

GRE Verbal Practice Paper 41

Q1. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- A. In various parts of the world, civilizations that could not make iron from ore fashioned tools out of fragments of iron from meteorites.
- B. All the metallic Mayan artifacts that have been found by archaeologists are made of metals that are too soft for carving stone.
- C. The stone out of which these carvings were made is harder than the stone used by other Central American peoples.
- D. The technique that the Maya used to smelt gold and some other metals could not have been easily applied to the task of extracting iron from iron ore.
- E. Archaeologists disagree about how certain stone tools that have been found among Mayan ruins were used.

Q2. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: The author of the passage suggests that present-day readers would particularly benefit from which of the following changes on the part of present-day writers and critics?

- A. An increased focus on the importance of engaging the audience in a narrative
- B. Modernization of the traditional novelistic elements already familiar to readers
- C. Embracing aspects of fiction that are generally peripheral to the interest of readers
- D. A greater recognition of how the tradition of the novel has changed over time
- E. A better understanding of how certain poets such as Eliot have influenced fiction of the present time

Q3. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: The word “address” appears underlined and in boldface twice in the first sentence of the passage (lines 2-5). In the context of the passage as a whole, “address” is closest in meaning to

- A. reveal
- B. belie
- C. speak to
- D. direct attention toward
- E. attempt to remediate

Q4. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: Which of the following, if true, most helps to explain why the time spent washing clothes increased in rural areas?

- A. People with access to an electric washing machine typically wore their clothes many fewer times before washing them than did people without access to electric washing machines.
- B. Households that had sent their clothes to professional laundries before 1925 were more likely than other households to purchase an electric washing machine when they became available.
- C. People living in urban households that had previously sent their clothes to professional laundries typically owned more clothes than did people living in rural households.

D. The earliest electric washing machines required the user to spend much more time beside the machine than do modern electric washing machines.

E. In the 1920s and 1930s the proportion of rural households with electricity was smaller than the proportion of urban households with electricity.

Q5. In the 1950s, the country's inhabitants were _____: most of them knew very little about foreign countries.

A. partisan

B. erudite

C. insular

D. cosmopolitan

E. imperturbable

Q6. Since she believed him to be both candid and trustworthy, she refused to consider the possibility that his statement had been _____.

A. irrelevant

B. facetious

C. mistaken

D. critical

E. insincere

Q7. It is his dubious distinction to have proved what nobody would think of denying, that Romero at the age of sixty-four writes with all the characteristics of _____.

A. maturity

B. fiction

C. inventiveness

D. art

E. brilliance

Q8. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: The passage is primarily concerned with

A. showing how historians who were engaged in a particular debate influenced historians engaged in another debate

B. explaining why two initially parallel scholarly debates diverged in the 1980s

C. comparing two scholarly debates and discussing their histories

D. contrasting the narrow focus of one scholarly debate with the somewhat broader focus of another

E. evaluating the relative merits of the approaches used by historians engaged in two overlapping scholarly debates

Q9. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: It can be inferred that the author of the passage mentions American Slavery, American Freedom in the second paragraph (line 27) primarily in order to

- A. substantiate a point about the methodology that came to be prevalent among scholars engaged in the origins debate
- B. cite a major influence on those scholars who claimed that racial prejudice preceded the institution of slavery in colonial America
- C. show that some scholars who were engaged in the origins debate prior to the 1980s were interested in the experiences of enslaved people
- D. identify a reason for a certain difference in the late 1970s between the origins debate and the debate over American women's status
- E. contrast the kind of work produced by scholars engaged in the origins debate with the kind produced by scholars engaged in the debate over American women's status

Q10. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices: The passage suggests which of the following about the women's historians mentioned in the third paragraph?

- A. They disputed certain claims regarding the status of eighteenth-century American women relative to women in England during the same period.
- B. Their approach to the study of women's subordination had been partly influenced by earlier studies published by some scholars engaged in the origins debate.
- C. Their work focused on the experiences of both White and African American women.
- D. Their approach resembled the approach taken in studies by Wood and by Mullin in that they were interested in the experiences of people subjected to a system of subordination.
- E. To some extent, they concurred with Wood and with Mullin about the origins of racism in colonial America.