

GRE

EXTRA VERBAL PRACTICE

1. After practice, the girl's softball team stated, "We're famished!"
Famished means:
 - A. Fatigued
 - B. Hungry
 - C. Excited
 - D. Ready

2. The newborn baby was enamored with the rattle.
Enamored means:
 - A. Fascinated
 - B. Happy
 - C. Unsure what to do
 - D. Aggravated

3. When having a problem, it is best to dissect the situation than act.
Dissect means:
 - A. Cut apart
 - B. Talk about
 - C. Ignore
 - D. Analyze

4. The bouncer's countenance discouraged brawls.
Countenance means:
 - A. Message
 - B. Presence
 - C. Expression
 - D. Strength

5. The child apprized her father's authority and behaved herself in church.
Apprized means:
 - A. Appreciated
 - B. Compromised
 - C. Defied
 - D. Noted

6. The aural component of balance is critical for postural control during ambulation.

Aural means:

- A. Eyes
- B. Ears
- C. Nose
- D. Hands

Cross the odd word out:

- a. Conformity, consensus, Coax, unanimity.
- b. Alleviate, mollify, placate, entice.
- c. Animosity, Anonymous, enmity, malice
- d. Sluggish, indolent, lackadaisical, Apex
- e. Appropriate, Apologetic, opportune, befitting

Give the antonyms of the following:

- a. affable
- b. deteriorate
- c. democratic
- d. repel
- e. renown

What are the connotations of the following words:

- a. rancor
- b. whimsical
- c. comply
- d. phlegmatic
- e. acerbity

Part IV: Practicing for the GRE General Test

For Questions 1 through 3, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. The music store attracts an _____ group of customers; people with varied interests and lifestyles congregate there.
 - A irate
 - B assorted
 - C apprehensive
 - D aberrant
 - E eclectic
 - F optimum
2. Linda exposed the illegal actions of her company and was, unfortunately, _____ by her peers for her ethical actions.
 - A adored
 - B shunned
 - C ostracized
 - D relieved
 - E celebrated
 - F admired
3. Because the media corporation owned such a large portion of the news channels, it enjoyed remarkable _____ in the news market.
 - A hegemony
 - B discretion
 - C atonement
 - D monotony
 - E zeal
 - F predominance

Questions 4 and 5 are based on the following passage.

When home is approximately 2,000 feet under the surface of the sea, it is challenging to have your photograph taken. In Japan, however, a species of shark that is almost never seen because of its deep natural habitat came close enough to the top to grab the attention of some fishermen. This five-foot long, eel-shaped shark was caught and soon identified as a female frill shark, a primitive species that has gone through little alteration since prehistoric times. Cameras captured it while it was still swimming so that scientists could learn as much as possible from this single specimen of a mysterious species.

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For Question 4, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

4. Which of the following is implied about scientific documentation of frill sharks?
- A** Frill sharks are rarely studied because their habitats are inaccessible to most scientific equipment.
 - B** Female frill sharks are easier to study than males.
 - C** Photographic evidence is the best form of documentation for marine biologists.

For Question 5, select one answer choice.

5. Which of the following best describes the central issue with which the passage is concerned?
- A** presenting evidence of a marine animal rarely witnessed in nature
 - B** arguing that ancient creatures still exist in a modern world
 - C** celebrating Japan's tradition of aquaculture
 - D** proving that commercial fishing boats are trawling too deeply in open water
 - E** documenting the extinction of prehistoric fish

Question 6 is based on the following passage.

The very first line of the lengthy saga *Anna Karenina* gives the reader an immediate sense of Leo Tolstoy's main theme: "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." From this morose observation, it is clear that Tolstoy's characters are probably not going to be bland or blithe. Throughout his novel, Tolstoy depicts the ambiguities and ambivalences felt by seemingly real people in real-life situations. The main character, Anna Karenina, has a quietly desperate air throughout the story. The reader first meets her in an attempt to talk her sister-in-law out of leaving Anna's adulterous brother. Even in this scene, where Anna most extols the joys of married life, she seems to be missing a part of herself. Despite her protestations, she only pretends to be happy and content.

For Question 6, select one answer choice.

6. Which of the following, if true, most logically completes the passage?
- (A) Anna's brother, however, is quite content with his choices, and continues to act in his own interests.
 - (B) Tolstoy continues to weave Anna's story of sadness and self-deception until its tragic conclusion.
 - (C) Anna's sister-in-law decides that she must leave her husband for her own wellbeing.
 - (D) Tolstoy's other novels follow the same motif.
 - (E) Tolstoy's insistence on depressive characterization renders his novels almost unreadable.

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Questions 7 and 8 are based on the following passage.

Fear is a normal, legitimate response to genuine danger. However, when fear spirals out of control, becoming persistent and irrational, it constitutes a phobia. Phobias affect a significant portion of the American population. Some experts believe that nearly twenty-five percent of Americans live with irrational fears that prevent them from performing everyday activities. Phobias, like other anxiety disorders, can greatly affect quality of life. Generally defined as an unrelenting, anomalous, and unfounded fear of an object or situation, a phobia is normally developed from a past negative experience or encounter. Children might adopt phobias by observing a family member's reaction to specific stimuli. There is also data to suggest genetic factors linked to phobias.

For Question 7, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

7. It can be inferred from the passage that theories about phobias contain which of the following elements?
- A There is a qualitative difference between ordinary fear and phobia.
 - B Nearly three quarters of Americans live their lives unaffected by phobias.
 - C Tendencies to develop phobias may be inherited.
8. Select the sentence that explains the difference between normal fear and phobia.

For Questions 9 and 10, select one entry from the corresponding column of choices for each blank. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

9. In its first few hours out of the nest, a fledgling bird can find itself alone on the lawn, looking lost and (i) _____, where its main danger is local (ii) _____, especially in a residential neighborhood where there are many outdoor cats.

Blank (i)

- | |
|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> A abandoned |
| <input type="radio"/> B appalled |
| <input type="radio"/> C duped |

Blank (ii)

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> D wildlife |
| <input type="radio"/> E predators |
| <input type="radio"/> F predicates |

10. Carolyn suffers from myopia, often known as nearsightedness, which necessitates the use of contacts or eyeglasses, and recent genetic studies indicate that it appears to be a(n) _____ condition.

- | |
|--|
| <input type="radio"/> A inherited |
| <input type="radio"/> B contagious |
| <input type="radio"/> C predominantly |
| <input type="radio"/> D untreatable |
| <input type="radio"/> E discriminating |

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the following passage.

Nine times as many Americans died in the farmlands near Antietam Creek in the fall of 1862 than died on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, the so-called longest day of World War II. The bloodiest single day of war in the nation's history came when General Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army undertook its first engagement on northern soil. According to the Antietam National Battlefield park service, when the fighting had subsided, more than 23,000 soldiers lay dead or wounded, more than all of the dead or wounded Americans in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, and Spanish-American War combined.

Just a week after his army's victory in the Second Battle of Bull Run, Lee resolved to advance the front into Northern territory. The vast farm fields of western Maryland were ready for harvest, and Lee saw in them an opportunity to nourish his soldiers, replenish his supplies, and turn the residents of the undecided border state to his cause.

For Questions 11 to 13, select one answer choice.

11. Which of the following most logically completes the first paragraph?
- (A) How then did this terrible battle come about?
 - (B) The Confederacy was famous for the tactical genius of its generals.
 - (C) Clearly the battle strategy on both sides was ineffective.
 - (D) Despite these casualties, the war dragged on for another three years.
 - (E) It was an inexcusable waste of human life.
12. Which of the following statements about Maryland can be inferred from the passage?
- (A) Numerous farmers in Maryland had freed their slaves before the commencement of the Civil War.
 - (B) While Maryland was not a Confederate state, some residents were sympathetic to the Southern cause.
 - (C) General Lee intended to pillage the farms of Maryland in order to feed his troops.
 - (D) Many Southern fighters were originally from Maryland.
 - (E) The battle at Normandy is more important than the battle at Antietam.

13. In the last sentence of the first paragraph, the author is most likely suggesting that
- (A) the other American wars of the 18th and 19th centuries did not have heavy casualties
 - (B) the Antietam National Battlefield park service is an unreliable source of information
 - (C) the Battle at Antietam was the most significant battle of the American Civil War
 - (D) General Lee was overly encouraged by his success in the Second Battle of Bull Run
 - (E) the troops at Antietam suffered catastrophic losses compared to other battles in that century

For Questions 14 to 16, select one entry from the corresponding column of choices for each blank. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

14. The depiction of the (i) _____ koala bear is largely a misconception: koalas can be very (ii) _____ creatures that should never be approached in the wild.

Blank (i)

- | |
|---------------|
| (A) ferocious |
| (B) volatile |
| (C) affable |

Blank (ii)

- | |
|----------------|
| (D) fierce |
| (E) hysterical |
| (F) assertive |

15. It is surprising to observe that Susan's paintings have recently been criticized as (i) _____, because her advocates have been touting her great (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

- | |
|---------------|
| (A) ambiguous |
| (B) feckless |
| (C) banal |

Blank (ii)

- | |
|------------------|
| (D) uncertainty |
| (E) imagination |
| (F) incompetence |

16. The supply of fresh water continues to be a _____ for most environmentalists since, surprisingly, over 97 percent of the world's water is un-potable because it comes from salty oceans.

- | |
|----------------|
| (A) digression |
| (B) concern |
| (C) catalyst |
| (D) precept |
| (E) compromise |

Question 17 is based on the following passage.

"Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm and our intelligence aglow. Work without joy shall be as nothing. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." This quote becomes yet more inspirational upon learning it comes from Helen Keller, a remarkable woman who overcame both blindness and deafness. Her decision to be joyful despite adversity no doubt contributed to her many impressive accomplishments. She succeeded in learning to communicate, and reached out to others with her meaningful speeches and writings.

For Question 17, select one answer choice.

17. Which of the following statements is most analogous to the quotation presented in the passage?
- (A) Fire is an essential tool when respected and attended, but a massive destructive force if allowed to spread out of control.
 - (B) A child's mind is absorptive like the driest sponge, so great care must be taken to keep poisonous notions from infiltrating it.
 - (C) Sorrowful resignation remains the genius' malady, for truth and knowledge weigh heavy on the heart.
 - (D) Find your true purpose in life and your days will be filled with peace and harmony, your troubles will be few.
 - (E) Enthusiasm raises the sunken spirit and fosters creativity in even the most hardened heart.

Question 18 is based on the following passage.

On October 3, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a law that sought to overturn four decades of discrimination. The National Origins Quota System, which had been in effect since 1924, determined which immigrants should be allowed to come to the United States based solely on their national origin. The 1965 Immigration Act changed all this by making individual work skills and relationships with current U.S. citizens the criteria for immigration. President Johnson captured the essence of this exciting change by declaring that "those who can contribute most to this country—to its growth, to its strength, to its spirit—will be the first that are admitted to this land."

For Question 18, select one answer choice.

18. The author's attitude toward the Immigration Act is best characterized as one of
- (A) resentment
 - (B) derision
 - (C) appreciation
 - (D) wonder
 - (E) confusion

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Questions 19 and 20 are based on the following passage.

English poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning, is probably best known for her collection of poems, *Sonnets from the Portuguese*. By title alone, one might assume that these poems were either translated from Portuguese or a product of Portuguese inspiration. Instead, the title refers to the author herself. Robert Browning, Elizabeth's husband, affectionately called her his "little Portuguese," on account of her dark complexion. Indeed, it was Robert, himself a successful poet, who secured his wife's literary fame through this volume of verse. While the poems in *Sonnets from the Portuguese* were intended as a private gift for him, he simply could not keep their beauty to himself. The book was subsequently published in 1850.

For Question 19, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

19. According to the passage, which of the following may be inferred about Robert Browning?
- A Despite his love, Robert Browning was unable to appreciate the true quality of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's verse.
 - B Robert Browning failed to take seriously his wife's literary ambitions.
 - C Robert Browning was well qualified to judge the quality of his wife's poetry.
20. Select the sentence within the paragraph that explains Barrett Browning's inspiration for the title of her book of verse.

STOP

This is the end of Section 3. Use any remaining time to check your work.

VERBAL REASONING PRACTICE SET 1

Directions: Each sentence below has one or more blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words for one-blank questions and sets of three words for each blank for two- and three-blank questions. Choose the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. In spite of its popularity, *The Merchant of Venice* remains a (i) _____ play, with many critics (ii) _____ the extent of Shakespeare's anti-Semitism.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)	
A	controversial	D	assuaging
B	celebrated	E	augmenting
C	histrionic	F	debating

2. The cotton gin played a (i) _____ role in advancing the textile industry, (ii) _____ its negative effects can be seen in the rapid development of slavery as the economic base of the American South.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)	
A	controversial	D	although
B	crucial	E	so
C	trivial	F	plus

3. Although Thomas Paine was (i) _____ his political pamphlets, he was in fact (ii) _____ writer on many different subjects.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)	
A	inimical to	D	an abstruse
B	condemned for	E	a prolific
C	famous for	F	a terrible

4. St. Elmo's fire is a weather phenomenon that, (i) _____ it has been documented from ancient times, was not (ii) _____ until recently.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)	
A	because	D	incinerated
B	since	E	reported
C	although	F	understood

5. Though the poet's work was praised highly by critics, sales of his anthologies were (i) _____; it is possible the poor sales were due to his language being too (ii) _____ to be readily understood.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)	
A	scanty	D	lucid
B	robust	E	prosaic
C	singular	F	abstruse

6. (i) _____ its many difficult and mature themes, *Hamlet* remains a (ii) _____ choice for introducing teenagers to Shakespeare.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)	
A	Due to	D	neglected
B	Despite	E	popular
C	Because of	F	spurned

7. Because she was so _____, Mary rarely spoke in groups of people.

- (A) reticent
- (B) congenial
- (C) brusque
- (D) gregarious
- (E) scurrilous

8. The patterns of the stock market seem _____ to many beginners, but they can be decoded with dedication and patience.

- (A) unwelcoming
- (B) arcane
- (C) harmonious
- (D) shocking
- (E) lucid

9. The band's new album was universally panned by critics, with many _____ their change to a simpler sound.
- (A) lauding
 - (B) ignorant of
 - (C) tolerating
 - (D) deriding
 - (E) apathetic to
10. Because he was convinced of his own _____, Adam never accepted criticism.
- (A) genius
 - (B) acclamation
 - (C) shrewdness
 - (D) infallibility
 - (E) popularity
11. She was appalled at the mayor's policy, feeling he had _____ the promises made during his campaign.
- (A) challenged
 - (B) exaggerated
 - (C) misunderstood
 - (D) hindered
 - (E) abjured
12. Much to his _____, he was forced to acknowledge the flaw in his reasoning; he responded gracefully, however, and soon returned with a new defense of his argument.
- (A) irritation
 - (B) befuddlement
 - (C) chagrin
 - (D) bemusement
 - (E) resentment

13. When Jen learned that her manager's nephew had been promoted over her, she became irate, claiming that the company practiced _____.
- (A) altruism
 - (B) relativism
 - (C) malfeasance
 - (D) ingratitude
 - (E) nepotism
14. Given the gravity of the situation, Terrence's _____ quips were inappropriate; he did not seem to realize it was not the time or place for sarcasm.
- (A) supercilious
 - (B) coarse
 - (C) sardonic
 - (D) fatuous
 - (E) ribald
15. Historians often use the merciless Russian winter as _____ for the failure of various military invasions of Russia; they cite the armies of Charles XII of Sweden, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Adolf Hitler as examples of forces that suffered heavy casualties due to the harsh conditions.
- (A) a defense
 - (B) an excuse
 - (C) a justification
 - (D) an explanation
 - (E) a rationalization
16. Although he _____ an image of anti-authoritarianism, Johnny Cash was a frequent visitor to the White House and friends with several presidents during his life.
- (A) advocated
 - (B) cultivated
 - (C) patronized
 - (D) supported
 - (E) snubbed

17. (i) _____ mushrooms are popular in many cuisines, it is
 (ii) _____ to eat those found in the wild, as many frequently found
 mushrooms resemble edible mushrooms but are, in fact, (iii) _____.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)		Blank (iii)	
A	Considering	D	imprudent	G	poisonous
B	While	E	cheaper	H	bland
C	Because	F	ingenuous	I	toothsome

18. Considered one of his most (i) _____ works, its incomplete status at
 the time of his death has given Mozart's Requiem Mass in D Minor a certain
 (ii) _____ in Western culture, and many (iii) _____ stories
 have arisen surrounding it; unfortunately, the truth is lost to us.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)		Blank (iii)	
A	ignominious	D	obscurity	G	fraudulent
B	inconspicuous	E	indifference	H	apocryphal
C	famous	F	mystique	I	verified

19. The octopus is remarkable for its (i) _____, demonstrating
 exceptional problem-solving skills and memory; beyond its mental
 (ii) _____, the octopus possesses exceptional physical
 (iii) _____, allowing it to precisely manipulate objects.

Blank (i)		Blank (ii)		Blank (iii)	
A	physiology	D	acumen	G	brilliance
B	intelligence	E	acridity	H	genius
C	creativity	F	trenchancy	I	dexterity

Directions: For the following questions, select the **two** answer choices that, when inserted into the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole **and** yield complete sentences that are similar in meaning.

20. Known to all as having a silver tongue, the orator easily distracts audiences from the meaning of his words with his _____ speech.

- A mellifluous
- B flowing
- C stumbling
- D laconic
- E euphonic
- F strident

21. When the underdogs so soundly beat the team favored to win, their victory _____ the entire sports world.

- A horrified
- B electrified
- C shook
- D bored
- E alienated
- F stunned

22. Despite the efforts made by the municipal government to increase public transportation usage, many people of the city continued to drive their own vehicles, complaining that the bus schedules were too _____ to be relied upon.

- A irregular
- B exacting
- C circuitous
- D rigid
- E isolated
- F erratic

23. Word painting is a musical technique in which the progression of the notes _____ the meaning of the lyrics; a famous example of this can be found in Handel's *Messiah* in which the notes rise with the mention of "mountains" and fall with the mention of "low."
- A sustains
 - B mimics
 - C contrasts
 - D reflects
 - E opposes
 - F reinforces
24. After naturally occurring smallpox was eradicated, the World Health Organization chose to _____ the remaining samples of the virus in hopes that they may be later used in developing means to combat other viruses.
- A eliminate
 - B duplicate
 - C preserve
 - D retain
 - E extirpate
 - F cultivate
25. The *Magna Carta* was one of the most _____ political declarations of the Middle Ages because it declared the monarch's powers to be limited by the law; although its practical effects were not immediate, it is commonly seen as the genesis of constitutional law in England.
- A remarkable
 - B immense
 - C pivotal
 - D recondite
 - E ancient
 - F momentous

26. Though _____ filled the streets, people seemed unconcerned with the appearance of their city.

- A detritus
- B refuge
- C gaudiness
- D bedlam
- E refuse
- F barrenness

27. G. K. Chesterton's wit is exemplified in his often _____ responses to his friend and rival George Bernard Shaw.

- A punctilious
- B vociferous
- C waggish
- D vicious
- E scathing
- F lighthearted

28. Electrotherapy has been used for over 150 years in various physical rehabilitation programs, even though many of its precise effects remain _____.

- A uncertain
- B disputed
- C disproved
- D unstudied
- E elusive
- F precarious

29. Despite a long career at famous establishments, the noted croupier chose instead to join the new casino, where he felt he was properly appreciated for his professional _____ and efficiency at the table.

- A articulation
- B demeanor
- C reputation
- D history
- E mien
- F dexterity

30. Although the river itself had vanished, the banks and bed were _____ years of erosion from running water.

- A a repudiation of
- B witness to
- C coarsened by
- D an attestation to
- E vindicated by
- F recovered from

31. While he was still _____, the doctors advised Phillip to remain home, lest he was contagious, even though his symptoms had receded.

- A impaired
- B ailing
- C convalescing
- D nauseous
- E enfeebled
- F recuperating

32. The advent of the Internet has created an unprecedented increase in communication _____, as it allows for the near-instant transmission of information.
- A potential
 - B controversies
 - C theories
 - D litigation
 - E prospects
 - F revolutions
33. Although she did not approve of her father's smoking, she was forced to admit that the smell of his pipe tobacco was _____ her youth.
- A reminiscent of
 - B redolent of
 - C salubrious for
 - D pungent with
 - E odorous with
 - F evocative of
34. Her fractured wrist made the aspiring flutist _____ about her future career; however, her doctor assured her it would heal without long-term damage.
- A alarmed
 - B truculent
 - C panegyric
 - D disquieted
 - E ebullient
 - F phlegmatic

35. Although English is the de facto language of the United States of America, its being made the official language is _____ given the diversity of the population, in particular the rapid rise in the Spanish-speaking demographic.
- A feasible
 - B unlikely
 - C improbable
 - D impossible
 - E plausible
 - F preposterous
36. As excited as he was to have been chosen for the reality television show, he was _____ about involving his family, particularly his children, whom he felt would not understand the situation fully.
- A thrilled
 - B timorous
 - C vacillating
 - D horrified
 - E resigned
 - F wavering
37. Because the architect had found evidence of decay in a supporting wall, her official report _____ the structural integrity of the building as a likely cause of the accident.
- A proposed
 - B validated
 - C rejected
 - D advanced
 - E deplored
 - F condemned

38. Max's repertoire of cooking techniques was remarkably broad, allowing him to draw upon many culinary traditions to create _____ dishes.

- A artful
- B catholic
- C dilettantish
- D eclectic
- E savory
- F ambrosial

39. The space shuttle is an _____ of human creativity and engineering, unparalleled in its complexity and ingenuity.

- A expression
- B apogee
- C encroachment
- D assertion
- E excess
- F apex

40. He _____ visiting Blarney Castle, fearing the summer tourist crowds, and chose a quieter destination for himself.

- A contemplated
- B eschewed
- C deprecated
- D considered
- E forwent
- F discouraged

Directions: Each passage in this group is followed by questions based on its content. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

Questions 41 and 42 are based on the passage below.

Criticisms of the automaticity model of reading acquisition include a lack of focus on comprehension as the ultimate goal of reading. Too much focus on fluency to the neglect of comprehension is a correlative criticism. Miscue analysis, tracking students' errors or "miscues," has demonstrated that even early readers use prediction as well as translation into dialect as they read, thereby using tools outside of those described in the automaticity model. A third criticism is that dyslexic readers, because of the inherent decoding problems they face, necessarily have trouble following the model and sustaining the reading rates recommended for fluency.

41. The passage suggests that all the following are flaws in the automaticity model of reading acquisition EXCEPT
- (A) failure to consider all the methods commonly used by developing readers.
 - (B) measuring reading ability by fluency.
 - (C) prioritizing efficiency in reading over understanding.
 - (D) insufficient research.
 - (E) basic assumptions about the reader's cerebral processes.
42. Based on the passage, which of the following would the author likely recommend as a sign of fluency?
- (A) the ability to translate the material into another language
 - (B) the ability to decode and pronounce the sounds in words
 - (C) the ability to explain the plot or main idea in a text
 - (D) the ability to predict the main idea in unread text
 - (E) the ability to read material written in a wide variety of dialects

Questions 43 through 46 are based on the passage below.

It has been commonly accepted for some time now that certain scenes in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* are interpolations from the writing of another author; Act III, scene 5, and parts of Act IV, scene 1, have been determined to be the writing of one of his contemporaries, Thomas Middleton. This can be regarded as both illuminating and problematic, depending upon how the play is being studied. It allows us to infer a great deal about the conventions and practices of writing for the stage at the time. For example, it may have been more collaborative than previously thought, or perhaps Elizabethan notions of plagiarism were different from ours. While historically significant, this does complicate our interpretation of the characters in the play. It is more difficult to assess authorial intention with regard to a character's motives if the text has been redacted by multiple authors.

43. Select the statement or statements that are correct according to the passage.
- A The author feels that Shakespeare is guilty of plagiarism.
 - B The interpolations found in plays such as *Macbeth* makes it more difficult to assess the author's motives in writing the play.
 - C Our current understanding of plagiarism may have arisen after Shakespeare's time.
44. Consider the following choices and select all that apply. Which of the following could aid in the further study of the interpolations discussed in the above passage?
- A an investigation of thematic and technical irregularities in other plays by Shakespeare
 - B an examination of the themes and techniques of other writers contemporary with Shakespeare
 - C a search through legal documents of Shakespeare's time for references to plagiarism or intellectual property rights
45. Consider the following choices and select all that apply. Which CANNOT be inferred from the passage?
- A The example of interpolation discussed in the passage would be illegal today.
 - B Authors and playwrights in Shakespeare's time might have recruited assistance when composing their works.
 - C Shakespeare used Middleton's writing without his consent.

46. Which of the following best describes the relationship between the highlighted phrases?

- (A) concept and example
- (B) cause and effect
- (C) thesis and defense
- (D) thesis and synthesis
- (E) synthesis and antithesis

Questions 47 and 48 are based on the passage below.

In the decades leading up to the 1970s, the primarily French-speaking Canadian province of Québec saw its proportion of native French speakers diminish from year to year. The attrition of French was attributed to preeminence of English in the workplace, particularly in affluent, "white-collar" jobs. The French-speaking majority was economically marginalized within its own province, as it was left with the choice of either working in lower-paying jobs or teaching its children English as a first language. The latter option would further erase its cultural autonomy and singularity within a country that primarily spoke English. Facing the risk of linguistic extinction, the province passed *Loi 101* (Law 101): The Charter of the French Language. It established French as the only official language of the province, established the primacy of French in the workplace, and led to more economic equity. Since its passage in 1977, the percentage of people in Québec who speak French as a first language has begun to rise.

47. Which of the following is suggested in the passage as a reason for the decline of French in Québec?

- (A) economic devaluation
- (B) influx of English-speaking immigrants
- (C) efforts of French Canadians to further integrate themselves with Canadian culture
- (D) emigration of French Canadians
- (E) outlawing of French in the other provinces

48. According to the passage, *Loi 101* was significant in that it
- (A) was a final, unsuccessful attempt at enforcing the usage of French in Québec.
 - (B) curtailed the economic supremacy of English.
 - (C) restricted the teaching of English in schools.
 - (D) highlighted the uniqueness of the cultural identity of Québec from the rest of Canada.
 - (E) provided for bilingual education.

Questions 49 through 51 are based on the paragraph below.

The advent of online education in the first decade of the 21st century was the result of and response to a number of factors that were both internal and external to the field of higher education. Traditional tertiary institutions, especially those that were privately endowed, raised tuition rates far in excess of the rate of inflation. This, in concert with a larger demand for postsecondary education for working adults, helped facilitate the introduction of online learning. However, it should be acknowledged that the relative simplicity of using the Internet as a platform, as well as its cost-effectiveness, was seized upon by entrepreneurs in the private sector. Online education is largely in the hands of for-profit companies. The question now becomes whether the democratization of higher education is worth the price of removing it from nonprofit, research-based universities.

49. The passage is concerned primarily with
- (A) the advent of online education.
 - (B) adult-oriented educational systems.
 - (C) the usefulness of the Internet in postsecondary education.
 - (D) trends in online education.
 - (E) the advantages and disadvantages of online education.

50. The author's use of the term "seized upon" evokes an image of _____ on the part of the entrepreneurs.
- (A) accidental realization
 - (B) opportunistic tactics
 - (C) violent appropriation
 - (D) collusive behavior
 - (E) predatory business practices
51. The underlined section refers to
- (A) the cost of online education.
 - (B) the popularity of online courses.
 - (C) the opening of online education to the free market.
 - (D) the role of voting in class selection.
 - (E) whether or not a democratic society should have online education.

Questions 52 through 54 are based on the passage below.

Thermodynamics is concerned with changes in the properties of matter when we alter the external conditions. An example of this is a gas being compressed by the motion of a piston. The final outcome depends on how the change is made—if the piston is moved in slowly, we say that the compression is "reversible." This means that if we pull the piston back out, we retrace the same sequence of properties but in the reverse order; hence, the temperature of the gas will be the same when the piston has been pulled out as it was before the piston was pushed in. However, if the piston is moved in and out quickly, then the initial state (and temperature) will not be recovered—the gas will always be hotter than it was at the beginning. This is a manifestation, although not a statement, of the second law of thermodynamics. It also makes a difference whether there is a transfer of heat between the cylinder of gas and the external surroundings. If the cylinder is insulated, then the gas will heat on compression and cool on expansion (refrigeration uses this principle). On the other hand, if the cylinder can exchange heat with the surroundings, it will remain at the same temperature if the compression is slow enough.

52. The scope of this passage is
- (A) the motion of a piston demonstrating the effects of thermodynamics.
 - (B) the conservation of heat during the motion of a piston.
 - (C) how the second law of thermodynamics applies to pistons.
 - (D) how thermodynamics function.
 - (E) reversible compression.
53. Based on this passage, if we were to record the temperature of the gas within the piston of a car engine when we were driving the car at 20 mph, and measure it again after accelerating the car to 40 mph, what would we expect to find?
- (A) The gas would be hotter in the first reading.
 - (B) The gas would be hotter in the second reading.
 - (C) The gas would be the same temperature in both readings.
 - (D) There is no way to accurately predict the change in temperature.
 - (E) The gas would be cooler in the second reading if the engine were well insulated.
54. Given the context, what is the meaning of the underlined phrase?
- (A) The second law of thermodynamics is only applicable to objects moving at high speeds.
 - (B) The motion of the piston is a confirmation of the second law of thermodynamics.
 - (C) The second law of thermodynamics cannot, on its own, explain the change in heat in the cylinder.
 - (D) The change in heat inside the cylinder illustrates the second law of thermodynamics but does not prove it.
 - (E) The motion of the piston disproves the second law of thermodynamics.

Questions 55 through 57 are based on the passage below.

Toward the end of the 19th century, many scientists thought that all the great scientific discoveries had already been made and that there was not much left to do beyond some "tidying up." Max Planck, born in 1858, turned this notion upside down with his study of black-body radiation. Even in a vacuum,

a hot body will tend to come to thermal equilibrium with a colder body by radiative heat transfer. This is the principle by which we derive energy from the sun. However, measurement of black-body radiation frequencies across a range of temperatures resulted in a parabolic curve, which theory in Planck's time could not explain. After many years of work devoted to this problem, Planck succeeded in quantitatively explaining the experimental data; his key insight was that energy comes in small, discrete packets, called quanta. His theory was the birth of what is called quantum mechanics, the revolutionary theory of matter that is fundamental to the modern understanding of physics, chemistry, and molecular biology.

55. Select the sentence that best describes the importance of Max Planck's work, as described in the passage.
56. Which of the following would best paraphrase the opening sentence?
- (A) By the late 1800s, much of the scientific community felt it had completed the majority of its work and minor revisions were its only remaining task.
 - (B) By 1900, few scientists were still making significant discoveries, and most projects were revising current theories.
 - (C) At the end of the 19th century, scientists were concerned that they had run out of discoveries to make and could only perfect already proven theories.
 - (D) By 1900, the scientific community had declared that it had come to understand the natural laws of the universe.
 - (E) At the end of the 19th century, scientists ceased trying to formulate new theories.
57. Which of the following best describes the relationship between the highlighted phrases?
- (A) topic and scope
 - (B) theory and debunking
 - (C) problem and solution
 - (D) hypothesis and analysis
 - (E) thesis and synthesis

Questions 58–60 are based on the passage below.

At the atomic scale, all matter exhibits properties commonly associated with both waves and particles. The classic experiment that demonstrates wavelike properties is the double-slit experiment, first performed by Thomas Young at the beginning of the 19th century. If a beam of light passes through two narrow slits and is projected onto a screen behind the slits, a pattern of light and dark fringes can be observed. The explanation for this is based on an analogy with ripples in water. If a stone is dropped into a pond, we see a circular pattern of ripples emanating from the place where the stone hits the water. If we drop two stones some distance apart, the ripples start to interfere with each other, sometimes amplifying when two crests or troughs meet, sometimes canceling when a crest meets a trough. A similar explanation holds for interference effects with visible light—the two slits act as independent sources in the same way as the stones in water. This experiment provided convincing evidence in support of Christian Huygens’s wave theory of light, which eventually supplanted the older particle theory of Isaac Newton. However, in the 20th century Einstein showed that Newton was not entirely wrong. His analysis of the photoelectric effect showed that light could behave as a particle as well as a wave. Surprisingly, electrons, which we tend to think of as particles, also demonstrate interference effects, showing that they too are waves as well as particles.

58. Which of the following best summarizes the findings of Young’s experiment, as described in the passage?
- (A) Two light sources can cancel each other out, creating the observed dark fringes.
 - (B) The waves from independent light sources interact with one another in predictable patterns.
 - (C) Light exhibits properties of both particles and waves.
 - (D) Newton’s theory was permanently debunked.
 - (E) Newton’s theory was correct all along.

59. Based on the passage, what would we expect the light fringes in Young's experiment to represent?
- (A) the amplification created by the combination of both sets of waves of light
 - (B) the light particles from both slits landing on the screen
 - (C) the projection onto the screen where the light is not blocked out by the object with the slits
 - (D) the amplification created by light particles
 - (E) the projection onto the screen where the light is blocked by the object with the slits
60. What is the relevance of the underlined phrase to the passage as a whole?
- (A) It demonstrates a comparison between electrons and light.
 - (B) It is proof that Newton, to some degree, was correct in his theory of light as particles.
 - (C) It is a rephrasing of the first sentence that matter at the atomic level functions as both waves and particles.
 - (D) It refutes Newton's theory.
 - (E) It disconfirms particle-wave duality.

VERBAL REASONING PRACTICE SET 1 ANSWER KEY

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|-------------|--|
| 1. A, F | 17. B, D, G | 33. A, F | 49. D |
| 2. B, D | 18. C, F, H | 34. A, D | 50. B |
| 3. C, E | 19. B, D, I | 35. B, C | 51. C |
| 4. C, F | 20. A, E | 36. C, F | 52. A |
| 5. A, F | 21. C, F | 37. A, D | 53. B |
| 6. B, E | 22. A, F | 38. B, D | 54. D |
| 7. A | 23. B, D | 39. B, F | 55. "His theory
was the birth
of..." |
| 8. B | 24. C, D | 40. B, E | 56. A |
| 9. D | 25. C, F | 41. D | 57. C |
| 10. D | 26. A, E | 42. C | 58. B |
| 11. E | 27. C, F | 43. C | 59. A |
| 12. C | 28. A, E | 44. A, B, C | 60. C |
| 13. E | 29. B, E | 45. A, C | |
| 14. C | 30. B, D | 46. B | |
| 15. D | 31. C, F | 47. A | |
| 16. B | 32. A, E | 48. B | |

Diagnostic Tool

Tally up your score and write your results below.

Total

Total Correct: _____ out of 60 correct

By Question Type

Text Completions (questions 1–19) _____ out of 19 correct

Sentence Equivalence (questions 20–40) _____ out of 21 correct

Reading Comprehension (questions 41–60) _____ out of 20 correct

SECTION 4: VERBAL REASONING

For questions 1 through 4, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1 of 20

Since a large number of the ores frequently located in riverbeds are (i) _____ on the earth's surface, where the processing of chemicals is less costly, recovery of underwater ores is not likely to become a (ii) _____ procedure.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
scanty	valuable
abundant	cost-effective
preserved	rejected

Question 2 of 20

It would be (i) _____ for our leaders, given their responsibilities as democratically elected officials, to neglect to do everything they could to (ii) _____ an entirely (iii) _____ problem.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
irresponsible	forestall	benign
thoughtful	sustain	unimportant
intuitive	cultivate	avoidable

3 of 20

Despite her mentor's advice that she attempt to sound consistently _____, the graduate student often resorted to using slang when presenting significant parts of her thesis, her habitual speech patterns overriding her years of learning.

lucid
didactic
panegyric
erudite
rational

4 of 20

Although she felt Steve (i) _____ the subtlety of the delicious stew recipe with his addition of the sweet potato, she thought the pungent onion (ii) _____ the otherwise (iii) _____ taste combination.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
depleted	exaggerated	delicate
masticated	overwhelmed	zesty
augmented	satiated	detestable

SECTION 4: VERBAL REASONING

For questions 5 through 6, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

5 of 20

At first, a still-life painting can appear quite (i) _____, its focus on such everyday objects as flowers or fruits apparently uninspired. In the hands of (ii) _____ painter, however, careful attention to slight shifts of color and texture can lead to a truly (iii) _____ and exemplary painting.

Blank (i)

vital
luxuriant
banal

Blank (ii)

a gauche
an adept
an ascetic

Blank (iii)

unstinting
sublime
prosaic

6 of 20

The leaders of Ukraine's "Orange Revolution" were a study in contrasts. At the center of the political storm stood Viktor Yushchenko, his once-handsome face turned into a hideous, (i) _____ mask by dioxin poisoning; but, at his side, no one could miss the (ii) _____ Yulia Tymoshenko, soon to become the world's only prime minister to adorn the covers of fashion magazines.

Blank (i)

limpid
fatuous
teratoid

Blank (ii)

bonny
decorous
felicitous

SECTION 4: VERBAL REASONING

Questions 7 through 9 are based on the following reading passage.

In analyzing the poetry of Mona Feather, we are confronted with three different yardsticks by which to measure her work. We could consider her poems as the product of a twentieth-century artist in the tradition of James Joyce, T.S. Eliot, and Wallace Stevens. However, to do so would be to ignore a facet of her that informs every word she writes and that stems from her identity as a woman. Yet, to characterize her solely as a woman poet is to deny her cultural heritage, for Mona Feather is also the first modern poet of stature who is also an American Indian.

Stanley Wilson has argued compellingly that the huge popularity Feather enjoys among the Indian reservation school population of the United States is creating a whole new generation of poetry enthusiasts in an age when the reading of poetry is on the wane. While this is undoubtedly true, Mr. Wilson's praise gives the impression that Feather's readership is limited to her own culture—an impression which hints that Mr. Wilson is himself only measuring her by one criterion. Radical feminist writers have long found in Feather's poetry a sense of self-pride which struck a chord with their own more political philosophies. Her imagery, which always made use of the early Native American traditions in which the woman had an important role, was seen as the awakened sensibility of a kindred spirit.

Yet for all the "feminist" touches in her writing, it would be a disservice to consign Feather to the ranks of politicized writers, for her message is deeper than that. The despair that characterized twentieth-century modern poets is to be found in Mona Feather's work as well; she writes of the American Indians of the 1930s confined to ever-shrinking reservations and finds in that a metaphor for all of modern mankind trapped on a shrinking earth of limited resources.

7 of 20

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- describe the work of Mona Feather
- compare Feather with Joyce, Eliot, and Stevens
- show Feather's roots in her Native American heritage
- argue that Mona Feather's work can be looked at in several different ways
- discuss the women's movement in America

8 of 20

The passage implies that the author believes Stanley Wilson's view of Feather is

- a compelling and complete assessment of her work
- focused too much on her status as a Native American poet
- meant to disguise his opinion of Feather as a poet lacking in talent
- critical of Native American children's literary judgment
- based on all major themes and images in her poetry

9 of 20

The author mentions James Joyce, T.S. Eliot, and Wallace Stevens in order to

- compare the political messages in Feather's work to those in the work of other authors
- highlight the radical differences between male and female poets in the twentieth century
- contrast Feather's thematic choices with those of her contemporaries
- enumerate a list of artists whose sensibilities made them Feather's kindred spirits
- describe a critical context in which Feather's work can be analyzed

SECTION 4: VERBAL REASONING

Questions 10 through 11 are based on the following reading passage.

Among the more interesting elements of etymology is the attempt to derive the meaning of seemingly nonsensical expressions. Take, for instance, the increasingly archaic rural phrase "to buy a pig in a poke." For centuries, the expression has been used to signify the purchase of an item without full knowledge of its condition, and it relates to the common Renaissance practice of securing suckling pigs for transport to market in a poke, or drawstring bag. Unscrupulous sellers would sometimes attempt to dupe purchasers by replacing the suckling pig with a cat, considered worthless at market. An unsuspecting or naïve buyer might fail to confirm the bag's contents; a more **urbane** buyer, though, would be sure to check and—should the seller be dishonest—"let the cat out of the bag."

10 of 20

Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

Which of the following phrases from the passage would help the reader infer the meaning of the word **urbane** as used in context?

- "increasingly archaic rural phrase"
- "without full knowledge"
- "unsuspecting or naïve buyer"

11 of 20

Select a sentence in which the author makes deliberate use of a seemingly nonsensical expression.

For questions 12 through 15, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

12 of 20

Although she was such a bad-mannered child that she was sent to a boarding school, as an adult she is the very model of _____.

- friendliness
- diffidence
- propriety
- reticence
- decorum
- brashness

13 of 20

Politicians sometimes appear to act in a manner that is almost _____; however, when all the information is released after the fact, it is apparent that they were acting according to a deliberate plan.

- pithy
- conventional
- conformist
- whimsical
- flawless
- capricious

SECTION 4: VERBAL REASONING

14 of 20

Forced to take an alternate road when a massive oil spill closed the highway, the two-hour detour made their already arduous trip even more _____.

- irksome
- onerous
- facile
- glib
- implacable
- immutable

15 of 20

Though many of her contemporaries found her odd, Ella Wilkins is now much admired for her _____ spirit, especially her willingness to reject prevailing feminine roles and to travel to foreign lands alone.

- forlorn
- magnanimous
- adventurous
- bellicose
- desolate
- doughty

16 of 20

Microfiber synthetics have been taking the place of natural fibers in an ever-increasing number of clothes because they provide the same durability and deplete fewer natural resources. A shirt made of microfiber synthetics is, however, three times as expensive to produce as a natural-fiber shirt. It follows that the substitution of microfiber synthetic clothes for natural-fiber clothes is, at this time, not recommended from a financial standpoint.

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

- A microfiber synthetic shirt costs one-half the price of a natural-fiber shirt to maintain.
- The production of microfiber synthetic clothes necessitates garment factories to renovate obsolete machinery and to hire extra workers to operate the new machines.
- The upkeep of natural-fiber shirts is far less expensive than the upkeep of any other natural-fiber garment in current production.
- While producers anticipate that the cost of microfiber synthetics will remain stable, they recognize that the advent of recycling programs for natural fibers should bring down the costs of natural fibers.
- The cost of providing stain guards for microfiber synthetic shirts would probably be greater than what garment producers now spend on stain guards for natural-fiber shirts.

SECTION 4: VERBAL REASONING

Questions 17 through 18 are based on the following reading passage.

Scholars of early Buddhist art agree that Buddha images in human form emerged around the first century A.D. in the regions of Mathura, located in central India, and Gandhara, now part of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Uncertainty exists, however, about whether Mathura or Gandhara has the stronger claim to primacy. Those who believe that anthropomorphic sculptures of the Buddha first appeared in Gandhara point out that earlier Buddhist art was largely aniconic and that *bas relief* was far more common than sculpture. They argue that Greek influence in Gandhara promoted the development of the new style and form of representation of the divine. Other scholars make the case for indigenous development of such representations in Mathura, citing a centuries-long record of iconic art in pre-Buddhist traditions. They don't reject all foreign influence, but they argue that local traditions provided a strong foundation for the development of Buddhist sculpture.

Art historians bolster their arguments by highlighting distinctive features of the sculptures from each region. For example, the artists of Gandhara sculpted their Buddhas in heavy, pleated drapery, similar to that of Greek statues. Wavy lines indicating hair also reflect Greek influence. Mathura Buddhas, on the other hand, are portrayed wearing lighter robes draped in a monastic style, often with part of the shoulder and chest left bare. Elongated earlobes and strong facial features characterize Mathura images of the Buddha, whereas Gandhara images possess more angular features. Sorting out dates and directions of influence has proven difficult, but the totality of evidence suggests that the Buddha image evolved simultaneously in both regions and was shaped by the predominant cultural influences in each region.

17 of 20.

Which of the following, if true, would those who believe that anthropomorphic images of Buddha originated in Gandhara be likely to cite as evidence for their viewpoint?

- Pre-Buddhist subcultures in the Gandhara region created representations of their deities in human form.
- Mathuran Buddhas' lightweight robes appear to have been modeled on the real robes of people who lived in a warm climate.
- Gandharan artists were isolated from the larger society and not exposed to influences from outside the region.
- Rulers from the Mathura region had political ties to Greek rulers and frequently exchanged gifts with them.
- The hairstyles worn by Gandharan Buddhas are similar to those depicted on Greek pottery from the same period.

18 of 20

According to the passage, Buddhist art

- first appeared in regions that are now part of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan
- experienced a period during which human representations of the Buddha were not common
- characteristically portrayed figures with elongated earlobes and strong facial features
- began to appear in the medium of *bas relief* as a result of Greek influence
- was more influenced by foreign artworks than by indigenous artistic traditions

SECTION 4: VERBAL REASONING

Questions 19 through 20 are based on the following reading passage.

In 1887, Eugene Dubois began his search in Sumatra for the "missing link"—the being that would fill the evolutionary gap between ape and man. He discovered a fossilized human-like thighbone and a section of skull. He confirmed that these fossils were of significant age, based on other fossils in the same area. The thighbone's shape indicated that it belonged to a creature that walked upright. Dubois estimated the size of the creature's skull from the skull fragment and concluded that this creature's brain volume was between that of the higher primates and that of current humans. Although the concept of "missing link" has changed dramatically and a recent dating showed Dubois's fossils to be far too recent for humans to have evolved from this "missing link," the value of his discovery and the debate it generated is unquestionable.

19 of 20

Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

The passage supplies information to answer which of the following questions?

- What was the approximate age of the fossils found by Dubois?
- Does Dubois's find meet current definitions of the "missing link?"
- Do the flaws in Dubois's conclusions invalidate his work?

20 of 20

Select a sentence in which the author reaches a conclusion.

SECTION 4
Verbal Reasoning
Time—35 minutes
25 Questions

For Questions 1 to 4, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. Only by ignoring decades of mismanagement and inefficiency could investors conclude that a fresh infusion of cash would provide anything other than a _____ solution to the company's financial woes.
 - A complete
 - B fleeting
 - C momentary
 - D premature
 - E trivial
 - F total

2. Some scientists argue that carbon compounds play such a central role in life on Earth because of the possibility of _____ resulting from the carbon atom's ability to form an unending series of different molecules.
 - A diversity
 - B deviation
 - C variety
 - D reproduction
 - E stability
 - F invigoration

3. Given the flood of information presented by the mass media, the only way for someone to keep abreast of the news is to rely on _____ accounts.
 - A synoptic
 - B abridged
 - C sensational
 - D copious
 - E lurid
 - F understated

Section 4. Verbal Reasoning

4. Always circumspect, she was reluctant to make judgments, but once arriving at a conclusion, she was _____ in its defense.
- A deferential
 - B intransigent
 - C lax
 - D negligent
 - E obsequious
 - F resolute

For each of Questions 5 to 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 5 and 6 are based on the following reading passage.

When marine organisms called phytoplankton photosynthesize, they absorb carbon dioxide dissolved in seawater, potentially causing a reduction in the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide, a gas that contributes to global warming. However, phytoplankton flourish only in surface waters where iron levels are sufficiently high. Martin therefore hypothesized that adding iron to iron-poor regions of the ocean could help alleviate global warming. While experiments subsequently confirmed that such a procedure increases phytoplankton growth, field tests have shown that such growth does not significantly lower atmospheric carbon dioxide. When phytoplankton utilize carbon dioxide for photosynthesis, the carbon becomes a building block for organic matter, but the carbon leaks back into the atmosphere when predators consume the phytoplankton and respire carbon dioxide.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

5. It can be inferred from the passage that Martin's hypothesis includes which of the following elements?
- A A correct understanding of how phytoplankton photosynthesis utilizes carbon dioxide
 - B A correct prediction about how the addition of iron to iron-poor waters would affect phytoplankton growth
 - C An incorrect prediction about how phytoplankton growth would affect the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide
6. It can be inferred that the author of the passage mentions predators (line 10) primarily in order to
- A help explain why Martin's hypothesis is incorrect
 - B identify one effect of adding iron to iron-poor waters
 - C indicate how some carbon dioxide is converted to solid organic matter
 - D help account for differences in the density of phytoplankton between different regions of the ocean
 - E point out a factor that was not anticipated by the scientists who conducted the field tests mentioned in the passage

Question 7 is based on the following reading passage.

Sparva, unlike Ireland's other provinces, requires automobile insurers to pay for any medical treatment sought by someone who has been involved in an accident; in the other provinces, insurers pay for nonemergency treatment only if they preapprove the treatment. Clearly, Sparva's less restrictive policy must be the explanation for the fact that altogether insurers there pay for far more treatments after accidents than insurers in other provinces, even though Sparva does not have the largest population.

7. Which of the following, if true, most strengthens the argument?
- (A) Car insurance costs more in Sparva than in any other province.
 - (B) The cost of medical care in Sparva is higher than the national average.
 - (C) Different insurance companies have different standards for determining what constitutes emergency treatment.
 - (D) Fewer insurance companies operate in Sparva than in any other province.
 - (E) There are fewer traffic accidents annually in Sparva than in any of the provinces of comparable or greater population.

Questions 8 and 9 are based on the following reading passage.

Elements of the Philosophy of Newton, published by Voltaire in 1738, was an early attempt to popularize the scientific ideas of Isaac Newton. In the book's frontispiece, Voltaire is seen writing at his desk, and over him a shaft of light from heaven, the light of truth, passes through Newton to Voltaire's collaborator Madame du Châtelet; she reflects that light onto the inspired Voltaire. Voltaire's book commanded a wide audience, according to Feingold, because "he was neither a mathematician nor a physicist, but a literary giant aloof from the academic disputes over Newtonian ideas." In other words, Voltaire's amateurism in science "was a source of his contemporary appeal, demonstrating for the first time the accessibility of Newton's ideas to nonspecialists."

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

8. Which of the following statements about Voltaire's *Elements of the Philosophy of Newton* can be inferred from the passage?
- A Voltaire's literary stature helped secure a large audience for this attempt to popularize Newton's ideas.
 - B Voltaire's status as a nonscientist was an advantage in this effort to bring Newtonian science to the attention of the general public.
 - C The frontispiece of the book implies that Voltaire's understanding of Newton's ideas was not achieved without assistance.
9. Select the sentence that describes an allegory for Voltaire's acquisition of knowledge concerning Newton's ideas.

For Questions 10 to 13, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

10. Ironically, the writer so wary of (i) _____ was (ii) _____ with ink and paper, his novel running to 2,500 shagreen-bound folio pages—a fortune in stationery at the time.

Blank (i)

<input type="radio"/> A probity
<input type="radio"/> B extravagance
<input type="radio"/> C disapprobation

Blank (ii)

<input type="radio"/> D acquisitive
<input type="radio"/> E illiberal
<input type="radio"/> F profligate

11. What readers most commonly remember about John Stuart Mill's classic exploration of the liberty of thought and discussion concerns the danger of (i) _____: in the absence of challenge, one's opinions, even when they are correct, grow weak and flabby. Yet Mill had another reason for encouraging the liberty of thought and discussion: the danger of partiality and incompleteness. Since one's opinions, even under the best circumstances, tend to (ii) _____, and because opinions opposed to one's own rarely turn out to be completely (iii) _____, it is crucial to supplement one's opinions with alternative points of view.

Blank (i)

(A) tendentiousness
(B) complacency
(C) fractiousness

Blank (ii)

(D) embrace only a portion of the truth
(E) change over time
(F) focus on matters close at hand

Blank (iii)

(G) erroneous
(H) antithetical
(I) immutable

12. Just as the authors' book on eels is often a key text for courses in marine vertebrate zoology, their ideas on animal development and phylogeny _____ teaching in this area.

(A) prevent
(B) defy
(C) replicate
(D) inform
(E) use

13. Mechanisms develop whereby every successful species can _____ its innate capacity for population growth with the constraints that arise through its interactions with the natural environment.

(A) enhance
(B) replace
(C) produce
(D) surpass
(E) reconcile

For each of Questions 14 to 16, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 14 to 16 are based on the following reading passage.

It would be expected that a novel by a figure as prominent as W. E. B. DuBois would attract the attention of literary critics. Additionally, when the novel subtly engages the issue of race, as DuBois' *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* (1911) does, it would be a surprise not to encounter an abundance of scholarly work about that text. But though valuable scholarship has examined DuBois' political and historical thought, his novels have received scant attention. Perhaps DuBois the novelist must wait his turn behind DuBois the philosopher, historian, and editor. But what if the truth lies elsewhere: what if his novels do not speak to current concerns?

14. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage regarding DuBois' *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*?
- (A) The lack of attention devoted to *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* can be attributed to the fact that it was DuBois' first novel.
 - (B) Among DuBois' novels, *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* is unusual in that it has received scant attention from scholars.
 - (C) *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* has at least one feature that typically would attract the attention of literary scholars.
 - (D) *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*, given its subtle exploration of race, is probably the best novel written by DuBois.
 - (E) Much of the scholarly work that has focused on *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* has been surprisingly critical of it.
15. In the fourth sentence ("Perhaps DuBois . . . editor."), the author of the passage is most likely suggesting that
- (A) scholars will find that DuBois' novels are more relevant to current concerns than is his work as philosopher, historian, and editor
 - (B) more scholarly attention will be paid to *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* than to DuBois' other novels
 - (C) DuBois' novels will come to overshadow his work as philosopher, historian, and editor
 - (D) DuBois' novels may eventually attract greater scholarly interest than they have to date
 - (E) it will be shown that DuBois' work as philosopher, historian, and editor had an important influence on his work as novelist

16. Which of the following best describes the central issue with which the passage is concerned?
- (A) The perfunctoriness of much of the critical work devoted to DuBois' novels
 - (B) The nature of DuBois' engagement with the issue of race in *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*
 - (C) Whether DuBois' novels are of high quality and relevant to current concerns
 - (D) The relationship between DuBois the novelist and DuBois the philosopher, historian, and editor
 - (E) The degree of consideration that has been given to DuBois' novels, including *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*

For Questions 17 to 20, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

17. In the midst of so many evasive comments, this forthright statement, whatever its intrinsic merit, plainly stands out as _____.

- (A) a paradigm
- (B) a misnomer
- (C) a profundity
- (D) an inaccuracy
- (E) an anomaly

18. The activists' energetic work in the service of both woman suffrage and the temperance movement in the late nineteenth century (i) _____ the assertion that the two movements were (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

- (A) undermines
- (B) supports
- (C) underscores

Blank (ii)

- (D) diffuse
- (E) inimical
- (F) predominant

19. There is nothing quite like this movie, and indeed I am not altogether sure there is much more to it than its lovely (i) _____. At a moment when so many films strive to be as (ii) _____ as possible, it is gratifying to find one that is so subtle and puzzling.

Blank (i)

- (A) peculiarity
- (B) pellucidity
- (C) conventionality

Blank (ii)

- (D) indirect
- (E) assertive
- (F) enigmatic

20. Wills argues that certain malarial parasites are especially (i) _____ because they have more recently entered humans than other species and therefore have had (ii) _____ time to evolve toward (iii) _____. Yet there is no reliable evidence that the most harmful *Plasmodium* species has been in humans for a shorter time than less harmful species.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
<input type="radio"/> (A) populous	<input type="radio"/> (D) ample	<input type="radio"/> (G) virulence
<input type="radio"/> (B) malignant	<input type="radio"/> (E) insufficient	<input type="radio"/> (H) benignity
<input type="radio"/> (C) threatened	<input type="radio"/> (F) adequate	<input type="radio"/> (I) variability

For each of Questions 21 to 25, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Question 21 is based on the following reading passage.

Saturn's giant moon Titan is the only planetary satellite with a significant atmosphere and the only body in the solar system other than Earth that has a thick atmosphere dominated by molecular nitrogen. For a long time, the big question about Titan's atmosphere was how it could be so thick, given that Jupiter's moons Ganymede and Callisto, which are the same size as Titan, have none. The conditions for acquiring and retaining a thick nitrogen atmosphere are now readily understood. The low temperature of the protosaturnian nebula enabled Titan to acquire the moderately volatile compounds methane and ammonia (later converted to nitrogen) in addition to water. The higher temperatures of Jupiter's moons, which were closer to the Sun, prevented them from acquiring such an atmosphere.

21. According to the passage, Titan differs atmospherically from Ganymede and Callisto because of a difference in
- (A) rate of heat loss
 - (B) proximity to the Sun
 - (C) availability of methane and ammonia
 - (D) distance from its planet
 - (E) size

Question 22 is based on the following reading passage.

Observations of the Arctic reveal that the Arctic Ocean is covered by less ice each summer than the previous summer. If this warming trend continues, within 50 years the Arctic Ocean will be ice free during the summer months. This occurrence would in itself have little or no effect on global sea levels, since the melting of ice floating in water does not affect the water level. However, serious consequences to sea levels would eventually result, because _____.

22. Which of the following most logically completes the passage?
- (A) large masses of floating sea ice would continue to form in the wintertime
 - (B) significant changes in Arctic sea temperatures would be accompanied by changes in sea temperatures in more temperate parts of the world
 - (C) such a warm Arctic Ocean would trigger the melting of massive land-based glaciers in the Arctic
 - (D) an ice-free Arctic Ocean would support a very different ecosystem than it does presently
 - (E) in the spring, melting sea ice would cause more icebergs to be created and to drift south into shipping routes

Questions 23 to 25 are based on the following reading passage.

In a recent study, David Cressy examines two central questions concerning English immigration to New England in the 1630s: what kinds of people immigrated and why? Using contemporary literary evidence, shipping lists, and customs records, Cressy finds that most adult immigrants were skilled in farming or crafts, were literate, and were organized in families. Each of these characteristics sharply distinguishes the 21,000 people who left for New England in the 1630s from most of the approximately 377,000 English people who had immigrated to America by 1700.

With respect to their reasons for immigrating, Cressy does not deny the frequently noted fact that some of the immigrants of the 1630s, most notably the organizers and clergy, advanced religious explanations for departure, but he finds that such explanations usually assumed primacy only in retrospect. When he moves beyond the principal actors, he finds that religious explanations were less frequently offered, and he concludes that most people immigrated because they were recruited by promises of material improvement.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

23. The passage indicates that Cressy would agree with which of the following statements about the organizers among the English immigrants to New England in the 1630s?
- A Some of them offered a religious explanation for their immigration.
 - B They did not offer any reasons for their immigration until some time after they had immigrated.
 - C They were more likely than the average immigrant to be motivated by material considerations.
24. Select the sentence that provides Cressy's opinion about what motivated English immigrants to go to New England in the 1630s.
25. In the passage, the author is primarily concerned with
- A summarizing the findings of an investigation
 - B analyzing a method of argument
 - C evaluating a point of view
 - D hypothesizing about a set of circumstances
 - E establishing categories

STOP. This is the end of Section 4.

Common reasoning flaws:

1. a reliable recent study attests to the value of physical activity in increasing attention span among young children. Accordingly, in order to improve the overall learning levels among elementary-school children in our state, the state's board of education should mandate a daily exercise regimen for students at all our state's elementary schools.
2. every year Dunston High School wins the school district's student Math SuperBowl competition. The average salary of teachers at Dunston is greater than at any other school in the district. Hence in order for Valley High students to improve their scores on the state's standardized achievement exams, Valley should begin awarding bonuses to Valley teachers whenever Valley defeats Dunston in the Math SuperBowl.
3. at the local Viewer Choice video store, the number of available movies in VHS-tape format remains about the same as three years ago, even though the number of available movies on digital video disk, or DVD, has increased tenfold over the past three years. People who predict the impending obsolescence of the VHS format are mistaken, since demand for VHS movie rentals today clearly remains as strong as ever.
4. two years ago State X enacted a law prohibiting environmental emissions of certain nitrocarbon byproducts, on the basis that these byproducts have been shown to cause Urkin's disease in humans. Last year fewer State X residents reported symptoms of Urkin's disease than in any prior year. Since the law is clearly effective in preventing the disease, in the interest of public health this state should adopt a similar law.
5. rivertown's historic Hill district used to be one of the city's main tourist attractions. Recently, however, the district's quaint older shops and restaurants have had difficulty attracting patrons. In order to reverse the decline in tourism to the district, Rivertown's City Council intends to approve the construction of a new shopping center called Hill Club on one of the district's few remaining vacant parcels. However, the city's interests in attracting revenue from tourism would be better served were it to focus instead on restoring Hill district's older buildings and waging a publicity campaign touting the historically authentic character of the district.
6. among Webco employees participating in our department's most recent survey, about half indicated that they are happy with our current four-day work week. These survey results show that the most effective way to improve overall productivity at Webco is to allow each employee to choose for himself or herself either a four-day or five-day work week.

7. our nation's new college graduates will have better success obtaining jobs if they do not pursue advanced degrees after graduation. After all, more than 90 percent of state X's undergraduate students are employed full-time within one year after they graduate, while less than half of State X's graduate-level students find employment within one year after receiving their graduate degrees.
8. residents of this state should vote to elect Kravitz as state governor in the upcoming election. During Kravitz's final term as a state senator, she was a member of special legislative committee that explored ways the state can reduce its escalating rate of violent crime. Elect Kravitz for governor, and our cities' streets will be safer than ever.
9. last year was the first year in which Playtime Stores, our main competitor, sold more toys than Toyco. Playtime's compensation for its retail sales force is based entirely on their sales. If Toyco is to recapture its leadership position in the toy-sales market, we must reestablish our former policy of requiring all our retail associates to meet strict sales quotas in order to retain their jobs.

"Scientific theories, which most people consider as 'fact,' almost invariably prove to be inaccurate. Thus, one should look upon any information described as 'factual' with skepticism since it may well be proven false in the future."

Write an essay in which you take a position on the statement above. In developing and supporting your viewpoint, consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true.

The following appeared in a memorandum from the owner of the Juniper Café, a small, local coffee shop in the downtown area of a small American city:

"We must reduce overhead here at the café. Instead of opening at 6 a.m. weekdays, we will now open at 8 a.m. On weekends, we will only be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The decrease in hours of operations will help save money because we won't be paying for utilities, employee wages, or other operating costs during the hours we are closed. This is the best strategy for us to save money and remain in business without having to eliminate jobs."

Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to assess the reasonableness of both the prediction and the argument upon which it is based. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the prediction.

1: "Fundamentally Deficient" Essay

- Fails to present a coherent opinion and/or evidence on the issue or a critique of the argument
- Fails to communicate ideas; essay is seriously unclear and disorganized
- Lacks meaning due to widespread and severe mistakes in grammar, usage, and sentence structure

0: "Unscorable" Essay

- Completely ignores topic
- Attempts to copy the assignments
- Written in a foreign language or contains undecipherable text

SAMPLE ESSAY RESPONSES

ISSUE ESSAY SAMPLE RESPONSE

At face value, the belief that "one should look upon any information described as 'factual' with skepticism since it may well be proven false in the future," seems ludicrous almost to the point of threatening anarchy. Yet not only does this belief prove well justified, it is also the linchpin around which our complex, highly technical society creates and consolidates its advances.

Science itself provides the best evidence and examples in support of this statement. One need look no further than contemporary medicine to see how far we have come from the days when illness was perceived as a sign of moral weakness or as a punishment from on high. In fact, the most outstanding characteristic of what we call "the scientific method" amounts to endless questioning of received theory in search of a more comprehensive explanation of what we perceive to be true. This iterative style of inquiry (and re-inquiry) perpetuates an ongoing scientific dialogue that catalyzes further breakthroughs in the developed world.

Furthermore, advances made through constant questioning are not limited to the scientific arena: The skeptical attitudes of ancient Greek philosophers, as well as those of Renaissance mariners, 19th century suffragists, and 20th century civil rights activists, have left the world a richer and more hopeful place. By refusing to accept the world as explained by contemporary "fact," these doubters helped give birth to societies and cultures in which human potential and accomplishment have been enabled to an unprecedented degree.

In contrast, those societies that cultivate adherence to received belief and a traditional non-skeptical approach have advanced very little over the centuries. In Tibet, for instance, the prayer wheels spin endlessly around a belief system as secure and unquestioning as the Himalayas themselves. While there may very well be things worth learning from such a society, Tibet has proven to lack adaptability and expansiveness and prefers to turn inward, away from the modern world. Such introspection has given Tibet neither immunity nor an array of defenses in the face of contemporary medical, social, and political problems. Thus, cultural inflexibility regarding received wisdom and convention comes with a price.

To conclude, it seems clear from the above discussion that a healthy skepticism remains the hallmark of Western epistemology as we face the future. A close look at the statement reveals that it is not advocating the wholesale rejection of orthodox thinking, but rather that we be open to redefining our assumptions. As the basis of our resiliency and creativity, this attitude offers the most positive prognosis for a society that revels in the solution of conundrums that its own constant questioning brings continually into view.

ARGUMENT ESSAY SAMPLE RESPONSE

In this memo, the owner of the Juniper Café concludes that cutting hours is the “best strategy for us to save money and remain in business without having to eliminate jobs.” While the café’s employees are undoubtedly grateful for the intent of the memo, they may see that its logic is flawed. First, the memo does not provide enough supporting evidence to prove that the money saved by cutting hours would exceed the money lost by losing early-morning and weekend clients. Second, the owner does not seem to evaluate other options that would either cut back on overhead or change the café’s operation to bring in more revenue.

First, the owner relies on an unproven assumption about the cause of the overhead. He concludes, without justifying, that being open too many hours is causing too much overhead expense. There may be other causes, however, such as waste in other areas of management. While it is true that reducing café hours would save money spent on utilities, employee wages, and other operating costs, there is no evidence that those savings would outweigh the café’s loss of business. The owner’s message fails to give details of operating costs, wages, and utilities saved if the café is closed for the hours suggested by the memo. Perhaps the highest utility expenses are actually incurred between noon and 3 p.m., when the sun is the hottest and the café’s air conditioning and refrigeration are most in use. The owner needs to do more research, including the habits and demography of the town. For example, since the café is located in the

downtown area, perhaps *increasing* the number of hours the café is open would be a better solution.

Yes, it would cost more in overhead, but *doing so might, in fact, make much more money for the café.* Say, for instance, the Juniper becomes the only restaurant open on Friday and Saturday *date nights*, after the football games and movies let out. Second, the owner of the Juniper Café is not considering that the café serves a small American city. Cutting early-morning hours at a café, in a downtown area, where businesspeople and city workers most likely stop for coffee or breakfast on their way to work, seems very short-sighted and ill-informed. Are there one or more other cafés that will gladly steal business from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. weekdays and that will perhaps win the permanent loyalty of those customers for lunch and dinner?

Furthermore, the owner *does not seem to have evaluated other options to save the café.* There are other places where overhead costs could potentially be cut. Certainly the owner would benefit from a brainstorming session with all employees, to get other ideas on the table. Maybe a new, lower-rent freezer storage facility is nearby. Maybe employees can suggest cutting waste in the purchasing department or dropping services the café doesn't need. It stands to reason that there is a plurality of ways to decrease overhead, aside from simply cutting hours.

In conclusion, the memo as it stands now *does not logically prove that reduction in those particular hours will result in financial and future success for the café.* There are several unstated assumptions upon which the argument turns, principally the assertion that simply being open for a certain number of hours is causing crippling overhead expenses. The owner's argument would profit enormously from further research, which may affect the hours he chooses to cut. Customer polling could show that few people eat or want coffee in that part of town between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., and the café could be closed between lunch and dinner, adding flex hours or overlapping shifts for the staff. The memo lacks outlining what other restaurant services are available in the area and how or if they affect the 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. block and weekend hours. Once the marketing research and brainstorming is complete, the owner of the Juniper Café will make a better informed choice for his café's operating hours.