

## GMAT VERBAL PRACTICE PAPER

Adapted from Volume Four of *The Natural History of Animals: The Animal Life of the World in Its Various Aspects and Relations* by James Richard Ainsworth Davis (1903)

The examples of protective resemblance so far quoted are mostly permanent adaptations to one particular sort of surrounding. There are, however, numerous animals which possess the power of adjusting their color more or less rapidly so as to harmonize with a changing environment.

Some of the best known of these cases are found among those mammals and birds that inhabit countries more or less covered with snow during a part of the year. A good instance is afforded by the Irish or variable hare, which is chiefly found in Ireland and Scotland. In summer, this looks very much like an ordinary hare, though rather grayer in tint and smaller in size, but in winter it becomes white with the exception of the black tips to the ears. Investigations that have been made on the closely allied American hare seem to show that the phenomenon is due to the growth of new hairs of white hue.

The common stoat is subject to similar color change in the northern parts of its range. In summer it is of a bright reddish brown color with the exception of the under parts, which are yellowish white, and the end of the tail, which is black. But in winter, the entire coat, save only the tip of the tail, becomes white, and in that condition the animal is known as an ermine. A similar example is afforded by the weasel. The seasonal change in the vegetarian Irish hare is purely of protective character, but in such an actively carnivorous creature as a stoat or weasel, it is aggressive as well, rendering the animal inconspicuous to its prey.

1. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?

Certain animals change their fur color to be better predators or better at hiding.

Animals like the stoat, the weasel, and the Irish hare are better adapted to changing environments than to unchanging ones.

The Scottish hare changes its fur color.

All animals that live in a changing environment change color.

Increased defense is the only reason for an animal to change its fur color.

2. In which of the following would you most expect to find this passage reprinted?

A how-to manual

An article in a biology magazine

A scholarly report about weasels

A cookbook

A physics textbook

3. Based on the passage, which of the following can we infer would be the best reason for animals living in variable arctic environments to change their fur color?

They would be warmer.

They would more easily be able to attract a mate.

They would be able to find food more quickly and easily.

They would be faster.

They would be more difficult to see when surrounded by snow.

4. Why is the American hare mentioned in the passage?

It is a predator of the Scottish hare.

Scientists have studied it to find out how a hare's fur changes color.

It is better at hiding than the Scottish hare.

It is a type of hare that does not change color.

It is another name for the Scottish hare.

5. The phrase “harmonize with,” underlined in the first paragraph, most closely means \_\_\_\_\_.

match

conduct

sing in harmony with

systematize

parallel

Adapted from *The Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith (1776)

The greatest improvements in the productive powers of labor, and the greater part of the skill, dexterity, and judgment with which it is anywhere directed or applied, seem to have been the effects of the division of labor. The effects of the division of labor, in the general business of society, will be more easily understood by considering in what manner it operates in some particular manufactures. It is commonly supposed to be carried furthest in some very trifling ones; not perhaps that it really is carried further in them than in others

of more importance, but in those trifling manufactures that are destined to supply the small wants of but a small number of people, the whole number of workmen must necessarily be small; and those employed in every different branch of the work can often be collected into the same workhouse, and placed at once under the view of the spectator.

In those great manufactures, on the contrary, which are destined to supply the great wants of the great body of the people, every different branch of the work employs so great a number of workmen that it is impossible to collect them all into the same workhouse. We can seldom see more, at one time, than those employed in one single branch. Though in such manufactures, therefore, the work may really be divided into a much greater number of parts, than in those of a more trifling nature, the division is not near so obvious, and has accordingly been much less observed.

To take an example, therefore, from a very trifling manufacture, but one in which the division of labor has been very often taken notice of: the trade of a pin-maker. A workman not educated to this business (which the division of labor has rendered a distinct trade), nor acquainted with the use of the machinery employed in it (to the invention of which the same division of labor has probably given occasion), could scarce, perhaps, with his utmost industry, make one pin in a day, and certainly could not make twenty. But in the way in which this business is now carried on, not only the whole work is a peculiar trade, but it is divided into a number of branches, of which the greater part are likewise peculiar trades. One man draws out the wire; another straightens it; a third cuts it; a fourth points it; a fifth grinds it at the top for receiving the head; to make the head requires two or three distinct operations; to put it on is a peculiar business; to whiten the pins is another; it is even a trade by itself to put them into the paper; and the important business of making a pin is, in this manner, divided into about eighteen distinct operations, which, in some manufactories, are all performed by distinct hands, though in others the same man will sometimes perform two or three of them.

In every other art and manufacture, the effects of the division of labour are similar to what they are in this very trifling one; though, in many of them, the labour can neither be so much subdivided, nor reduced to so great a simplicity of operation. The division of labour, however, so far as it can be introduced, occasions, in every art, a proportionable increase of the productive powers of labour. The separation of different trades and employments from one another, seems to have taken place, in consequence of this advantage.

6. The author of this passage is interested in \_\_\_\_\_.

Economics

Literature

Culture

Government

7. Based on the passage, what can we infer about the trade of pin-making?

One man alone can produce as many pins as he likely needs.

Other writers have considered it in light of the division of labor.

It is considered an outdated industry.

Producing pins at a great rate requires very little initial investment.

8. By “peculiar trades” in the underlined sentence, the author means \_\_\_\_\_.

Strange exchanges

Unique tasks

Singular deals

Weird jobs

Necessary professions

9. In which of the following sentences does the author directly state why he discusses pin-making as an example of the division of labor in the third paragraph?

“The greatest improvements in the productive powers of labor, and the greater part of the skill, dexterity, and judgment with which it is anywhere directed or applied, seem to have been the effects of the division of labor.”

“The effects of the division of labor, in the general business of society, will be more easily understood by considering in what manner it operates in some particular manufactures.”

“It is commonly supposed to be carried furthest in some very trifling ones; not perhaps that it really is carried further in them than in others of more importance, but in those trifling manufactures . . . those employed in every different branch of the work can often be collected into the same workhouse, and placed at once under the view of the spectator.”

“In those great manufactures, on the contrary . . . every different branch of the work employs so great a number of workmen that it is impossible to collect them all into the same workhouse.”

10. Which of the following does the author identify as the likely cause of the invention of the specific machinery involved in manufacturing pins?

the huge demand for pins.

the relative usefulness of pins.

the division of labor.

the number of people involved in the pin-making industry.

Adapted from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* by John Locke (1689)

But yet, if any one will be so sceptical as to distrust his senses, and to affirm that all we see and hear, feel and taste, think and do, during our whole being, is but the series and deluding appearances of a long dream, whereof there is no reality; and therefore will question the existence of all things, or our knowledge of anything: I must desire him to consider, that, if all be a dream, then he doth but dream that he makes the question, and so it is not much matter that a waking man should answer him.

But yet, if he pleases, he may dream that I make him this answer, That the certainty of things existing in *rerum natura* when we have the testimony of our senses for it is not only as great as our frame can attain to, but as our condition needs. For, our faculties being suited not to the full extent of being, nor to a perfect, clear, comprehensive knowledge of things free from all doubt and scruple; but to the preservation of us, in whom they are; and accommodated to the use of life: they serve to our purpose wen enough, if they will but give us certain notice of those things, which are convenient or inconvenient to us.

For he that sees a candle burning, and hath experimented the force of its flame by putting his finger in it, will little doubt that this is something existing without him, which does him harm, and puts him to great pain; which is assurance enough, when no man requires greater certainty to govern his actions by than what is as certain as his actions themselves. And if our dreamer pleases to try whether the glowing heat of a glass furnace be barely a wandering imagination in a drowsy man's fancy, by putting his hand into it, he may perhaps be wakened into a certainty greater than he could wish, that it is something more than bare imagination.

So that this evidence is as great as we can desire, being as certain to us as our pleasure or pain, i.e. happiness or misery; beyond which we have no concernment, either of knowing or being. Such an assurance of the existence of things without us is sufficient to direct us in the attaining the good and avoiding the evil which is caused by them, which is the important concernment we have of being made acquainted with them.

11. The author's tone in this passage is best described as \_\_\_\_\_.

Detached

Fanciful

Didactic

Bemused

Sardonic

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12. The author primarily believes that radical skepticism is an unreasonable position because \_\_\_\_\_.

experimental evidence shows that the world exists

radical skepticism is logically inconsistent

the senses can be trusted to tell us about the nature of the world

it is to our advantage to trust what the senses tell us about what gives pleasure or pain

it can be proved that the world exists

13. Besides introducing the topic, which best describes the purpose of the first paragraph of the text?

Establishing the author's attitude towards an opposing viewpoint

Discussing the nature of dreams

Introducing the premise that things and ideas are mere illusions

Explaining and advancing a position he will later reject

Defining the limits of the senses

14. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes that \_\_\_\_\_.

radical skepticism was a popular position when the author was writing

knowledge gained through experimentation is the only valid kind of knowledge

the existence of the world is something that cannot, and need not, be absolutely proven

things that are hot are always painful to touch

dreams are not based on real events

15. What is the primary purpose of the third paragraph?

Explaining the relationships between causes and their effects

Proposing an experiment to establish empirically whether or not the world actually exists

Arguing for preferring the results of scientific experiments over hypothetical discussions

Discussing the nature of the imagination

Providing a thought experiment illustrating his thesis