relates to the first paragraph, which presents the experiment's conclusions, and to the second and third paragraphs, which describe the experiment in-depth.

(B) The practical applications of the experiment are described only in the fourth paragraph of the passage. This does not represent the primary purpose of the passage.

(C) The passage does not mention any misunderstanding about how the brain functions. Instead, it presents new insight about the brain's internal workings.

(D) While gravity is mentioned in the passage, there is no description of how gravity works. Moreover, the passage is focused on responses to different gravitational forces, not on gravity itself.

(E) The passage describes only one experiment in space; as such, it never alludes to space experiments in general. Additionally, while the passage implies that the ball-catching experiment was beneficial, it never explicitly outlines the benefits of conducting experiments in space.

6.

The passage describes certain explicit features of the brain's built-in understanding of gravity. The correct answer choice must be directly provable using the specific language contained in the passage.

(A) The brain's built in-understanding of gravity is, according to the passage, "hard-wired from an earth-centric perspective," not a space-centric one.

(B) CORRECT. One of the major outcomes of the experiment described in the passage is that "the brain can adapt to environments in which the force of downward acceleration is less pronounced than it is on earth."

(C) According to the passage, the neuroscientists concluded that "the brain contains an internal model of gravity that is both powerful and persistent." To describe the brain's understanding of gravity as "fleeting" directly contradicts the word "persistent."

(D) According to the passage, the neuroscientists concluded that "the brain contains an internal model of gravity that is both powerful and persistent." To describe the brain's understanding of gravity as "weak" directly contradicts the word "powerful."

(E) The passage never describes the brain's built-in understanding of gravity as "evolving." While scientists' understanding of the brain's hard-wiring may evolve, there is nothing in the passage that suggests that the hard-wiring itself is evolving.

Passage 9

1.

This is a specific question that can be answered by examining the information given in the second paragraph.

(A) According to the second paragraph, "high levels of alpha-synuclein disrupt the flow of proteins from the endoplasmic reticulum...to the Golgi apparatus," not low levels of dopamine.

(B) While a missing or malfunctioning gene may explain why levels of alpha-synuclein have risen to toxic levels in the cell, it does not explain why these high levels cause the cell to die.

(C) The effectiveness or ineffectiveness of drug therapy in yeast cells does not explain why high levels of alpha-synuclein would kill the cell. Furthermore, the fourth paragraph suggests that drug therapy actually has been effective in yeast cells, not to mention in fruitflies, roundworms, and cultures of rat neurons.

(D) CORRECT. The second paragraph states that high levels of alpha-synuclein "disrupt the flow of proteins from the endoplasmic reticulum...to the Golgi apparatus." According to the passage, the Golgi apparatus is responsible for distributing proteins within the cell. It also states that "when the smooth transfer of proteins from the endoplasmic reticulum to the Golgi apparatus is interrupted, the cell dies."

(E) The passage gives no indication that alpha-synuclein is "by nature" a toxic substance. Rather, the passage states that high levels of alpha-synuclein are toxic to the cell.

2.

This is a general question asking about the function of the third paragraph. To answer this question, it is helpful to examine the general role that each paragraph in the passage plays. The first paragraph introduces the problem: researchers have not known enough about neurons to effectively treat the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease. The second paragraph introduces new research in yeast cells. The third paragraph makes the connection between this research and neurons affected by Parkinson's disease. In other words, the third paragraph serves to transition from the technical detail of the yeast cell research in paragraph two to the implications of this research on Parkinson's treatment.

(A) While the third paragraph mentions genetic counterparts in yeast cells and mammalian nerve cells, its role is not to highlight similarities between the cells. In fact, no additional similarities are mentioned.

(B) The third paragraph does not get into the details of genetic screening methods.

(C) The third paragraph does not explain the roles of various cellular components. The second paragraph does discuss the roles of the endoplasmic reticulum and the Golgi apparatus, but this discussion is not continued in the third paragraph.

(D) The third paragraph does not actually identify, or name, any genes. Rather, it explains that researchers were able to identify a specific gene in yeast cells and its counterpart in mammalian nerve cells.

(E) CORRECT. The third paragraph relates the genetic testing in yeast cells to the broader issue of Parkinson's treatment: "Researchers discovered that such a gene does in fact exist [in yeast cells], and have located the genetic counterpart in mammalian nerve cells, or neurons. This discovery has led to new hopes that drug therapy could potentially activate this gene, thereby suppressing the toxicity of alpha-synuclein in dopamine-producing neurons."

3.

This is a specific question. We can use the key phrase "current treatments of Parkinson's Disease" from the question to help us locate the relevant portion of the passage. The first paragraph discusses current treatments.

(A) Current treatments do not repair damaged cells. Rather, they "are primarily reactionary, aiming to replenish dopamine levels after dopamine-producing neurons in the brain have died."

(B) The passage does not discuss the effectiveness of current treatments.

(C) CORRECT. The first paragraph states that current treatments "replenish dopamine levels after dopamine-producing neurons in the brain have died." It goes on to say that "without a more detailed understanding of the behavior of dopamine-producing neurons, it has been impossible to develop treatments that would prevent the destruction of these neurons in Parkinson's patients." We can therefore conclude that current treatments are based on an incomplete understanding of the dopamine-producing neuron.

(D) While the passage gives hope that new drug therapy will be effective, the fourth paragraph introduces the possibility that such treatments won't be transferable to humans: "researchers are hesitant to conclude that such therapies will prove successful on human patients." Thus, the claim that current treatments will inevitably be replaced by new drug therapy is unsupported by the passage.

(E) There is no information in the passage on the methods used to develop current treatments. It is very possible that yeast cells were used in researching current treatments.

4.

The second paragraph states that "high levels of alpha-synuclein disrupt the flow of proteins from the endoplasmic reticulum, the site of protein production in the cell, to the Golgi apparatus, the component of the cell that modifies and sorts the proteins before sending them to their final destinations within the cell." This implies that proteins in healthy cells are produced in the endoplasmic reticulum, sent to the Golgi apparatus where they are modified, and then shipped to the rest of the cell.

(A) CORRECT. This chronology is supported by the information given in the second paragraph.

(B) Proteins are created in the endoplasmic reticulum, not the Golgi apparatus. Further, there is no evidence to show that proteins in healthy cells are decomposed by alpha-synuclein.

(C) There is no evidence to show that proteins in healthy cells are decomposed by alpha-synuclein.

(D) Proteins are created in the endoplasmic reticulum, not the Golgi apparatus.

(E) Proteins are created in the endoplasmic reticulum, not by alpha-synuclein.

Passage 10

1.

The question asks us to infer something about dendritic cells from the information contained in the passage. The correct answer must be based only on the information contained in the passage. If any additional information is required to justify an answer choice, that choice cannot be the correct answer.

(A) The passage states only that dendritic cells are involved with the lymphatic system. No information is given as to the location of the cells' production.

(B) The passage states only that dendritic cells are common in the digestive tract. No information is given as to where the cells are most numerous.

(C) The passage states only that Toxoplasma infects dendritic cells. No information is given as to the proportion of the cells that are affected when a person is infected with Toxoplasma.

(D) The passage states only that dendritic cells are capable of being infected with Toxoplasma. No information is given regarding any other types of cell.

(E) CORRECT. The passage states that Toxoplasma is capable of penetrating the barriers protecting the brain. The passage also states that Toxoplasma uses dendritic cells as transport around the human body. Thus, we can infer that the Toxoplasma uses the dendritic cells to penetrate the barriers around the brain.

2.

We are asked to determine which one of the five choices is NOT true of Toxoplasma, according to the passage. In other words, four of the five choices are stated in the passage and one choice is not. The choice that is not stated is the correct answer.

(A) The passage explicitly states that Toxoplasma can contaminate soil and water.

(B) The passage explicitly states that Toxoplasma enters the human body through contaminated food.

(C) The passage explicitly states that Toxoplasma alters the behavior of human dendritic cells.

(D) CORRECT. The word "incapable" in this answer choice is too strong; the passage does not state that the human body cannot detect Toxoplasma. Rather, it merely indicates that Toxoplasma does not trigger the body's immune system in the same way as other parasites. We have no information about the human body's ability to detect free-floating Toxoplasma cells.

(E) The passage explicitly states that Toxoplasma can breed in a host cat only.

3.

The second paragraph contains information describing the mechanism by which Toxoplasma is able to infiltrate the human body and remain undetected by the body's immune system. We need to find an answer choice that reflects this.

(A) The paragraph does not summarize research that remains to be done. Instead, it discusses what has already been discovered.

(B) The paragraph does not present any recommendations.

(C) CORRECT. This matches our description of the paragraph.

(D) The paragraph does not introduce information about the role of Toxoplasma in human development. If anything, it introduces information about the role of humans in the development of Toxoplasma.

(E) The paragraph does not mention any outdated scientific models.

4.

The question asks us to infer something about Toxoplasma from the information given in the passage. When answering questions of this type, remember that GMAT inferences are typically very close to the original text, although they never repeat information verbatim. Make sure to select an answer that is not stated explicitly but can be inferred without making any additional assumptions.

(A) The passage does not suggest that the immune system will destroy Toxoplasma cells.

(B) The passage does not suggest that Toxoplasma collects in the lymphatic system.

(C) CORRECT. The passage states that Toxoplasma can reproduce only in a host cat. Therefore, any Toxoplasma cells that remain in the human body are not likely to reproduce.

(D) The passage does not suggest that Toxoplasma will be detected after several weeks.

(E) The passage does not suggest that Toxoplasma will be destroyed by pathogens in the bloodstream.

5.

The question asks us why the author mentions "pigs and chickens" in the final paragraph of the passage. The author mentions these animals in the context of explaining how Toxoplasma enters the human body. Specifically, Toxoplasma enters the human body when humans ingest the meat of infected animals, "such as pigs and chickens." So the author uses pigs and chickens as specific examples of animals that can carry the parasite.

- (A) CORRECT. This matches our assessment of the passage exactly.
- (B) The author mentions only "small rodents" as examples of animals that are eaten by cats.
- (C) The author does not mention the dendritic cells of any animals other than humans.
- (D) The passage states that cats are Toxoplasma's "sole breeding ground." Thus, the author could not mention the pigs and chickens as examples of animals in which the parasite can breed.
- (E) The author does not mention any animals at all that are immune to Toxoplasma.

Passage 11

1.

This question is an example of a GMAT "application" question. An application question is a specialized case of an inference question that asks you to discern the relationship between situations or ideas presented by the author and other situations or ideas that are outside the scope of the passage; in this case, the question asks you to recognize an idea that the author would be likely to agree or disagree with based on the statements made in the passage. Unlike questions that test your ability to grasp specific portions of the passage, an application question usually requires you to grasp or infer the essential idea behind the author's point of view, then apply this idea to something outside the scope of the passage. (Note: Application questions are usually among the more difficult GMAT reading comprehension questions.). The key to answering this question is recognizing that the author believes the "non-therapeutic" use of antibiotics is a major factor contributing to the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria, that he does not consider this to be a responsible use of antibiotics, and that he takes a stand strongly opposing the practice.

- (A) The passage does not make any statements regarding the practice of hospitals hiring infectious diseases specialists so this answer choice is not relevant to the passage. If anything, since the author is concerned with the spread of anti-resistant bacteria, he would probably support this practice more than oppose it.
- (B) The degree of reimbursement for newer antibiotics does not address the topic of the spread of antibiotic resistant bacteria and its causes. Hence, this answer is not relevant.

(C) There is nothing in the passage that directly links the amount of contributions made by the farming industry to Congress with anything that promotes the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The argument that such contributions might be linked to the level of government-imposed sanitary standards which might in turn be linked to the level of “preventive” use of antibiotics requires too many assumptions to make this the best answer.

(D) CORRECT. Since antibiotics have no medically curative effect on patients with viral diseases, doctors prescribing such to a patient with a viral illness are administering the drugs in a “non-therapeutic” manner. The author specifically points out that the “non-therapeutic” or non-curative use of antibiotics creates conditions favorable for antibiotic-resistant bacteria to develop and implies that such use is not a “responsible” one. Therefore, this is a practice to which the author would very likely be opposed. (Note: Many doctors prescribe antibiotics to patients with viral diseases simply because they are asked to or expected to (do something) by the patient.)

(E) Since the author is generally concerned with bacterial infection and responsible use of antibiotics, this is a practice with which he or she would probably agree.

2.

This is a GMAT inference question, which means that the correct answer is not explicitly stated in the passage, but can be reasonably concluded or deduced based on the given information. The correct choice is always a likely or probable conclusion: if an answer choice requires you to assume too much or make a large leap of faith, it is incorrect.

(A) We are not given any information as to the government’s standards regarding sanitation. Although the passage states that antibiotics are used “to compensate for overcrowded or unsanitary conditions,” the word “unsanitary” could refer to a wide range of conditions considered unsanitary by the author and not necessarily those that do not meet government standards. In addition, the fact that antibiotics are “routinely” administered to compensate for such conditions could imply that such conditions described as “unsanitary” by the author may be the norm and may actually fall within government guidelines.

(B) The passage does not state that non-therapeutic use of antibiotics is the sole cause of antibiotic resistance. Hence, it is not reasonable to conclude that halting such use would prevent new types of resistant bacteria from developing.

(C) The passage says nothing to imply that conditions for European livestock and poultry are generally better than those for their American counterparts.

(D) While this may be true in general, the passage does not state anything from which such an inference can be made. It is not reasonable to conclude that hospitals are better learning to cope with the problem simply because the problem is becoming worse and they are forced to deal with it.

(E) CORRECT. In the first paragraph, the passage discusses how antibiotic resistant bacteria are becoming a problem for the treatment of infectious diseases in humans. The third paragraph, however, discusses a practice that promotes the spread of

antibiotic resistance in animals, and the conclusion of the passage calls for the ban of this specific practice. In addition, in the third paragraph, the author makes a point to specifically mention that some of those antibiotics are used to treat humans. If it were not possible for the resistant bacteria in animals to infect humans, then there would be no link between the animal bacteria and the author's concern for human health; the policy that is subsequently advocated would be moot. Hence, it is a reasonable inference that antibiotic resistant bacteria in livestock and poultry can indeed be spread to humans.

3.

While it is helpful to know that the dictionary definition of the adjective "prophylactic" is "acting to defend against or prevent something, especially disease; protective," this knowledge is not necessary; the intended meaning of the phrase "prophylactic measure" can be inferred from the context of the passage.

The beginning of the first sentence of the third paragraph specifically points out that the antibiotics are used "not as a cure for ongoing maladies" and the last sentence of the paragraph describes such use as "non-therapeutic." In addition, the phrase "to compensate for ... unsanitary conditions" implies that the antibiotics were used to counteract an environment replete with bacteria. Hence, it is reasonable to infer that the antibiotics were applied as a preventive measure to protect the animals from catching an infectious disease in such an environment.

(A) The passage specifically points out that the antibiotics are not used "as a cure for ongoing maladies" and describes such use as "non-therapeutic."

(B) The passage is not concerned with genetic diseases.

(C) CORRECT. Since the use of antibiotics in the farm industry is specifically described to be "non-therapeutic," it cannot be used as a curative measure and, therefore, is most likely used as a pre-emptive measure in order to prevent or protect the animals from developing infectious diseases.

(D) The passage states that the antibiotics are administered to the animals in their feed. Hence, it is clearly not used as a surface disinfectant.

(E) The antibiotics are orally administered to the animals in their feed. There is nothing in the passage to suggest that a "physical barrier" is involved in any way.

4.

The main point of the passage is that the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics on livestock and poultry should be banned in the United States (as it is in Europe) because the practice promotes the spread of antibiotic resistance.

(A) CORRECT. This choice reflects the main point, hence, the primary concern, of the passage.

(B) While paragraph two briefly explains the mechanism behind how antibiotic resistance is acquired, it does so in support of the main point and is not the main point itself.

- (C) While paragraph three briefly explains a practice of the industrial farming industry, it does so in support of the main point and is not the main point itself.
- (D) The passage does not concern itself with the history of antibiotic resistance other than to state that it has become a problem.
- (E) The passage does not weigh the costs versus benefits of any particular practice.

5.

The question asks for information specifically stated in the passage although in slightly different language. Paragraph two describes two methods by which bacteria can develop antibiotic resistance.

- (A) The passage does not mention the effects of radiation on bacteria.
- (B) The passage states that natural mutations can become dominant via natural selection. However, genetic engineering is not a "natural" process by which mutation occurs.
- (C) While this may be true, the over-prescribing of antibiotics in hospitals is not a practice mentioned in the passage. Remember: the correct answer must be based "according to the passage...."
- (D) CORRECT. In paragraph two, the passage specifically states that "bacteria share with each other genetic material called resistance plasmids ... [which] ... can reproduce and become dominant via natural selection."
- (E) The loss of potency and effectiveness of antibiotics over time is described as an effect of antibiotic resistance, not a cause or a method by which it is developed.

Passage 12

1.

The answer to a question that asks about "primary purpose" must take the entirety of the passage into account. Since the author never states an opinion about the subject of the passage, the primary purpose of the passage cannot be characterized by any verb that requires an opinion.

- (A) This choice begins with "criticize", which requires an opinion.
- (B) This choice begins with "challenge", which requires an opinion.
- (C) CORRECT. The passage was concerned with describing how leveraged buyouts are used and how their status changed over time. This is reflected in this choice.
- (D) This choice begins with "explain", which is neutral. However, the passage as a whole was not concerned with the "popularity of leveraged buyouts during a certain period."

(E) This choice begins with "argue," which requires an opinion.

2.

The question itself is rather broad, so the best approach is to evaluate the choices and compare each one to the passage.

(A) The passage does not imply this.

(B) CORRECT. The reference to the sale of RJR Nabisco provides support for this choice. Presumably, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts did not purchase RJR Nabisco with the intention of having to sell it to pay off the loans used to buy it.

(C) Though tempting, this choice is incorrect because we do not have any information in the passage about the attitude of the banks towards leveraged buyouts today, only about their attitude during and immediately after their period of greatest popularity. Also, the language in this answer ("No banks . . .") is too extreme to be correct.

(D) The passage does not imply this.

(E) The passage does not imply this.

3.

The author discusses the RJR Nabisco buyout in the context of its consequences: the eventual sale of RJR Nabisco to pay off the debts used to buy the company in the first place. We must find a choice that reflects this.

(A) This choice does not reflect the context of the reference.

(B) This choice does not reflect the context of the reference.

(C) This choice does not reflect the context of the reference.

(D) CORRECT. This choice does indeed reflect the context mentioned above.

(E) This choice does not reflect the context of the reference.

Passage 13

1.

The role of employer health insurance plans is discussed in the second paragraph. The passage states that "employer's plans obligate all employees to enroll in the plan and effectively pre-screen for general health, as a minimum health level is required to hold a job." This implies that having a job is a sign of health, since people in poor health would have trouble performing job duties.

(A) By using the word “always,” this statement goes too far. Although the second paragraph explains why insurance companies are more likely to offer reasonably priced health insurance to employees in a group health plan, the first paragraph discusses the role of consumer choice: consumers can (and do) decide to forgo insurance that they deem too expensive. Therefore, we cannot infer that unemployed people always pay higher health insurance premiums than employed people.

(B) By using the word “cannot,” this statement goes too far. The passage states that some unemployed consumers, such as those over sixty-five, “can have difficulty obtaining fairly priced medical insurance,” but that does not mean that they cannot purchase health insurance at all.

(C) CORRECT. The passage implies that having a job is a sign of health, since people in poor health would have trouble performing job duties. Therefore, since the group of unemployed people includes those too sick to work, it is not as healthy, on average, as the group of employed people.

(D) The passage does not discuss the reasons people participate or decline to participate in the workforce. We cannot infer that the unemployed voluntarily opted not to work for health reasons.

(E) By using the word “must,” this statement goes too far. The passage does not discuss the many reasons people might work: to make money, to acquire health insurance, to gain personal satisfaction, etc. Some workers might not really need or want health insurance, and might work primarily for the paycheck. Additionally, we cannot infer that health care must be acquired by holding a job. The second paragraph mentions consumers over sixty-five, who are “typically not employed and thus seeking insurance individually.” Clearly, individual insurance is an alternative to employers' group insurance plans, even if it is more expensive.

2.

The passage states that “people over age sixty-five...can have difficulty obtaining fairly price medical insurance.” The explanation that the author supports, known as “adverse selection,” was detailed in the first paragraph. Further, the context of the reference reveals the author’s intent: “However, those who blame so-called insurance company greed and discrimination against the elderly are ignoring the reality of adverse selection.”

(A) The author does not provide an example, but rather takes a dim view of the belief that “greed and discrimination” are the root cause of the consumer problem described.

(B) “Greed and discrimination” are not presented as justifications of medical insurance pricing decisions.

(C) The author does not accuse employers; in fact, the author goes on to explain how employer provided group insurance plans benefit some insurance consumers.

(D) The causes of adverse selection were explained in the first paragraph. The author mentions "greed and discrimination" to point out an alternate explanation for the same result.

(E) CORRECT. The author believes that "adverse selection" is the reason that the elderly can have difficulty obtaining fairly priced insurance. Other people believe that "greed and discrimination" are the reasons. The author disputes that explanation by stating that such people are "ignoring the reality of adverse selection."

3.

The first paragraph of the passage describes the behavior of both insurance companies and consumers. The paragraph is summed up with the statement "the result, called "adverse selection," is that the riskier members of a group will comprise the group of insurance applicants, potentially leading to a market failure." The second paragraph explains how adverse selection affects one segment of the population (those over age 65).

(A) The author of the passage does not advocate on behalf of consumers, but rather explains a situation faced by both consumers and insurance companies.

(B) CORRECT. The first paragraph defines adverse selection and explains that the situation is considered a market failure. The second paragraph explains how adverse selection affects one segment of the population.

(C) The information presented is not described as "recently discovered."

(D) In the second paragraph, the author challenges those who "hysterically blame so-called insurance company greed and discrimination against the elderly." However, the passage does not indicate that this explanation, placing blame on the insurance companies, is "widely" accepted.

(E) The passage does not assert that the situation discussed is "morally wrong"; rather, it just explains why the situation occurs.

4.

To answer this question, look at the structure of the author's argument. The first paragraph describes the motives and behavior of consumers and insurance companies, defining a problem called "adverse selection." The second paragraph discusses the effect of this situation on a specific group of people, those over age sixty-five.

(A) The first paragraph does not state an opinion.

(B) The first paragraph outlines the decision making process of both consumers and insurance companies, but that process is not critiqued elsewhere in the passage.

(C) The author does not advance an argument in the first paragraph, but rather presents a scenario as factual.

(D) The author does not advance arguments in the first paragraph, but rather presents a scenario as factual.

(E) CORRECT. The first paragraph describes a situation and defines it as “adverse selection.” The remainder of the passage discusses the effect of the problem on a certain group, ending with the statement that “consumers over sixty-five...are necessarily more vulnerable to market failure stemming from adverse selection.”

5.

The majority of the passage concerns health insurance costs, which are distinct from the costs of the underlying health-care itself. The author discusses the cost of health-care only in the middle of the first paragraph, explaining that healthy consumers incur lower-than-average health-care costs, while consumers in poor health incur higher-than-average costs.

(A) CORRECT. The first paragraph of the passage states that “consumers in poor health...[know] that [insurance] will cover their higher-than-average health-care costs.”

(B) The passage does not compare the cost of health-care for full-time workers to that for any other segment of the population.

(C) Although paragraph two mentions that some consumers have difficulty finding fairly priced insurance, the passage does not assert that the cost of health-care itself is unfair.

(D) The passage does not discuss any changes in health-care costs over time.

(E) The passage does not make any assertions about what might happen in the future, and does not discuss younger workers in particular.

Passage 14

1.

To answer this question, we must determine why the author currently DOES believe jazz is an American art form. We can find the criterion the author uses in the third paragraph: “...the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots. To deny the rich and complex history of jazz, and the true origins of the art form, is in effect denying the very aspects of the art form that make it undeniably American.” So, the author believes the “plurality of roots” makes jazz undeniably American. The author would probably be less inclined to label jazz an American art form if jazz did NOT come from a diverse set of musical and cultural traditions.

(A) This does not speak to the roots of jazz music.

(B) This statement, if true, would indicate that jazz music was derived from the confluence of four different musical styles, or a “plurality of roots.” Therefore, the author would still be likely to label jazz an American art form.

(C) CORRECT. This statement would indicate that jazz in fact did not come from a diverse set of musical traditions. The lack of “plurality” would most likely make the author less inclined to label jazz an American art form.

(D) If this statement were true, jazz would still have been derived from a “plurality of roots,” regardless of what these roots were.

(E) This statement would only further illustrate that jazz has a rich and complex history, formed from the confluence of many different musical styles and traditions.

2.

This is a general question. In order to determine with which statement the author would be most likely to agree, we must determine the author’s main point in writing the passage. A breakdown of the purpose of each paragraph will help. The first paragraph highlights two differing views concerning the roots of jazz music, the second paragraph discusses the diverse origins of jazz, and the third paragraph states the author’s view concerning the origins of jazz: namely, that jazz is truly American because it is rooted in the confluence of West African and European music. More generally, the author believes “that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots,” or that to be American is to have a diverse background.

(A) The author believes that jazz should be called an American art form, but not because it was first played in America. Furthermore, the author believes that because of its origins in Europe and West Africa, not despite these origins. The author believes “that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots.” Therefore, it is likely that the author would believe the same about American football, that it is American because of its origins, not despite these origins.

(B) The author believes that jazz should be called an American art form because of its origins in Europe and West Africa. The author believes “that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots.” Therefore, it is likely that the author would believe the same about American football, that it is American because of its origins. Thus, this choice is backward.

(C) We have no information about the beliefs of sports scholars.

(D) CORRECT. The author believes “that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots.” Therefore, it is likely that the author would believe that the diverse origins of American football make it essentially American.

(E) Because the author believes “that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots,” and because American football has diverse origins, the author would be likely to believe that American football should be called an American sport. Thus, this choice is backward.

3.

The first paragraph introduces two sides of an issue, the second paragraph provides information relevant to the issue, but in a completely objective (or unbiased) manner,

and the third paragraph concludes the passage by presenting the author's take on the issue.

(A) While the second paragraph presents background information relevant to the issue, it does so in an objective (or unbiased) way, not subjectively. The third paragraph does not "summarize points made earlier in the passage."

(B) CORRECT. This answer choice correctly describes the structure of the passage. The first paragraph introduces two differing viewpoints on an issue, the second paragraph objectively presents relevant information, and the third paragraph describes the author's opinion on the issue.

(C) The second paragraph does not "give a comprehensive history of the debate." This paragraph gives a brief history of jazz music, but not a history of the debate over the origins of jazz music. Also, "comprehensive" implies a complete and thorough history, an inaccurate description given the brief nature of this passage.

(D) We do not know that the information presented in the second paragraph is "newly discovered information." Further, the third paragraph does not summarize points made earlier in the passage.

(E) While the first paragraph does present differing viewpoints, it does not necessarily introduce a "controversy." "Controversy" implies a heated disagreement over an issue; this is a bit too strong given the tone of the passage. Further, even if it were a controversy, the last paragraph doesn't "settle" anything; it merely gives the author's opinion on the issue.

4.

This is a general question. In order to determine with which statement the author would be most likely to agree, we must determine the author's main point in writing the passage. A breakdown of the purpose of each paragraph will help. The first paragraph highlights two differing views concerning the roots of jazz music, the second paragraph discusses the diverse origins of jazz, and the third paragraph states the author's view concerning the origins of jazz: namely, that jazz is truly American because it is rooted in the confluence of West African and European music. More generally, the author believes "that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots," or that to be American is to have a diverse background.

(A) The author believes that jazz should be called an American art form, but not because it was first played in America. Furthermore, the author believes that because of its origins in Europe and West Africa, not despite these origins. The author believes "that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots." Therefore, it is likely that the author would believe the same about American football, that it is American because of its origins, not despite these origins.

(B) The author believes that jazz should be called an American art form because of its origins in Europe and West Africa. The author believes "that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots." Therefore, it is likely that the author would

believe the same about American football, that it is American because of its origins. Thus, this choice is backward.

(C) We have no information about the beliefs of sports scholars.

(D) CORRECT. The author believes “that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots.” Therefore, it is likely that the author would believe that the diverse origins of American football make it essentially American.

(E) Because the author believes “that the essence of America lies in the plurality of its roots,” and because American football has diverse origins, the author would be likely to believe that American football should be called an American sport. Thus, this choice is backward.

5.

This is a specific question. We should be able to find evidence in the passage to support the truth of four of the answer choices. The “odd man out” will be the correct answer.

(A) The second paragraph states “the jazz first played in New Orleans in the early 1900s...”

(B) The third paragraph states “proponents of the argument that jazz is purely American often point to its genesis in New Orleans ...”

(C) The second paragraph states “jazz ensembles were built predominantly on European instruments, such as the trumpet, trombone, saxophone, and piano.” The trumpet, trombone, and saxophone are horns, and the piano is a stringed instrument.

(D) The second paragraph states that there is an “emphasis on improvisation in jazz music.”

(E) CORRECT. The passage clearly indicates that some musicologists believe jazz is “the only purely American form of music” while others “argue that jazz is rooted in a history similar to that of America itself, a history of confluence.” The point of disagreement is not whether jazz should be called American, but rather whether jazz should be called “purely” American. The author’s viewpoint is a good example. The author believes jazz comes from a complex convergence of traditions and cultures (not “purely” American). However, the author still believes jazz should be called an American art form: “to deny the rich and complex history of jazz, and the true origins of the art form, is in effect denying the very aspects of the art form that make it undeniably American.”

6.

In the second paragraph, “scatting” is described as “a technique used by jazz vocalists to mimic the sounds of instruments.”

(A) CORRECT. A vocalist attempting to vocalize the tone and melodic line just played by a trumpet is an example of a singer mimicking “the sounds of instruments.”

(B) This does not describe “a technique used by jazz vocalists to mimic the sounds of instruments.”

(C) This is an example of an instrumentalist attempting to imitate the sounds of a vocalist. Scatting is the exact opposite: a vocalist attempting to imitate the sounds of an instrument.

(D) This does not describe “a technique used by jazz vocalists to mimic the sounds of instruments.”

(E) This does not describe “a technique used by jazz vocalists to mimic the sounds of instruments.”

7.

This is a specific question. The passage discusses the elements of jazz in the second paragraph, so that is where the justifying text should be found. There, the author states that jazz “borrowed heavily from the European musical scale and harmonic system,” and that its “emphasis on improvisation...in addition to group participation...came from West African music.”

(A) The passage indicates that jazz “borrowed heavily from the European...harmonic system,” so an emphasis on a tonal harmonic structure was more likely a European influence.

(B) The passage indicates that jazz “ensembles were built predominantly on European instruments,” so the use of the guitar was more likely a European influence.

(C) The passage indicates that jazz “borrowed heavily from the European musical scale,” so the use of the dorian scale was more likely a European influence.

(D) The passage indicates that jazz “ensembles were built predominantly on European instruments,” so the make-up of a jazz ensemble most likely was influenced by European traditions.

(E) CORRECT. The passage indicates that the emphasis on “improvisation in jazz music, in addition to group participation...came from West African music.” Thus, it is likely that an impromptu call-and-response came from West African traditions.

Passage 15

1.

The question asks us to select the answer choice that best describes the structure of the passage. In order to answer this question, it is useful to identify the topic sentences and summarize each paragraph of the passage:

Paragraph 1: The recruitment and development of talent is a growing priority for many organizations.

Paragraph 2: This change benefits women, as women run many Human Resources departments.

Paragraph 3: Women have benefited from the emphasis on talent development in a number of ways.

The correct answer choice will reflect this organization.

(A) One could reasonably describe the increased emphasis on talent development and recruitment as “an innovative idea.” However, the first paragraph does not “explain” this idea, as the idea is relatively self-explanatory; the first paragraph instead introduces the change and provides background information. Also, the remainder of the passage does not “list” results, and there is no indication that the impacts resulting from the increased emphasis on talent development and recruitment are “unexpected.”

(B) It might be possible to describe the increased emphasis on talent development and recruitment within many organizations as “a new theory.” However, the remainder of the passage does not present evidence to support this theory; rather, the passage explains and explores the impacts of the increased emphasis on talent development and recruitment.

(C) It is inaccurate to describe the increased emphasis on talent development and recruitment as a “challenge” to “an established practice,” as one would have to frame the previous lack of emphasis as “an established practice.” Also, the passage does not simply document results; paragraph 2 in its entirety explains why the change is having a particular impact.

(D) CORRECT. The first paragraph does introduce a “recent trend,” that organizations are increasingly attentive to the development and recruitment of talent. The second and third paragraphs explain and examine an impact of this trend, in this case the positive effect on some women professionals.

(E) It is possible to describe the increased emphasis of various organizations on talent development and recruitment as a “change of emphasis.” However, the bulk of the passage discusses the impact on women professionals, who are never identified as “advocates” of this change; rather, they are the beneficiaries of the change.

2.

The passage mentions the creation of C-level roles such as Chief Talent Officer as an indication that certain organizations are placing a greater emphasis on the recruitment and development of talent. The correct answer choice will reflect this idea.

(A) Though the passage does indicate that a high proportion of HR departments are led by women, it does not imply that any organization with a Chief Talent Officer employs a woman in the position.

(B) The passage states only that HR was historically considered of lower importance and the CTO position indicates that HR has increased in stature since that time. It does not imply that HR is now considered more important than other departments; the increase in stature could merely bring HR into line with other departments.

(C) CORRECT. The passage does imply that the creation of a role such as Chief Talent Officer or Chief Personnel Officer indicates a greater emphasis on the importance of Human Resources. Organizations that have not created analogous positions implicitly have not matched this emphasis.

(D) Although the passage indicates that effective talent recruitment and development are increasingly regarded as bestowing a competitive advantage, the passage does not suggest that organizations with a Chief Talent Officer actually enjoy a competitive advantage relative to other organizations.

(E) Although an organization with a Chief Talent Officer is presented as emphasizing effective Human Resources, the organization may or may not be attractive to prospective female employees overall. For example, the organization may have a record of poor treatment of women, or it could be in an industry that is unattractive to women for other reasons.

3.

This question asks us to infer something about the “additional responsibilities” described in the third paragraph of the passage. The only information we are given about these “additional responsibilities” is that they are awarded to women who have performed well in a Human Resources capacity, and that they lie outside of the Human Resources department itself. The correct answer choice will be closely tied to one or both of these facts.

(A) CORRECT. The passage explains, in paragraph two, that women have been strongly associated with the traits and characteristics valued in a Human Resources capacity. If the “additional responsibilities” are in “other departments,” then those responsibilities are likely to be in areas that are less traditionally associated with women than is HR.

(B) We know only that the departmental responsibilities are not in the Human Resources area; we do not know that the women are taking over, or even merely expanding their responsibilities into, departments that “used to” be run by a man.

(C) The passage indicates that the “additional responsibilities” are given as a reward for strong performance; they may or may not be similar to those that these women have already performed. Indeed, they could very well be new types of responsibilities that are meant to stretch and challenge these executives.

(D) The activity of speaking at industry conferences is explicitly described later in the paragraph as an additional way that women have gained authority and influence. The wording (“Also...”) indicates a new thought compared to the “additional responsibilities” of the previous sentence, rather than an example of those responsibilities.

(E) The passage describes the increasing emphasis on the importance of Human Resources activities to many organizations. The new responsibilities in other departments may or may not be more important, particularly as they are in addition to these women's prior responsibilities. For example, a successful Human Resources executive could be given the additional responsibility of producing marketing materials for the Company, which may or may not be more crucial to the Company's success than her earlier responsibilities.

4.

This question asks for the best description of the way in which the author regards the changes described in the passage, namely, that talent recruitment and development has been increasingly emphasized by many companies, and that many female executives have benefited as a result. The tone of the passage does not seem to indicate a very strong positive or negative outlook on these changes. Therefore, we should look for an answer choice that adopts a balanced perspective.

(A) This answer choice is too extreme both in its description of the changes as "overdue redress", which suggests an extremely strong point of view, and its reference to issues faced "historically" by women. The passage does not mention nor does the tone indicate any issues faced historically by women.

(B) CORRECT. The passage objectively describes the increasing emphasis of talent development and retention on the part of many companies, and the high proportion of women who lead Human Resources departments. It then presents the increasing authority and visibility of many female executives as a result of these trends. This answer choice suggests a balanced approach, consistent with the tone of the passage.

(C) There is no indication in the passage that the author regards the changes described as "unfortunate." The tone of the passage does not suggest a negative view of the changes described. Also, the advancement of female executives is not accurately described as a "continuation of pervasive misconceptions" by the tone or the content of the passage.

(D) The passage does not indicate that the author views the changes as "necessary," the use of which would suggest that the changes are seen as vitally important. The tone of the passage does not suggest an advocacy to this extent. Also, neither the tone nor the content of the passage recommends the realignment of management as a goal.

(E) As there is no suggestion of a negative perception of social changes, the tone would need to be quite negative in order to regard the described changes as a "formidable new impediment" to such changes. The tone of the passage does not suggest a negative perception of the described changes.

5.

This question asks for the main idea of the passage. In order to answer this question, it is useful to identify each topic sentence and then briefly summarize each paragraph of the passage:

Paragraph 1: The recruitment and development of talent is a growing priority for many organizations.

Paragraph 2: This change benefits women, as women run many Human Resources departments, for a number of reasons.

Paragraph 3: Women have benefited from the emphasis on talent development in a number of ways.

The correct answer choice will incorporate, or at least reference, these ideas.

(A) This answer choice correctly summarizes Paragraph 2 of the passage, but does not reference the increasing importance of talent development or how it has benefited women.

(B) The passage does not make any claims regarding the relative efficacy of women to men in terms of developing and retaining talent.

(C) CORRECT. This answer choice accurately describes the main idea of the passage -- that the increasing emphasis on talent development and recruitment (Paragraph 1) benefits many female executives (Paragraphs 2 and 3).

(D) The passage does not indicate that the rate at which women are being promoted to run Human Resources departments is increasing.

(E) This answer choice correctly summarizes Paragraph 1 of the passage, but fails to mention either women or that women are benefiting from the change described in Paragraph 1.

Passage 16

1.

Questions that ask about "primary purpose" must take into account the passage in its entirety. Overall, this passage is about the differing predictive uses of the various economic indicators.

(A) CORRECT. The passage does indeed focus on the utility of "various economic indicators."

(B) This choice mistakenly focuses on a process that is not discussed in the passage.

(C) This choice focuses only on a few sentences in the last paragraph of the passage.

(D) This choice mischaracterizes the intent of the passage in using the verb "trace", which implies a chronology.

(E) This choice is incorrect in describing the author's purpose with the verb "to argue." The author does not present an argument in the passage, but rather an objective comparison.

2.

The third paragraph states that mortgage applications and profit margins are examples of leading indicators, which have the greatest predictive power. Therefore, we need to find an answer choice that relates to either mortgage applications or profit margins.

(A) This choice focuses on the employment rate, which is a coincident indicator (paragraph 2).

(B) This choice focuses on the number of new homes being built, which is not discussed in the passage. Do not assume that the number of new homes being built can be correlated with mortgage applications, which are indeed a leading indicator (paragraph 3).

(C) This choice focuses on manufacturing, which is a coincident indicator (paragraph 2).

(D) CORRECT. Imminent changes in the economic cycle are indicated by leading indicators, of which profit margins are an example (paragraph 3). The increase described in this choice is indeed a profit margin (revenue minus cost).

(E) This choice focuses on bankruptcies, which are not mentioned in the passage.

3.

In the last paragraph, the author writes: "Establishing a solid framework for understanding the behavior of these indicators helps economists to avoid miscalculations and to guide the country through periods of slow or negative economic growth."

(A) CORRECT. This choice is consistent with the information contained in the last paragraph.

(B) This choice focuses only on a subpart of this analysis: the role of the indicators for the private investor.

(C) This choice is not reflected in the passage.

(D) This choice focuses only on downturns whereas the indicators are used for either upward or downward economic change.

(E) This choice is not reflected in the passage.

4.

Lagging indicators have no predictive power. They serve simply as confirmation of the recent state of the economy. Therefore, lagging indicators would not be helpful in determining future courses of action.

(A) This does not require predictive power.

(B) CORRECT. This choice – cutting costs to avoid short-term losses – requires predictive power. And so lagging indicators would not be helpful in determining whether companies should follow this course of action.

(C) This does not require predictive power.

(D) This does not require predictive power.

(E) This does not require predictive power.

Passage 17

1. The passage cites several factors that negatively impact the desert tortoise population, mainly the threat of predators. The mortality rate would be most likely to decrease if one of those reasons were eliminated.

(A) The passage states that tortoises burrow into the ground for protection from “desert temperature extremes.” The passage does not state that tortoises are only vulnerable to heat. The “desert temperature extremes” may also refer to extreme cold, in which case tortoises burrow to keep warm. Thus, cooler burrows might actually be harmful to the tortoises.

(B) The passage does not mention the mating frequency of desert tortoises. Furthermore, while we might be able to infer that more frequent mating might increase the number of desert tortoise hatchlings, we cannot infer that more frequent mating would reduce the mortality rate of those tortoises.

(C) The vulnerability of hatchling and juvenile tortoises is mentioned, along with the fact that adult tortoises provide no care for their offspring. However, there is nothing in the passage to indicate that adult tortoises could have any positive effect on the survival rate of young tortoises by providing better care for them. It is entirely possible that adult tortoises are simply not equipped to protect the young from predators; feeding and caring for the hatchlings may have no effect on the juvenile survival rate.

(D) The passage states that females “may only lay eggs when adequate forage is available.” If adequate forage were available, then females will be more likely to lay eggs than they would when forage is scarce. However, the passage does not indicate that the availability of abundant forage plants will make the desert tortoises any more likely to survive once hatched.

(E) CORRECT. The passage states that larger mammalian predators eat desert tortoises when rabbits and rodents are scarce. If rabbits were abundant, such

predators would not seek out the desert tortoise, and the mortality rate would likely decrease.

2. The passage discusses several reasons that the desert tortoise is a threatened species. In the second paragraph, the tortoise's reproductive cycle is discussed, with an emphasis on its low reproductive rate. In the third paragraph, predators such as ravens are discussed. In the final paragraph, the author recommends additional measures to protect the desert tortoise from harm caused by urban expansion and the release of captive tortoises.

(A) In the last paragraph, the author does mention that urban expansion has the unintended effect of increasing the population of ravens, cited in the third paragraph as the primary predator of juvenile tortoises.

(B) The second paragraph discusses the low reproductive rate of desert tortoises as one reason for their population decline and slow recovery.

(C) CORRECT. Although desert temperature extremes are mentioned in the third paragraph, they are cited as a reason that desert tortoises burrow into the earth, not as a reason that the desert tortoise is a threatened species.

(D) The third paragraph discusses several predators of the desert tortoise, specifically ravens.

(E) The release of captive tortoises by pet owners is mentioned in the last sentence of the passage as a danger to the wild tortoise population.

3. To determine the author's primary intent, we must look at the whole passage. The first paragraph introduces a problem (the decline of the desert tortoise species), and describes action taken by the government to address the problem while also indicating the need for further steps. The second paragraph explains why the species has been slow to recover. The third paragraph discusses non-human threats to the desert tortoise. Finally, the last paragraph advocates additional measures to protect the desert tortoise species. The author is primarily interested in advocating future actions to protect the desert tortoise (last paragraph), while the preceding paragraphs serve as background information necessary to make this point.

(A) The lifecycle of the species is partially discussed in the second paragraph, but this is not the primary intent of the entire passage.

(B) CORRECT. In the last paragraph, the author strongly states that "additional measures must be taken," then advocates several actions to be taken in the future.

(C) The passage does discuss a problem (the decline of the desert tortoise species), but does not stop there. The author discusses a problem primarily to explain why future actions are advocated.

(D) The designation of the desert tortoise as a threatened species is one past action mentioned, but the passage does not evaluate it beyond saying that it is insufficient to address the decline of the species.

(E) The government is mentioned briefly in the first paragraph, but the passage does not criticize the government.

4.

The previous measure to protect the desert tortoise mentioned in the passage is the designation of the species as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The author certainly agrees that the desert tortoise is a threatened species: the second and third paragraphs discuss several problems faced by the species. However, the author believes that the previous efforts have “been insufficient to reverse the species’ decline” (last line of the first paragraph) and that “even with current protections...the desert tortoise faces a tough recovery, so additional measures must be taken” (first line of the last paragraph).

(A) The author is not skeptical of the previous efforts; rather the author agrees with them but feels that they have not gone far enough.

(B) The author feels that the previous efforts to protect the desert tortoise have been insufficient, so while the author may have regard for those efforts, “complete satisfaction” is too strongly worded.

(C) The author does not imply opposition to the previous efforts to protect the desert tortoise; the author agrees with those efforts, but feels that they have been insufficient.

(D) CORRECT. The author does approve of the designation of the desert tortoise as a threatened species, but qualifies that approval with the assertion that “additional measures must be taken.”

(E) The author is not disdainful of the previous efforts to protect the desert tortoise; the author supports those efforts, but feels that they have been insufficient.

Passage 18

1. We are asked to “undermine the central premise” of the presented hypothesis, which is summarized in the second sentence of the first paragraph. Jacobs proposed that dreams and hallucinations function via a similar brain mechanism involving the levels of two chemicals, serotonin and norepinephrine. Jacobs tried to prove this by demonstrating that the levels of these two chemicals fluctuate in a similar fashion while both dreaming (natural state) and hallucinating (via ingestion of a hallucinatory drug).

(A) In sentence 2, paragraph 3, we are told that LSD binds “at most of the neurotransmitter’s receptor sites” (*italics added*), indicating that we (and Jacobs) already know that LSD does not completely inhibit serotonin transmission. This has already been taken into account, therefore, and does not undermine Jacobs’ theory.

(B) The theory in question does not require serotonin to be the only chemical, or one of only a few chemicals, involved in regulating sleep. It merely proposes that two of the chemicals involved with sleep also function similarly when the brain is hallucinating. This choice is out of scope.

(C) This could undermine Jacobs' theory under certain circumstances, but it could also bolster the theory. Jacobs believed that the drop in norepinephrine levels enabled the brain to sleep. This choice merely says the "levels" are significant; it does not quantify these levels, so we do not know whether this choice supports or contradicts Jacobs' hypothesis.

(D) CORRECT. If other hallucinogens (i.e., drugs that cause hallucinations) are able to produce hallucinations without inhibiting serotonin, then the central premise of Jacobs' hypothesis--that dreams and hallucinations function via a similar brain mechanism involving the levels of serotonin and norepinephrine--would not hold.

(E) This choice says these stages are "crucial" to the overall process of dreaming (which we can already infer from the passage - we have to fall asleep before we dream), but it does not say anything else. Perhaps if we were told that dreaming occurs during the first four stages, when levels of the two chemicals are higher, we might conclude that this weakens the hypothesis; the information is too vague as presented, however, to conclude anything.

2. We are asked to find the purpose of the passage. The first paragraph of the passage introduces a theory that seeks to show a link between dreams and hallucinations based upon two chemicals. The second paragraph elaborates on the role of the two chemicals in dreams and the third paragraph does the same for hallucinations. The third paragraph also concludes by noting that the theory remains unproven and would benefit from further testing.

(A) While the passage does outline a theory it does not suggest options for further research; it merely notes that further research would be beneficial.

(B) The author does not act as an advocate, or try to convince the audience of the need for additional research; instead, the author merely notes that further research would be beneficial.

(C) CORRECT. A "theoretical construct" is equivalent to a theory; the author does introduce a theory that is "inconclusive," or not sufficiently proven.

(D) While the first sentence does imply that research associated with the brain is complex, the rest of the passage does not focus on this topic or attempt to demonstrate the specific complexities involved.

(E) While the passage does articulate a hypothesis, it only presents current research; it does not "lay out the case for proving it." In fact, the last sentence says the hypothesis is "inconclusive."

3. "Except" questions require us to test the five answer choices to determine the "odd one out." It is beneficial to use the True / False technique: label each answer choice with a T or an F and look for the odd one out (which, in this case, we should expect to be an F).

(A) CORRECT. False. The second sentence of the second paragraph says of the chemicals that "Both are discharged in high quantities only during waking states." Later sentences tell us that the chemical levels drop during non-REM sleep, not that they disappear completely.

(B) True. The first sentence of the third paragraph says that "at doses higher than 20 micrograms, [LSD] can have a hallucinogenic effect." This is equivalent to the statement that the dosage will cause hallucinations in some people (otherwise, we could not say that it "can have" a hallucinogenic effect).

(C) True. Sentence four in paragraph two tells us that REM (rapid eye movement sleep) "is associated with dreaming."

(D) True. The third sentence of paragraph three says that the neurons containing norepinephrine "greatly accelerate activity" when LSD is in someone's system. Sentence one of paragraph two tells us that "neurons release norepinephrine" - so if this neuronal activity is increased, then the rate at which norepinephrine is released must also increase.

(E) True. The last sentence of the second paragraph says that Jacobs hypothesized that "the absence of serotonin was necessary to allow dreaming to occur."

4.

Paragraph three is about the effects of and research results on lysergic acid diethylamide, or LSD.

(A) The passage describes research into Jacob's theory as "promising but inconclusive," but does not make this statement about the drug LSD itself.

(B) CORRECT. The second sentence of the third paragraph says that "LSD mimics serotonin well enough to... bind at most of [serotonin's] receptor sites."

(C) The passage says that the drug causes the locus ceruleus to accelerate activity, the opposite of the causation suggested by this choice – that the locus ceruleus affects the body's response to the drug.

(D) The passage states that the drug stimulates norepinephrine but inhibits serotonin.

(E) The passage says that "at doses higher than 20 micrograms, it can have a hallucinogenic effect." This means that some people may have hallucinations, but it does not mean that everyone will, as this answer choice suggests.

Passage 19

1. When answering inference questions, make sure to look for an answer that can be inferred strictly based on the information given in the passage and without making any additional assumptions. Typically, the correct answer will be closely connected to the actual text and directly supported by one or two sentences.

(A) This statement is directly contradicted by the text of the passage. In the concluding paragraph, the author states that “the detection mechanisms of insects are likely to be applied in practice in the near future,” thus suggesting that they have not been applied in practice to date.

(B) The passage provides no information about the time when dogs were first used in the detection of smuggling.

(C) While the last sentence of the second paragraph mentions that signals sent by insects’ receptors allow for “easy detection by researchers,” the passage provides no information about the ease or difficulty of such detection in mammals.

(D) CORRECT. The second sentence of the concluding paragraph states that the technique developed by Dietrich Schneider in the 1950s “became the first method that enabled researchers to record the activity in insect olfactory nerves and identify the compounds that trigger a behavioral response.” Since this technique became the first method, we can infer that no reliable methods had existed prior to the development of this technique, i.e. in the first half of the twentieth century or earlier.

(E) The passage provides no information regarding the distinctions between flying and crawling insects.

2. On questions asking about the main idea of the passage, be sure to refer to the opening paragraph, which usually discusses the main theme of the passage. Also, when selecting your answer, avoid extreme answer choices that describe only a part of the passage or mention information that is beyond the scope of the text.

(A) This answer choice is directly contradicted by the text. The passage provides an argument for a wider use of the detection mechanisms of insects rather than dogs.

(B) While possible disadvantages involved in using detection mechanisms of dogs are mentioned in the second paragraph, their discussion appears only in one paragraph and thus does not reflect the main idea of the passage.

(C) CORRECT. This answer choice accurately describes the main idea of the passage. Note that this idea permeates the entire passage and conveys the main intention of the author. Also, note that this theme is mimicked in the opening paragraph of the passage: “... recent evidence suggests that insects, rather than mammals, may be used more effectively in this capacity.”

(D) While the second paragraph of the passage is devoted to the discussion of the biological process used by insects to detect odors, this theme is discussed only in one paragraph and fails to reflect the content of the entire passage.

(E) First, the passage mentions only one method (rather than multiple methods): the technique developed by Dietrich Schneider. Secondly, this method is mentioned only in the concluding paragraph of the passage and does not reflect the main theme of the entire text.

3. This question asks us to find a statement that, if true, would make dogs more effective in detecting drugs. To answer this question, it is useful to identify the issues that currently make them less effective. The first paragraph discusses two main disadvantages of dogs: (1) their proneness to become bored or distracted and (2) their emotional attachment to their owners. A statement that would make dogs more effective is likely to address one of these two disadvantages.

(A) The passage provides no information about the dogs' ability to last without food for prolonged periods of time. This answer choice is beyond the scope of the passage.

(B) Nothing in the passage is mentioned about the dogs' ability to recognize drugs visually. For example, it is quite possible that dogs are currently able to do so.

(C) The passage provides no information about the dogs' ability to not only smell but also taste drugs. Therefore, it is unclear whether this ability would be helpful.

(D) Finger-like protuberances are mentioned in the opening sentence of the third paragraph as part of an insect's olfactory system. Since the sentence states that "insects have olfactory systems that are very similar to those of vertebrates" it is unclear whether dogs already possess such protuberances. Even if they do not possess them, it would be difficult to speculate about the outcome of equipping dogs with such systems.

(E) CORRECT. The first paragraph discusses the disadvantages of using dogs in detecting drugs and states that "... problems may also result from the emotional relationship between a dog and its owner." Therefore, it can be inferred that if dogs could not develop emotional relationships with humans, this problem would be addressed, thus rendering their use more effective.

4.

When answering questions about the overall tone of the passage or attitude of the author, make sure to avoid extreme answer choices. Also, pay close attention to the qualifying words such as "moderately," "mildly" or "slightly." These words tone down the following adjective, thus making it more likely to be the correct answer.

(A) CORRECT. The whole passage provides an argument for the increased use of insects' detection mechanisms. For example, in the second sentence of the first paragraph, the author states that "... insects, rather than mammals, may be used more effectively in this capacity." Also, the author concludes the passage by saying

that "... the detection mechanisms of insects are likely to be applied in practice in the near future." These statements and the overall tone of the passage suggest that the author is generally optimistic about the use of the detection mechanisms of insects.

(B) Since the whole passage makes an argument for a wider use of the biological detection systems of insects and discusses their advantages over mammals, the attitude of the author towards them is positive rather than completely neutral.

(C) Throughout the entire passage, the author discusses the advantages of insects' detection systems and expresses optimism about their potential use in practice. For example, in the second sentence of the first paragraph, the author states that "... insects, rather than mammals, may be used more effectively in this capacity." Therefore, the attitude of the author cannot be described as highly doubtful.

(D) This answer is likely to be incorrect for the vast majority of GMAT passages. By definition, if the author writes a passage on a certain subject, she is unlikely to be uninterested in the subject area.

(E) Throughout the entire passage, the author discusses the advantages of insects' detection systems and expresses optimism about their potential use in practice. For example, the author concludes the passage by saying that "... the detection mechanisms of insects are likely to be applied in practice in the near future." Therefore, the attitude of the author cannot be described as mildly pessimistic.

5.

This is a detail question. On questions of this type, use detail words, such as "an odorant binding protein" to locate the answer in the text. Those words are found in the sentence in the second paragraph that describes the role of this protein: "This protein carries the hydrophobic ligand through the lymph fluid found inside the cell and attaches it to a receptor on the dendritic projections of a sensory nerve cell."

(A) This answer choice describes the role played by a receptor on the dendritic projections of a sensory nerve cell rather than that played by the odorant binding protein.

(B) CORRECT. The third sentence in the second paragraph states that "This protein carries the hydrophobic ligand through the lymph fluid found inside the cell and attaches it to a receptor on the dendritic projections of a sensory nerve cell."

(C) This answer choice describes the role of played by the odorant molecule rather than that played by the odorant binding protein.

(D) This answer choice provides information about the odorant binding protein that is not mentioned in the passage.

(E) While the passage mentions finger-like protuberances in the third paragraph, nothing in the text suggests that it is the odorant binding protein that transmits odors via these protuberances.

Passage 20

1. In order to determine the main function of the first paragraph, it is helpful to analyze how this paragraph contributes to the entire article. The conclusion and main idea of the passage is that the Dr. Seuss books “revolutionized the children’s book industry”; i.e., they were a significant force of change. The first paragraph sets the stage for that conclusion by establishing the status quo of the early 1950s prior to that change.

Be careful: an answer that is merely mentioned in the first paragraph, but does not describe the overall purpose of the paragraph does not qualify as its “main” or primary function.

(A) The paragraph only describes Fletch’s criticism of the reading primers. It does not describe Fletch’s approach to writing children’s books.

(B) While the paragraph quotes Fletch’s strongly worded description of the “Dick and Jane” primers, this description is not the main or primary function of the paragraph; the description serves to support the more general criticism of the unsatisfactory state of children’s reading education in the early 1950s.

(C) While Fletch’s displeasure with the availability of first- and second-grade level books is mentioned, the paragraph does not directly advocate an increase in children’s books in bookstores.

(D) CORRECT. The paragraph starts off by describing the preferred method of teaching reading in the 1950s, and then continues with some strong criticism of this method and the lack of available books in bookstores. By doing so, the author implies that the status quo was not satisfactory and sets the stage for the subsequent events which “revolutionized” the children’s book industry.

(E) While most of the paragraph describes Fletch’s point of view regarding the existing primers and lack of appropriate books in bookstores, the main purpose of the paragraph is not to praise Fletch; his opinions are used to support the overall premise that the status quo at the time was non-satisfactory.

2. This question asks for the motivation behind the author’s inclusion of the synopsis of the story. In order to infer the author’s motivation, it is usually helpful to analyze the statement in the context of the entire passage. The best answer will provide a reasonable explanation behind the inclusion of the synopsis consistent with the rest of the passage.

(A) While the characters in *The Cat in the Hat* are indeed introduced in the included synopsis, this introduction by itself does nothing to contribute to the overall main idea of the story; hence, it is not the primary motivation behind the synopsis’s inclusion.

(B) CORRECT. The passage starts by establishing the premise that the “Dick and Jane” reading primers were boring “sterile ... non-adventures,” continues by discussing Geisel’s books, and then concludes by asserting that Geisel’s “engaging books” revolutionized the industry. By describing *The Cat in the Hat* as “a whimsical

story about two children ... who are suddenly visited by a havoc-creating six-foot-tall talking cat," the author emphasizes how the story is clearly different than those of the "Dick and Jane" primers.

(C) Since the author concludes that Geisel's books have had a significant positive influence on the children's book industry, it is unlikely that he intends to characterize the story of *The Cat in the Hat* as "bizarre," a word meaning "extremely odd" or "freakish" and carrying some negative connotations.

(D) The author alludes to a talking cat and fish in this particular story in order to emphasize the fanciful nature of the story, not to assert that such beings exist.

(E) The main topic of the story is how Geisel's books revolutionized the children's book industry. While the synopsis of *The Cat in the Hat* does describe a situation where children left home alone encounter havoc, this description is meant to emphasize the fanciful nature of the story, and not to serve as an implied parental warning. The safety of children left at home is not a topic at issue in this passage; therefore, an implied warning to parents is not a motivation of the author.

3. To answer this question, it is helpful to look at the entire passage. It begins by describing a criticism of the primers used to teach reading to children, and then it describes the publication of Geisel's *Cat in the Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham* as responses to that criticism. The conclusion of the passage is that Geisel's Dr. Seuss books revolutionized the children's book industry. The correct answer will reflect the main idea of the entire passage and not just a particular paragraph.

(A) CORRECT. The passage discusses a revolution or significant change in the children's book industry and describes Geisel's role in it.

(B) Although the passage describes Fletch's conclusions, it does not directly support them. In addition, Fletch's conclusions are presented in support of the overall conclusion of the passage and, hence, the support of Fletch's conclusions is not the primary purpose of the passage.

(C) The passage does not discuss the philosophies of either Fletch or Geisel. Hence, no comparison or contrast is made.

(D) The popularity of Geisel's book is mentioned in the last sentence of the passage only to support the author's conclusion that Geisel's books revolutionized the children's book industry; it is not the main idea of the passage.

(E) While the state of the children's book industry is mentioned in the first paragraph of the passage, it is not the main idea of the passage.

Passage 21

1. We are asked to determine the role that the second paragraph plays in the passage as a whole. In the first paragraph, the author introduces his main

point -- that commonplace items sometimes play surprising roles in world development -- and begins a discussion about nutmeg. However, this discussion is incomplete at the end of the first paragraph. It is not until the second paragraph that we learn how nutmeg affected world development.

(A) CORRECT. The second paragraph offers specific information -- namely, the role that nutmeg played in the history of New York -- to support the claim that commonplace items play surprising roles in world history.

(B) The second paragraph does not summarize the evidence.

(C) The second paragraph does not present the author's main point - that commonplace items sometimes play surprising roles in world development. Also, the author's main point does not explain the importance of nutmeg as discussed in the second paragraph; rather, the importance of nutmeg is used as an example to illustrate the author's main point.

(D) The second paragraph demonstrates the relative importance of nutmeg in an event of historical significance, but it does not demonstrate the importance of historical change itself.

(E) The second paragraph does not discuss the outcomes, necessary or otherwise, of the author's claims. Instead, it offers evidence to support those claims.

2. The question asks us to strengthen the claim that New Amsterdam would not have become a British possession if not for the conflict over nutmeg. We do not have to find an answer choice that proves that New Amsterdam would not have become a British territory, simply one that shows that New Amsterdam had attributes that the Dutch valued.

(A) This choice tells us that the nutmeg trade was limited to the Banda Islands, but it does not give us any information concerning New Amsterdam.

(B) The fact that New Amsterdam had a small population is not suggestive of anything relevant to the question.

(C) The fact that the British controlled trade in other spices does not give a reason to believe that New Amsterdam would have remained a Dutch possession if not for the conflict over nutmeg.

(D) CORRECT. The passage tells us that The Netherlands ceded New Amsterdam in order to gain control of the valuable spice trade. This choice suggests that New Amsterdam was already a source of wealth for The Netherlands. So perhaps The Netherlands would have held on to New Amsterdam if they had not been offered something they perceived to be even more valuable (e.g., nutmeg).

(E) The fact that The Netherlands controlled no other North American territories is not relevant unless we have information suggesting that The Netherlands felt compelled to maintain a presence in North America. Since we do not have any such information, this choice is not relevant.

3. We are asked to find a stated reason for the initial interest of the Netherlands in the Banda Islands. The correct answer will have been explicitly mentioned in the passage, though perhaps in different words from those in the answer choice.

(A) The passage does not mention increased competition with Britain as a reason for the initial interest of the Netherlands in the Bandas.

(B) The passage does not state that the Dutch were disappointed with the economic development of New Amsterdam. Instead, it simply states that the Netherlands was more interested in the Bandas.

(C) The passage does not mention any frustration with Venetian spice merchants.

(D) The passage does not mention any attempts to cultivate nutmeg outside the Banda Islands.

(E) CORRECT. The Netherlands attacked the Bandas in order to control trade in nutmeg, a valuable commodity at that time. It hoped to establish a monopoly in the spice, thus restricting access to it.

4.

We are asked to infer something about the Banda Islands from the information given in the passage. The correct answer must be based only on information found in the passage. Any choice that requires additional information or assumptions cannot be correct.

(A) CORRECT. The passage states that after the Dutch attacked the Bandas, "one island in the Banda chain, however, remained in the hands of the British." This implies that the British already had a presence in the islands.

(B) The passage tells us only that nutmeg trees grew in the Bandas. It does not tell us that no other spice was grown there.

(C) The passage states that nutmeg is made from the nuts of the nutmeg tree, but it does not state who converted the nuts to spice. According to the passage, the natives sold the nuts to traders, so it is unlikely that they were the ones to convert the nuts to spice.

(D) There is no information in the passage about the current status of the Banda Islands.

(E) The passage does not talk about the overall economy of the Banda Islands.

5.

We are asked for the purpose of the passage overall. Therefore, we must look for an answer choice that accurately describes the passage in its entirety. If an answer choice describes only part of the passage, it cannot be the correct answer.

At the beginning of the first paragraph, the author makes the claim that "commonplace items sometimes play surprising roles in world development." In the next sentence, the author offers nutmeg as an example. Though the rest of the passage elaborates on this example, the purpose of the passage as a whole is to support the claim that ordinary objects sometimes cause extraordinary events.

(A) The passage is not primarily about the history of a major city, as it only mentions New Amsterdam/New York in passing.

(B) The passage discusses nutmeg's role in world history, not that of spices more generally. Also, the passage discusses nutmeg in service of the general claim that common items sometimes cause extraordinary events.

(C) CORRECT. Nutmeg is used as a specific example of the author's general claim that common items sometimes cause extraordinary events.

(D) The author does not argue for continued research into history, political or otherwise.

(E) The author does present an historical background on a conflict involving nutmeg, but this is not an "innovative view of a commonplace item"; rather, it is one example of how a commonplace item can have an interesting and influential role in an historical development. This answer choice addresses only the example of nutmeg, not the general principle; it is, therefore, too specific to function as the overall purpose of the passage.

Passage 22

1.

On questions asking about the main idea of the passage, it is useful to refer to the opening paragraph, which usually provides a broad overview of the passage. Also, be sure to avoid extreme answer choices and those answers that refer to a part of the passage rather than the whole text.

(A) While the passage discusses the origin of the women's rights movement, the text does not attempt to compare it to the contemporary state of affairs. Nothing in the passage is mentioned about the current-day situation.

(B) While the passage discusses the development of the women's rights movement, it does not suggest further expansion of women's rights.

(C) The passage mentions only a few restrictions on women's rights and does so in a cursory way. Furthermore, the text merely describes rather than criticizes these restrictions.

(D) The passage provides no information regarding the specific reasons for the opposition to women's rights movement.

(E) CORRECT. The entire passage is devoted to the discussion of the early days in the women's rights movement and the events leading up to the Seneca Falls Convention, which, according to the passage, "is commonly regarded as the beginning of the women's rights movement in the United States." Note that this idea is mimicked in the first sentence of the opening paragraph: "The movement for women's rights traces its origin to the first half of the nineteenth century."

2.

On detail questions, you can facilitate your decision process by looking for signal words. Since this is an "except" question, we can answer it by trying to find the statements that were mentioned in the choices and then eliminating those choices that were mentioned. In this process, make sure to use proper nouns (such as Rochester or the Seneca Falls Convention) and dates (such as 1848) as your signals. Since dates and capitalized nouns stand out in the text, they can speed up the process of verifying the answer choices.

(A) The first sentence of the concluding paragraph states that the Seneca Falls Convention was held on July 19 - 20, 1848.

(B) CORRECT. While the passage states that the convention in Rochester was held "later in 1848," it does not mention the specific month of this event.

(C) The opening sentence of the second paragraph mentions that the World Anti-Slavery convention was held in 1840.

(D) The opening sentence of the last paragraph states that "the Seneca Falls Convention brought together 240 delegates."

(E) The opening sentence of the second paragraph states that the World Anti-Slavery Convention was held in London.

3.

This question asks us to summarize the role of the second paragraph. On this type of question, it is helpful to re-read the topic sentence of the paragraph at issue. The topic sentence is typically the first or second sentence of the paragraph.

(A) The Declaration of Sentiments is discussed in the third rather than the second paragraph.

(B) While the second paragraph discusses the World Anti-Slavery Convention, nothing is mentioned about the events leading up to this convention.

(C) While the second paragraph mentions that Lucretia Mott accompanied her husband to the convention, it provides no information about his attitude towards her attendance.

(D) CORRECT. The second paragraph discusses how the restrictions on women's participation in the World-Antislavery Convention escalated their growing discontent with the limitations of women's rights. Note that this idea is mimicked in the opening sentence of the paragraph: "The idea for the convention emerged during the 1840

World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, a conference that precluded its female delegates from participation in discussions.”

(E) While the passage states that women were precluded from active participation in the discussions at the World Anti-Slavery Convention, the text provides no information regarding the reasons for these restrictions.

4.

Since this is an inference question, we will be looking for an answer that can be inferred strictly based on the information given in the passage and without making any additional assumptions. Typically, the correct answer must be very closely connected to the actual text of the passage and directly supported by one or two sentences.

(A) The concluding paragraph of the passage states that “the Seneca Falls Convention was followed by an even larger meeting in Rochester, New York,” but mentions nothing about the breakdown of the delegates for that convention.

(B) The third paragraph describes the rights proclaimed by the Declaration of Sentiments. While the declaration stated that “... all men and women are born equal and that no man could withhold a woman's rights, take her property, or preclude her from the right to vote,” it did not address occupational issues, according to the passage.

(C) CORRECT. The opening sentence of the last paragraph states that “... the Seneca Falls Convention brought together 240 delegates between ages 22 and 60, including 40 men...” Since 40 of the 240 delegates were men, we can infer that the remaining 200 delegates must have been women. Further, since all the delegates were between ages 22 and 60, none of the delegates could have been younger than 22 years old. Therefore, we can infer that the convention gathered more than 190 women, none of whom were younger than 20.

(D) While the passage mentions that the husband of Elizabeth Cady Stanton stated that he would leave town if she read the Declaration of Sentiments at the Seneca Falls Convention, nothing in the passage implies that he actually did so.

(E) The opening sentence of the second paragraph states that “... the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention in London ... precluded its female delegates from participation in discussions.” However, the passage provides no information regarding the number of either male or female delegates at that conference.

Passage 23

1.

The question asks us to identify an assumption that the author makes about biographies. The best approach to this question is simply to evaluate the choices one-by-one. Since an assumption is an unstated piece of evidence that is necessary

to complete the logic of an argument, we are looking for an answer choice that completes the logic of the passage.

(A) While the author mentions in the second paragraph that “biographers tend to be attracted to subjects who display particular personality traits,” informing readers of these traits is never implied to be the “main” purpose of biographies.

(B) In the first paragraph, the author writes that “serious biographers seek and welcome the unfamiliar.” The author states in the second paragraph that “the biographer must like the subject not as a person, but as a subject.” Thus, the author probably disagrees with this answer choice.

(C) The author concludes in the third paragraph that when choosing a subject, “the biographer’s main question should be, ‘Can an effective book be made out of this person’s life?’” The author most likely believes the opposite of this answer choice: that compelling biographies can be written about ordinary citizens.

(D) CORRECT. In the second paragraph, the author discusses the elements of a good biography, stating that “a biographer’s knowledge and ability also determine the choice” of subject. If the author did not assume that the biographer’s credibility with readers is a factor in the critical success of a biography, then this part of the second paragraph would be meaningless.

(E) In the second paragraph, the author discusses the practical considerations a biographer faces when selecting a subject, though such considerations are never presented as “most” important. In addition, the author goes on to add in the third paragraph that when choosing a subject, “the biographer’s main question should be, ‘Can an effective book be made out of this person’s life?’” An adequate answer to this suggested question goes beyond practical considerations.

2.

This question asks for the author’s primary concern. The correct answer must take the entirety of the passage into account without misrepresenting its focus. Typically, the opening paragraph and the topic sentences of each paragraph will reveal the focus of the passage.

(A) The author does not attempt to persuade biographers to change their methods. Rather, the author tries to dispel what he takes to be popular misconceptions about the work of biographers.

(B) CORRECT. The first two paragraphs begin with statements such as “one often hears that biographies are...”, and the author goes on to explain why these beliefs are incorrect.

(C) No “reform” of any endeavor is mentioned in this passage. The author simply argues against certain perceptions about biography writing.

(D) The claims that the author sets out to refute are simply assertions; they lack the complexity or internal coherence of a theory. Moreover, there is no indication in this

passage that the claims in question are outdated. The author says the claims are incorrect, but gives no indication that they were, at some earlier date, correct.

(E) The author discusses the concerns and motivations of biography authors in general, and of Ron Chernow in particular, but does not describe the working methods of any particular authors.

3.

This question concerns the context in which the author cites Ron Chernow in the first paragraph. The paragraph begins with the claim that “biographies are autobiographies.” However, that statement is followed by the phrase “on the contrary,” signaling that the subsequent mention of Chernow is intended to provide a counterexample to this claim.

(A) CORRECT. Chernow is cited as a counterexample to the general claim that “biographies are autobiographies.”

(B) The questionable assertion in the first paragraph is that “biographies are autobiographies.” However, the signal words “on the contrary” indicate that Chernow is not intended as an illustration of this assertion, but rather a counterexample.

(C) Chernow is the only biographer named in the passage, so the author never attempted to make a comparison between Chernow and any other established biographer.

(D) The importance of research in biography is discussed in the second paragraph, while Chernow is cited in the first paragraph. Thus, it is likely that Chernow is cited for some other reason.

(E) The author is not challenging a new approach to biography; if anything, he is arguing that certain attitudes about biography are inaccurate. Chernow is cited to counter one such prevailing attitude.

Passage 24

1.

A GMAT inference is one that can be clearly gleaned from the actual text. Since this question asks for something that CANNOT be inferred from the passage, the correct answer will most likely go well beyond the statements in the passage.

(A) The passage states that “many companies are now moving their marketing dollars away from traditional advertising outlets towards Internet-based campaigns.” Since the passage mentions “television advertising” as a traditional advertising outlet, it can reasonably be inferred that the percentage of overall marketing dollars spent on television advertising has decreased, while the percentage of dollars spent on internet ads has increased.

(B) The passage directly states that the rise of Internet marketing has sparked a “more robust effort to measure the outcomes of marketing campaigns.”

(C) In the final paragraph, the passage mentions “the rise of ancillary services—such as firms that companies must hire to navigate complex web-tracking tools.” These clearly qualify as new marketing-related service firms.

(D) CORRECT. According to the passage, “proponents of print media argue that newspaper ads more effectively promote brand awareness and thereby provide better value” than Internet ads. However, even if true, this does not mean that companies have devalued “brand awareness” as a marketing goal. Just because, according to some critics, companies might not be achieving that goal as effectively as in the past, does not mean that companies do not think that the goal is still important.

(E) Pay-per-click search engines are described as a newly popular type of Internet marketing. Clearly, then, these search engines emerged as a direct consequence of the rise of Internet marketing.

2.

The author of the passage presents the information in a fairly objective manner. In the first paragraph, the author describes recent advertising trends. Then the author uses the second paragraph to detail some benefits of these trends before using the final paragraph to specify some disadvantages. Since the author’s tone in the passage is descriptive rather than prescriptive (that is, the author never offers her opinion about the trends), the correct answer should shy away from strong opinions.

(A) The word “only” renders this choice incorrect. The author, while clearly aware of the benefits of advertising to targeted consumer groups, never states that companies should invest “only” in this type of advertising. In fact, the author references “brand awareness” as one of the potential benefits of less directly targeted advertising.

(B) The author never discusses whether traditional advertising outlets, in and of themselves, are worth the cost for large companies. The passage focuses on comparing traditional outlets to Internet advertising but it never stakes a claim about the intrinsic cost-benefit of traditional advertising.

(C) The total actual marketing dollars spent by companies is not mentioned in the passage. The author never discusses how pay-per-click advertising will effect a companies total expenditures; instead, the author focuses on the benefits and disadvantages of different types of advertising.

(D) CORRECT. The passage states that “many companies are now moving their marketing dollars away from traditional advertising outlets towards Internet-based campaigns that can target specific consumer groups and quantify the return on marketing investments.” Thus, the author clearly views effective measurement as one of the key advantages that Internet-based campaigns have over traditional advertising outlets.

(E) The passage never compares the actual costs of Internet vs. traditional ads. While the author discusses relative value and cost-effectiveness, a strict comparison of actual cost is never made.

3.

The second paragraph of the passage describes pay-per-click search engines as an example of the trend towards "campaigns that can target specific consumer groups and quantify the return on marketing investments." The correct answer will stick very closely to the text that describes pay-per-click search engines.

(A) The passage states that upon clicking an ad, a consumer "is directed to the company's website." This does not mean, however, that the consumer will necessarily purchase something on the company's website. While some consumers may translate into paying customers, nothing in the passage suggests that this is the case for "most" consumers.

(B) CORRECT. Ads that attract minimal interest will lead to minimal consumer clicks. Since "a company is charged only when a consumer clicks on the ad," it follows that this company will incur relatively little cost for these few clicks.

(C) Since consumers do not actually see the websites of companies until after they have clicked on an ad, the relative merits of a company's website have no bearing on an individual's interest in a particular ad.

(D) The passage provides no information about how a company's brand impacts the benefit it receives from pay-per-click ads.

(E) While the passage states that companies "can track a consumer's online behavior" using web-analytic technology, this technology is not a prerequisite for companies to advertise on pay-per-click search engines. The word "always" renders this choice incorrect.

4.

The first paragraph speaks generally about two new trends in advertising. The second paragraph illustrates these trends through a discussion of one specific type of marketing – pay-per-click search engine advertising. The third and final paragraph then points out the limitations of Internet advertising. The correct answer choice will correctly state the general function of the third paragraph.

(A) CORRECT. The topic sentence of the third paragraph states that "Internet advertising has its limits." The paragraph then goes on to detail two of those potential limits or disadvantages. The first is the fact that Internet ads may not do as good a job as traditional advertising at promoting brand awareness. The second is that various factors "render Internet marketing more costly than some companies realize."

(B) Although the third paragraph opens by mentioning that Internet advertising is "hailed as cost-effective" the entire remainder of this paragraph undermines this point. The paragraph mentions the possibility that print media provides "better value" and that Internet marketing is "more costly than some companies realize."

(C) Rather than arguing against proponents of print media, the third paragraph mentions these individuals to develop the claim that "Internet advertising has its limits."

(D) The example mentioned in the second paragraph is that of pay-per-click search engine advertising. Instead of further elaborating on this example, the third paragraph takes a step back from the example and looks at the limitations of Internet advertising.

(E) Though newspaper ads are mentioned in the third paragraph, they are contrasted with Internet ads not with television commercials.

Passage 25

1.

The passage first talks about astronomers' assumptions regarding the earth's and moon's radii and core mass. The next two paragraphs detail the two methods astronomers employed to analyze their assumptions by using data collected by Lunar Prospector. The last paragraph discusses the implications of this data.

(A) This choice founders over the use of the singular word "method" and the word "proved." There were two methods, and "proved" is too extreme.

(B) This choice uses the word "changed," which is factually wrong because the passage says that it confirmed an assumption.

(C) This choice fails because of the use of the singular "method," and because "planets" is too general for a passage only concerning the Earth and its moon.

(D) CORRECT. It is acceptable to equate "implications" and "deductions," as well as "hypothesis" and "assumption."

(E) This choice ignores the entire passage except for the last paragraph, and thus by definition can not be the passage's sum.

2.

The information to answer this question must come from the second or third paragraph. As it turns out, the choices all relate to the second one. The second sentence of that paragraph reads "measured minute variations in radio signals from Lunar Prospector as the craft moved towards or away from the Earth."

(A) Changes in the craft's velocity were measured while the craft orbited the moon, not as A states as the craft "returned to Earth."

(B) Although measurements of the Lunar Prospector 's velocity allowed scientists to create a "gravity map," the scientists did not measure directly the gravitational pull on the craft.

(C) This choice is incorrect because the passage does not discuss changes in the moon's gravity.

(D) CORRECT. The phrase "changed position relative to the earth" is a fair equivalent of "moved towards or away from the Earth."

(E) This choice is incorrect because the passage does not discuss changes in the moon's gravitational pull over time.

3.

This question asks why the author included this detail. The "gravity map" was a step in the determination of the size of the moon's core. We must find a choice that reflects this.

(A) This choice is a distortion—the method was not used in this way.

(B) This choice not only comes from the third paragraph but also reverses the relationship--the magnetic field work confirmed the map.

(C) CORRECT. The author put in the detail to show a step in the investigation of the core ("composition") of the moon ("orbiting body").

(D) This choice contains the false word "earth"; in fact, the "moon" is the sole focus of the investigation of gravity's effects.

(E) This choice incorrectly states that an older theory was discarded; in fact the old assumption was confirmed.

4.

Because the question is open-ended, the best approach is to evaluate the choices.

(A) CORRECT. The information contained in A can be proven from the information in the passage. The ratios that it discusses can be found in the first paragraph: the earth's core contributes 55% of the earth's radius and 32% of its mass, compared to the moon's core contributing 20% of the moon's radius and 2% of its mass. Like many correct answers to inferences, the inference is very small.

(B) This choice reverses the relationship suggested in the passage--that the moon might have broken away from the earth.

(C) This choice does not have to be true both because said proof is not certain and because it is even less clear that the gravity map could be used for that purpose.

(D) This choice is a typical GMAT flight of fancy that sometimes is given as a wrong choice; as dinosaurs are not mentioned at all, this answer is impossible.

(E) This choice does not have to follow from the information provided. The passage does not give any information about the percentage of iron in the earth's core nor does it compare that aspect of the two cores.

Passage 26

1.

This is a specific detail question that asks what the passage states about the use of liquid culture. The use of liquid culture is discussed in the second paragraph.

(A) Both agar culture and tryptophan are mentioned in the passage, but are discussed separately: bacteria were grown in an agar culture, and certain bacteria require tryptophan in order to reproduce. The passage does not state that the agar culture contained tryptophan.

(B) Although plating is discussed in the second and third paragraphs, the difficulty of plating was not mentioned.

(C) The passage did not mention the number of bacteria that could be supported by the agar culture.

(D) CORRECT. According to the second paragraph of the passage, "because of the possibility that the lack of uniformity of the agar cultures had in fact trained mutant strains, they [Fildes and Whitaker] conducted similar experiments with liquid cultures..." Thus, the liquid culture is a more consistent, or uniform, medium.

(E) In the third paragraph, it is stated that "Fildes and Whitaker used an innovative plating technique using pile fabrics..." The plating process and the results demonstrated by this method are subsequently explained. The liquid culture experiments are discussed separately, in the second paragraph. The passage did not state that the agar culture did not adhere well to pile fabric.

2.

The replica plating method is discussed in the third paragraph. The first two sentences describe the process, while the third sentence explains what was learned by using this method. The correct inference about the effectiveness of the replica plating method will be a virtual rephrasing of the facts presented in the third paragraph.

(A) We cannot infer that the replica plating method allows researchers to determine the relative sizes of different populations of bacteria. The population sizes of various bacteria populations were never discussed.

(B) CORRECT. The last sentence of the passage states that "the locations of the mutant strains of bacteria on the replica plates were identical to the locations of the mutant strains on the original agar plate," citing this as proof that "the mutants were in fact genetically present or preadapted." In other words, the mutant strains did not develop after transfer from the original agar plate.

(C) The only type of bacteria mentioned in the passage was bacteria typhosum, so we cannot infer that the replica plating method eliminates the possibility that the agar culture was contaminated by a different type of bacteria.

(D) The role of tryptophan is discussed in the first and second paragraphs. This answer choice goes too far by asserting that "no tryptophan was present in the original agar culture." We do not have enough information to make that inference.

(E) According to the first paragraph, "the necessary metabolites for bacterial reproduction" are defined as the substances "necessary for their (bacteria's) regular function." In the case of bacteria typhosum, that substance is tryptophan. We do not have enough information to infer that the replica plating method establishes that the original agar culture contained tryptophan. If fact, the presence of mutant strains of bacteria on the replica plates would contradict this statement rather than support it.

3.

The question asks for the purpose of the passage. The passage focuses on an experiment designed to challenge an existing theory about bacteria. The correct answer must take the entirety of the passage into account without misrepresenting its focus.

(A) The “innovative technique” is the replica plating method discussed in the third paragraph. This technique was used to support the scientific hypothesis of Fildes and Whitaker. Thus, the passage did not need to “defend [Fildes and Whitaker’s] scientific hypothesis from attack by [the] innovative technique.” In addition, the passage did not even defend the theory that Fildes and Whitaker were challenging.

(B) The first sentence of the passage makes it clear that the focus will be to “challenge the theory that strains of bacteria can be “trained” to mutate,” not to describe a process by which such training was accomplished.

(C) CORRECT. The second and third paragraphs discuss the experiments performed by Fildes and Whitaker that were designed to test the established theory, mentioned in the first paragraph, that “strains of bacteria can be “trained” to mutate.” This answer choice summarizes the entire passage.

(D) Fildes and Whitaker argue against a theory, not an established protocol. There is no mention in the passage that a particular protocol is outdated.

(E) The passage does not state that either Fildes and Whitaker’s theory, or the theory they were challenging was questionable. The passage describes, but does not “challenge,” several scientific techniques.

Passage 27

1.

On the GMAT, a correct inference is not a guess about what might be true, but rather a statement of what must be true based on the facts presented in the passage. Be careful to justify your answer with proof from the passage.

(A) This statement is too extreme; we cannot infer that no free African Americans in the American colonies were the offspring of white slave owners. In fact, the first paragraph states that “these cases [offspring of white slave owners] represent only a small minority of free African Americans in the South,” and a small minority is certainly more than none.

(B) CORRECT. The second paragraph begins with “despite the efforts of the various colonial legislatures, white servant women continued to bear children by African American fathers through the late seventeenth century and well into the eighteenth century.” This implies that the legislatures took action to prevent these births.

(C) The first sentence of the passage states that “Africans joined a society that was divided between master and white servants brought from Europe,” but the number of people in each group was never discussed.

(D) The second paragraph focuses on the history of a number of free African American families in the South. However, the passage did not provide any information about the number of African American in the South who had been born into slavery.

(E) This statement is too extreme; we cannot infer that all births of free African Americans in colonial America were documented, or that all such records still exist. The passage mentions some court records in the second paragraph, and some Lutheran church records in the third paragraph, but these references do not provide enough information to allow us to make this inference.

2.

The eighteenth century is mentioned in the second paragraph, primarily to discuss the fact that "white servant women continued to bear children by African American fathers through the late seventeenth century and well into the eighteenth century." What this paragraph suggests about African American slaves at that time will be the correct answer.

(A) The passage discusses the births and family histories of free African Americans, not whether they were permitted to own land.

(B) The passage discusses the births and family histories of free African Americans, not what trades they were or were not allowed to practice.

(C) In the first paragraph, the passage states that in the 1600s, "some of these first African slaves became free, either through escape or through emancipation." The passage did not discuss how slaves could become free in the late 1700s, or whether they could buy their freedom from their owners. In fact, the last sentence in the second paragraph states that "slaves could not be freed without legislative approval," so even if slaves could buy freedom, additional legislative approval would have been required.

(D) CORRECT. The end of the second paragraph states that "it is likely that the majority of the remaining families descended from white women since they first appear in court records in the mid-eighteenth century, when slaves could not be freed without legislative approval, and there is no record of legislative approval for their emancipations." This implies that the African American men were not free when they fathered children with these white women.

(E) The statement that there were no African American slaves in colonial New York or New Jersey is too extreme; it cannot be supported by the passage. In the third paragraph, the passage discusses free African Americans in New York and New Jersey, but we cannot say with certainty that there were no enslaved African Americans in these states in the late 1700s.

3.

African American families in colonial New York and New Jersey are discussed in the last paragraph of the passage. The correct answer will be the one that can be supported by the facts presented in that paragraph.

(A) This statement is contradicted by the last sentence of the passage: "However, Lutheran church records from the eighteenth century show that a few such couples [white servant women and African American men] had children baptized."

(B) The topic sentence of the third paragraph states that "the history of free African American families in colonial New York and New Jersey, by contrast, is quite different from that of free African Americans in the South." The focus is on the different histories of the two groups, but there is no discussion of their relative numbers.

(C) The dates 1644 and 1664 are mentioned in the paragraph as the years when the Dutch West India Company freed slaves in the area. This does not suggest that the families were started between 1644 and 1664.

(D) According to the last paragraph, researchers have studied fourteen families of free African Americans in New York and New Jersey, but the passage does not suggest that those fourteen families were the "initial group" from which the others grew.

(E) CORRECT. The last two sentences of the passage read: "None of the fourteen families appears to be descended from a white servant woman and an African American man. However, Lutheran church records in the eighteenth century show that a few such couples had children baptized." The last sentence especially suggests that although none of the fourteen families studied by researchers descended from white servant women, church records indicate that some such families seem to have existed at that time.

4.

When answering any question about the author's primary interest, purpose, or intent, we must take the entirety of the passage into account without misrepresenting its focus. Typically, the opening paragraph and the topic sentences of each paragraph will reveal the focus of the passage. In the opening paragraph of this passage, the author discusses some misconceptions and assumptions about African Americans in the colonial and pre-Civil War periods, ending the paragraph with the statement that "most free African Americans were actually the descendants of African American men and white servant women." The subsequent paragraphs are dedicated to discussing these descendants.

(A) The author does not defend an accepted position, but instead provides evidence that contradicts some misconceptions and assumptions about colonial history.

(B) The author presents historical facts about African Americans. The author does not present or analyze an unproven hypothesis.

(C) CORRECT. The author presents facts, and the alternate view that can be drawn from them, of a historical period.

(D) The author does not critique an outdated theory, but instead presents facts that are contradictory to some stated misconceptions and assumptions. Also, the

passage does not focus on "colonial development," but rather a certain segment of the population in colonial times.

(E) The author does not discuss a "trend," or describe its "culmination."

5.

The correct answer is A. The last paragraph states: "The history of free African Americans families in colonial New York and New Jersey, by contrast, is quite different from that of free African Americans in the South. Most were descended from slaves freed by the Dutch West India Company between 1644 and 1664 or by individual owners." The first paragraph states: "However, these cases represent only a small minority of free African Americans in the South. Most free African Americans were actually the descendants of African American men and white servant women." Taken together, these excerpts support choice A.

Passage 28

1.

The question asks us to identify the author's reason for believing that German reunification could succeed. According to the last sentence of the passage, "[reunification] would have been preposterous had not West Germany possessed the resources to accomplish the task." In other words, West Germany was prosperous enough to afford this major undertaking.

(A) The correct principal reason for success does not include attributes of East Germany.

(B) The correct principal reason for success does not include attributes of East Germany.

(C) Although this point is made in the passage, it is not the reason given for reunification's success.

(D) This is not the reason given in the last sentence for reunification's success.

(E) CORRECT. This choice reflects the information we were looking for: the country was "materially stable," or prosperous enough, to succeed.

2.

The question asks us to identify the reason that the author mentions the United States in the passage. In the third paragraph, the author asks whether West Germany was "up to the task" of re-unification. This is followed by the example of Italy as a government that does spend the necessary resources to help its underperforming regions. Then, the author mentions the United States as a counterexample with negative overtones: "In contrast, in the United States, the local population bears the burden of varying economic performance. For example, the American South is allowed to exist with much higher rates of poverty and lower education than the rest of the nation." [Emphasis added.]

The use of the word "allowed" suggests that the author does not approve of the situation in the United States. Further, the very next paragraph begins . . . "Rather than allow East Germany to fall into total disrepair . . ." as if to further contrast the German government with that of the United States.

(A) The passage in general does not argue against any commonly held beliefs, including the specific example about the United States.

- (B) CORRECT. This choice echoes our above analysis: the author views the situation cited as "undesirable."
- (C) The author disapproves of the cited example, so he would not offer it as a possible advantageous solution to Germany's reunification.
- (D) The passage does not call the principle into question; rather, the author indicates disapproval of this particular approach.
- (E) The author disapproves of the cited example; he would not offer it as a positive lesson.

3.

The question asks us to identify the purpose of the first paragraph: what role does it play in the context of the passage as a whole? The first paragraph presents historical information about the relationship between East and West Germany. This information is given as background to the subsequent paragraphs. We need to find an answer choice that is consistent with this analysis.

- (A) The relationship between East and West Germany is not merely one example of a much larger general theory; the passage is about this specific circumstance.
- (B) The passage does not seek to alter or revise a commonly held view, either in the first paragraph or elsewhere.
- (C) CORRECT. The first paragraph presents the background information necessary to understand the claims made in the rest of the passage.
- (D) The first paragraph does not raise questions; it provides facts as to the relationship between East and West Germany at a specific point in time.
- (E) The first paragraph does not provide two opposing points of view.

4.

The question asks us to infer something from the passage regarding the relationship between West Germany and France. The passage notes that countries were "wary of a united Germany" and next mentions that France, "a perpetual competitor, saw Germany's size advantage increase overnight." We need to find an answer choice that can be deduced from this information alone; we cannot conclude too much. If France is wary of Germany's impending larger size, then France must also be worried that it will be negatively impacted by the change.

- (A) The above information tells us nothing about the relative stabilities of the two economies.
- (B) The above information does not tell us the entire history of the relative GDPs of the two countries. "Always" is too extreme.
- (C) The above information does not mention either population or international trade with respect to the two countries' economies.
- (D) CORRECT. If France does not view its relative economic position as immutable, or unable to be changed, then it is sensible for the country to worry that it might be negatively impacted by the changes in Germany.

(E) The passage does not state or imply that West Germany specifically planned to bolster its position over that of France.

Passage 29

1.

Hua T'o is mentioned in the following context: "In his talks, Parker described the state of medical and surgical knowledge--or, rather, scientific ignorance--in China. Despite the surgical feats of legendary ancient doctors such as Hua T'o of the third century A.D., surgery did not develop to any great extent in China."

(A) CORRECT. The fact that, by the nineteenth century, Chinese surgical knowledge had not developed beyond that of an "ancient" doctor underscores the need to modernize nineteenth century Chinese medicine.

(B) Hua T'o is the only Chinese medical figure mentioned in the passage, so the author does not mention him to trace the history of such figures.

(C) The topic sentence of the second paragraph concerns the lack of medical and surgical knowledge, not the lack of leading physicians in nineteenth century China.

(D) While the author recognizes Hua T'o's achievements, citing "the surgical feats of legendary ancient doctors," the overall context reveals that the point was not to celebrate such achievements, but to indicate how little had been achieved since.

(E) The author does not defend Chinese medicine against criticism; in fact, the author uses the example of Hua T'o to support Parker's opinion about the state of scientific ignorance in China in the nineteenth century.

2.

This question asks which of the statements about Peter Parker is not true. Four of the statement can be verified in the text, allowing us to select the correct answer by process of elimination.

(A) In the last paragraph, the passage states that Parker "acquired a reputation as a surgeon of such skill that the hospital quickly became a general hospital."

(B) In the first paragraph, the passage states that Parker "offered free treatment for both rich and poor," so he must have believe that all deserved quality medical treatment.

(C) CORRECT. While Parker did not feel that that nineteenth century Chinese medical practices were advanced, the passage never mentions an emotion similar to "disdain" in describing Parker's feelings towards these practices.

(D) In the second paragraph, the passage states that Parker "returned to the United States to raise money and interest in his operations." Additionally, Parker "and his British colleagues formed the Medical Missionary Society of China to coordinate the efforts of all the western hospitals springing up in the trading ports of Asia."

(E) The second paragraph opens with the statement that Parker “had, at best, modest success attracting converts to Christianity,” suggesting that he did not completely achieve his missionary goals.

3.

The question asks for the primary purpose of the passage. In other words, what was the author’s agenda in writing the passage? The correct answer must take the entirety of the passage into account without misrepresenting the author’s intent. Typically, the opening paragraph and the topic sentences of each paragraph will reveal the focus of the passage.

(A) The passage focuses primarily on the medical activities of Peter Parker in China and on behalf of China, not on the status of the medical profession in China before his arrival in the country.

(B) The author summarizes the contributions of Peter Parker, ending the passage with the statement that Parker “has thus been credited with bringing Western medicine to” China, but does not argue that China could not have gained modern medical knowledge without the influence of Peter Parker.

(C) The passage focuses on the introduction of Western medicine into China, not the state of medicine in China before the nineteenth century.

(D) The only view of nineteenth century Chinese medicine presented in the passage is that of Peter Parker, who spoke on the subject in his talks once back in the West. The passage does not challenge Parker’s view.

(E) CORRECT. The passage as a whole concerns the activities of Peter Parker and his influence in bringing Western medicine to China in the nineteenth century.

Passage 30

1.

The question asks for the primary purpose of the passage. The correct answer must take the entirety of the passage into account without misrepresenting its focus. The passage focuses on the process by which cloning occurs and gives a brief discussion of the debate surrounding the ethics of the practice; in this debate, the author presents both sides from the points of view of others (critics and proponents).

(A) The passage does not dismiss cloning as entirely unethical, it merely raises the issue of ethics.

(B) Cloning is not a medical procedure, and furthermore the passage does not defend cloning. It gives a more neutral presentation of the topic.

(C) CORRECT. This passage explains cloning and discusses its ramifications.

(D) Cloning is not a hypothesis, as the passage states – it has been successfully accomplished with sheep. Furthermore the passage does not focus only on the negative consequences.

(E) Cloning is not a new medical approach. Also the passage doesn't analyze possible outcomes, or results, of cloning; it discusses the positive and negative ramifications of cloning.

2.

In the first paragraph, the author states "Not until the successful cloning of a sheep called Dolly, however, has the possibility of intentionally producing an identical copy of a human been considered seriously." This indicates that the author believes Dolly's success has encouraged researchers to pursue human cloning.

(A) CORRECT. If researchers have been encouraged by Dolly's success to pursue human cloning, it must be because they believe there is a chance of success.

(B) Dolly is mentioned in the first paragraph; the ethical concerns are discussed in the fourth paragraph. In addition, the author does not show that ethical concerns are misguided; he merely presents both sides of the argument.

(C) The author does not argue, or even discuss, anywhere in the passage the idea that one type of cloning is less efficient than another type.

(D) The author does not argue for (or against) human cloning anywhere in the passage.

(E) The author does not refute anything in the passage. In the fourth paragraph, the author does present the viewpoints of proponents and critics, but the author does not weigh in on the debate.

3.

The third paragraph states "The low success rate can be attributed to the difference between the young DNA of a normally fertilized egg and the genetic material of the re-nucleated egg, which is mature and of defined destiny – it has already committed itself to a particular physiological role." This means that human cloning faces difficulties in overcoming the fixed roles of mature DNA.

(A) The difficulty lies in overcoming the fixed roles of mature DNA; this choice does not address the issue.

(B) CORRECT. "Predetermination" reflects the fixed roles of DNA found with "mature" or adult cells.

(C) The passage does not mention funding issues.

(D) The passage does not mention a need to determine "biological relationships within an egg" or the equivalent. The issue revolves around the difference between young DNA and mature DNA.

(E) The passage does not mention any issues surrounding chemical reactions in the uterus. The issue revolves around the difference between young DNA and mature DNA.

4.

The second paragraph states "A human egg would be retrieved from an individual, and its genetic material (DNA) would be removed and replaced with DNA derived from any adult human cell type. This would bypass the need for fertilization of the egg by the sperm in order to obtain a full complement of DNA." This implies that the

DNA from the adult cell already contains DNA from the egg (mother) and the sperm (father).

(A) The passage does not address anything about the time table for success with human cloning.

(B) The passage directly contradicts this statement by noting, in paragraph three, how difficult it was to clone Dolly. In addition, the word "always" is extreme.

(C) The passage does not imply this; if anything, it implies that the similarity between the two types of egg is part of the reason why the success of cloning Dolly may translate into success with human cloning.

(D) CORRECT. As noted above, the passage implies that an adult cell contains DNA from both parents.

(E) The passage does not imply this; if anything, it implies that the similarity between the two types of DNA is part of the reason why the success of cloning Dolly may translate into success with human cloning.

5.

In this "double-negative" question, we have to be very careful to make sure that we don't get confused or turned around. The "true-false" technique will be useful here: answer choices get a True if they are mentioned as a reason not to pursue human cloning and a False if they are not mentioned for this reason. The correct answer will be labeled False.

(A) True. Paragraph four states that there "might be deleterious effects on the long-term health of the clone." This translates into unknown effects on adult human clones.

(B) True. Paragraph four states "there is a chance that the cloning procedure would adversely affect the developing embryo."

(C) True. Paragraph four states that cloning could be used to "select for certain traits, such as hair/eye color..."

(D) True. Paragraph three states that "mature DNA must be coaxed into reverting to its youthful state, a complex process that will be difficult to achieve for the human species."

(E) CORRECT. False. While it may be true that cloning is exorbitantly expensive, these costs are not mentioned anywhere in the passage.

Passage 31

1.

The word "suggests" in the question indicates that this is an inference question. The correct answer, therefore, will not be directly stated in the passage, but it will be based only on information found within the passage, with no outside speculation or assumptions necessary.

(A) Paragraph 2 states that COX-1 enzymes stimulate production of prostaglandins that "protect the stomach from irritating gastric acids." As stated in paragraph 3, however, COX-2 inhibitors were designed to affect only COX-2; the specific impetus was not to interrupt the beneficial effects of COX-1.

(B) The author never describes the side effects caused by COX-2 and furthermore he states in paragraph 3 that the COX-2 drugs were designed "in order to eliminate the side effects of aspirin and related drugs." Paragraph 2 states that Naproxen is one of those related drug.

(C) CORRECT. Paragraph 3 states that the drug class known as COX-2 inhibitors was introduced by "several pharmaceutical companies in the 1990s." Paragraph 1 states "their mechanisms of action having been discovered only in 1971." This suggests that approximately 20 years passed between the initial discovery and the introduction of COX-2 inhibitors.

(D) This choice is incorrect as it describes COX-2 enzymes, not COX-2 inhibitors; in addition, the information is directly stated in the passage rather than suggested. Paragraph 2 states that COX-2 appears to stimulate production of prostaglandins that "induce inflammation in injured tissues."

(E) This choice is incorrect as it describes prostaglandins, not the drug class COX-2 inhibitors. Paragraph 2 states that prostaglandins are "generated by most mammalian tissues in response to external stimuli" and "prostaglandins act on the cells that produce them."

2.

The "True/False" technique is useful for EXCEPT questions. Four of the answer choices will contain information found in the passage; these will be labeled True. One answer choice will contain information not found in the passage; it will be labeled False.

(A) True. Paragraph 2 states "prostaglandins were first discovered in the 1930s."

(B) True. Paragraph 2 states prostaglandins are "generated by most mammalian tissues."

(C) True. Paragraph 1 states that prostaglandins are "responsible for producing the sensation of pain in the human body, among other functions."

(D) CORRECT. False. The author never claims that prostaglandins cause side effects. According to paragraph 4, the COX inhibitor drugs, not prostaglandins, caused side effects that went undetected during clinical trials.

(E) True. Paragraph 2 states that "aspirin alleviates pain by inhibiting... COX; this inhibition prevents the production of prostaglandins" and goes on to list the three forms of the enzyme, COX-1, COX-2, and COX-3.

3.

If prostaglandins are a response to external stimuli, or stimuli outside of the body, then that external stimuli must be closely linked to at least one of the major functions of prostaglandin.

(A) Stomach ulcers are produced or aggravated by aspirin and similar drugs, not prostaglandins (and, in fact, these drugs inhibit prostaglandins).

(B) It is mentioned in the passage that "prostaglandins act on the cells that produce them," but the author does not draw a connection between where prostaglandins act and what (i.e. external stimuli) generates their production.

(C) Paragraph 2 states that aspirin, not prostaglandin, prevents cyclooxygenase from functioning.

(D) Paragraph 2 states that most mammalian hormones "are synthesized in one tissue but act on a distant one" and contrasts prostaglandins, which "act on the cells that produce them" or on other nearby cells. This difference is based upon where the hormones act, not on what the hormones are responding to (whether external stimuli or something else).

(E) CORRECT. Paragraph 1 states that prostaglandins are "responsible for producing the sensation of pain in the human body, among other functions." In the second paragraph the author mentions that aspirin alleviates pain by preventing the production of prostaglandins. To bridge the two assertions, the author provides evidence that prostaglandins are indeed responsible for the sensation of pain, an external stimuli.

4.

The first paragraph introduces COX-2 inhibitors and talks briefly about a 1971 discovery linking aspirin to prostaglandins. Paragraph 2 elaborates on the connections among aspirin, prostaglandins, and the three types of COX enzymes. Paragraph 3 discusses COX-2 inhibitors specifically, both the impetus for creating them and some negative effects. The final paragraph provides caution about the promise of COX-2 inhibitors.

(A) The passage explains the intended benefits behind the development of COX-2 inhibitors, but this is much too narrow to be the main purpose of the passage, particularly when a large part of the passage addresses the negative consequences.

(B) The author does not initiate a "debate." For a debate, the author must introduce two clear opposing sides. The COX-2 inhibitors were developed to replace the earlier drugs that inhibited both COX-1 and COX-2, but then they were also found to have side effects.

(C) While paragraph 4 states that "Side effects almost always cropped up, even after clinical trials that seemed to indicate none," the author notes this only in the context of explaining the result of COX-2 inhibitors. This is too narrow to be the main purpose of the passage.

(D) CORRECT. This choice reflects the summary above: why COX-2 inhibitors were developed and the result of the drugs' introduction into the marketplace.

(E) This is incorrect because the passage never mentions a drug class of "COX-1 inhibitors." COX-1 is introduced as an enzyme; it is not a class of drug.

Passage 32

1.

The question asks for the main idea of the passage. The passage focuses on the evolution of the dog from the wolf, with emphasis on the characteristics of the wolf

that allowed the transformation. The correct answer must take the entirety of the passage into account without misrepresenting this focus.

(A) This choice does not address the evolution of the dog from the wolf.

(B) This choice misrepresents the focus of the passage. The passage is broader than this choice would suggest. Moreover, the passage never stated or implied that no other animal has had a similar path to domestication; this is an extreme claim.

(C) CORRECT. This choice takes the entirety of the passage into account without misrepresenting its focus.

(D) This choice misrepresents the focus of the passage. While the author appears to approve of this domestication, it is only one small part of the overall passage. In addition, the word "unquestionably" is extreme.

(E) This choice misrepresents the focus of the passage. While similarities between humans and wolves are mentioned in one paragraph, this is only a small piece of the overall passage.

2.

The question asks us to infer something about the modern dog on the basis of the information contained in the passage. This inference must be based only on the information presented, without any additional assumptions or information necessary.

(A) The passage does not provide any information about the "best" social companion. In addition "best" is an extreme word.

(B) The passage does not provide any information about which household animal is most intelligent. In addition "unsurpassed" is an extreme word.

(C) The passage does not provide any information about the dog's ability to survive outside a social environment. In addition "cannot survive" is extreme.

(D) The passage does not imply anything universal about the dog's body type and breeding. In addition "always" is extreme.

(E) CORRECT. In the second paragraph, the author discusses the fact that domesticated wolf cubs were raised to be submissive to humans. The modern dog, a descendant of the domesticated wolf, would share this quality, and would perceive humans as superior to itself.

3.

The question asks us which of the choices cannot be inferred from the passage. We will go through the choices and eliminate any that can be inferred. The True / False technique is useful for EXCEPT questions: those statements which can be supported are labeled True and the one which cannot be supported is labeled False.

(A) True. In the first paragraph, sheep are given as an example of animals that have not been integrated (i.e., accepted socially) into human life.

(B) CORRECT. False. The passage offers no information on whether it is possible to domesticate the jackal or fox. Paragraph 1 states that among the jackals, foxes, et al, only the wolf possessed the characteristics that allowed for the integration into human life, however, the other animals might be able to be domesticated.

(C) True. In the second paragraph, the passage states that wolf cubs were raised to be submissive.

(D) True. In the second paragraph, the passage states that the wolf was domesticated for its intelligence and other animals for their milk, meat, or wool.

(E) True. This statement is implied by the last paragraph.

Passage 33

1.

The year 1834 is mentioned in the last paragraph, so the correct answer will probably relate to information contained there.

(A) This choice directly contradicts the passage: "Even as they pulled back from customary roles and withdrew into private associations, they continued to exercise public power".

(B) This choice is incorrect because the author does not mention which group in particular was the stronger supporter of the religious pluralism; she only mentions that "a slim majority approved the change."

(C) This choice incorrectly asserts that Concord's village elite ceased all Sabbath worship. While they no longer worshiped at the same church on Sabbath, they did not necessarily cease all Sabbath worship.

(D) CORRECT. The last paragraph states that after 1834, "[t]ownspeople deserted the two existing churches—the Unitarian flock of the Reverend Ripley and an orthodox Calvinist congregation started in 1826—in droves." Instead, many became active in "diverse projects for the common good." In particular, "the village elite were remarkably active in these campaigns." The passage thus suggests that the village elite abandoned the two existing churches in favor of non-church activities such as those mentioned: "libraries, lyceums, charitable and missionary groups, Masonic lodges, antislavery and temperance societies."

(E) This choice claims that the elite used their wealth to found the diverse projects. While the passage mentions that the village elite "were remarkably active in these campaigns" there is no mention of whose private funds, if any, were used to found them.

2.

The question asks for the purpose of the passage as a whole. Therefore, we must find a choice that accurately describes the passage in its entirety and does not focus on just one part of it.

(A) This choice incorrectly reverses the cause/effect relationship. The author claims that economic development resulted in personal autonomy. This choice, however, claims that religious and political freedom contributed to, or resulted in, economic development.

(B) This choice highlights the lifestyles of Concord's elite citizens. While the passage mentions Concord's upper class, in terms of their land ownerships and public power, it never describes their lifestyle per se.

(C) This choice, like choice A, incorrectly reverses the cause/effect relationship, claiming that social alienation was a requirement for economic and political development. According to the passage, it was the development that impacted societal norms, thereby causing a loosening of "common bonds". Furthermore, the author never claims that social alienation was necessary for development; perhaps there was a better way.

(D) This choice incorrectly emphasizes Concord's place in American history. The author only goes as far as to mention Concord's preeminence in the local "Middlesex County".

(E) CORRECT. The passage explains that "Concord was probably at its political and economic pinnacle" and then goes on to describe the impact on societal norms: "old work customs" and unified religious worship were replaced by a labor market and "voluntary choice".

3.

The question asks about the residents of 18th-century Massachusetts (1700s). Since the question itself is broad, the best approach is to evaluate the answer choices.

(A) This choice is incorrect because it describes Concord's residents only, and during the 19th century (1800s).

(B) This choice is incorrect because it describes Concord's residents only, and during the 19th century (1800s).

(C) CORRECT. The author notes that "Massachusetts inaugurated a new era of religious pluralism in 1834, ending two centuries of mandatory support for local churches". Therefore, throughout the two centuries prior to 1834, Massachusetts residents were forced to support local churches.

(D) This choice is incorrect because "America's Jubilee" was on "on April 19, 1825", and the question asks specifically about 18th century (1700s) residents.

(E) This choice is incorrect because it describes Concord's residents only, and during the 19th century (1800s).

Passage 34

1.

McGinty's overall message is that the powerful leaders need to be able to use both types of language, "from the center" and "from the edge," as necessary.

(A) This choice contradicts the last sentence of the third paragraph: "McGinty argues that true power comes from a deep understanding of when to use which style and the ability to use both as necessary."

(B) This choice contradicts McGinty's claims that powerful leaders use language from both the center and the edge, and that language from the center is used to "claim authority." The most powerful managers, then, would gain authority via language from the center while also using language from the edge when necessary.

(C) CORRECT. The passage states that language from the center "claim[s] authority" for the speaker, while language from the edge is "inclusive." This choice supports McGinty's claim that the powerful use both types of language (and, therefore, gain the attributes associated with the two types).

(D) This contradicts McGinty's claim that powerful leaders need to use language from both the center and the edge. In addition, the word "only" is too extreme.

(E) The only mention of "low-level employees" in the passage suggests that lower-ranking employees use language from the center to gain power and credibility.

2.

The question asks for the primary focus of the passage. The answer to this must take the entirety of the passage into account without misrepresenting its focus. The passage centers on a presentation of McGinty's book, which proposes a new way to understand communication in business settings.

(A) Although McGinty's communication model might be seen as a "certain framework," the passage does not "demonstrate the effectiveness" of this model; rather, the passage simply presents the model with only minimal commentary (such as the word "useful" to describe McGinty's book).

(B) The passage describes McGinty's model of business communication, but does little to explain its advantages or disadvantages. The passage does contrast McGinty's model with those in standard management theory; however, the author of the passage does not judge or evaluate these models relative to each other.

(C) No "theory of business" is put forth, nor is any controversy regarding such a theory highlighted.

(D) CORRECT. The passage indeed presents the new model of business communication outlined in McGinty's book.

(E) There is no outdated model of personnel management presented or for that matter defended here.

3.

The passage gives the following as examples of "language from the center" (lines 33-39): "he directs rather than responds; he makes statements rather than asks questions; he contradicts, argues, and disagrees; he uses his experience persuasively; and he maintains an air of impersonality in the workplace."

(A) Requesting help does not fit into any of the above examples.

(B) CORRECT. Explaining the benefits of a new procedure by drawing on the procedure's success in another setting is an example of "He uses his experience persuasively."

(C) Believing that one has been wrongly criticized does not fit the bill of contradicting, arguing, or disagreeing.

(D) A manager soliciting opinions from his workforce does not fit into any of the above examples.

(E) Refusing to alter one's behavior is not an example of contradicting, arguing, or disagreeing.

4.

The fourth paragraph presents a final summary of McGinty's argument and places it in the context of management theory generally by comparing it to current trends in the field.

(A) CORRECT. This best reflects the function of the fourth paragraph.

(B) The usefulness of McGinty's thesis is not questioned in the fourth paragraph.

(C) While the focus of McGinty's theory of communication is contrasted that of general management theory, the primary purpose of this last paragraph is not to show the shortcomings of management theory. It is to summarize McGinty's theory in the context of the rest of the field.

(D) No alternative view of McGinty's proposal is presented in the final paragraph.

(E) No additional support is offered for McGinty's theory in the final paragraph.

The correct answer is A.

Passage 35

1.

The correct answer is B. The question asks us to determine which of the choices was a motivation in the creation of the system of value congruence. According to the passage (lines 6-9), value congruence was one of the theories that was posited "to discover what allows some companies to foster high employee morale while other companies struggle with poor productivity and high managerial turnover."

(A) Poor productivity, high managerial turnover, and employee morale have little to do with the liability of upper management for employee satisfaction.

(B) CORRECT. Poor productivity, high managerial turnover, and employee morale are related to a company's internal harmony or lack thereof. The proof sentence

does not correlate directly to this answer choice, making this a fairly difficult question.

(C) Poor productivity, high managerial turnover, and employee morale have little to do with the earning potential of employees.

(D) Poor productivity, high managerial turnover, and employee morale have little to do with the factors influencing managerial success.

(E) Poor productivity, high managerial turnover, and employee morale have little to do with the discrepancies between a company's goals and the values of its employees.

The correct answer is B

2.

The question asks us to determine which of the choices would be the best use for perceptual fit ("PF"). The passage defines perceptual fit as the congruence between a given employee's perception of his company's values and the perception of the company's values held by other employees. Therefore, we need to determine which answer choice could be determined using this measure.

(A) CORRECT. This choice suggests that PF could be used to determine whether a company ought to make its policies and goals more transparent. PF will indicate to a company whether its employees generally see the company's values the same way. This would be useful in determining whether the company needed to do a better job in making those values clear to its employees.

(B) This choice suggests that PF could be used to determine whether a company ought to provide sensitivity training for its management. PF is not relevant to issues of sensitivity training.

(C) This choice suggests that PF could be used to determine whether a company ought to create more opportunities for interaction among workers. Since PF is used to determine whether employees hold the same view of the company's values, this choice may seem attractive. But it does not specifically relate to the notion of company values, as choice A does.

(D) This choice suggests that PF could be used to determine whether a company needed to address employee grievances more directly. PF is not related to the concept of company values.

(E) This choice suggests that PF could be used to determine whether a company ought to have a more elaborate orientation program for new employees. PF is not related to the concept of company values as seen by employees.

The correct answer is A.

3.

This question asks us to find a choice that describes the primary focus of the passage. The correct answer must cover the entirety of the passage without misrepresenting it.

(A) This choice mentions a comparison between a new theory and a "discredited theory". Since there is no discussion of a discredited theory in the passage, this choice is incorrect.

(B) This choice mentions a "detailed analysis of a particular case". Since the passage does not focus on a particular case, this choice is incorrect.

(C) This choice describes the passage as challenging an "old view of employee commitment". Since the passage does not discuss old views of employee commitment, this choice is incorrect.

(D) CORRECT. This choice describes the passage as "promoting a new method of measuring the likelihood of corporate success" – so far, so good – and as "explaining its benefits". This covers the entirety of the passage and describes its purpose and function accurately.

(E) This choice states that the passage defends "a proposed system of corporate analysis through examples of its success." Since the passage does not discuss examples of success, this choice is incorrect.

The correct answer is D.