

GMAT VERBAL PRACTICE PAPERS

READING COMPREHENSION

Question: 1

A more comprehensive definition of "sea level,"

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

Question: 2

Micro-wear patterns found on the teeth of long-extinct specimens

Micro-wear patterns found on the teeth of long-extinct specimens of the primate species australopithecine may provide evidence about their diets. For example, on the basis of tooth micro-wear patterns, Walker dismisses Jolly's hypothesis that australopithecines ate hard seeds. He also disputes Szalay's suggestion that the heavy enamel of australopithecine teeth is an adaptation to bone crunching, since both seed cracking and bone crunching produce distinctive micro-wear characteristics on teeth. His conclusion that australopithecines were frugivores (fruit eaters) is based upon his observation that the tooth micro-wear characteristics of east African australopithecine specimens are indistinguishable from those of chimpanzees and orangutans, which are commonly assumed to be frugivorous primates.

However, research on the diets of contemporary primates suggests that micro-wear studies may have limited utility in determining the foods that are actually eaten. For example, insect eating, which can cause distinct micro-wear patterns, would not cause much tooth abrasion in modern baboons, who eat only soft-bodied insects rather than hard-bodied insects. In addition, the diets of current omnivorous primates vary considerably depending on the environments that different groups within a primate species inhabit; if australopithecines were omnivores too, we might expect to find considerable population variation in their tooth micro-wear patterns. Thus, Walker's description of possible australopithecine diets may need to be expanded to include a much more diverse diet.

1. According to the passage, Walker and Szalay disagree on which of the following points?

- (A) The structure and composition of australopithecine teeth
- (B) The kinds of conclusions that can be drawn from the micro-wear patterns on australopithecine teeth
- (C) The idea that fruit was a part of the australopithecine diet
- (D) The extent to which seed cracking and bone crunching produce similar micro-wear patterns on teeth
- (E) The function of the heavy enamel on australopithecine teeth

Question 2

2. The passage suggests that Walker's research indicated which of the following about australopithecine teeth?

- (A) They had micro-wear characteristics indicating that fruit constituted only a small part of their diet.
- (B) They lacked micro-wear characteristics associated with seed eating and bone crunching.
- (C) They had micro-wear characteristics that differed in certain ways from the micro-wear patterns of chimpanzees and orangutans.
- (D) They had micro-wear characteristics suggesting that the diet of australopithecines varied from one region to another.
- (E) They lacked the micro-wear characteristics distinctive of modern frugivores.

Question 3

3. The passage suggests that which of the following would be true of studies of tooth micro-wear

patterns conducted on modern baboons?

- (A) They would inaccurately suggest that some baboons eat more soft-bodied than hard-bodied insects.
- (B) They would suggest that insects constitute the largest part of some baboons' diets.
- (C) They would reveal that there are no significant differences in tooth micro-wear patterns among baboon populations.
- (D) They would inadequately reflect the extent to which some baboons consume certain types of insects.
- (E) They would indicate that baboons in certain regions eat only soft-bodied insects, whereas baboons in other regions eat hard-bodied insects.

Question 4

4. The passage suggests which of the following about the micro-wear patterns found on the teeth of omnivorous primates?

- (A) The patterns provide information about what kinds of foods are not eaten by the particular species of primate, but not about the foods actually eaten.
- (B) The patterns of various primate species living in the same environment resemble one another.
- (C) The patterns may not provide information about the extent to which a particular species' diet includes seeds.
- (D) The patterns provide more information about these primates' diet than do the tooth micro-wear patterns of primates who are frugivores.
- (E) The patterns may differ among groups within a species depending on the environment within which a particular group lives.

Question 5

5. It can be inferred from the passage that if studies of tooth micro-wear patterns were conducted on modern baboons, which of the following would most likely be true of the results obtained?

- (A) There would be enough abrasion to allow a determination of whether baboons are frugivorous or insectivorous.
- (B) The results would suggest that insects constitute the largest part of the baboons' diet.
- (C) The results would reveal that there are no significant differences in tooth micro-wear patterns from one regional baboon population to another.
- (D) The results would provide an accurate indication of the absence of some kinds of insects from the baboons' diet.
- (E) The results would be unlikely to provide any indication of what inferences about the australopithecine diet can or cannot be drawn from micro-wear studies.

Question 6

6. It can be inferred from the passage that Walker's conclusion about the australopithecine diet would be called into question under which of the following circumstances?

- (A) The tooth enamel of australopithecines is found to be much heavier than that of modern frugivorous primates.
- (B) The micro-wear patterns of australopithecine teeth from regions other than east Africa are analyzed.
- (C) Orangutans are found to have a much broader diet than is currently recognized.
- (D) The environment of east Africa at the time australopithecines lived there is found to have been far more varied than is currently thought.
- (E) The area in which the australopithecine specimens were found is discovered to have been very rich in soft-bodied insects during the period when australopithecines lived there.

Question 7

7. The author of the passage mentions the diets of baboons and other living primates most likely in order to

- (A) provide evidence that refutes Walker's conclusions about the foods making up the diets of australopithecines
- (B) suggest that studies of tooth micro-wear patterns are primarily useful for determining the diets of living primates
- (C) suggest that australopithecines were probably omnivores rather than frugivores
- (D) illustrate some of the limitations of using tooth micro-wear patterns to draw definitive conclusions about a group's diet
- (E) suggest that tooth micro-wear patterns are caused by persistent, as opposed to occasional, consumption of particular foods

Question 8

8. The passage is primarily concerned with

- (A) comparing two research methods for determining a species' dietary habits
- (B) describing and evaluating conjectures about a species' diet
- (C) contrasting several explanations for a species' dietary habits
- (D) discussing a new approach and advocating its use in particular situations
- (E) arguing that a particular research methodology does not contribute useful data

Question: 3

A meteor stream is composed of dust particles that have been ejected

A meteor stream is composed of dust particles that have been ejected from a parent comet at a variety of velocities. These particles follow the same orbit as the parent comet, but due to their differing velocities they slowly gain on or fall behind the disintegrating comet until a shroud of dust surrounds the entire cometary orbit. Astronomers have hypothesized that a meteor stream should broaden with time as the dust particles' individual orbits are perturbed by planetary gravitational fields. A recent computer-modeling experiment tested this hypothesis by tracking the influence of planetary gravitation over a projected 5,000-year period on the positions of a group of hypothetical dust particles. In the model, the particles were randomly distributed throughout a computer simulation of the orbit of an actual meteor stream, the Geminid. The researcher found, as expected, that the computer-model stream broadened with time. **Conventional theories**, however, predicted that the distribution of particles would be increasingly dense toward the center of a meteor stream. Surprisingly, the computer-model meteor stream gradually came to resemble a thick-walled, hollow pipe.

Whenever the Earth passes through a meteor stream, a meteor shower occurs. Moving at a little over 1,500,000 miles per day around its orbit, the Earth would take, on average, just over a day to cross the hollow, computer-model Geminid stream if the stream were 5,000 years old. Two brief periods of peak meteor activity during the shower would be observed, one as the Earth entered the thick-walled "pipe" and one as it exited. There is no reason why the Earth should always pass through the stream's exact center, so the time interval between the two bursts of activity would vary from one year to the next.

Has the predicted twin-peaked activity been observed for the actual yearly Geminid meteor shower? The Geminid data between 1970 and 1979 shows just such a bifurcation, a secondary burst of meteor activity being clearly visible at an average of 19 hours (1,200,000 miles) after the first burst. The time intervals between the bursts suggest the actual Geminid stream is about 3,000 years old

1. The primary focus of the passage is on which of the following?

- (A) Comparing two scientific theories and contrasting the predictions that each would make concerning a natural phenomenon
- (B) Describing a new theoretical model and noting that it explains the nature of observations made of a particular natural phenomenon
- (C) Evaluating the results of a particular scientific experiment and suggesting further areas for research
- (D) Explaining how two different natural phenomena are related and demonstrating a way to measure them
- (E) Analyzing recent data derived from observations of an actual phenomenon and constructing a model to explain the data

Question 2

2. According to the passage, which of the following is an accurate statement concerning meteor streams?

- (A) Meteor streams and comets start out with similar orbits, but only those of meteor streams are perturbed by planetary gravitation.
- (B) Meteor streams grow as dust particles are attracted by the gravitational fields of comets.
- (C) Meteor streams are composed of dust particles derived from comets.
- (D) Comets may be composed of several kinds of materials, while meteor streams consist only of large dust particles.
- (E) Once formed, meteor streams hasten the further disintegration of comets.

Question 3

3. The author states that the research described in the first paragraph was undertaken in order to

- (A) determine the age of an actual meteor stream
- (B) identify the various structural features of meteor streams
- (C) explore the nature of a particularly interesting meteor stream
- (D) test the hypothesis that meteor streams become broader as they age
- (E) show that a computer model could help in explaining actual astronomical data

Question 4

4. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following would most probably be observed during the Earth's passage through a meteor stream if the conventional theories mentioned in line 18 were correct?

- (A) Meteor activity would gradually increase to a single, intense peak, and then gradually decline.
- (B) Meteor activity would be steady throughout the period of the meteor shower.
- (C) Meteor activity would rise to a peak at the beginning and at the end of the meteor shower.
- (D) Random bursts of very high meteor activity would be interspersed with periods of very little activity.
- (E) In years in which the Earth passed through only the outer areas of a meteor stream, meteor activity would be absent.

Question 5

5. According to the passage, why do the dust particles in a meteor stream eventually surround a comet's original orbit?

- (A) They are ejected by the comet at differing velocities.
- (B) Their orbits are uncontrolled by planetary gravitational fields.
- (C) They become part of the meteor stream at different times.
- (D) Their velocity slows over time.
- (E) Their ejection velocity is slower than that of the comet.

Question 6

6. The passage suggests that which of the following is a prediction concerning meteor streams that can be derived from both the conventional theories mentioned in line 18 and the new computer-derived theory?

- (A) Dust particles in a meteor stream will usually be distributed evenly throughout any cross section of the stream.
- (B) The orbits of most meteor streams should cross the orbit of the Earth at some point and give rise to a meteor shower.
- (C) Over time the distribution of dust in a meteor stream will usually become denser at the outside edges of the stream than at the center.
- (D) Meteor showers caused by older meteor streams should be, on average, longer in duration than those caused by very young meteor streams.
- (E) The individual dust particles in older meteor streams should be, on average, smaller than those that compose younger meteor streams.

Question 7

7. It can be inferred from the last paragraph of the passage that which of the following must be true of the Earth as it orbits the Sun?

- (A) Most meteor streams it encounters are more than 2,000 years old.
- (B) When passing through a meteor stream, it usually passes near to the stream's center.
- (C) It crosses the Geminid meteor stream once every year.
- (D) It usually takes over a day to cross the actual Geminid meteor stream.
- (E) It accounts for most of the gravitational perturbation affecting the Geminid meteor stream.

Question 8

8. Which of the following is an assumption underlying the last sentence of the passage?

- (A) In each of the years between 1970 and 1979, the Earth took exactly 19 hours to cross the Geminid meteor stream.
- (B) The comet associated with the Geminid meteor stream has totally disintegrated.
- (C) The Geminid meteor stream should continue to exist for at least 5,000 years.
- (D) The Geminid meteor stream has not broadened as rapidly as the conventional theories would have predicted.
- (E) The computer-model Geminid meteor stream provides an accurate representation of the development of the actual Geminid stream

Question: 4

The single-celled parasite known as *Toxoplasma gondii* infects more

The single-celled parasite known as *Toxoplasma gondii* infects more than half of the world's human population without creating any noticeable symptoms. Once inside the human body, *Toxoplasma* rapidly spreads to the heart and other organs. It can even penetrate the tight barrier that normally protects the brain from most pathogens. Yet, the blood of infected persons carries very few free-floating *Toxoplasma* cells. Scientists have long been puzzled by this ability of *Toxoplasma* to parasitize the human body without triggering an immune response and without an appreciable presence in the bloodstream. Recent research, however, has shed light on the ways in which *Toxoplasma* achieves its remarkable infiltration of the human body.

Though there are few individual *Toxoplasma* cells coursing freely in the blood of an infected person, scientists have discovered that the parasite is quite common in certain cells, known as dendritic cells, involved in the

human immune system. Dendritic cells are found in the digestive tract and frequently come into contact with the various pathogens that enter the human body through food and water. When the dendritic cells encounter pathogens, they travel to lymph nodes and relay this information to other immune cells that then take action against the reported pathogen. Scientists have found, however, that *Toxoplasma* is capable of hijacking dendritic cells, forcing them from their usual activity and using them as a form of transportation to infect the human body quickly. Without this transport mechanism, *Toxoplasma* could not reach the better-protected areas of the body.

Toxoplasma invades the human body through consumption of the undercooked meat of infected animals, primarily **pigs and chickens**. Other animals, such as cats, can become infected as well. In fact, cats are a necessary component in the reproductive cycle of *Toxoplasma*, since the animal's intestines are the parasite's sole breeding ground. *Toxoplasma* creates egg-like cysts, known as oocysts, in the cats' intestines. These oocysts are shed in the cats' droppings and contaminate ground water and soil, eventually finding their way into the food chain. Because *Toxoplasma* must somehow find its way into a new host cat in order to reproduce, it cannot kill its current host. Instead, it waits for the host, usually a small rodent, to be eaten by a cat, thus providing *Toxoplasma* the opportunity to reproduce

1. According to the passage, all of the following are true of *Toxoplasma gondii* EXCEPT

- (A) it can contaminate ground water
- (B) it enters the human body through the food chain
- (C) it can alter the usual behavior of human cells
- (D) the human body is incapable of detecting it
- (E) it must find a host cat in order to reproduce

Question 2

2. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following statements is true of dendritic cells in the human body?

- (A) They are produced by the lymphatic system.
- (B) They are more numerous in the digestive tract than in any other part of the human body.
- (C) Most dendritic cells of persons infected with *Toxoplasma* carry the parasite.
- (D) They are the only cells capable of being infected by *Toxoplasma*.
- (E) They are able to penetrate the membranes surrounding the brain.

Question 3

3. Which of the following is the most likely outcome for *Toxoplasma* cells that invade the human body?

- (A) They will be destroyed by the immune system.
- (B) They will collect in the lymphatic system.
- (C) They will not reproduce.
- (D) They will be detected after several weeks.
- (E) They will be destroyed by other pathogens in the bloodstream.

Question 4

4. The second paragraph performs which of the following functions in the passage?

- (A) It describes a paradox that scientists were unable to resolve for some time.
- (B) It explains the effectiveness of a lethal biological pathogen.
- (C) It describes the mechanism by which a biological event occurs in humans.
- (D) It demonstrates how the infectious agent reproduces itself.

(E) It introduces information that is essential to understanding the role of Toxoplasma in human development.

Question 5

5. The author mentions "pigs and chickens" in the final paragraph in order to

- (A) provide specific examples of animals that can carry Toxoplasma
- (B) provide specific examples of animals that are often eaten by cats
- (C) provide specific examples of other animals whose dendritic cells are exploited by Toxoplasma
- (D) provide specific examples of animals in which Toxoplasma can breed
- (E) provide specific examples of animals that are immune to Toxoplasma

GMAT Verbal – Sentence Construction

Question: 1

The settlements in Colorado, whose year-round stable food resources and sedentary lifestyle permitted an increase in population, was the foundation of the Mesoamerican civilization that followed a hundred years later.

- A. was the foundation of the Mesoamerican civilization that followed
- B. were at the foundation of the Mesoamerican civilization which followed
- C. were the foundation of the Mesoamerican civilization that followed
- D. were the foundation of the Mesoamerican civilization that had been following
- E. was the foundation of the Mesoamerican civilization that follows

Question: 2

The suit made superbly by the tailor, causing the cowardly, old man feel like a fierce, young lion.

- a) The suit made superbly by the tailor, causing
- b) The suit was altered superbly by the tailor, causing
- c) When the suit can be made superbly by the tailor, it caused
- d) The suit was altered superbly by the tailor, making
- e) The altered suit is made superbly by the tailor, causing

Question: 3

After being frightened, the mouses ran so fast the children couldn't see their feets.

- a) the mouses ran so fast the children couldn't see their feets
- b) the mice ran so fast the children couldn't see their feet
- c) the mice ran so fast the childs couldn't see their feet
- d) the mouses ran so fast the children couldn't see their feet
- e) the mice ran so fast the children couldn't see their feets

Question: 4

Jane is not only highly intelligent but also charming.

- A. not only highly intelligent but also charming

B. not only highly intelligent but she is also charming

C. not only highly intelligent but she is charming too

D. not only intelligent but also highly charming

E. highly intelligent but also charming

Question: 5

According to economist Amartya Sen, the mortality rates that are measured within a particular society represent a valid test of economic performance and often an indicator of social inequalities reflecting gender gaps and racial biases.

A. that are measured within a particular society represent a valid test of economic performance and often an indicator of social inequalities reflecting

B. that are measured within a particular society represents a valid test of economic performance and an indicator of social inequalities reflecting

C. measured within particular society represent a valid test of economic performance and an indicator of social inequalities reflecting

D. being measured within a particular society represent a valid test of economic performance and often an indicator of social inequalities that reflect

E. measured within a particular society represent a valid test of economic performance and often indicate social inequalities that reflect

Question: 6

Before the Civil War, Harriet Tubman, along with other former slaves and white abolitionists, helped create what had become known as the Underground Railroad, and were responsible for leading hundreds, if not thousands, of slaves to freedom.

(A) had become known as the Underground Railroad, and were

(B) would become known as the Underground Railroad, and were

(C) had become known as the Underground Railroad, and was

(D) has been becoming known as the Underground Railroad, and was

(E) would become known as the Underground Railroad, and was

Question: 7

Analysts and media executives predict the coming year to be no less challenging than the previous one had been for the company's C.E.O.

- (A) the coming year to be no less challenging than the previous one had been
- (B) the coming year to be no less challenging compared to the previous one
- (C) that the coming year would be no less challenging compared to the previous one
- (D) that the coming year will be no less challenging than the previous one had been
- (E) that the coming year will be no less challenging than the previous one

Question: 8

Most of the country's biggest daily newspapers had lower circulation in the six months from October 1995 through March 1996 than a similar period a year earlier.

- (A) a similar period
- (B) a similar period's
- (C) in a similar period
- (D) that in a similar period
- (E) that of a similar period

Question: 9

Those who believe that innovations in biotechnology may be able to help alleviate the challenges of agriculture in Africa, which the world community generally agrees are in crisis, are asking plant geneticists and other scientists why they think the situation of small farmers in Africa has grown so dire.

- A. which the world community generally agrees are in crisis, are asking plant geneticists and other scientists why they think
- B. which, the world community generally agree, is in crisis, is asking plant geneticists and other scientists their thoughts as to why
- C. which the world community generally agrees is in crisis, are asking for plant geneticists' and other scientists' thoughts about why they think
- D. which the world community generally agrees is in crisis, are asking plant geneticists and other scientists for their thoughts on why
- E. which, the world community agrees, are in a crisis, ask plant geneticists and other scientists why

Question: 10

Analysts believe that the state-owned telephone company, with huge financial liabilities, will manage to stay afloat in the future, and there are still those who feel that the company's inability to generate healthy cash flows may limit its march towards any credible and quick revival.

A) and there are still those who feel that the company's inability to generate healthy cash flows may limit its

B) though there are still those who feel that the company's inability to generate healthy cash flows may limit its

C) but there are still those who feel that the company's inability to generate healthy cash flows may limit their

D) despite those who feel that the company's inability of generating healthy cash flows may limit its

E) since there are still those who feel that the company's inability to generate healthy cash flows may limit its

Question: 11

When we visited the hospital, the doctors told us that using a walker was much easier for Grandmother than to try to walk on her own.

(A) that using a walker was much easier for Grandmother

(B) that for Grandmother, it was much easier to use a walker

(C) that for Grandmother, a walker was much easier to use

(D) for Grandmother, using a walker was much easier

(E) for Grandmother, a walker was much easier than

Question: 12

Affording strategic proximity to the Strait of Gibraltar, Morocco was also of interest to the French throughout the first half of the twentieth century because they assumed that if they did not hold it, their grip on Algeria was always insecure.

(A) if they did not hold it, their grip on Algeria was always insecure

(B) without it their grip on Algeria would never be secure

(C) their grip on Algeria was not ever secure if they did not hold it

(D) without that, they could never be secure about their grip on Algeria

(E) never would their grip on Algeria be secure if they did not hold it

Question: 13

Unlike the canonical views of life and consciousness that originate with Aristotle, the occultists have views that are usually considered heretical.

- A) Unlike the canonical views of life and consciousness that originate with Aristotle, the occultists have views that are usually considered heretical.
- B) The canonical views of life and consciousness that originate with Aristotle are unlike the occultists and their views that are usually considered heretical
- C) The views of the occultists, as compared to Aristotle who originated canonical views of life and consciousness, are usually considered heretical.
- D) Unlike the canonical views of life and consciousness that originate with Aristotle, the views of the occultists are usually considered heretical.
- E) The canonical views of life and consciousness that originate with Aristotle, unlike those of the occultists, which are usually considered heretical.

Question: 14

According to United States census data, while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home.

- (A) while there was about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- (B) there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home in 1975; in 2000, almost two-thirds of those mothers were employed outside the home
- (C) in 1975 about one-third of mothers with young children worked outside the home; in 2000, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home
- (D) even though in 1975 there were about one-third of mothers with young children who worked outside the home, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000
- (E) with about one-third of mothers with young children working outside the home in 1975, almost two-thirds of such mothers were employed outside the home in 2000

Question: 15

The relief organization, after two years of fieldwork in Brazil, published a report that demonstrated that as much as one out of eight children live on the streets in conditions of complete poverty.

- A) that demonstrated that as much as one out of eight children live on the streets in conditions
- B) that demonstrated that as many as one out of eight children living on the streets in conditions
- C) which demonstrated that as much as one out of eight children lives on the streets, being
- D) that demonstrated that as many as one out of eight children live on the streets in conditions
- E) which demonstrated that as many as one out of eight children lives on the streets to be

Question: 16

When adjusted for body weight, children of various age groups in the United States have a caffeine intake that ranges from 36 to 58 percent of the average amount consumed by adults.

(A) children of various age groups in the United States have a caffeine intake that ranges from 36 to 58 percent of the average amount consumed by adults

(B) the caffeine intake of children of various age groups in the United States ranges from 36 to 58 percent of the average amount consumed by adults

(C) various age groups of children in the United States range in caffeine intake from 36 to 58 percent of that consumed by the average adult

(D) in the United States, children of various age groups have a caffeine intake that ranges from 36 to 58 percent of the average adult's consumption

(E) in the United States, the caffeine intake of children in various age groups ranges from 36 to 58 percent of that consumed by the average adult

Question: 17

Scientists say that, by bathing the skin cells in extracts of immune cells, that human skin cells in a test tube are made to behave as if they were immune system cells.

A) that human skin cells in a test tube are made to behave as if they were

B) that human skin cells were to behave in a test tube as if they were

C) human skin cells in a test tube were made to behave as if

D) they have made human skin cells in a test tube that were behaving as

E) they have made human skin cells in a test tube behave as if they were

Question: 18

Researchers do not yet know how the direction in which people gaze when they are trying to answer difficult questions - rightward or leftward - is determined by the brain.

A. when they are trying to answer difficult questions - rightward or leftward - is

B. when they are trying to answer difficult questions - rightward or leftward - are

C. while trying to answer difficult questions - rightward or leftward - are

D. while trying to answer difficult questions - rightward or leftward - is

E. when they are trying to answer a difficult question - rightward or leftward – are

Question: 19

There is speculation that increasing cold weather was what may have been responsible for the Anasazi move from Mesa Verde to sites in other canyons.

- (A) that increasing cold weather was what may have been
- (B) whether increasing cold weather was what was
- (C) that increasingly cold weather was what had been
- (D) whether increasingly cold weather may have been what was
- (E) that increasingly cold weather may have been

Question: 20

The Emperor Augustus, it appears, commissioned an idealized sculpture portrait, the features of which are so unrealistic as to constitute what one scholar calls an "artificial face."

- (A) so unrealistic as to constitute
- (B) so unrealistic they constituted
- (C) so unrealistic that they have constituted
- (D) unrealistic enough so that they constitute
- (E) unrealistic enough so as to constitute

CRITICAL REASONING

Question: 1

The cost of certain types of investments, such as stocks and real estate, is affected by the public's tendency to want to be part of the pack; if a particular stock is bought by high-profile investors, the public may rush to follow suit, thereby -----.

Which of the following best completes the passage above?

- A. limiting the number of shares available for purchase by institutional investors
- B. driving up the price of the stock
- C. reducing the possibility that the stock will earn high profits
- D. putting pressure on the company to pay higher dividends
- E. endangering the stock offerings of new companies

Question: 2

The highest-ranking detectives in the city's police department are also the most adept at solving crimes. Yet in each of the past ten years, the average success rate for the city's highest-ranking detectives in solving criminal cases has been no higher than the average success rate for its lowest-ranking detectives.

Which one of the following, if true, most helps to resolve the apparent paradox?

(A) The detectives who have the highest success rate in solving criminal cases are those who have worked as detectives the longest.

(B) It generally takes at least ten years for a detective to rise from the lowest to the highest ranks of the city's detective force.

(C) Those detectives in the police department who are the most adept at solving criminal cases are also those most likely to remain in the police department.

(D) The police department generally gives the criminal cases that it expects to be the easiest to solve to its lowest-ranking detectives.

(E) None of the lowest-ranking detectives in the police department had experience in solving criminal cases prior to joining the police department.

Question: 3

Which of the following best completes the passage below?

When a group of individuals is incapable of passing on its genes, the theory of evolution predicts that the group will be unable to persist over a span of generations, being weeded out through genetic attrition. Therefore, if the theory of evolution is true, and given successful organisms' tendency to reproduce at high rates, we should expect that _____.

A. in a competitive environment, the organisms that persist over generations will be determined at random

B. as an environment becomes depleted of competitors through genetic attrition, the survivors will become less well adapted

C. the organisms that persist over generations will be the most effective at passing on their genes

D. in circumstances of heavy environmental competition, the organisms that persist over generations will be of inferior genetic quality compared to their competitors organisms in competitive

E. environments will persist over generations if they specialize in something other than reproduction

Question: 4

Despite legislation designed to stem the accumulation of plastic waste, the plastics industry continued to grow rapidly last year, as can be seen from the fact that sales of the resin that is the raw material for manufacturing plastics grew by 10 percent to \$28 billion.

In assessing the support provided by the evidence cited above for the statement that the plastics industry continued to grow, in addition to the information above it would be most useful to know

A. whether the resin has other uses besides the manufacture of plastics

B. the dollar amount of resin sales the year before last

C. the plastics industry's attitude toward the legislation concerning plastic waste

- D. whether sales of all goods and services in the economy as a whole were increasing last year
- E. what proportion of the plastics industry's output eventually contributes to the accumulation of plastic waste

Question: 5

Because it was long thought that few people would watch lengthy televised political messages, most televised political advertisements, like commercial advertisements, took the form of short messages. Last year, however, one candidate produced a half-hour-long advertisement. During the half hour the advertisement was aired, a substantial portion of the viewing public tuned into the advertisement. Clearly, then, many more people are interested in watching lengthy televised political messages than was previously thought.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- (A) The candidate's ratings improved significantly as a result of the half-hour-long political advertisement.
- (B) Political advertisements have become increasingly influential in determining voters' decisions at the polls.
- (C) Many people would appreciate the opportunity to become better acquainted with political candidates' views on current political issues.
- (D) Most people who are interested in political issues watch television regularly.
- (E) Most of the viewers who tuned in to the candidate's half-hour-long advertisement last year did not change channels after the first few minutes.

Question: 6

Acrobatic acts account for 20% of the stage time yet cause 30% of mishaps for Cirque de Soleil amounting to 40% of show's insurance cost. The most daring of these acrobatic acts performed at a height of 50 meters however had a 6 times lower mishap rate than the acrobatic acts performed at 20 meters and 10 meters. Therefore, Cirque de Soleil can lower its overall insurance costs by requiring that all the acrobats perform their acts at 50 meters.

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

- A. It is unlikely that the total stage times for acrobatic acts will reduce in the near future.
- B. Most mishaps at 10 meters cost much higher than does the average mishap does for Cirque de Soleil but 15 percent lower than the average mishap cost at 50 meters
- C. Only Cirque de Soleil's best acrobats, those who have mastered the most demanding moves are currently allowed to perform at 50 meters.
- D. The overall mishap rate for acrobats in Cirque de Soleil has only improved slightly over the past 2 years.
- E. Most acrobatic mishaps result in serious injuries that take months to heal

Question: 7

A recent study suggests that Alzheimer's disease, which attacks the human brain, may be caused by a virus. In the study, blood from 11 volunteers, each of whom had the disease, was injected into rats. The rats eventually exhibited symptoms of another degenerative neurological disorder, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which is caused

by a virus. This led the scientist who conducted the study to conclude that Alzheimer's disease might be caused by a virus.

Which one of the following statements, if true, would most strengthen the scientist's hypothesis that Alzheimer's disease is caused by a virus?

- (A) Alzheimer's disease in rats is not caused by a virus.
- (B) Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease affects only motor nerves in rats' limbs, not their brains.
- (C) The virus that causes Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in rats has no effect on humans.
- (D) The symptoms known, respectively, as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and Alzheimer's disease are different manifestations of the same disease.
- (E) Blood from rats without Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease produced no symptoms of the disease when injected into other experimental rats.

Question: 8

oronian lawmaker: Goronia's Cheese Importation Board, the agency responsible for inspecting all wholesale shipments of cheese entering Goronia from abroad and rejecting shipments that fail to meet specified standards, rejects about one percent of the cheese that it inspects. Since the health consequences and associated costs of not rejecting that one percent would be negligible, whereas the cost of maintaining the agency is not, the agency's cost clearly outweighs the benefits it provides.

Knowing the answer to which of the following would be most useful in evaluating the lawmaker's argument?

- A. Are any of the types of cheeses that are imported into Goronia also produced in Goronia?
- B. Has the Cheese Importation Board, over the last several years, reduced its operating costs by eliminating inefficiencies within the agency itself?
- C. Does the possibility of having merchandise rejected by the Cheese Importation Board deter many cheese exporters from shipping substandard cheese to Goronia?
- D. Are there any exporters of cheese to Goronia whose merchandise is never rejected by the Cheese Importation Board?
- E. How is the cheese rejected by the Cheese Importation Board disposed of?

Question: 9

Currently people in the United States eat, on the average, 1,431 pounds of food per year, 35 pounds more than in 1980. This increase is, at least in part, because people between the ages of 15 and 64 have accounted for an increasing share of the population.

Which of the following can be properly inferred from the passage above?

- (A) More than half of the current population of the United States is between the ages of 15 and 64.
- (B) The population has risen since 1980.
- (C) Children below the age of 15 require, on the average, more food than do people over the age of 64.
- (D) Before 1980 children below the age of 15 outnumbered people between the ages of 15 and 64.
- (E) Individuals between the ages of 15 and 64 consume, on the average, more food than do those younger or older.

Question: 10

Commentator: Although the present freshwater supply is adequate for today's patterns of water use, the human population will increase substantially over the next few decades, drastically increasing the need for freshwater. Hence, restrictions on water use will be necessary to meet the freshwater needs of humankind in the not-too-distant future.

Which one of the following is an assumption required by the argument?

- (A) Humans will adapt to restrictions on the use of water without resorting to wasteful use of other natural resources.
- (B) The total supply of freshwater has not diminished in recent years.
- (C) The freshwater supply will not increase sufficiently to meet the increased needs of humankind.
- (D) No attempt to synthesize water will have an appreciable effect on the quantity of freshwater available.
- (E) No water conservation measure previously attempted yielded an increase in the supply of freshwater available for human use.

Question: 11

A young man eager to become a master swordsman journeyed to the home of the greatest teacher of swordsmanship in the kingdom. He asked the teacher, "How quickly can you teach me to be a master swordsman?" The old teacher replied, "It will take ten years." Unsatisfied, the young man asked, "What if I am willing to work night and day, every day of the year?" the teacher replied, "In that case, it will take twenty years."

The teacher's main point is that an important quality of a master swordsman is

- (A) humility
- (B) willingness to work hard
- (C) respect for one's elders
- (D) patience
- (E) determination

Question: 12

With competitive cycling increasing in popularity, the appearance of cyclists on roads used by motor vehicles has become more commonplace. The Road Safety Association announced that in the last year, 4 deaths and 67 injuries were caused by collisions between cyclists and motor vehicles. None of these cases involved driving

under the influence of inebriating substances, the most frequent cause of accidents. It is clear that roads should be organized in a way that will allow both motor vehicles and cyclists to use them simultaneously and safely.

Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the author's conclusion?

- A. The building and renovating of roads is an extremely costly process involving the input of a wide range of professionals.
- B. Inebriating substances not only result in poorer control of a vehicle but also in a delayed reaction time to events that may occur.
- C. Cycling parks should be created to allow enthusiasts to practice their sport safely.
- D. Wearing protective gear, such as a helmet, reduces the risk of serious injury and in some countries is provided by governments at no expense.
- E. A system using electronic lighting and protective barriers that was implemented in Norway, reduced incidents of collisions between vehicles and cyclists by 28%.

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Question: 14

Business Analyst: National Motors began selling the Luxora—its new model of sedan—in June. Last week, National released sales figures for the summer months of June, July, and August that showed that by the end of August only 80,000 Luxoras had been sold. Therefore, National will probably not meet its target of selling 500,000 Luxoras in the model’s first twelve months.

Which of the following would be most useful to establish in order to evaluate the analyst’s prediction?

- A. Whether new-car sales are typically lower in the summer months than at any other time of the year
- B. Whether National Motors currently produces more cars than any other automaker
- C. Whether the Luxora is significantly more expensive than other models produced by National Motors
- D. Whether National Motors has introduced a new model in June in any previous year
- E. Whether National Motors will suffer serious financial losses if it fails to meet its sales goal for the Luxora

Question: 15

The Blackridge Company, a software retailer, recently implemented a service offering free telephone support for its customers. After 3 months of service, the average length of a technical support call was 15 minutes, 3 minutes higher than the company’s target length of 12 minutes. After studying the operations of the new telephone support division, the company discovered that customer support agents were putting customers on hold for an average of 4 minutes per call while these agents researched possible solutions to the technical issues at hand.

From the passage above, it can be inferred that the Blackridge Company could reduce the average length of its customer support calls by doing which of the following, assuming that each is a realistic possibility?

- a. Improving the quality of its software products
- b. Expanding the hours of operation of its telephone support service
- c. Prohibiting customer service agents from putting customers on hold
- d. Better training customer support agents in the technical aspects of the software
- e. Providing an online support service in addition to the telephone support service

Question: 16

At several locations on the northwest coast of North America are formations known as chevrons—wedge-shaped formations of mounded sediment—pointing toward the ocean. Most geologists take them to have been formed by erosion, but recently other scientists have proposed that they were thrown up from the ocean by massive waves triggered by meteor impacts in the Pacific Ocean.

Which of the following, if discovered, would most help in deciding which hypothesis is correct?

- A) Chevron-like structures which are not currently near glaciers, large rivers, or other bodies of water
- B) The presence, in chevrons, of deposits of ocean microfossils containing metals typically formed by meteor impacts

C) Oral-history evidence for flooding that could have been caused by ocean waves

D) The fact that exact data about the location and depth of any meteor impact craters on the Pacific seabed is lacking

E) The fact that certain changes in the shape and location of maritime sand dunes have been produced by the action of wind and waves

Question: 17

Altogether, the students in Ms. Tarnowski's Milton Elementary School class collected more aluminum cans than did the students in any of the school's other classes. Therefore, the Milton student who collected the most aluminum cans was in Ms. Tarnowski's class.

Which one of the following arguments contains flawed reasoning that is most parallel to that in the argument above?

(A) Altogether, more trees were planted by the students in Mr. Kelly's class than were planted by those in Mr. Liang's class and Mr. Jackson's class combined. Therefore, Mr. Kelly's students planted more trees than Mr. Jackson's students planted.

(B) More than half of Milton Elementary School's students play in the band and more than half of the school's students sing in the choir. Therefore, every student at Milton Elementary School either plays in the band or sings in the choir.

(C) Mr. Rowe's Milton Elementary School class raised more money by selling candy bars than Ms Hunt's class raised by holding a raffle. Therefore, the number of candy bars sold by Mr. Rowe's class was greater than the number of raffle tickets sold by Ms. Hunt's class.

(D) The total number of tickets to the school fair sold by the students in Ms. Ramirez's Milton Elementary School class was greater than the number sold by Milton students from any other class. Therefore, the Milton student who sold the most tickets to the school fair was a student in Ms. Ramirez's class.

(E) Ms. Ventura's Milton Elementary School class assembled more birdhouses than did any of the school's other classes. Since Ms Ventura's class had fewer students than any other Milton class, her students assembled more birdhouse on average than did the students in any other Milton class.

Question: 18

Social scientists are underrepresented on the advisory councils of the National Institutes of Health(NIH). Since these councils advise NIH directors and recommend policy, the underrepresentation of social scientists results in a relative lack of NIH financial support for research in the social sciences.

If the statements above are correct, they most strongly support which of the following?

(A) A significant increase in the size of NIH advisory councils would be required in order to increase the representation of social scientists on these councils.

(B) A significant increase in the representation of social scientists on NIH advisory councils would result in an increase in NIH funding for social science research.

(C) A significant increase in funding for social science research would result in improved policy recommendations to NIH directors.

(D) A significant increase in funding for the training of social scientists would result in an increase in the number of social scientist on NIH advisory councils.

(E) A significant increase in the representation of social scientists on NIH advisory councils would have to precede any increase in the number of NIH directors who are social scientists.

Question: 19

High levels of fertilizer and pesticides, needed when farmers try to produce high yields of the same crop year after year, pollute water supplies. Experts therefore urge farmers to diversify their crops and to rotate their plantings yearly.

To receive governmental price-support benefits for a crop, farmers must have produced that same crop for the past several years.

The statement above, if true, best support which of the following conclusions?

(A) The rules for governmental support of farm prices work against efforts to reduce water pollution.

(B) The only solution to the problem of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides is to take farmland out of production.

(C) Farmers can continue to make a profit by rotating diverse crops, thus reducing costs for chemicals, but not by planting the same crop each year.

(D) New farming techniques will be developed to make it possible for farmers to reduce the application of fertilizers and pesticides.

(E) Governmental price supports for farm products are set at levels that are not high enough to allow farmers to get out of debt.

Question: 20

The sustained massive use of pesticides in farming has two effects that are especially pernicious. First, it often kills off the pests' natural enemies in the area. Second, it often unintentionally gives rise to insecticide-resistant pests, since those insects that survive a particular insecticide will be the ones most resistant to it, and they are the ones left to breed.

From the passage above, it can be properly inferred that the effectiveness of the sustained massive use of pesticides can be extended by doing which of the following, assuming that each is a realistic possibility?

(A) Using only chemically stable insecticides

- (B) Periodically switching the type of insecticide used
- (C) Gradually increasing the quantities of pesticides used
- (D) Leaving a few fields fallow every year
- (E) Breeding higher-yielding varieties of crop plants