

## GMAT VERBAL PRACTICE PAPERS

### READING COMPREHENSION

#### Question: 1

A more comprehensive definition of "sea level," one useful to cartographers, requires a broad understanding of various temporal and physical factors. First, consider the history of sea level: the position at which sea and land meet, averaged over tidal stages and coastlines, has been remarkably stable over time. Current sea level measures, though having risen very slightly over the last century, are approximately the same as they were 35,000 years ago. Thus, the referent for terrestrial altitudes and oceanic depths has been largely consistent for millennia, though cartographers' ability to make accurate measurements has, of course, improved with advances in technology. Through the processes of imaginative visualization and computer generation, much knowledge has been gained regarding the predictable nature of sea level. The oceans are governed primarily by Earth's gravity, which is strongest at the poles because of Earth's slightly ellipsoid shape, the result of billions of years of rotation. What keeps the oceans from pooling at the poles, drawn there by the greater gravitational forces, is the centrifugal force generated by Earth's rotation. This force is strong enough to cause a bulge of ocean about eight kilometers high around Earth's equator. Using sophisticated computer models, today's cartographers can postulate how the intersection of sea and land would change should the Earth ever cease to rotate on its axis. Over time, the bulge of ocean at the equator, no longer held in place by the centrifugal forces, would flatten out. Drawn by the pull of the two poles, Earth's main bodies of water would eventually become circumpolar, gathered in two massive pools around the top and bottom, so to speak, of the globe, leading to the emergence of a supercontinent around the planet's equator.

1. According to the passage, which is true of the physical forces governing sea level?

- A. Gravity, along with rotation, is responsible for Earth's slightly ellipsoid shape.
- B. Centrifugal deterioration will eventually give rise to an enormous supercontinent.
- C. The centrifugal force is the dominant influence on the shape of Earth's oceans.
- D. The equatorial bulge is primarily a result of gravitational pooling at Earth's poles.
- E. Gravitational forces have more influence on the oceans than does centrifugal force.

#### Question 2

2. The author makes all of the following statements about historic sea levels EXCEPT

- A. Variations in them have been noted in the last 35,000 years.
- B. Their consistency has allowed cartographers to improve their measurements.
- C. While mutable, they have, broadly speaking, maintained stability for millennia.
- D. They are measured at many times and places to obtain a useful average.
- E. Measurements of depth and elevation are made relative to their height.

#### Question 3

3. The passage is chiefly concerned with

- A. imparting an understanding of the effect of Earth's physical forces on sea life
- B. arguing that the long-term stability of sea level assists in cartographic accuracy
- C. attempting to compose an explanation of one of Earth's topographical variables
- D. integrating hard data and thought experimentation to better visualize sea level
- E. positing a worst-case scenario to educate readers about Earth's fragile balance

## GMAT Sentence Correction Questions

1. In order to better differentiate its product from generic brands, the cereal company first hired a marketing firm that specializes in creating campaigns to build brand awareness and then retools its

factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal.

- (A) then retools its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal
- (B) retools its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal
- (C) then retooled its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal
- (D) then will retool its factory to produce a variety of different shapes of cereal
- (E) then produces a variety of different shapes of cereal through retooling its factory

2. Believed to be one of the first widely read female authors of the Western world. Christine de Pizan's masterwork *The Book of the City of the Ladies*, was written in 1405 and is a history of the Western world from the woman's point-of-view.

- (A) Believed to be one of the first widely read female authors of the Western world
- (B) Written by one of the first widely read female authors of the Western world
- (C) One of the first widely read female authors of the Western world, as some believe
- (D) Written by what some believe as one of the first widely read female authors of the Western world
- (E) Believed by some as one of the first works by a widely read female author in the Western world

## GMAT Critical Reasoning Questions

1. One food writer wrote that reducing the amount of animal products in one's diet can contribute to better health and well-being. Based on this claim, some people are completely eliminating meat from their diets in order to be healthier.

The argument above relies on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Increasing the amount of vegetables and grains in one's diet can contribute to better health.
- (B) There will be no corresponding increase in the amount of dairy products in the diets of those who are eliminating meat.
- (C) Most food writers believe that some amount of animal products is necessary to a health diet.
- (D) Not all healthy lifestyles require a vegetarian diet.
- (E) Many people who do not eat animal products make decisions for health reasons.

2. Studies reveal that a daily exercise regimen helps stroke survivors regain dexterity in their extremities. Being given an exercise routine and having a consultation with a doctor about the exercise routine have been shown to be effective mechanisms to get patients to exercise daily.

From the above information, which of the following statements can be reasonably inferred?

- (A) A stroke survivor that is given a detailed exercise plan and consults her physician about the plan will regain full dexterity in her extremities.
- (B) If a stroke survivor is not given an exercise plan and does not consult with a doctor, she will not regain dexterity in her extremities.
- (C) Stroke survivors who are given an exercise routine and consult with a doctor about that routine will sometimes regain dexterity in their extremities.
- (D) Being given an exercise routine and having a consultation with a doctor about the routine is the best way to help a stroke survivor regain dexterity in their extremities.
- (E) Only being given an exercise routine is necessary to regenerate dexterity in the extremities of seniors who have suffered a stroke.

# GMAT Reading Comprehension Questions

## Passage 1

Although oft-maligned in modern culture, the pigeon once stood not only for speed and reliability but also for grace and beauty. Darwin himself became a pigeon fancier after beginning to work with the humble *Columbia livia*, discovering them to be more fascinating than he had formerly believed. During the Victorian age, in fact, raising show pigeons was a popular hobby, with new breeds continuously arising as amateur (and not-so-amateur) ornithologists crossed animals in the hopes of creating ever more fantastic creatures. One of the most sought-after varieties was known as the Almond Tumbler, a name presumably derived from the color of the birds combined with the distinctive flight style. Over the course of many generations, this bird was so manipulated as to have a beak so small as to prevent the adult birds from feeding their offspring. And yet, it was wildly popular, drawing high prices at auctions and high prizes at competitions.

How then did an animal once so well-loved come to be so loathed? As recently as World War II, the military used pigeons to carry messages but today, many people would kick a pigeon before they would feed one. Perhaps it is just a problem of population density - a lack of esteem for that which is ubiquitous. Pigeons have become our constant urban companions and, as such, have been transformed from symbols of peace, plenty, and prosperity, to representatives of disease and decay.

1. The primary purpose of this passage is to

- (A) convince the reader of the nobility of the pigeon, based on its history as a symbol of virtue
- (B) dissuade the reader from mistreating a once-majestic animal that has fallen from favor
- (C) rebut claims that the pigeon carries disease any more frequently than do other domestic animals
- (D) promote a renewal of pigeon fancying and a resurgence of breeds such as the Almond Tumbler
- (E) suggest that there might be more to the story of some urban wildlife than is commonly known

2. The case of the Almond Tumbler is most analogous to which of the following?

- (A) a strain of wheat that can be grown in plentiful quantities but loses much of its nutritional value in the process
- (B) Arabian horses that are able to run at phenomenal speeds due to centuries of careful breeding designed to enhance those physical attributes
- (C) vitamins that were purported to provide all of the necessary nutrients but have since been found not to be very effective
- (D) the dachshund, a popular breed of dog that is nonetheless prone to severe back problems, due to weaknesses exacerbated by targeted breeding
- (E) the wild rock doves that are most commonly found nesting in the faces of cliffs far from human habitation

[+] See the Answer

3. The passage suggests that

- (A) pigeons were once known for flying with celerity
- (B) the Almond Tumbler was the most beautiful breed of pigeon
- (C) Darwin was infatuated with his fancy pigeons

- (D) modern pigeons are dirtier than the fancy pigeons of yore
- (E) only scientists should breed new kinds of animals