1. <u>Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka</u> are concentrated in the monsoon months, June to September, and the skies are generally clear for the rest of the year.

A Unlike the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka

B Unlike the United States farmers who can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka

C Unlike those of the United States, where farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, most parts of Sri Lanka's rains

D In comparison with the United States, whose farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka

E In the United States, farmers can usually depend on rain or snow all year long, but in most parts of Sri Lanka, the rains

Answer

Correct Answer: E

Logical predication; Rhetorical construction

The intent of the sentence is to compare seasonal rainfall patterns in the United States and Sri Lanka. There are many ways to set up such comparisons: *unlike x, y*; *in comparison with x, y*; *compared to x, y*; and so on. The *x* and *y* being compared must be grammatically and logically parallel. An alternative way of stating the comparison is the use of two independent clauses connected by *but*. The original sentence compares *the United States* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka*; this illogical comparison cannot convey the writer's intention.

A This sentence illogically compares *the United States* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka.*
B Comparing *United States farmers* to *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka* is not logical.
C The sentence awkwardly and illogically seems to be comparing most parts of the United States with *most parts of Sri Lanka's rains.*
D This sentence compares *the United States* and *the rains in most parts of Sri Lanka.*
E Correct. This sentence uses two independent clauses to make the comparison. The first clause describes conditions in the United States, and the second clause describes conditions in Sri Lanka. The comparison is clear and logical.

2. Microbiologist: A lethal strain of salmonella recently showed up in a European country, causing an outbreak of illness that killed two people and infected twenty-seven others. Investigators blame the severity of the outbreak on the overuse of antibiotics, since the salmonella bacteria tested were shown to be drug-resistant. But this is unlikely because patients in the country where the outbreak occurred cannot obtain antibiotics to treat illness without a prescription, and the country's doctors prescribe antibiotics less readily than do doctors in any other European country.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the microbiologist's reasoning?

A. Physicians in the country where the outbreak occurred have become hesitant to prescribe antibiotics since they are frequently in short supply.

B. People in the country where the outbreak occurred often consume foods produced from animals that eat antibiotics-laden livestock feed.

C. Use of antibiotics in two countries that neighbor the country where the outbreak occurred has risen over the past decade.

D. Drug-resistant strains of salmonella have not been found in countries in which antibiotics are not generally available.

E. Salmonella has been shown to spread easily along the distribution chains of certain vegetables, such as raw tomatoes.

Answer

Argument Evaluation

Situation
Antibiotic-resistant salmonella caused an outbreak of illness in a European country where patients need prescriptions to obtain antibiotics and where doctors dispense such prescriptions less readily than in other European countries.

Reasoning
What evidence would most strongly suggest that overuse of antibiotics was likely responsible for the outbreak, despite the cited facts? The microbiologist reasons that because patients need prescriptions to obtain antibiotics in the country where the outbreak occurred, and the country's doctors dispense such prescriptions less readily than doctors in other European countries do, antibiotics are probably not being overused in the country—so antibiotic overuse was probably not responsible for the outbreak. Implicit in the microbiologist's reasoning is the assumption that overuse of antibiotics, if it had occurred, could probably have resulted only from overprescribing of antibiotics by physicians to treat illness in people in the country in question. Any evidence casting doubt on this complex assumption would suggest a weakness in the microbiologist's reasoning.

A This strengthens the argument by providing additional evidence that antibiotics are not being overprescribed in the country.
B Correct. This weakens the microbiologist's argument by indicating that an assumption implicit in the argument may be false: the salmonella outbreak could easily by explained by overuse of antibiotics in livestock feed (perhaps imported from other countries).
C Even if antibiotic use has risen in the two neighboring countries, antibiotics still might be underused in both countries.
D This suggests that antibiotic-resistant salmonella arises only in countries where antibiotics are used; even if this were true it would be quite compatible with the microbiologist's argument and does not weaken that argument.

E This describes one mechanism by which salmonella can spread in a population; it says nothing about whether an outbreak of antibiotic-resistant strains of salmonella might have been caused by antibiotic overuse.

Reading Comprehension

In addition to conventional galaxies, the universe contains very dim galaxies that until recently went unnoticed by astronomers. Possibly as numerous as conventional galaxies, these galaxies have the same general shape and even the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral, but tend to be much larger. Because these galaxies' mass is spread out over larger areas, they have far fewer stars per unit volume than do conventional galaxies. Apparently these low-surface-brightness galaxies, as they are called, take much longer than conventional galaxies to condense their primordial gas and convert it to stars—that is, they evolve much more slowly.

These galaxies may constitute an answer to the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe. Baryons—subatomic particles that are generally protons or neutrons—are the source of stellar, and therefore galactic, luminosity, and so their numbers can be estimated based on how luminous galaxies are. However, the amount of helium in the universe, as measured by spectroscopy, suggests that there are far more baryons in the universe than estimates based on galactic luminosity indicate. Astronomers have long speculated that the missing baryonic mass might eventually be discovered in intergalactic space or as some large population of galaxies that are difficult to detect.

3. According to the passage, conventional spiral galaxies differ from low-surface-brightness galaxies in which of the following ways?

A. They have fewer stars than do low-surface-brightness galaxies.

B. They evolve more quickly than low-surface-brightness galaxies.

C. They are more diffuse than low-surface-brightness galaxies.

D. They contain less helium than do low-surface-brightness galaxies.

E. They are larger than low-surface-brightness galaxies.

Answer

Correct Answer: B

Supporting ideas

This question requires recognizing information that is provided in the passage. The first paragraph describes and compares two types of galaxies: conventional galaxies and dim, or low-surface-brightness, galaxies. It states that dim galaxies have the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy but tend to be larger and more diffuse because their mass is spread over wider areas (lines 4–10). The passage also indicates that dim galaxies take longer than conventional galaxies to convert their primordial gases into stars, meaning that dim galaxies evolve much more slowly than conventional galaxies (lines 10–14), which entails that conventional galaxies evolve more quickly than dim galaxies.

A The passage states that dim galaxies have approximately the same numbers of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy.
B Correct. The passage indicates that dim galaxies evolve much more slowly than conventional galaxies, which entails that conventional galaxies evolve more quickly.
C The passage states that dim galaxies are more spread out, and therefore more diffuse, than conventional galaxies.
D The passage does not mention the relative amounts of helium in the two types of galaxies under discussion.
E The passage states that dim galaxies tend to be much larger than conventional galaxies.

Reading Comprehension

In addition to conventional galaxies, the universe contains very dim galaxies that until recently went unnoticed by astronomers. Possibly as numerous as conventional galaxies, these galaxies have the same general shape and even the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral, but tend to be much larger. Because these galaxies' mass is spread out over larger areas, they have far fewer stars per unit volume than do conventional galaxies. Apparently these low-surface-brightness galaxies, as they are called, take much longer than conventional galaxies to condense their primordial gas and convert it to stars—that is, they evolve much more slowly. These galaxies may constitute an answer to the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe. Baryons—subatomic particles that are generally protons or neutrons—are the source of stellar, and therefore galactic, luminosity, and so their numbers can be estimated based on how luminous galaxies are. However, the amount of helium in the universe, as measured by spectroscopy, suggests that there are far more baryons in the universe than estimates based on galactic luminosity indicate. Astronomers have long speculated that the missing baryonic mass might eventually be discovered in intergalactic space or as some large population of galaxies that are difficult to detect.

4. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is an accurate physical description of typical low-surface-brightness galaxies?

A. They are large spiral galaxies containing fewer stars than conventional galaxies.

B. They are compact but very dim spiral galaxies.

C. They are diffuse spiral galaxies that occupy a large volume of space.

D. They are small, young spiral galaxies that contain a high proportion of primordial gas.

E. They are large, dense spirals with low luminosity.

Answer

Correct Answer: C

Inference

This question requires drawing an inference from information given in the passage. The first paragraph compares dim galaxies and conventional galaxies. Dim galaxies are described as having the same general shape (lines 4–5) as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral galaxy, suggesting that dim galaxies are, themselves, spiral shaped. The passage also indicates that, although both types of galaxies tend to have approximately the same number of stars, dim galaxies tend to be much larger and spread out over larger areas of space (lines 4–10) than conventional galaxies.

A The passage states that the two types of galaxies have approximately the same number of stars.
B The passage indicates that dim galaxies are relatively large and spread out.
C Correct. The passage indicates that dim galaxies have the same general shape as spiral galaxies and that their mass is spread out over large areas of space.
D The passage indicates that dim galaxies are relatively large and spread out.
E The passage states that dim galaxies have few stars per unit of volume, suggesting that they are not dense but diffuse.

Reading Comprehension

In addition to conventional galaxies, the universe contains very dim galaxies that until recently went unnoticed by astronomers. Possibly as numerous as conventional galaxies, these galaxies have the same general shape and even the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral, but tend to be much larger. Because these galaxies' mass is spread out over larger areas, they have far fewer stars per unit volume than do conventional galaxies. Apparently these low-surface-brightness galaxies, as they are called, take much longer than conventional galaxies to condense their primordial gas and convert it to stars—that is, they evolve much more slowly. These galaxies may constitute an answer to the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe. Baryons—subatomic particles that are generally protons or neutrons—are the source of stellar, and therefore galactic, luminosity, and so their numbers can be estimated based on how luminous galaxies are. However, the amount of helium in the universe, as measured by spectroscopy, suggests that there are far more baryons in the universe than estimates based on galactic luminosity indicate. Astronomers have long speculated that the missing baryonic mass might eventually be discovered in intergalactic space or as some large population of galaxies that are difficult to detect.

5. It can be inferred from the passage that the "long-standing puzzle" refers to which of the following?

A. The difference between the rate at which conventional galaxies evolve and the rate at which low-surface-brightness galaxies evolve

B. The discrepancy between estimates of total baryonic mass derived from measuring helium and estimates based on measuring galactic luminosity

C. The inconsistency between the observed amount of helium in the universe and the number of stars in typical low-surface-brightness galaxies

D. Uncertainties regarding what proportion of baryonic mass is contained in intergalactic space and what proportion in conventional galaxies

E. Difficulties involved in detecting very distant galaxies and in investigating their luminosity

Answer
lactic luminosity, and so scientists can estimate the amount of baryonic mass in the universe by measuring the luminosity of galaxies (lines 17–21). The puzzle is that spectroscopic measures of helium in the universe suggest that the baryonic mass in the universe is much higher than measures of luminosity would indicate (21–25).

A The differences between the rates of evolution of the two types of galaxies is not treated as being controversial in the passage.

B Correct. The passage indicates that measurements using spectroscopy and measurements using luminosity result in puzzling differences in estimates of the universe's baryonic mass.
C The passage does not suggest how helium might relate to the numbers of stars in dim galaxies.
D The passage indicates that astronomers have speculated that the missing baryonic mass might be discovered in intergalactic space or hard-to-detect galaxies but does not suggest that these speculations are constituents of the long-standing puzzle.
E The passage does not mention how the distance to galaxies affects scientists' ability to detect these galaxies.

Reading Comprehension

In addition to conventional galaxies, the universe contains very dim galaxies that until recently went unnoticed by astronomers. Possibly as numerous as conventional galaxies, these galaxies have the same general shape and even the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral, but tend to be much larger. Because these galaxies' mass is spread out over larger areas, they have far fewer stars per unit volume than do conventional galaxies. Apparently these low-surface-brightness galaxies, as they are called, take much longer than conventional galaxies to condense their primordial gas and convert it to stars—that is, they evolve much more slowly.

These galaxies may constitute an answer to the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe. Baryons—subatomic particles that are generally protons or neutrons—are the source of stellar, and therefore galactic, luminosity, and so their numbers can be estimated based on how luminous galaxies are. However, the amount of helium in the universe, as measured by spectroscopy, suggests that there are far more baryons in the universe than estimates based on galactic luminosity indicate. Astronomers have long speculated that the missing baryonic mass might eventually be discovered in intergalactic space or as some large population of galaxies that are difficult to detect.

6. The author implies that low-surface-brightness galaxies could constitute an answer to the puzzle discussed in the second paragraph primarily because

A. they contain baryonic mass that was not taken into account by researchers using galactic luminosity to estimate the number of baryons in the universe

B. they, like conventional galaxies that contain many baryons, have evolved from massive, primordial gas clouds

C. they may contain relatively more helium, and hence more baryons, than do galaxies whose helium content has been studied using spectroscopy

D. they have recently been discovered to contain more baryonic mass than scientists had thought when low-surface-brightness galaxies were first observed

E. they contain stars that are significantly more luminous than would have been predicted on the basis of initial studies of luminosity in low-surface-brightness galaxies

Answer
Correct Answer: A

Inference

This question requires drawing an inference from information given in the passage. The puzzle is that estimates of the baryonic mass of the universe based on luminosity are lower than those based on spectroscopy (lines 21–25). The passage states that astronomers did not notice dim galaxies until recently (lines 2–3) and that these galaxies may help account for the missing baryonic mass in the universe (lines 15–17). The passage also suggests that astronomers measure the luminosity of specific galaxies (lines 19–21). Thus it can be inferred that, prior to their being noticed by astronomers, the luminosity of these dim galaxies was not measured, and their baryonic mass was not taken into account in the estimates of luminosity that led to the long-standing puzzle.

A   Correct. The passage states that the missing baryonic mass in the universe may be discovered in the dim galaxies that have only recently been noticed by astronomers.
B   The passage does not suggest that dim and conventional galaxies both originating from primordial gas clouds help solve the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe.
C   The passage does not suggest that dim galaxies might contain more helium than do conventional galaxies or that measures of baryonic mass using spectroscopy do not take some dim galaxies into account.
D   The passage does not suggest that dim galaxies contain more baryonic mass than scientists originally believed upon discovering these galaxies.
E   The passage suggests that scientists measured the luminosity of galaxies, not of individual stars.

Reading Comprehension

Line   In addition to conventional galaxies, the universe contains very dim galaxies that until recently went unnoticed by astronomers. Possibly as numerous as conventional galaxies, these galaxies have the same general shape and even the same approximate number of stars as a common type of conventional galaxy, the spiral, but tend to be much larger. Because these galaxies' mass is spread out over larger areas, they have far fewer stars per unit volume than do conventional galaxies. Apparently these low-surface-brightness galaxies, as they are called, take much longer than conventional galaxies to condense their primordial gas and convert it to stars—that is, they evolve much more slowly.   These galaxies may constitute an answer to the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe. Baryons—subatomic particles that are generally protons or neutrons—are the source of stellar, and therefore galactic, luminosity, and so their numbers can be estimated based on how luminous galaxies are. However, the amount of helium in the universe, as measured by spectroscopy, suggests that there are far more baryons in the universe than estimates based on galactic luminosity indicate. Astronomers have long speculated that the missing baryonic mass might eventually be discovered in intergalactic space or as some large population of galaxies that are difficult to detect.

7. The author mentions the fact that baryons are the source of stars' luminosity primarily in order to explain

A. how astronomers determine that some galaxies contain fewer stars per unit volume than do others

B. how astronomers are able to calculate the total luminosity of a galaxy

C. why astronomers can use galactic luminosity to estimate baryonic mass

D. why astronomers' estimates of baryonic mass based on galactic luminosity are more reliable than those based on spectroscopic studies of helium

E. how astronomers know bright galaxies contain more baryons than do dim galaxies

Answer

Correct Answer: C

Evaluation

This question requires understanding how one aspect of the passage relates to the reasoning in a larger portion of the passage. The second paragraph explains that scientists have been puzzled over missing baryonic mass in the universe as measured by luminosity (lines 21–25). Given that baryons are the source of luminosity in the galaxy (lines 17–19), astronomers can estimate the baryonic mass of a galaxy by measuring its luminosity.

A   The passage discussion of baryons does not address the number of stars in individual galaxies.
B   The passage discusses how the luminosity of galaxies can be used to estimate baryonic mass but does not address how total luminosity is measured.
C   Correct. The passage indicates that because baryons are the source of galactic luminosity, measuring luminosity can be used to estimate baryonic mass of galaxies.
D   The passage suggests that estimates based on luminosity may have been less accurate, not more accurate, than those based on spectroscopy.
E   The passage does not indicate that bright galaxies contain more baryons than do dim galaxies.

8. The author of the passage would be most likely to disagree with which of the following statements?

A. Low-surface-brightness galaxies are more difficult to detect than are conventional galaxies.

B. Low-surface-brightness galaxies are often spiral in shape.

C. Astronomers have advanced plausible ideas about where missing baryonic mass might be found.

D. Astronomers have devised a useful way of estimating the total baryonic mass in the universe.

E. Astronomers have discovered a substantial amount of baryonic mass in intergalactic space.

Answer
Correct Answer: E

Inference

This question involves identifying which answer option potentially conflicts with the information the author has provided in the passage. The second paragraph indicates that astronomers' estimates of the baryonic mass of the universe is lower when measured using luminosity than it is when measured using spectroscopy (lines 21–25). The final sentence states that astronomers have speculated that the missing baryonic mass might be discovered in intergalactic space or in hard-to-detect galaxies (lines 25–29). Although the passage does indicate that the discovery of dim, low-surface-brightness galaxies might help account for the missing baryonic mass (lines 15–17), the passage provides no support for the possibility that baryonic mass has been discovered in intergalactic space.

A The passage indicates that low-surface-brightness galaxies went unnoticed until recently, unlike conventional galaxies.
B The passage indicates that low-surface-brightness galaxies have the same general shape as spiral galaxies.
C The passage describes two possible explanations astronomers have given for the missing baryonic mass, one of which was made more plausible by the discovery of low-surface-brightness galaxies.
D The passage indicates that astronomers have used spectroscopy to estimate baryonic mass and gives no reason to suspect that this method is not useful.
E Correct. The passage does not indicate that astronomers have found any baryonic mass in intergalactic space.

9. The primary purpose of the passage is to

A. describe a phenomenon and consider its scientific significance

B. contrast two phenomena and discuss a puzzling difference between them

C. identify a newly discovered phenomenon and explain its origins

D. compare two classes of objects and discuss the physical properties of each

E. discuss a discovery and point out its inconsistency with existing theory

Answer
Correct Answer: A

Main idea

This question requires understanding, in broad terms, the purpose of the passage as a whole. The first paragraph describes a phenomenon: the discovery of dim galaxies and some of their general attributes. The second paragraph describes how this discovery may help astronomers to solve a long-standing puzzle about the baryonic mass of the universe.

A Correct. The passage describes the phenomenon of dim galaxies and describes their significance in solving the long-standing puzzle of the missing baryonic mass in the universe.
B Although the passage discusses the puzzling difference between the two estimates of baryonic mass, this option does not account for the broader topic of dim galaxies.
C While the passage identifies the newly discovered phenomenon of dim galaxies, it does not offer a significant explanation for these galaxies' origins.
D Although the passage compares dim and conventional galaxies in the first paragraph, this option does not account for the important detail that dim galaxies may help solve a long-standing puzzle.
E The discovery of dim galaxies discussed in the passage is not said to be inconsistent with any existing scientific theory.

10. Created in 1945 to reduce poverty and stabilize foreign currency markets, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have, according to some critics,

continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected their intended beneficiaries in the developing world.

A. continually struggled to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected

B. continually struggled as they try to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—while neglecting that of

C. continually struggled to meet their major shareholders' expectations—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—but neglected that of

D. had to struggle continually in trying to meet the expectations of their major shareholders—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—while neglecting that of

E. struggled continually in trying to meet their major shareholders' expectations—a group comprising many of the world's rich nations—and neglecting

Answer
Correct Answer: A

Idiom; Verb form

This sentence describes a contradiction some critics have ascribed to the actions and policies of both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund: although they were created to address poverty in the developing world, they struggled to meet their major shareholders' expectations and neglected their intended beneficiaries. The contradiction is best expressed by joining the two past-tense verbs *struggled to meet . . .* and *neglected . . .* with the contrasting conjunction *but*. The appositive phrase set off with dashes must immediately follow the noun it defines (*shareholders*).

A Correct. The conjunction *but* accurately describes the contradiction between what the organizations did for their major shareholders and what they did not do for their intended beneficiaries, and the appositive clearly defines the immediately preceding noun, *shareholders*.
B The present tense of *as they try to meet* is inconsistent with the rest of the verbs in the sentence. The pronoun *that* seems to have no referent in the phrase *while neglecting that of* . . . since the only likely antecedent *expectations* is plural.
C The appositive grammatically but nonsensically describes expectations rather than shareholders; as in (B), the pronoun *that*does not agree in number with its likely antecedent *expectations*.
D Like (B), this version is unnecessarily wordy, and like (C), it introduces the pronoun *that*, which disagrees in number with the antecedent *expectations*.
E As in (C), the appositive seems to define *expectations* rather than *shareholders*, and the conjunction *and* fails to capture the contradictory relationship between the organizations' actions toward their shareholders and their intended beneficiaries.

11. To prevent a newly built dam on the Chiff River from blocking the route of fish migrating to breeding grounds upstream, the dam includes a fish pass, a mechanism designed to allow fish through the dam. Before the construction of the dam and fish pass, several thousand fish a day swam upriver during spawning season. But in the first season after the project's completion, only 300 per day made the journey. Clearly, the fish pass is defective.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

A. Fish that have migrated to the upstream breeding grounds do not return down the Chiff River again.

B. On other rivers in the region, the construction of dams with fish passes has led to only small decreases in the number of fish migrating upstream.

C. The construction of the dam stirred up potentially toxic river sediments that were carried downstream.

D. Populations of migratory fish in the Chiff River have been declining slightly over the last 20 years.

E. During spawning season, the dam releases sufficient water for migratory fish below the dam to swim upstream.

Answer
Correct Answer: C

Argument Evaluation

Situation
A new dam includes a mechanism called a fish pass designed to allow fish to migrate upstream past the dam to their breeding grounds. The number of migrating fish fell from several thousand per day before the dam was built to three hundred per day in the first season after it was built, indicating—according to the argument—that the fish pass is defective.

Reasoning
What evidence would suggest that the fish pass is not defective? The argument implicitly reasons that a defective fish pass would make it difficult for the fish to migrate, which would explain why the number of migrating fish fell when the dam was completed. Any evidence suggesting an alternative explanation for the reduced number of migrating fish, such as an environmental change that occurred when the dam was built, would cast doubt on the argument's reasoning.

A A defective fish pass could prevent most of the fish from migrating upstream regardless of whether those that succeed ever return downstream.
B This would suggest that dams with properly functioning fish passes do not greatly reduce the number of migrating fish, so it would provide further evidence that the fish pass in this particular dam is defective.
C Correct. This suggests that the toxic sediments may have poisoned the fish and reduced their population. A smaller fish population could be sufficient to explain the reduced number of fish migrating, which casts doubt on the argument's assumption that the explanation for their declining numbers involves the fish pass.
D A slight and gradual ongoing decline in migratory fish populations would not explain an abrupt and extreme decline right after the dam was built.

E This supports the argument's proposed explanation for the declining fish population by ruling out the alternative explanation

12. Boreal owls range over a much larger area than do other owls of similar size. The reason for this behavior is probably that the small mammals on which owls feed are especially scarce in the forests where boreal owls live, and the relative scarcity of prey requires the owls to range more extensively to find sufficient food.

Which of the following, if true, most helps to confirm the explanation above?

A. Some boreal owls range over an area eight times larger than the area over which any other owl of similar size ranges.

B. Boreal owls range over larger areas in regions where food of the sort eaten by small mammals is sparse than they do in regions where such food is abundant.

C. After their young hatch, boreal owls must hunt more often than before in order to feed both themselves and their newly hatched young.

D. Sometimes individual boreal owls hunt near a single location for many weeks at a time and do not range farther than a few hundred yards.

E. The boreal owl requires less food, relative to its weight, than is required by members of other owl species.

Answer

Correct Answer: B

Argument Evaluation

Situation

The small mammals on which owls prey are relatively scarce in the forests where boreal owls live. That is why boreal owls range more extensively than do other, similarly sized owls in search of food.

Reasoning

Which choice, if true, would most help confirm the proposed explanation? One way to confirm an explanation is by finding further information that one would expect to be true *if* the explanation is valid. If the explanation in the passage is valid, then one would expect that variations in the population density of available small-animal prey for boreal owls would be accompanied by variations in the ranges of the boreal owls. Naturally the population density of available small-animal prey is likely to be affected by how plentiful food is for those small animals.

A The comparison between different groups of boreal owls is not relevant to the comparison between boreal owls and other owls.
B Correct. This indicates that abundance of food for the boreal owls' small-animal prey in an area (and therefore abundance of small animals in that area) correlates with a smaller range for the boreal owls there. This strengthens the proposed explanation.
C This option concerns a correlation between owls' need for food and the frequency with which owls hunt, whereas the phenomenon described in the passage and the proposed explanation have to do with the range over which owls hunt.
D If one were to assume that boreal owls never hunt near a single location for weeks, that would in no way undermine the proposed explanation.
E If anything, this option tends to undermine the proposed explanation, because it suggests the possibility that boreal owls need not make up for the relative scarcity of prey in their habitats by ranging over larger areas.

13. The computer company has announced that it will purchase the color-printing division of a rival company for $950<u>million, which is part of a deal that will make</u> it the largest manufacturer in the office color-printing market.

A. million, which is part of a deal that will make

B. million, a part of a deal that makes

C. million, a part of a deal making

D. million as a part of a deal to make

E. million as part of a deal that will make

Answer
Correct Answer: E

Rhetorical construction; Verb form

The relative pronoun *which* requires a clear antecedent, but none appears in the original version of the sentence. The company's announcement is entirely geared to the future—it *will* purchase the division as part of a deal that *will* make it the largest manufacturer.

A There is no antecedent for the relative pronoun *which*.
B Like a relative pronoun, the appositive phrase (*a part* . . .) must have a noun or noun phrase as a clear antecedent; the verb*makes* should be future tense.
C The appositive phrase requires a clear antecedent; *making* does not indicate future tense.
D This sentence is a little awkward (the article *a* in *a part* is unnecessary) and says something rather different; *as a part of a deal to make* suggests that the deal itself includes making the company the *largest manufacturer* rather than its being the outcome of the deal.
E Correct. The future tense is used throughout and the sentence structure is clear.

Reading Comprehension

Findings from several studies on corporate mergers and acquisitions during the 1970's and 1980's raise questions about why firms initiate and consummate such transactions. One study showed, for example, that acquiring firms were on average unable to maintain acquired firms' pre-merger levels of profitability. A second study concluded that post-acquisition gains to most acquiring firms were not adequate to cover the premiums paid to obtain acquired firms. A third demonstrated that, following the announcement of a prospective merger, the stock of the prospective acquiring firm tends to increase in value much less than does that of the firm for which it bids. Yet mergers and acquisitions remain common, and bidders continue to assert that their objectives are economic ones.

Acquisitions may well have the desirable effect of channeling a nation's resources efficiently from less to more efficient sectors of its economy, but the individual acquisitions executives arranging these deals must see them as advancing either their own or their companies' private economic interests. It seems that factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions. These factors may include the incentive compensation of executives, lack of monitoring by boards of directors, and managerial error in estimating the value of firms targeted for acquisition. Alternatively, the acquisition acts of bidders may derive from modeling: a manager does what other managers do.

14. The primary purpose of the passage is to

A. review research demonstrating the benefits of corporate mergers and acquisitions and examine some of the drawbacks that acquisition behavior entails

B. contrast the effects of corporate mergers and acquisitions on acquiring firms and on firms that are acquired

C. report findings that raise questions about a reason for corporate mergers and acquisitions and suggest possible alternative reasons

D. explain changes in attitude on the part of acquiring firms toward corporate mergers and acquisitions

E. account for a recent decline in the rate of corporate mergers and acquisitions

Answer
Correct Answer: C

Main idea

This question requires understanding what the passage as a whole is trying to do. The passage begins by citing three studies that demonstrate that when firms acquire other firms, there is not necessarily a worthwhile economic gain. The passage then cites economic interests as the reason given by firms when they acquire other firms but calls into question the veracity of this reasoning. The passage then goes on to speculate as to why mergers and acquisitions occur.

A The research cited in the passage calls into question whether mergers and acquisitions are beneficial to firms.
B The passage is not concerned with comparing the relative effects of mergers and acquisitions on the acquired and acquiring firms.
C Correct. The passage surveys reports that question the reasons given by firms when they acquire other firms and suggests other reasons for these acquisitions.
D The passage does not indicate that there has been a change in the attitude of acquiring firms toward mergers and acquisitions.
E The passage does not indicate that there has been a decline in the rate of mergers and acquisitions.

Reading Comprehension
Line Findings from several studies on corporate mergers

and acquisitions during the 1970's and 1980's raise questions about why firms initiate and consummate such transactions. One study showed, for example, that acquiring firms were on average unable to maintain acquired firms' pre-merger levels of profitability. A second study concluded that post-acquisition gains to most acquiring firms were not adequate to cover the premiums paid to obtain acquired firms. A third demonstrated that, following the announcement of a prospective merger, the stock of the prospective acquiring firm tends to increase in value much less than does that of the firm for which it bids. Yet mergers and acquisitions remain common, and bidders continue to assert that their objectives are economic ones. Acquisitions may well have the desirable effect of channeling a nation's resources efficiently from less to more efficient sectors of its economy, but the individual acquisitions executives arranging these deals must see them as advancing either their own or their companies' private economic interests. It seems that factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions. These factors may include the incentive compensation of executives, lack of monitoring by boards of directors, and managerial error in estimating the value of firms targeted for acquisition. Alternatively, the acquisition acts of bidders may derive from modeling: a manager does what other managers do.

15. The findings cited in the passage suggest which of the following about the outcomes of corporate mergers and acquisitions with respect to acquiring firms?

A. They include a decrease in value of many acquiring firms' stocks.

B. They tend to be more beneficial for small firms than for large firms.

C. They do not fulfill the professed goals of most acquiring firms.

D. They tend to be beneficial to such firms in the long term even though apparently detrimental in the short term.

E. They discourage many such firms from attempting to make subsequent bids and acquisitions.

Answer
Correct Answer: C

Inference

Answering this question requires recognizing what is inferable from information given in the passage. The passage begins by citing three studies that show that mergers and acquisitions often harm the economic goals of acquiring firms. The passage also indicates that, nonetheless, acquiring firms *continue to assert that their objectives are economic ones* (lines 15–16), suggesting that the goals of these firms are not met by acquiring other firms.

A The passage suggests that the stock of acquiring firms *tends to increase in value* (lines 12–13), albeit less than the firm it acquires.
B The three studies cited in the passage do contrast the effects of corporate mergers on acquiring firms and on acquired firms, but the effects in question are significant only insofar as they contribute to the wider investigation into why mergers take place at all.

C Correct. The passage indicates that even while acquiring firms cite economic goals, the results of the studies indicate that these goals are not being met.
D The passage makes no comparison between the long-term and short-term gains of acquiring firms.
E The passage does not indicate that firms have been affected by the results of the studies cited.

Reading Comprehension

Findings from several studies on corporate mergers and acquisitions during the 1970’s and 1980’s raise questions about why firms initiate and consummate such transactions. One study showed, for example, that acquiring firms were on average unable to maintain acquired firms’ pre-merger levels of profitability. A second study concluded that post-acquisition gains to most acquiring firms were not adequate to cover the premiums paid to obtain acquired firms. A third demonstrated that, following the announcement of a prospective merger, the stock of the prospective acquiring firm tends to increase in value much less than does that of the firm for which it bids. Yet mergers and acquisitions remain common, and bidders continue to assert that their objectives are economic ones. Acquisitions may well have the desirable effect of channeling a nation’s resources efficiently from less to more efficient sectors of its economy, but the individual acquisitions executives arranging these deals must see them as advancing either their own or their companies’ private economic interests. It seems that factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions. These factors may include the incentive compensation of executives, lack of monitoring by boards of directors, and managerial error in estimating the value of firms targeted for acquisition. Alternatively, the acquisition acts of bidders may derive from modeling: a manager does what other managers do.

16. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements about corporate acquisitions?

A. Their known benefits to national economies explain their appeal to individual firms during the 1970's and 1980's.

B. Despite their adverse impact on some firms, they are the best way to channel resources from less to more productive sectors of a nation's economy.

C. They are as likely to occur because of poor monitoring by boards of directors as to be caused by incentive compensation for managers.

D. They will be less prevalent in the future, since their actual effects will gain wider recognition.

E. Factors other than economic benefit to the acquiring firm help to explain the frequency with which they occur.

Answer

Correct Answer: E

Inference

This question requires understanding what view the author has about a particular issue. The three studies cited by the passage all suggest that mergers and acquisitions do not necessarily bring economic benefit to the acquiring firms. The author concludes therefore that *factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions* (lines 23–24) and then goes on to speculate as to what the reasons may actually be.

A The passage indicates that while mergers and acquisitions may benefit the national economy, the appeal of mergers and acquisitions must be tied to companies' *private economic interests* (lines 19–22).
B The passage makes no judgment as to the best way for firms to help channel resources from less to more efficient economic sectors.
C The passage makes no comparison between the influence of poor monitoring by boards and that of executive incentives.
D The passage makes no prediction as to future trends in the market for mergers and acquisitions.
E Correct. The passage states that factors other than economic interests drive mergers and acquisitions.

Reading Comprehension

Findings from several studies on corporate mergers and acquisitions during the 1970's and 1980's raise questions about why firms initiate and consummate such transactions. One study showed, for example, that acquiring firms were on average unable to maintain acquired firms' pre-merger levels of profitability. A second study concluded that post-acquisition gains to most acquiring firms were not adequate to cover the premiums paid to obtain acquired firms. A third demonstrated that, following the announcement of a prospective merger, the stock of the prospective acquiring firm tends to increase in value much less than does that of the firm for which it bids. Yet mergers and acquisitions remain common, and bidders continue to assert that their objectives are economic ones. Acquisitions may well have the desirable effect of channeling a nation's resources efficiently from less to more efficient sectors of its economy, but the individual acquisitions executives arranging these deals must see them as advancing either their own or their companies' private economic interests. It seems that factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions. These factors may include the incentive compensation of executives, lack of monitoring by boards of directors, and managerial error in estimating the value of firms targeted for acquisition. Alternatively, the acquisition acts of bidders may derive from modeling: a manager does what other managers do.

17. The author of the passage mentions the effect of acquisitions on national economies most probably in order to

A. provide an explanation for the mergers and acquisitions of the 1970's and 1980's overlooked by the findings discussed in the passage

B. suggest that national economic interests played an important role in the mergers and acquisitions of the 1970's and 1980's

C. support a noneconomic explanation for the mergers and acquisitions of the 1970's and 1980's that was cited earlier in the passage

D. cite and point out the inadequacy of one possible explanation for the prevalence of mergers and acquisitions during the 1970's and 1980's

E. explain how modeling affected the decisions made by managers involved in mergers and acquisitions during the 1970’s and 1980’s

Answer
Correct Answer: D

Evaluation

This question requires understanding why a piece of information is included in the passage. After the passage cites the results of the three studies on mergers and acquisitions, which call into question the economic benefits of acquisitions, it indicates that firms nonetheless claim that their objectives are economic. The passage then states that while acquisitions *may well have* a desirable effect on national economies (lines 17–19), the results of the studies suggest that factors other than economic interest must drive executives to arrange mergers and acquisitions.

A The passage does not mention national economies as part of an explanation for the occurrence of mergers and acquisitions.
B The passage suggests that the effect of acquisitions on national economies is not tied to any explanations for why acquisitions occur.
C The effect of acquisitions on national economies is not mentioned in the passage as an explanation for why acquisitions occur.
D Correct. The passage uses the mention of national economies as part of a larger point questioning the stated motivations behind firms’ efforts to acquire other firms.
E In the passage, modeling is unrelated to the idea that acquisitions may have a desirable effect on national economies.

Reading Comprehension

Findings from several studies on corporate mergers and acquisitions during the 1970’s and 1980’s raise questions about why firms initiate and consummate such transactions. One study showed, for example, that acquiring firms were on average unable to maintain acquired firms’ pre-merger levels of profitability. A second study concluded that post-acquisition gains to most acquiring firms were not adequate to cover the premiums paid to obtain acquired firms. A third demonstrated that, following the announcement of a prospective merger, the stock of the prospective acquiring firm tends to increase in value much less than does that of the firm for which it bids. Yet mergers and acquisitions remain common, and bidders continue to assert that their objectives are economic ones. Acquisitions may well have the desirable effect of channeling a nation's resources efficiently from less to more efficient sectors of its economy, but the individual acquisitions executives arranging these deals must see them as advancing either their own or their companies' private economic interests. It seems that factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions. These factors may include the incentive compensation of executives, lack of monitoring by boards of directors, and managerial error in estimating the value of firms targeted for acquisition. Alternatively, the acquisition acts of bidders may derive from modeling: a manager does what other managers do.

18. According to the passage, during the 1970's and 1980's, bidding firms differed from the firms for which they bid in that bidding firms

A. tended to be more profitable before a merger than after a merger

B. were more often concerned about the impact of acquisitions on national economies

C. were run by managers whose actions were modeled on those of other managers

D. anticipated greater economic advantages from prospective mergers

E. experienced less of an increase in stock value when a prospective merger was announced

Answer

Correct Answer: E

Supporting ideas

This question requires recognizing information contained in the passage. In lines 10–14, the passage describes the findings of the third study of mergers and acquisitions in the 1970’s and 1980’s. This study found that, after the announcement of a possible merger, the stock value of an acquiring, or bidding, firm increases much less than the stock value of the firm for which it is in the process of bidding.

A The passage does not indicate whether the profitability of acquiring firms tended to be greater or less after a merger.

B The passage does not indicate that acquiring firms were concerned about the impact of their actions on national economies.

C The passage does not mention the actions of managers at firms that are being acquired.

D The passage does not discuss whether acquiring firms tended to expect greater overall economic gains than actually occurred.

E Correct. The passage indicates that the stock value of acquiring firms grew less than that of the firms they were attempting to acquire.

Reading Comprehension

Findings from several studies on corporate mergers and acquisitions during the 1970’s and 1980’s raise questions about why firms initiate and consummate such transactions. One study showed, for example, that acquiring firms were on average unable to maintain acquired firms’ pre-merger levels of profitability. A second study concluded that post-acquisition gains to most acquiring firms were not adequate to cover the premiums paid to obtain acquired firms. A third demonstrated that, following the announcement of a prospective merger, the stock of the prospective acquiring firm tends to increase in value much less than does that of the firm for which it bids. Yet mergers and acquisitions remain common, and bidders continue to assert that their objectives are economic ones. Acquisitions may well have the desirable effect of channeling a nation's resources efficiently from less to more efficient sectors of its economy, but the individual acquisitions executives arranging these deals must see them as advancing either their own or their companies' private economic interests. It seems that factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions. These factors may include the incentive compensation of executives, lack of monitoring by boards of directors, and managerial error in estimating the value of firms targeted for acquisition. Alternatively, the acquisition acts of bidders may derive from modeling: a manager does what other managers do.

19. According to the passage, which of the following was true of corporate acquisitions that occurred during the 1970's and 1980's?

A. Few of the acquisitions that firms made were subsequently divested.

B. Most such acquisitions produced only small increases in acquired firms' levels of profitability.

C. Most such acquisitions were based on an overestimation of the value of target firms.

D. The gains realized by most acquiring firms did not equal the amounts expended in acquiring target firms.

E. About half of such acquisitions led to long-term increases in the value of acquiring firms' stocks.

Answer
Correct Answer: D

Supporting ideas

This question requires recognizing information contained in the passage. The passage reports on three studies of mergers and acquisitions in the 1970's and 1980's. In lines 7–10, the passage indicates that the second study found that the postacquisition gains to most of the acquiring firms did not offset, or at least equal, the price paid to acquire the firms.

A The passage does not discuss post-acquisition divesting.
B The passage indicates that on average, the profitability of acquired firms fell after being acquired (lines 5–7).
C The passage does not indicate whether most acquiring firms overestimated the value of the firms they acquired.
D Correct. The passage states that for most acquiring firms the costs of buying the acquired firm were greater than the gains derived from acquiring it.
E The passage does not indicate what percentage of acquiring firms, if any, experienced long-term gains in their stock value.

Reading Comprehension

Line Findings from several studies on corporate mergers and acquisitions during the 1970's and 1980's raise questions about why firms initiate and consummate such transactions. One study showed, for example, that acquiring firms were on average unable to maintain acquired firms' pre-merger levels of profitability. A second study concluded that post-acquisition gains to most acquiring firms were not adequate to cover the premiums paid to obtain acquired firms. A third demonstrated that, following the announcement of a prospective merger, the stock of the prospective acquiring firm tends to increase in value much less than does that of the firm for which it bids. Yet mergers and acquisitions remain common, and bidders continue to assert that their objectives are economic ones. Acquisitions may well have the desirable effect of channeling a nation's resources efficiently from less to more efficient sectors of its economy, but the individual acquisitions executives arranging these deals must see them as advancing either their own or their companies' private economic interests. It seems that factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions. These factors may include the incentive compensation of executives, lack of monitoring by boards of directors, and managerial error in estimating the value of firms targeted for acquisition. Alternatively, the acquisition acts of bidders may derive from modeling: a manager does what other managers do.

20. The author of the passage implies that which of the following is a possible partial explanation for acquisition behavior during the 1970's and 1980's?

A. Managers wished to imitate other managers primarily because they saw how financially beneficial other firms' acquisitions were.

B. Managers miscalculated the value of firms that were to be acquired.

C. Lack of consensus within boards of directors resulted in their imposing conflicting goals on managers.

D. Total compensation packages for managers increased during that period.

E. The value of bidding firms' stock increased significantly when prospective mergers were announced.

Answer

Correct Answer: B

Inference

This question requires recognizing what can be inferred from the information in the passage. After providing the results of the studies of mergers and acquisitions, the author concludes that even though acquiring firms state that their objectives are economic, factors having little to do with corporate economic interests explain acquisitions (lines 22–24). Among alternative explanations, the author points to managerial error in estimating the value of firms targeted for acquisition (lines 27–28) as possibly contributing to acquisition behavior in the 1970's and 1980's.

A While the passage indicates that managers may have modeled their behavior on other managers, it does not provide a reason for why this would be so.
B Correct. The author states that one explanation for acquisition behavior may be that managers erred when they estimated the value of firms being acquired.
C The author discusses a lack of monitoring by boards of directors but makes no mention of consensus within these boards.

D The author does not discuss compensation packages for managers.
E The passage does not state how significantly the value of the bidding firm's stock increased upon announcing a merger but only that it increased less in value than did the stock of the prospective firm being acquired.

21. Downzoning, zoning that typically results in the reduction of housing density, allows for more open space in areas where little water or services exist.

A. little water or services exist

B. little water or services exists

C. few services and little water exists

D. there is little water or services available

E. there are few services and little available water

Answer

Correct Answer: E

Diction; Agreement

In this sentence, the adjective *little* correctly modifies the noun *water* because *water* is not a countable quantity. However, the noun *services* is a countable quantity and must be modified by *few*, not by *little*. Logically, the areas described would suffer from both *little water* and *few services* at the same time, so the correct conjunction is *and*, not *or*. This compound subject requires a plural verb.

A *Services* should be modified by *few*, not *little*.

B The singular verb *exists* does not agree with the plural subject *services*. When a compound subject is joined by *or*, the verb agrees with the closer subject.
C When a compound subject consists of two distinct units joined by the conjunction *and*, the verb must be plural.
D *Little* cannot modify *services*.
E Correct. In this sentence, *few* correctly modifies *services*; *and* correctly joins *services* and *water*.

22. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

The figures in portraits by the Spanish painter El Greco (1541–1614) are systematically elongated. In El Greco's time, the intentional distortion of human figures was unprecedented in European painting. Consequently, some critics have suggested that El Greco had an astigmatism, a type of visual impairment, that resulted in people appearing to him in the distorted way that is characteristic of his paintings. However, this suggestion cannot be the explanation, because __________.

A. several twentieth-century artists have consciously adopted from El Greco's paintings the systematic elongation of the human form

B. some people do have elongated bodies somewhat like those depicted in El Greco's portraits

C. if El Greco had an astigmatism, then, relative to how people looked to him, the elongated figures in his paintings would have appeared to him to be distorted

D. even if El Greco had an astigmatism, there would have been no correction for it available in the period in which he lived

E. there were non-European artists, even in El Greco's time, who included in their works human figures that were intentionally distorted

Answer

Correct Answer: C

Argument Construction

Situation

Figures in portraits by the Spanish painter El Greco are elongated. Some critics infer that this was because El Greco suffered from an astigmatism that made people appear elongated to him. But this explanation cannot be correct.

Reasoning

Which option would most logically complete the argument? We need something that provides the best reason for thinking that the explanation suggested by critics—astigmatism—cannot be right. The critics' explanation might seem to work because ordinarily an artist would try to paint an image of a person so that the image would have the same proportions as the perceived person. So if people seemed to El Greco to have longer arms and legs than they actually had, the arms and legs of the painted figures should appear to others to be longer than people's arms and legs normally are. This is how the explanation seems to make sense. But if astigmatism were the explanation, then the elongated images in his pictures should have appeared to El Greco to be too long: he would have perceived the images as longer than they actually are—and therefore as inaccurate representations of what he perceived. So astigmatism cannot be a sufficient explanation for the elongated figures in his paintings.

A Even if subsequent artists intentionally depicted human forms as more elongated than human figures actually are, and they did so to mimic El Greco's painted figures, that does not mean that El Greco's figures were intentionally elongated.

B Although this option provides another possible explanation for El Greco's elongated figures, it provides no evidence that the people El Greco painted had such elongated figures.

C Correct. El Greco would have perceived the images of people in his paintings as too long, relative to his perception of the people themselves. This means that even if El Greco did have astigmatism, that factor would not provide an answer to the question: Why did El Greco paint images that he knew were distorted?

D The absence of an ability to correct astigmatism in El Greco's day does not undermine the hypothesis that it was astigmatism that caused El Greco to paint elongated figures.

E Again, this suggests another possible explanation for the distortion—namely, that El Greco did it deliberately—but it does not provide any reason to think that this is the correct explanation (and that the critics' explanation is actually incorrect).

23. Plantings of cotton bioengineered to produce its own insecticide against bollworms, a major cause of crop failure, sustained little bollworm damage until this year. This year the plantings are being seriously damaged by bollworms. Bollworms, however, are not necessarily developing resistance to the cotton's insecticide. Bollworms breed on corn, and last year more corn than usual was planted throughout cotton-growing regions. So it is likely that the cotton is simply being overwhelmed by corn-bred bollworms.

In evaluating the argument, which of the following would it be most useful to establish?

A. Whether corn could be bioengineered to produce the insecticide

B. Whether plantings of cotton that does not produce the insecticide are suffering unusually extensive damage from bollworms this year

C. Whether other crops that have been bioengineered to produce their own insecticide successfully resist the pests against which the insecticide was to protect them

D. Whether plantings of bioengineered cotton are frequently damaged by insect pests other than bollworms

E. Whether there are insecticides that can be used against bollworms that have developed resistance to the insecticide produced by the bioengineered cotton

Answer

Correct Answer: B

Argument Evaluation

Situation

Although plantings of cotton bioengineered to produce an insecticide to combat bollworms were little damaged by the pests in previous years, they are being severely damaged this year. Since the bollworms breed on corn, and there has been more corn planted this year in cotton-growing areas, the cotton is probably being overwhelmed by the corn-bred bollworms.

Reasoning

In evaluating the argument, which question would it be most useful to have answered? The argument states that the bioengineered cotton crop failures this year (1) have likely been due to the increased corn plantings and (2) not due to the pests having developed a resistance to the insecticide. This also implies (3) that the failures are not due to some third factor.

It would be useful to know how the bioengineered cotton is faring in comparison to the rest of this year's cotton crop. If the bioengineered cotton is faring better against the bollworms, that fact would support the argument because it would suggest that the insecticide is still combating bollworms. If, on the other hand, the bioengineered cotton is being more severely ravaged by bollworms than is other cotton, that suggests that there is some third cause that is primarily at fault.

A This would probably be useful information to those trying to alleviate the bollworm problem in bioengineered cotton. But whether such corn could be developed has no bearing on what is causing the bioengineered cotton to be damaged by bollworms this year.

B Correct. If bollworm damage on non-bioengineered cotton is worse than usual this year, then bollworm infestation in general is simply worse than usual, so pesticide resistance does not need to be invoked to explain the bollworm attacks on the bioengineered cotton.

C Even if other crops that have been bioengineered to resist pests have not successfully resisted them, that fact would not mean that the same is true of this cotton. Furthermore, the facts already suggest that the bioengineered cotton has resisted bollworms.

D Whether other types of pests often damage bioengineered cotton has no bearing on why bollworms are damaging this type of cotton more this year than in the past.

E This, too, might be useful information to those trying to alleviate the bollworm problem in bioengineered cotton, but it is not particularly useful in evaluating the argument. Even if there are pesticides that could be used against bollworms that have developed resistance to the insecticide of the bioengineered cotton, that does not mean that such pesticides are being used this year.

24. <u>Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,</u> but if the insurance company is able to prove excessive loss due to owner negligence, it may decline to renew the policy.

A. Unlike auto insurance, the frequency of claims does not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,

B. Unlike with auto insurance, the frequency of claims do not affect the premiums for personal property coverage,

C. Unlike the frequency of claims for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,

D. Unlike the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage are not affected by the frequency of claims,

E. Unlike with the premiums for auto insurance, the premiums for personal property coverage is not affected by the frequency of claims,

Answer

Correct Answer: D

Logical predication; Agreement

The sentence has been written so that *auto insurance* is contrasted with *the frequency of claims.* The correct contrast is between *the premiums for auto insurance and the premiums for personal property coverage.*

A *Auto insurance* is illogically contrasted with *the frequency of claims.*

B *Unlike with* is an incorrect idiom; *auto insurance* is contrasted with *the frequency of claims;* the singular subject*frequency* does not agree with the plural verb *do.*

C *The frequency of claims* is contrasted with *the premiums for personal property coverage.*

D Correct. The contrast between *the premiums for auto insurance* and *the premiums for personal property coverage* is clearly and correctly stated in this sentence.

E *Unlike with* is an incorrect idiom; the plural subject *premiums* does not agree with the singular verb *is not affected*.

25. Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

Utrania was formerly a major petroleum exporter, but in recent decades economic stagnation and restrictive regulations inhibited investment in new oil fields. In consequence, Utranian oil exports dropped steadily as old fields became depleted. Utrania's currently improving economic situation, together with less-restrictive regulations, will undoubtedly result in the rapid development of new fields. However, it would be premature to conclude that the rapid development of new fields will result in higher oil exports, because __________.

A. the price of oil is expected to remain relatively stable over the next several years

B. the improvement in the economic situation in Utrania is expected to result in a dramatic increase in the proportion of Utranians who own automobiles

C. most of the investment in new oil fields in Utrania is expected to come from foreign sources

D. new technology is available to recover oil from old oil fields formerly regarded as depleted

E. many of the new oil fields in Utrania are likely to be as productive as those that were developed during the period when Utrania was a major oil exporter

Answer

Correct Answer: B

Argument Construction

Situation

A country that had been a major oil exporter has seen its exports decline in recent decades due to economic stagnation, a failure to invest in new fields, and the steady depletion of its old fields. But looser regulations and an improving economy will bring rapid development of new oil fields in the country.

Reasoning

Which of the options would most logically complete the argument? The passage describes the conditions that led to Utrania's no longer being a major oil exporter: a lack of investment in new oil fields due to a stagnant economy and restrictive regulations. The passage then says that due to changed regulatory and economic conditions, there will now be rapid development of new oil fields. Nonetheless, this might not bring about an increase in Utrania's oil exports. To logically complete the argument, one must explain how oil exports might not increase even when the condition that led to decreased oil exports has been removed. Suppose there were an increase in domestic oil consumption. A dramatic increase in the rate of car ownership in Utrania could reasonably be expected to significantly increase domestic oil consumption, which could eat up the added oil production from the new fields.

A This choice is incorrect. There is no reason why stable oil prices should prevent Utrania's oil exports from increasing.

B Correct. An increase in car ownership would increase Utrania's oil consumption—and this supports the claim that oil exports might not increase.

C If anything, this suggests that oil exports should increase. So it would not be a good choice for completion of the argument.

D The advent of new technology allowing oil to be extracted from fields previously thought to be depleted would mean that there is even more reason to think that Utrania's oil exports will increase.

E This does not help to explain why exports would not increase. On the contrary, it suggests that the new fields will lead to increased exports.

26. The computer company's present troubles are a result of technological stagnation, marketing missteps, and managerial blunders <u>so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it</u>.

A. so that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct it

B. so that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct

C. in that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them

D. that several attempts to revise corporate strategies have failed to correct

E. that several attempts at revising corporate strategies have failed to correct them

Answer

Correct Answer: D

Agreement; Rhetorical construction

This sentence lists three causes of the company's troubles and asserts that strategies to correct the causes of the problems have failed. The clearest, most efficient way to explain this is to refer to the causes with the relative pronoun *that*, positioning it as an object of the verb *failed to correct*.

A The singular pronoun *it* has no clear antecedent; the conjunction *so* typically indicates that a consequence will follow, but this is not the case.

B The conjunction *so* is inappropriate because no consequences are given; the verb *correct* has no object.
C *In that* is an inappropriate connector because it is not followed by an indication of how the company's troubles result from the three problems listed in the first part of the sentence.
D Correct. The sentence is clearly and efficiently worded, and the referent of the pronoun *that* is clear.
E Because *attempts* is the subject of the final clause, and *that* is the object of its verb (*have failed to correct*), the pronoun *them* has no function.

27. The root systems of most flowering perennials either become too crowded, <u>which results in loss in vigor, and spread</u> too far outward, producing a bare center.

A. which results in loss in vigor, and spread

B. resulting in loss in vigor, or spreading

C. with the result of loss of vigor, or spreading

D. resulting in loss of vigor, or spread

E. with a resulting loss of vigor, and spread

Answer

Correct Answer: D

Idiom; Parallelism

This sentence uses the construction *either x or y*; *x* and *y* must be grammatically parallel. In this case, *and spread* must be*or spread*. The antecedent of *which* is unclear; replacing *which results* with *resulting* clarifies the meaning.

A *Either* is incorrectly followed by *and*; *which* has no clear referent.
B *Or spreading* is not parallel to *either become*.
C *With the result of* is wordy and awkward. *Or spreading* is not parallel to *either become*.
D Correct. The phrase *resulting in loss of vigor* concisely modifies the first clause; the either/or construction is correct and parallel in this sentence.
E *Either* is incorrectly followed by *and*; *with a resulting loss* is wordy.

28. Inuits of the Bering Sea were <u>in isolation from contact with Europeans longer than</u> Aleuts or Inuits of the North Pacific and northern Alaska.

A. in isolation from contact with Europeans longer than

B. isolated from contact with Europeans longer than

C. in isolation from contact with Europeans longer than were

D. isolated from contact with Europeans longer than were

E. in isolation and without contacts with Europeans longer than

Answer
Correct Answer: D

Idiom; Logical predication

The construction *in isolation from* is awkward; the idiomatic way to express this idea is *isolated from*. The comparison is ambiguous; it could mean the Bering Sea Inuits were isolated from Europeans longer than they were isolated from Aleuts and other Inuits or that they were isolated from Europeans longer than Aleuts and other Inuits were isolated from Europeans. Adding *were* after *than* will solve this problem.

A *In isolation from* is not the correct idiom. The comparison is ambiguous.
B The comparison is ambiguous.
C *In isolation from* is not the correct idiom.
D Correct. The idiom *isolated from* is correctly used in this sentence. The comparison is clear and unambiguous.
E *In isolation . . . without* is incorrect and confusing. The comparison is ambiguous.

29. <u>Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.</u>

A. Clouds are formed from the evaporation of the oceans' water that is warmed by the sun and rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.

B. Clouds form by the sun's warmth evaporating the water in the oceans, which rises high into the atmosphere, condensing in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust.

C. Warmed by the sun, ocean water evaporates, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form clouds.

D. The water in the oceans evaporates, warmed by the sun, rises high into the atmosphere, and condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust, which forms clouds.

E. Ocean water, warmed by the sun, evaporates and rises high into the atmosphere, which then condenses in tiny droplets on minute particles of dust to form as clouds.

Answer
Correct Answer: C

Rhetorical construction; Logical predication

This sentence describes a multistep process by which ocean water is transformed into clouds. These steps are most clearly presented in chronological order, with *ocean water* as the main subject of the sentence.

A This sentence provides no sense of steps and illogically suggests that the oceans' water evaporates after it rises high into the atmosphere.
B The antecedent for the relative pronoun *which* is ambiguous, again suggesting that oceans rise high.
C Correct. The sequence of steps in a cloud's formation is clear.
D The nonchronological order of the steps by which clouds are produced is confusing, suggesting that dust forms clouds.
E The relative pronoun *which* grammatically refers to *atmosphere*, creating a nonsensical claim that the atmosphere, rather than the water, condenses.

30. Since 1990 the percentage of bacterial sinus infections in Aqadestan that are resistant to the antibiotic perxicillin has increased substantially. Bacteria can quickly develop resistance to an antibiotic when it is prescribed indiscriminately or when patients fail to take it as prescribed. Since perxicillin has not been indiscriminately prescribed, health officials hypothesize that the increase in perxicillin-resistant sinus infections is largely due to patients' failure to take this medication as prescribed.

Which of the following, if true of Aqadestan, provides most support for the health officials' hypothesis?

A. Resistance to several other commonly prescribed antibiotics has not increased since 1990 in Aqadestan.

B. A large number of Aqadestanis never seek medical help when they have a sinus infection.

C. When it first became available, perxicillin was much more effective in treating bacterial sinus infections than any other antibiotic used for such infections at the time.

D. Many patients who take perxicillin experience severe side effects within the first few days of their prescribed regimen.

E. Aqadestani health clinics provide antibiotics to their patients at cost.

Answer

Correct Answer: D

Argument Construction

Situation

In Aqadestan the percentage of bacterial sinus infections resistant to the antibiotic perxicillin has been increasing even though perxicillin has not been indiscriminately prescribed.

Reasoning

What evidence most strongly suggests that the main reason perxicillin-resistant sinus infections are becoming more common is that patients are failing to take perxicillin as prescribed? Any evidence suggesting that patients have in fact been failing to take perxicillin as prescribed would support the hypothesis, as would any evidence casting doubt on other possible explanations for the increasing proportion of perxicillin-resistant sinus infections.

A This suggests that some factor specific to perxicillin is increasing bacterial resistance to it, but that could be true whether or not the factor is patients' failure to take perxicillin as prescribed.

B If anything, this weakens the argument by suggesting that most people with sinus infections are never prescribed perxicillin, and that therefore relatively few people are getting prescriptions and then failing to follow them.
C The relative effectiveness of perxicillin when it first became available does not suggest that the reason it is now becoming less effective is that many patients are failing to take it as prescribed.
D Correct. These side effects would discourage patients from taking perxicillin as prescribed, so their existence provides evidence that many patients are not taking it as prescribed.
E If the clinics do not charge extra for perxicillin, that would make it more affordable and hence easier for many patients to take as prescribed.

31. Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the argument?

Some dairy farmers in the province of Takandia want to give their cows a synthetic hormone that increases milk production. Many Takandians, however, do not want to buy milk from cows given the synthetic hormone. For this reason Takandia's legislature is considering a measure requiring milk from cows given the hormone to be labeled as such. Even if the measure is defeated, dairy farmers who use the hormone will probably lose customers, since __________.

A. it has not been proven that any trace of the synthetic hormone exists in the milk of cows given the hormone

B. some farmers in Takandia who plan to use the synthetic hormone will probably not do so if the measure were passed

C. milk from cows that have not been given the synthetic hormone can be labeled as such without any legislative action

D. the legislature's consideration of the bill has been widely publicized

E. milk that comes from cows given the synthetic hormone looks and tastes the same as milk from cows that have not received the hormone

Answer

Correct Answer: C

Argument Construction

Situation

Some dairy farmers in a province want to give their dairy cows a synthetic hormone, but many people in the province do not want to buy milk that is from cows given the hormone. The provincial legislature is considering a measure requiring milk from cows given the hormone to be labeled as such.

Reasoning

What would be a reason to believe that dairy farmers who use the hormone will lose customers even if the measure is defeated? If the measure passes, the dairy farmers who give cows the hormone may lose the many customers who do not want to buy such milk. If the measure is defeated, then milk produced with the hormone will not have to be labeled—so what would lead one to believe that hormone-using farmers would nevertheless lose customers? A statement that provides an answer to this question would logically complete the argument.

A At best, this lack of proof might mitigate hormone-using farmers' loss of customers, whatever the outcome of the legislature's consideration of the measure.

B The argument's conclusion is mainly about what will happen if the measure is defeated, not what will happen if it passes.

C Correct. If the measure is defeated, the milk produced by farmers who avoid using the hormone would likely gain a market advantage if the milk was labeled as produced without use of the hormone. As a result, dairy farmers who use the hormone would probably lose customers.

D Publicity could affect consumers' attitudes about hormone-produced milk, but if the measure is defeated and labeling practices do not change, customers would have no way of knowing which milk was produced by use of the hormone.

E This suggests that, in the absence of labeling, consumers would be unable to decide which milk was produced by use of the hormone, so dairy farmers who used the hormone would be unlikely to lose customers if the labeling measure is defeated.

Reading Comprehension

Line The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

32. The primary purpose of the passage is to

A. contrast possible outcomes of a type of business investment

B. suggest more careful evaluation of a type of business investment

C. illustrate various ways in which a type of business investment could fail to enhance revenues

D. trace the general problems of a company to a certain type of business investment

E. criticize the way in which managers tend to analyze the costs and benefits of business investments

Answer

Correct Answer: B

Main idea

Look at the passage as a whole to find the primary purpose. This passage uses an example, described in the second paragraph, to illustrate the principle of business practice explained in the first paragraph. The author begins by saying that efforts to improve service do not always result in a *competitive advantage* for a company. Thus, an investment in service must be carefully evaluated to determine if it will reduce costs or increase revenues (lines 4–8).

A Only one outcome, failure to gain a competitive advantage, is examined.
B Correct. Investments in service must be carefully evaluated for the returns they will bring.
C Only one way, an unnecessary investment in improved service, is discussed.
D The example of the bank is used only to illustrate a general business principle; the bank itself is not the focus of the passage.
E The passage criticizes the absence of such an analysis, not the way it is conducted.

Reading Comprehension

The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

33. According to the passage, investments in service are comparable to investments in production and distribution in terms of the

A. tangibility of the benefits that they tend to confer

B. increased revenues that they ultimately produce

C. basis on which they need to be weighed

D. insufficient analysis that managers devote to them

E. degree of competitive advantage that they are likely to provide

Answer

Correct Answer: C

Supporting ideas

The phrase *according to the passage* indicates that the question covers material that is explicitly stated in the passage. The answer to this question demands a careful reading of the second sentence (lines 4–8). Investments in service are like investments in production and distribution because they *must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits*. Thus, these investments should be weighed on the same basis.

A The author is not equating the tangible benefits the different kinds of investments reap but rather the basis on which decisions to make investments are made.
B Revenues generated from investing in service are not said to be comparable to revenues generated from investing in production and distribution.
C Correct. An evaluation of whether or not to make these investments must be made on the same basis.
D How managers analyze investments in production and distribution is not discussed.
E The competitive advantage of superior service is acknowledged, but not the degree of it; it is not mentioned at all in the context of production and distribution.

Reading Comprehension

Line The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

34. The passage suggests which of the following about service provided by the regional bank prior to its investment in enhancing that service?

A. It enabled the bank to retain customers at an acceptable rate.

B. It threatened to weaken the bank's competitive position with respect to other regional banks.

C. It had already been improved after having caused damage to the bank’s reputation in the past.

D. It was slightly superior to that of the bank’s regional competitors.

E. It needed to be improved to attain parity with the service provided by competing banks.

Answer
Correct Answer: A

Inference

Because the question uses the word *suggests*, finding the answer depends on making an inference about service at the bank. The paragraph that discusses the bank begins with the transitional expression, *this truth*, which refers to the previous sentence (lines 8–15). The *truth* is that investing in improved service is a waste *if a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate*. Because of the way the author has linked this generalization to the description of the bank after investment, it is reasonable to infer that the hypothetical company’s situation describes the bank prior to its investment in improved service.

A Correct. The bank’s service would have been good enough to avoid a damaging reputation and to retain customers at an acceptable rate.
B The passage does not suggest that the bank’s service was either poor or deficient to that of its competitors.
C The passage implies that the bank’s service avoided *a damaging reputation*.

D The bank would have been *on a par with its competitors*, not superior to them.
E The bank would have been *on a par with its competitors*, not inferior to them.

Reading Comprehension

The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

35. The passage suggests that bank managers failed to consider whether or not the service improvement mentioned in lines 18–20

A. was too complicated to be easily described to prospective customers

B. made a measurable change in the experiences of customers in the bank’s offices

C. could be sustained if the number of customers increased significantly

D. was an innovation that competing banks could have imitated

E. was adequate to bring the bank’s general level of service to a level that was comparable with that of its competitors

Answer
Correct Answer: D

Inference

The question’s use of the word *suggests* means that the answer depends on making an inference. To answer this question, look at the entire second paragraph. Managers failed to think ahead. Would the service improvement attract new customers because other banks would find it difficult to copy? Or would the service improvement be easily imitated by competitors? The managers should have investigated this area before investing in improved service.

A The passage states the improvement *could easily be described to customers* (lines 28–29).

B No evidence in the passage shows that the managers failed to think about their customers' experience in the bank.
C The passage does not imply that managers failed to consider an increase in clients.
D Correct. The managers did not wonder if other banks would copy their service improvement.
E Lines 8–12 imply that the bank enjoyed a comparable level of service before investing in service improvement.

Reading Comprehension

The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

36. The discussion of the regional bank in the second paragraph serves which of the following functions within the passage as a whole?

A. It describes an exceptional case in which investment in service actually failed to produce a competitive advantage.

B. It illustrates the pitfalls of choosing to invest in service at a time when investment is needed more urgently in another area.

C. It demonstrates the kind of analysis that managers apply when they choose one kind of service investment over another.

D. It supports the argument that investments in certain aspects of service are more advantageous than investments in other aspects of service.

E. It provides an example of the point about investment in service made in the first paragraph.

Answer

Correct Answer: E

Logical structure

This question requires thinking about what the second paragraph contributes to the whole passage. The first paragraph makes a generalization about investing in improvements in service; in certain conditions, such improvements do not result in the *competitive advantage* a company hopes for. The second paragraph offers the bank as an example of this generalization.

A The first sentence of the passage explains that improving service does not necessarily bring a *competitive advantage*, so the bank is not exceptional.
B The bank illustrates the pitfall of not evaluating a service improvement on the basis of tangible benefits; other areas of the bank are not mentioned.
C The passage does not discuss how managers analyze and choose different service investments.
D Investments in different aspects of service are not evaluated in the passage.
E Correct. The bank is an example of the position stated in the first paragraph that investing in improved service can be a waste if the investment is not evaluated carefully.

Reading Comprehension

The fact that superior service can generate a competitive advantage for a company does not mean that every attempt at improving service will create such an advantage. Investments in service, like those in production and distribution, must be balanced against other types of investments on the basis of direct, tangible benefits such as cost reduction and increased revenues. If a company is already effectively on a par with its competitors because it provides service that avoids a damaging reputation and keeps customers from leaving at an unacceptable rate, then investment in higher service levels may be wasted, since service is a deciding factor for customers only in extreme situations.

This truth was not apparent to managers of one regional bank, which failed to improve its competitive position despite its investment in reducing the time a customer had to wait for a teller. The bank managers did not recognize the level of customer inertia in the consumer banking industry that arises from the inconvenience of switching banks. Nor did they analyze their service improvement to determine whether it would attract new customers by producing a new standard of service that would excite customers or by proving difficult for competitors to copy. The only merit of the improvement was that it could easily be described to customers.

37. The author uses the word “only” in line 27 most likely in order to

A. highlight the oddity of the service improvement

B. emphasize the relatively low value of the investment in service improvement

C. distinguish the primary attribute of the service improvement from secondary attributes

D. single out a certain merit of the service improvement from other merits

E. point out the limited duration of the actual service improvement

Answer

Correct Answer: B

Logical structure

The question asks you to consider the logic of the author’s word choice. The previous two sentences discuss why the service improvement was a wasted investment. In contrast, the final sentence turns to the sole advantage of the service improvement, which is trivial by comparison. The author uses *only* to modify *merit* in order to emphasize the minimal nature of this advantage.

A The passage does not indicate that the service improvement is somehow strange or peculiar.
B Correct. *Only* emphasizes the low value attached to the single benefit.
C No attributes of the service improvement are mentioned.
D *Only* signifies that there was one sole merit of the service improvement.
E The duration of the benefit is not discussed in the passage.

38. The Anasazi settlements at Chaco Canyon were built on a spectacular <u>scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were</u> connected by a complex regional system of roads.

A. scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each, were

B. scale, with more than 75 carefully engineered structures, of up to 600 rooms each,

C. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each that had been

D. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms and with each

E. scale of more than 75 carefully engineered structures of up to 600 rooms, each had been

Answer
Correct Answer: B

Logical predication; Grammatical construction

This sentence makes a claim about the scale (size, extent) of the Anasazi settlements and then illustrates that claim with a description of the settlements' structures. The second part of the sentence, introduced by the preposition *with*, describes the structures first in terms of their rooms and then in terms of the roads that connect them together. To describe the noun*structures*, the participial form *connected* should be used, turning the verb into an adjective.

A The verb *were connected* has no subject, since *structures* is the object of the preposition *with*.
B Correct. The sentence is logically coherent and grammatically correct.
C The comma preceding *each* makes *each* a subject, but it has no verb, since *that* is the subject of *had been connected*.
D This sentence suggests that the scale or size of the settlements is made up of structures, rather than uses the structures as an example of the settlements' grand scale; it also nonsensically indicates that each room is connected by a complex system of roads.
E This run-on sentence suffers from a comma splice, as the phrase following the comma is a main clause; the referent of the pronoun *each* is ambiguous.

39. Floating in the waters of the equatorial Pacific, an array of buoys collects and transmits data on long-term interactions between the ocean and the <u>atmosphere, interactions that affect</u> global climate.

A. atmosphere, interactions that affect

B. atmosphere, with interactions affecting

C. atmosphere that affects

D. atmosphere that is affecting

E. atmosphere as affects

Answer
Correct Answer: A

Grammatical construction; Agreement

The underlined portion of the sentence is an appositive, a terminal noun phrase restating the kind of data being collected and providing additional information about it. This is a clear and economical way to provide the extra information.

A Correct. The sentence is grammatically correct and logically coherent.
B The prepositional phrase *with* . . . has no clear noun or noun phrase to attach to and is therefore ungrammatical.
C Using the restrictive *that* after *atmosphere* illogically suggests that there are many atmospheres to differentiate from and the one in question in this sentence is the one affecting global climate.
D The restrictive *that* also follows *atmosphere* as in answer C.
E The phrase *as affects global climate* functions as an adverb, but there is no verb for it to modify.

40. Generally scientists enter their field with the goal of doing important new research and accept as their colleagues those with similar motivation. Therefore, when any scientist wins renown as an expounder of science to general audiences, most other scientists conclude that this popularizer should no longer be regarded as a true colleague.

The explanation offered above for the low esteem in which scientific popularizers are held by research scientists assumes that

A. serious scientific research is not a solitary activity, but relies on active cooperation among a group of colleagues

B. research scientists tend not to regard as colleagues those scientists whose renown they envy

C. a scientist can become a famous popularizer without having completed any important research

D. research scientists believe that those who are well known as popularizers of science are not motivated to do important new research

E. no important new research can be accessible to or accurately assessed by those who are not themselves scientists

Answer
Correct Answer: D

Argument Construction

Situation
Research scientists desire to do important new research and treat as colleagues just those who have a similar desire. When a scientist becomes popular among a general audience for explaining principles of science, other scientists have less esteem for this popularizer, no longer regarding such a scientist as a serious colleague.

Reasoning
What assumption do research scientists make about scientists who become popularizers? The community of scientists shares a common goal: to do important new research. What would cause this community to disapprove of a popularizer and to cease to regard the popularizer as a colleague? It must be because many scientists believe that becoming a popularizer is incompatible with desiring to do important new research.

A Many scientists make this assumption, of course—but it is not an assumption on which the explanation specifically depends. The explanation concerns the scientists' motivation, not their style of doing research.
B This statement gives another reason that scientists may reject a popularizer, but because it is not the reason implied in the passage, it is not assumed.
C Even if this is true, it does not address the core issue of the argument: what scientists believe about the *motivation* of popularizers.

D Correct. This statement properly identifies an assumption on which the explanation for scientists' rejection of popularizers depends.
E The passage is not concerned with whether nonscientists can understand new research, but rather with the beliefs and motivations of scientists who reject popularizers as colleagues.

41. Seismologists studying the earthquake that struck northern California in October 1989 are still investigating some of its mysteries: the unexpected power of the seismic waves, <u>the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the temblor</u>.

A. the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and the strange electromagnetic signals detected hours before the temblor

B. the upward thrust that threw one man straight into the air, and strange electromagnetic signals were detected hours before the temblor

C. the upward thrust threw one man straight into the air, and hours before the temblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected

D. one man was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and hours before the temblor strange electromagnetic signals were detected

E. one man who was thrown straight into the air by the upward thrust, and strange electromagnetic signals that were detected hours before the temblor

Answer

Correct Answer: A

Parallelism; Grammatical construction

Some of the earthquake's *mysteries* are described in a series of three correctly parallel elements: (1) *the unexpected power* . . . , (2) *the upward thrust* . . . , and (3) *the strange electromagnetic signals*. . . . Each of the three elements begins with an article (*the*), a modifier, and a noun. This parallelism is crucial, but each mystery is allowed the further modification most appropriate to it, whether a prepositional phrase (1), a clause (2), or a participial phrase (3).

A Correct. This sentence correctly provides a parallel series of three mysteries.
B *The* is omitted before *strange*. The verb *were detected* makes the last element not parallel to the previous two.
C Because they use complete independent clauses, the last two elements are not parallel to the first, and the sentence is ungrammatical.
D The constructions beginning *one man* and *hours before* are not parallel to the construction beginning *the unexpected power*.
E The grammatical constructions describing the mysteries are not parallel.