

Section 3

Practice Questions

Time – 35 minutes

25 Questions

Directions: The questions in this section are based on the reasoning contained in brief statements or passages. For some questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question. You should not make assumptions that are by commonsense standards implausible, superfluous, or incompatible with the passage. After you have chosen the best answer, blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

1. Concerned about the ongoing downturn in the economy, the head of a large charitable organization recently began reviewing receipts to see how the economic problems have affected the donations that the organization has received. Much to his surprise, the amount received in donations has not changed at all—the charitable organization has continued to receive the same amount as before the economic slump. The head of the organization knows that the regular donors are typically faithful with sending in their donations, but he is still surprised to find that the organization is not having any trouble meeting its donation goals.

Which of the following best explains the anomaly between the expected decline in charitable donations and the actual receipt?

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- (A) The wealthier members of society are generally the largest source of charitable donations, and they will always have extra money for non-profit organizations.
 - (B) The charity made the decision to lower its expectations for donations, so the amount received was accurate, based on the adjustment for anticipated donations.
 - (C) The charity is now receiving federal money, so the losses that it sustains during the economic downturn are covered under government subsidies.
 - (D) People generally feel more obligated to give in a time of economic loss, even if they do not have as much disposable income as they do in a healthy economy.
 - (E) Charitable donations function as tax deductions, so those who usually give to the charitable organization have strong incentive to give during economic weakness.
2. Geophysicist: Although scientists do not entirely agree on the causes of geomagnetic reversal, they do agree that the process has the potential for significant changes on the earth. A geomagnetic reversal occurs when the magnetic field of the earth adjusts in its orientation, so that the magnetic north becomes the magnetic south, and vice versa. What is more, studies indicate that the magnetic field is gradually losing its strength and that we might expect to see a reversal within the next few millennia. While this might not seem significant, the reversal of the magnetic fields would occur over a long period of time, leaving the earth potentially unprotected from the sun's radiation.

Reviewing the information in the passage above carefully, which of the following represents the geophysicist's primary argument?

- (A) While there will be a few effects of a geomagnetic reversal, the negative effects will be limited.
 - (B) Geomagnetic reversals have occurred within the period of human existence on the earth, and since mankind has survived, there is no reason to fear human eradication from geomagnetic reversal.
 - (C) Scientists do not fully understand the causes or results of geomagnetic reversal, but there is evidence that the process should not be ignored.
 - (D) Given the severe possibilities that may arise from a geomagnetic reversal, governments should begin funding studies of this process.
 - (E) The current placement of magnetic poles on the earth has little effect on the natural functions of the earth.
3. While black or green tea tends to be the leaf of choice among connoisseurs, recent studies have indicated there are significant benefits to drinking white tea. White tea is considerably more delicate and rarer than black or green tea and has fewer producers. Because it is unprocessed and unfermented, white tea has very high levels of catechins, which are known for having antibiotic qualities and delaying aging. Additionally, white tea has elevated levels of theobromine, a substance that can improve circulation. To produce white tea, basic tea leaves are picked when they are very young, so white tea contains considerably less fluoride than black or green tea and much higher levels of theanine, which is known for its relaxing qualities. Research indicates that white tea has an amount of caffeine comparable to that of either black or green tea.

The passage implies all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) Because it is more delicate and rarer than black or green tea, white tea may be more costly than the other forms of tea.

- (B) White tea is usually derived from the same leaves as black or green tea, but it is picked when it is younger, and the leaves are not processed or fermented.
 - (C) Research suggests that white tea has extra benefits that black or green tea do not always have.
 - (D) Fluoride is a necessary ingredient for tea, so most white tea producers add fluoride to the tea that they sell.
 - (E) The increased levels of theanine in white tea have the potential to counter the effects of caffeine more than in black or green tea.
4. Angelica: The cultural development of the Roaring Twenties is a direct result of the social breakdown that occurred during World War I. The soldiers and other young people witnessed the dishonesty of authority figures regarding the war, its causes, and the nature of patriotism, and the Roaring Twenties became a backlash against authority, with the defiance of traditions and moral expectations. This became the tone of the Modern Age, so the Roaring Twenties may be called the start of modernism.

Luca: While the 1920s generation embraced the mood of modernism more thoroughly than previous generations, it is more correct to note that the Modern Age had already begun in the mid-nineteenth century, as philosophers and political thinkers started questioning traditional religious authorities and raising questions about the nature of morality.

Luca responds to Angelica's comment by doing which of the following?

- (A) Acknowledging a part of the argument but suggesting the need for revision.
- (B) Criticizing the substance of the argument and calling the conclusion into question.

- (C) Demonstrating the logical fallacy embedded in the argument.
 - (D) Questioning the possibility of arriving at any real conclusion regarding the topic.
 - (E) Offering a point-by-point disagreement and providing alternate views.
5. The island of Sark is the smallest of four islands in the southwestern area of the English Channel. Sark is a part of the British Crown. Until 2008, it was considered the last remaining feudal state in Europe, its government under the Seigneur and functioning as a fiefdom granted by the British monarch. Sark is a tiny island, with only two square miles of land and a population of only 600 people, most of whom are past middle age. It has no airport, and airplanes are not allowed to fly over; Sark may be reached by ferry alone. The fragile landscape and climate of the island are heavily influenced by its location in the English Channel, and its residents are committed to maintaining a natural quality with a focus on sustainable activities. Sark has a “horses-only” policy, and no cars or other motor vehicles are allowed there.

Based on the statements made in the passage, which of the following offers the best explanation for the “horses-only” policy on Sark?

- (A) As the island is only two square miles, most of the residents can walk or ride easily enough to get from one location to another.
- (B) Most of the residents on Sark are accustomed to the laws forbidding motor vehicles and have no interest in changing them at this time.
- (C) Sark is composed of several very small and self-contained villages, and there is little need for the residents to go from one place to the other frequently.
- (D) Due to the delicate environment of the island, the residents of Sark are concerned about the pollution that motor vehicles could bring with them.

- (E) Because the island of Sark was a feudal state for so long, many of the laws are arbitrary and have no relevance to contemporary society.
6. The name *Japan* is generally considered to be an exonym, or a name that is given to a country from outsiders but is not the name with which inhabitants identify their country. The Japanese call their nation *Nippon* or *Nihon*, both of which mean “the sun’s origin.” The name “Japan” is believed to have come from the Portuguese word *Giapan*, which is a derivation of the Malay word *Jepang* and is thought to have originated with the Mandarin word *Cipangu*. The Portuguese established ongoing trade with the Far East during the sixteenth century, and the name that they adopted for the country now known in English as Japan has stuck. This particular usage exists in at least nine other languages.

Which of the following may be inferred from statements made in the passage above?

- (A) As the name Japan is an incorrect usage, the name should be adjusted to reflect the way that the Japanese people refer to their country.
- (B) The name Japan came into existence because of trading activity with other peoples in the Far East before there was trade with the Japanese.
- (C) It would be an insult for non-Japanese to refer to Japan as *Nippon* or *Nihon*, because both names are sacred to the Japanese people and their language.
- (D) The name *Japan* is Mandarin in origin and carries the same meaning as *Nippon* or *Nihon*.
- (E) Exonyms are rare, and the name *Japan* is one of very few examples.

7. Farmer in Norway: Two decades ago, it became clear that the greylag goose population was on the decline due to the encroachment of cities and the destruction of their native nesting sites. The government provided official protection for the diminishing greylag goose, but with the result that farmers are now inundated with geese on their farms. These geese graze on crops and are causing an increasing number of problems for farmers who are unable to do anything to drive off or destroy the invading geese. As the greylag goose population has clearly increased, the government should now remove the official protection status to allow farmers to protect their crops.

The reasoning in the farmer's argument is subject to which of the following flaws?

- (A) He fails to offer an alternative solution to the problems that farmers are facing with the greylag geese.
 - (B) He relies on questionable data to present his argument about the need to lift the protection status.
 - (C) He fails to note that lifting the protection status of the greylag goose could send it back into endangerment, and he suggests a solution that does not fully consider both sides of the issue.
 - (D) He declines to compare the situation with the greylag goose to comparable situations in which an endangered species has experienced a population explosion.
 - (E) He sides too openly with his fellow farmers who are struggling with excessive geese on their farms and fails to demonstrate objectivity.
8. When making a logical argument, it is essential to distinguish between theory and fact and to recognize the place of each. Theory suggests an idea or a hypothesis that might be true, but it requires the support of fact in order to verify it. Fact is the evidence or the proof that makes a theory valid; without

fact, that theory is merely a concept for consideration and an idea that has potential. Theory is not always unacceptable in a logical argument, but that theory must be based on comparable facts from similar situations or examples. A logical argument founded on a theory usually ends in speculation, while a logical argument that builds on a theory with comparable facts can prove to be highly effective.

Which of the following does the passage above imply?

- (A) Fact is always more important and more valuable than theory when making a logical argument.
 - (B) While theory has a place in a logical argument, it is generally better to avoid it altogether.
 - (C) Theory is basically equivalent to speculation and, as such, can undermine the strength of a logical argument.
 - (D) Theory should never be confused with fact, at the risk of making a logical argument that is entirely false.
 - (E) Theory has a place in a logical argument, but only if fact can be proven based on an analogous scenario.
9. A large corporation is currently in the middle of turnover, as many of the older employees are retiring around the same time. With a weak economic situation, the corporation has to consider its hiring options carefully. Most of the retiring employees have been with the company for many years and have acquired knowledge and skills that would require the corporation to hire additional employees to take over their positions. The CEO of the corporation has decided not to replace all of the retiring employees, however. Instead, the corporation will be hiring fewer employees. The corporation does not expect to see a reduction in the work output, but it does plan to see a reduction in salaries.

- Which of the following best explains the decision by the corporation to hire fewer employees?
- (A) The corporation is relocating many of the jobs to an overseas branch, thus reducing the jobs required at its primary U.S. location.
 - (B) Many of the retiring employees will continue to work part-time to fill in the gaps with the reduced number of jobs.
 - (C) The corporation is working with a headhunting firm in order to bring on versatile workers who will accept diverse employment requirements for a lower salary.
 - (D) The corporation has reviewed the open positions in the company, and the CEO feels as though many of those positions are outdated and can be eliminated.
 - (E) The corporation is reducing its pay for employees and is altering the retirement plan available to retiring employees in order to save money.
10. Editorial from Local Art Instructor: Studies indicate that art lessons can be of particular benefit to elementary school children, because art allows children to explore creative skills in ways that other programs do not. Art allows children to pursue creativity without fear of restriction, but more importantly, art encourages the development of different areas of the brain, thus providing the student with a well-rounded mind. This development will provide the further benefit of improving the performance of students in other subjects. Elementary schools in Japan have recently begun adding a daily art program for students, and the student test scores in math and science have improved considerably.

Which of the following undermines the statements that the art instructor makes in favor of the local elementary schools adopting art programs?

- (A) The local elementary schools focus more on math and science programs, because they receive exclusive government funding for good test scores.
- (B) The art instructor is closely connected to a non-profit organization that focuses on bringing art programs into the school system.
- (C) Many other elementary school subjects allow for the development of creative skills.
- (D) Elementary schools in Japan have recently adopted a new math and science curriculum, and the students in all of the schools have responded well to it.
- (E) All of the local elementary schools have had extensive art programs in the past, but the students did not enjoy the programs, so they were dropped.

Questions 11 and 12 refer to the following passage:

It is believed that the earliest precursor to the modern-day camera derives from the *camera obscura*, usually credited to the Arab scientist Abu Ali Al-Hasan Ibn al-Haitham in the eleventh century. Working in an early version of a dark room, Ibn al-Haitham studied the movement of light and discovered that he could reproduce images by reflecting light through pinholes. Prior to Ibn al-Haitham, though, the Chinese philosopher Mozi had already begun developing a variety of a pinhole camera in the fourth century BC. Later in that same century, both Aristotle and Euclid remarked on the placement of light when projected through pinholes. What is more, the Arab mathematician Abu Yusuf Ya‘qub Ibn Ishaq al-Kindi became the first to project images with an early type of camera obscura in the ninth century. As a result, although Ibn al-Haitham is often credited with the creation of the camera obscura, he is also recorded as having said that he did not invent it.

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11. The claims made in the passage above, if true, support which of the following statements?
- (A) Though Ibn al-Haitham is given credit for inventing the camera obscura in the eleventh century, it was invented by Mozi in the fourth century BC.
 - (B) Ibn al-Haitham's development of the camera obscura in the eleventh century was the result of discoveries in previous centuries that contributed to his research.
 - (C) The Greek philosophers Aristotle and Euclid developed their experiments on the pinhole camera from the writings of the Chinese philosopher Mozi.
 - (D) Ibn Ishaq al-Kindi is unfairly overlooked as the real inventor of the camera obscura.
 - (E) Though usually considered a modern development, the camera was really invented in the eleventh century.
12. The passage above implies all of the following EXCEPT:
- (A) In developing the camera obscura, Ibn al-Haitham stole research from previous scientists and philosophers and claimed it as his own.
 - (B) Centuries before the camera obscura was fully developed, scientists and philosophers had been experimenting with the reflection of light through pinholes.
 - (C) The first recorded research about the study of light and pinholes appears to come from the Chinese philosopher Mozi.
 - (D) Ibn al-Haitham recognized that his accomplishment in inventing the camera obscura was founded on previous centuries of research into light reflection.
 - (E) Prior to Ibn al-Haitham's invention in the eleventh century, Ibn Ishaq al-Kindi had developed a forerunner to the camera obscura.

13. Political Activist: Given the current economic state, the U.S. government should strongly consider nationalizing some banks. The recent economic situation has become so dire that leaving the banks private will soon be academic. International law requires that when a government nationalizes the bank, it must compensate the owner for the full value of the assets that are assumed. The recent inflow of federal money into the majority of banks in this country, however, means that the government has basically compensated the owners, and official nationalization is simply the next logical step so that the banks are fully protected under the U.S. government.

Which of the following most undermines the argument that the political activist makes in the passage above?

- (A) The voters in the U.S. are still divided on the issue of nationalization, and there does not seem to be enough support to merit it.
 - (B) A small percentage of banks in the U.S. are still solvent and have not received federal funding.
 - (C) The federal funding that the banks in the U.S. have received has not entirely covered the debts that the banks now hold on the account books.
 - (D) The U.S. government is heavily in debt to other nations, and the nationalized banks in the U.S. might represent necessary collateral to pay off that debt.
 - (E) The nationalization of several banks in the United Kingdom was not as successful as the government had hoped it would be.
14. German composer Ludwig van Beethoven is remembered both for his masterpieces of Classical and Romantic music and for the tragic loss of his hearing that still did not preclude him from composing. The exact cause of

Beethoven's deafness has never been determined, but historians and scientists have suggested several reasons, the most influential of which has become the discovery of very high rates of lead in Beethoven's hair. Lead poisoning can manifest itself in a variety of ways, including irregular behavior, inexplicable rage, and deafness. Beethoven is recorded as having suffered all of these symptoms. Some, however, still question lead poisoning as a sufficient diagnosis.

Which of the following best explains the reason for why lead poisoning remains an unsatisfactory diagnosis for some?

- (A) Beethoven had contracted typhus as a child, and this disease can often leave the sufferer with deafness.
 - (B) Beethoven is known for having frequently dunked his head in icy water in order to maintain alertness, a habit that could have weakened his hearing over time.
 - (C) Lead poisoning almost never manifests itself in the type of deafness that Beethoven suffered, and his other symptoms are not unique to lead poisoning.
 - (D) It is believed that Beethoven developed tinnitus, which made it difficult for him to hear music or to have intelligible conversations.
 - (E) Some argue that Beethoven's deafness was simply hereditary and that his irregular behavior and rage is the result of his artistic temperament.
15. Inflation has traditionally been viewed as a negative cycle for an economy, whereas deflation has been seen as a time for the economy to return to healthier price levels. In recent years, though, economists have begun to view low inflationary development over time as healthy for the modern economy, due to the fact that inflation signals growth of money supply and increased

prices. These increased prices become increased value for businesses and eventually trickle down to consumers as employees. Although prices are actually higher, consumers have more liquidity and thus spend more, helping to balance the economy. Many economists believe that inflation can sustain an economy that is struggling with recession.

Which of the following may be inferred from statements made in the passage above?

- (A) Modern economists would prefer a severe state of inflation over a severe state of deflation.
 - (B) Historically, cycles of deflation have signaled low economic growth, while cycles of inflation have signaled high economic growth.
 - (C) Inflation is good for an economy domestically, but an increase of money supply usually corresponds with lower exchange rates and decreased international value.
 - (D) While low rates of inflation can be of benefit to an economy, higher rates of inflation can have devastating effects on a healthy economy.
 - (E) Consumer prices are lower during deflation, but this does not help an economy in recession, because consumers have less liquidity and are thus spending less.
16. A popular electronics company that is known for producing innovative technology recently began heavy marketing for a new music-playing device. The company is excited about the new device, because it is much smaller than previous devices and is very light and highly portable, allowing the listener to carry it easily, without any cumbersome pieces or cords. After three months on the market, however, the device is not selling well, and the company is forced to admit that its competitor's product is still selling much

better, in spite of the fact that the competitor's product is heavier and does not offer the same qualities of portability.

Considering the passage above carefully, which of the following provides the best reason for the failure of the new device to take off with the public?

- (A) Consumers have become accustomed to using the competitor's device and dislike the style of the new device.
 - (B) The competitor is planning to update its popular device soon, so the new device from the first company will have major rivalry among the public.
 - (C) The popular company that produced the new device hired a marketing firm that failed to inform the public sufficiently about the benefits of the new device.
 - (D) The new device requires that owners purchase and download music in a unique form, as it is incompatible with other forms and does not allow for conversion.
 - (E) The president of the popular electronics company is currently in talks to leave and become president of the competitor company.
17. Psychiatrist: Having counseled day traders for several years now, I have come to realize that they could benefit greatly from the behavioral training techniques that modern psychiatry has embraced. One of the biggest challenges for day traders is recovering from losses and developing the ongoing self-discipline and conscious discretion to trade without the fear of loss. In order to achieve success, day traders must utilize the trading techniques that they have learned and maintain the trading plan that they develop. The behavioral training system I have created, including hypnosis and other subconscious techniques, will help traders get over their fears and return to trading without anxiety.

On which of the following assumptions is the psychiatrist's argument founded?

- (A) All behavioral training includes degrees of hypnosis in order to modify the negative behavior of the participant.
 - (B) Hypnosis and other subconscious behavioral techniques can be applied to an activity that requires ongoing self-discipline and conscious discretion.
 - (C) All day traders develop fear after big losses, so all day traders struggle with utilizing their trading techniques and maintaining their trading plans.
 - (D) It is impossible for day traders to trade successfully without the modification of negative behavior through behavioral training.
 - (E) A successful trader does not begin trading without careful training in trading techniques and development of a trading plan.
18. It is believed that the diamond was originally discovered and extracted in India as much as 6,000 years ago. The word *diamond*, however, derives from the Greek *αδάμας*, or *adámas*, which means "unbreakable" or even "untamed," and has made its way into Western literature through the Greek tradition. Having heard rumors of exceptionally strong stones, the Greeks developed a mythology about an unbreakable stone that was known as *adamant*. By the Middle Ages, this came to be recognized as the diamond. Over time, the legendary adamant came to take on a mystical quality that passed into certain forms of medieval literature and even today has an allegorical place in some genres.

The statements made in the passage above support which of the following claims?

- (A) Given the legendary status of the adamant, it might have been better if the diamond and its actual qualities had remained a mystery.
- (B) Because the adamant was originally associated with mythical qualities, it retains figurative attributes that are still valuable for some writers.
- (C) The diamond and the adamant are essentially the same gem, and the two terms can be interchanged.
- (D) The Greek word *adámas* is based on an ancient word of India that meant the same thing but has now been lost to history.
- (E) Although the Greeks were mistaken about the mystical qualities of diamonds, they were right to identify them as unbreakable.

Questions 19 and 20 refer to the following passage:

Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, discussion about the possibility of life on Mars developed in earnest. From his research, English scientist William Whewell observed that Mars might have a geophysical landscape similar to that of Earth, complete with bodies of water, land masses, and possibly even intelligent life forms similar to humans.

Scientists had already determined that Mars experienced days that spanned virtually the same length of hours as on Earth but with seasons that were approximately double the length due to Mars's axial tilt in combination with its highly elongated orbit. In the late nineteenth century, scientists noticed what appeared to be canals on Mars's landscape, and some even suggested that these canals were created by earlier civilizations. It took the research of American astronomer William Wallace Campbell in 1894 and the work of scientists with more powerful telescopes in the early twentieth century to debunk the canal-theory with the discovery that the atmosphere of Mars is entirely devoid of water and oxygen.

19. The passage above strictly implies which of the following about the speculation the canals on Mars?

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- (A) All life forms, whether human or otherwise, must have water and oxygen in order to survive.
 - (B) The scientists who believed that earlier civilizations had built canals on Mars also believed that the civilizations were composed of alien life forms completely unlike human beings.
 - (C) The canals on the surface of Mars have some other substance than water flowing through them.
 - (D) William Wallace Campbell is responsible for debunking the myth about canals and earlier civilizations on Mars.
 - (E) As there is no water or oxygen within the atmosphere of Mars, the canals had been mistaken for some other feature on Mars's landscape.
20. Which of the following may be inferred from statements made in the passage above?
- (A) Although the presence of life forms on Mars has not been proven, scientists still hold out for the possibility that life does or can exist there.
 - (B) After the work of William Wallace Campbell and other astronomers in the early twentieth century, it has been shown conclusively that life has never existed on Mars.
 - (C) With limited telescopic equipment, early scientists made too many assumptions about the similarities between Mars and Earth.
 - (D) Due to the similarity in the length of a day in Mars and on Earth, Mars experiences a year similar in length to Earth.
 - (E) Because Mars is lacking in water and oxygen, it is also lacking in many other essential elements for the survival of life forms.
21. Medical Sales Agent: This new device that our company has developed will offer tremendous advantages to both surgeons and patients. The surgeon will

now be able to perform previously complicated and very invasive procedures quickly and non-invasively. What is more, patients will be able to schedule outpatient procedures, where they were formerly required to remain in the hospital for several days. We have tested this device at several area hospitals, and many of the surgeons and patients have offered positive feedback. As a result, we may say with confidence that this device will be universally useful to all surgeons and patients.

Which of the following is most similar to the logical fallacy within the medical sales agent's argument?

- (A) If you leave your car in the driveway and do not park it in the garage, it will become rusty from exposure; Edward's car is rusty, so he must not park it in the garage.
- (B) You must purchase this new type of hand lotion, because if you do not you will always regret how dry your skin is.
- (C) You cannot purchase that SUV, because the owner of the only SUV dealership in town has not made known his opinion on using animals for medical research; so, you cannot buy a vehicle without knowing his beliefs on that issue.
- (D) If you do not enroll your child in an advanced preschool, your child might fall behind the other students in elementary school; therefore, it is essential that you enroll your child in an advanced preschool.
- (E) Within the western district of a large state, 80% of the voters dislike a piece of proposed legislation; therefore, it must be a poor piece of legislation that will offer no benefits to anyone in the state.

22. Within the last few decades, scientists have begun to pay much closer attention to the dangerous effects of ground-level ozone, which occurs when strong sunlight combines with nitrous oxide and volatile organic compounds.

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Scientists in Los Angeles have long since believed that the location of the city, sitting in a natural basin with little circulation and receiving large amounts of sunlight, has made it vulnerable to high levels of ground-level ozone.

Scientists in Chicago, however, have found that the Windy City also has high levels of ground-level ozone although it sits on a flat, open plain. These scientists believe that advective heating, which is caused by winds drawing in large amounts of warmth but not circulating them out, is the cause of the increased amounts of ground-level ozone in Chicago. Los Angeles receives strong winds off the Pacific Ocean.

The passage above implies which of the following statements?

- (A) It is possible that advective heating from ocean winds and not the location of Los Angeles is what makes Los Angeles so vulnerable to ground-level ozone.
 - (B) Since it is known as the Windy City, Chicago receives an amount of wind comparable to Los Angeles.
 - (C) Ozone is a necessary element when it occurs naturally in the upper regions of the atmosphere, but it is very dangerous when at ground level.
 - (D) The combination of chemicals that creates ground-level ozone creates dangerous respiratory concerns.
 - (E) Chicago receives a large amount of wind, but because the city is on a flat-open plain the wind is able to circulate out more easily.
23. Psychologist: The media in America believes that its role is to inform the public about current events, whether positive or negative, and to maintain an objective stance in the presentation. It is clear from watching any news program, however, that the media is far from objective in selecting the news that it will report. A recent report in a major psychological journal has

indicated that Americans feel more stress after watching a news program than before it. When graphic images accompany a negative story, the stress level gets even higher. When the news program presents a positive story, however, the stress level goes down. The media should begin focusing on presenting more positive stories in order to provide an uplifting contrast to the negativity.

Which of the following best describes the flaw in the psychologist's reasoning?

- (A) The psychologist unfairly attacks the media for failing to provide objective news, but without offering any proof for the accusations.
 - (B) The psychologist accuses the media of subjectivity in selecting stories but then suggests that the media continue to be subjective by selecting different stories.
 - (C) The psychologist mistakenly confuses two separate arguments and attempts to combine them into a single argument.
 - (D) The psychologist does not indicate clearly enough that the public responds well to positive stories and fails to prove that a balance of stories will be of benefit.
 - (E) The psychologist does not distinguish among types of negativity in news stories and does not indicate clearly what it is that causes the most stress in viewers.
24. The hearing organs of unborn babies begin to develop after less than four weeks of pregnancy, and by four months an unborn baby can actually hear. At six months in the womb, infants are able to hear clearly, and some biologists believe that they are already developing a partiality for certain kinds of music. A number of companies have begun marketing prenatal listening devices so that parents can instill a love for classical music in their

unborn child, and research has indicated that classical music has very positive effects on the mind development of unborn babies. Some research suggests, however, that the baby is most likely to respond positively to the mother's musical preference, because her favorite music is most likely to relax her.

The passage above implies which of the following about playing music for unborn babies?

- (A) Because unborn babies can hear music clearly by the sixth month of pregnancy, astute parents should begin to introduce their child to music in the womb.
 - (B) Studies indicate that the best music to play around unborn babies is classical, because it has the most positive effects on prenatal development.
 - (C) Although classical music has positive benefits on unborn babies, parents should play music that is most comfortable for them and particularly for the mother.
 - (D) Because unborn babies can begin to develop musical partiality at six months, the baby will definitely develop a taste for whatever music its mother likes best.
 - (E) Given that an unborn baby's music preferences can develop by six months, the baby can make its dislike for music very clear to its mother.
25. Dating from the ninth century AD, the Cyrillic alphabet is credited to the brothers Cyril and Methodius, natives of Thessalonika who became missionaries to the Slavic peoples. They utilized a type of Greek script in combination with the Glagolitic alphabet, an obsolete Slavic form, in order to create a writing system for sounds not existing in Greek. Today the Cyrillic

alphabet is used for six Slavic languages and at least five non-Slavic languages in nations that stretch from Eastern Europe to Mongolia. At the political peak of the Soviet Union, Cyrillic was used for more than fifty languages, but many languages have rejected the use of the Cyrillic alphabet since the USSR's collapse. At the beginning of 2007, the Cyrillic alphabet was recognized as one of three official alphabets for the European Union, the other two being Latin and Greek.

The passage above implies all of the following EXCEPT:

- (A) The brothers Cyril and Methodius developed the Cyrillic alphabet as a part of their missionary work to the Slavic peoples.
- (B) The Slavic peoples were not literate and had no alphabet prior to the missionary work of Cyril and Methodius.
- (C) The languages that abandoned Cyrillic might have associated the alphabet with negative qualities of the Soviet Union.
- (D) The European Union recognized Cyrillic as an official alphabet, because it has a significant presence in European nations.
- (E) The Greek alphabet alone did not suffice in recording the language system of the Slavic peoples.

Answer Key

1. E	8. E	15. E	22. A
2. C	9. C	16. D	23. B
3. D	10. D	17. B	24. C
4. A	11. B	18. B	25. B
5. D	12. A	19. E	
6. B	13. D	20. C	
7. C	14. C	21. E	

Answer Explanations

Question 1

Overview: The first question in the third section of the test focuses on a situation in which a large charitable organization is preparing for a reduction in donations due to the weakness in the economy. The author of the passage explains that the head of the charitable organization reviews the receipts and has discovered that the amount received in donations has not dropped at all. The head of the organization knows that his donors tend to be faithful in sending in their donations, but he is surprised to find that they are still able to give the same amount of money.

The question then asks the student to determine the answer choice that best explains the anomaly between the anticipated slump in charitable donations and the fact that the charitable organization is receiving the same amount as before the time of economic weakness. To select the correct answer, the student needs to locate an answer choice that provides a *tangible and solid* reason for why people would continue giving money to charities in spite of the economic downturn. The correct answer will not offer an insubstantial explanation: feeling cannot come into the

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equation, however applicable it to real-life decision making, because the Logical Reasoning sections of the test, by their very definition, require logic and not emotion.

The Correct Answer:

E Answer choice (E) provides the reason that is the clearest and most logical, if a bit forensic, for why people would continue to give the same amount to charitable organizations in spite of economic weakness: governments offer tax deductions for charitable donations, and people will continue to be motivated to receive tax deductions, especially during an economic downturn. Answer choice (E), therefore, is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A Answer choice (A) is too tenuous to be correct. While it is true that the wealthiest members of society probably weather an economic downturn better than those who have less, it is assuming too much that this alone would motivate them to continue donating to charity. What is more, there is not enough information in the passage to suggest that this particular charitable organization receives most of its money from wealthier members of society, so answer choice (A) does not offer a solid explanation. Answer choice (A) is incorrect.

B Answer choice (B) seems like a good possibility, except that the passage makes no mention of the charitable organization lowering its expectations. In fact, the passage indicates that the organization did *not* lower its expectations, owing to the surprise on the part of the organization's head. Answer choice (B) contradicts important information in the passage, so it must be incorrect.

C It is certainly possible that the charitable organization has begun receiving government funding to continue to subsist. But the author of the passage

indicates clearly that the receipt of the same amount of donations was unexpected, and the receipt of government funding would not be. Answer choice (C) cannot be correct.

- D** Answer choice (D) brings far too much feeling into the situation to be a solid explanation. In all reality, this might very well be a reason (and a poll might prove it to be true), but the student cannot deduce this from the information provided in the passage, nor can it function as a logical reason based on the requirements of the test. Answer choice (D) must be eliminated.

Question 2

Overview: In question 2, the student is provided with a statement made by a geophysicist about geomagnetic reversal, in which the magnetic fields of the earth literally switch—with the North Pole in the south, and the South Pole pointing in the north. The geophysicist notes that many of his colleagues are still unsure of the cause of this, and not much is known, but the geophysicist goes on to stress that if such a reversal occurred, it could have the potential for causing serious problems on the earth.

According to the geophysicist, a geomagnetic reversal would occur over very long periods of time and could leave the earth exposed to radiation from the sun. The question then asks for an answer choice that represents the geophysicist's primary argument. This is essentially a "main point" question, with the speaker of the passage identified to be a geophysicist. The student needs to peruse the passage carefully and define the main point that the geophysicist seems to be making. There are several important features: (1) scientists do not agree on what causes geomagnetic reversal, (2) scientists *do* agree that there are potentially important effects, (3) geomagnetic reversal would occur gradually and not quickly, and (4) this process has the potential for leaving the earth exposed to the sun's radiation. These

four ideas indicate the primary foci of the paragraph, so the correct answer choice will combine them into a single coherent statement.

The Correct Answer:

C Answer choice (C) best combines the four ideas noted in the Overview above into a unified thought: scientists do not necessarily know the causes or even the results of geomagnetic reversal, but there is enough evidence to indicate that they should be paying close attention to it. Answer choice (C), therefore, is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A There is nothing in the passage to indicate that the geophysicist believes the information in answer choice (A). In fact, the geophysicist seems to believe that geomagnetic reversal could be a very serious issue with significant and dangerous effects. Answer choice (A) cannot be correct.

B The geophysicist makes no mention of previous geomagnetic reversals, and while the potential does exist for them to have occurred in the past, there is definitely not enough information in the passage to suggest that such a process did occur before or that it occurred while mankind lived on the earth. Answer choice (B) attempts to infer details that the passage does not provide, so it is incorrect.

D The geophysicist clearly believes that scientists should be paying attention to the potential for geomagnetic reversal, but there is no mention of government funding, nor does the geophysicist discuss anyone outside the scientific community. Answer choice (D) cannot be correct.

E The geophysicist does not clearly discuss the effects that the magnetic poles currently have on the natural functions of the earth, but given the concern that is expressed over geomagnetic reversal, it stands to reason that the

geophysicist does not agree with answer choice (E). Therefore, answer choice (E) cannot be the geophysicist's main point, so it may be eliminated.

Question 3

Overview: Question 3 presents the student with information about white tea, noting specifically its similarities and differences to black and green tea. The author of the passage mentions that white tea is usually more “delicate” and “rarer” than black or green tea and that it contains higher levels of certain chemicals—many of which have very positive health effects. The question then asks the student to identify the answer choice that is *not* implied in the passage. This is a fairly difficult question to answer correctly, because the student has to look closely to know for sure that the incorrect answers *actually are* implied. The correct answer, in this case, will be the answer choice that has absolutely no substance in the passage and cannot be inferred from any statements made.

The Correct Answer:

D The author of the passage mentions that white tea “contains considerably less fluoride than black or green tea.” The author makes no comment anywhere else in the paragraph to indicate whether or not fluoride is a typical ingredient in tea, so it is impossible to determine from this alone if the lack of fluoride is viewed as a positive or a negative quality. Because the author of the passage is silent, answer choice (D) cannot be clearly inferred, so it is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A The author of the passage claims that white tea is “more delicate and rarer than black or green tea and has fewer producers.” From this, the student may deduce that a delicate, rare product with few producers *may be* more costly

- than its counterparts—as the answer choice claims. Answer choice (A), therefore, may be inferred, so it is incorrect.
- B** In the middle of the passage, the student will read the following: “To produce white tea, basic tea leaves are picked when they are very young.” This implies strongly that white tea is just a product of regular tea leaves being picked at a young age and is not necessarily a different variety than black or green tea. Answer choice (B) may be inferred, so it is incorrect.
- C** The passage notes several times the differences between white tea and black or green tea, in each case identifying the chemicals contained in white tea that may improve health. From this, the student may deduce that there are possible health benefits to drinking white tea, benefits that are not obtained from drinking black or green tea. The passage implies answer choice (C), so it is incorrect.
- E** Answer choice (E) might be the most difficult answer choice to eliminate, because it requires that the student read the passage *very carefully* and infer *very closely*. Toward the end of the passage, the author claims that white tea has “much higher levels of theanine, which is known for its relaxing qualities.” In the final sentence, the author concludes with the statement that white tea has “an amount of caffeine comparable to that of either black or green tea.” If white tea has the same amount of caffeine as black or green tea but higher levels of a chemical that is known to induce relaxation, it may be inferred that the theanine in white tea *has the potential* to counter the effects of caffeine. Answer choice (E), then, is implied, so it is incorrect.

Question 4

Overview: Question 4 presents a conversation between Angelica and Luca, in which they are discussing the history of the “Roaring Twenties” and its connection to the advent of modernism. Angelica claims that the Roaring Twenties occurred as “direct result of the social breakdown that occurred during World War I.” The war left such

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strongly negative impressions that young people rejected the authority of their elders and the traditions that they represented. This, claims Angelica, was the start of modernism. Luca counters by arguing that the Roaring Twenties definitely suggests a more universal willingness to embrace modernism but that the Modern Age itself “had already begun in the mid-nineteenth century” with the philosophers and political scientists who were questioning authority and traditions long before World War I began. The question asks the student to identify the way that Luca responds to Angelica’s argument. The student should recognize immediately that there is no polarization in Luca’s answer: he does not outright agree or disagree with Angelica. Instead he agrees, but with conditions, the primary condition being the way that Angelica describes the origin of modernism. The correct answer choice will reflect this.

The Correct Answer:

A Answer choice (A) accurately notes that Luca acknowledges Angelica’s point in part but suggests that she revise her starting point for modernism. Answer choice (A) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

B Luca does not necessarily criticize the substance of Angelica’s argument. He agrees, in fact, that the Roaring Twenties *does* represent a rejection of authority and traditions. He disagrees, however, that this was unique to the post-war experience and indicates that it had begun previously. Answer choice (B) cannot be correct.

C At no point does Luca mention or criticize a logical fallacy that is embedded in Angelica’s argument, so answer choice (C) should be eliminated immediately.

- D** Far from questioning the possibility of arriving at a conclusion, Luca merely disagrees with a part of Angelica’s argument and seems to indicate that they *could* agree. Answer choice (D) cannot be correct.
- E** Luca does provide some alternate views, but his response is not necessarily a point-by-point disagreement. Instead, he offers a more general summary of why he disagrees. Answer choice (E) is incorrect.

Question 5

Overview: In question 5, the student is given information about the tiny island of Sark, one of four islands located in the English Channel and falling under the jurisdiction of the British Crown. For most of its history—and until 2008—Sark was considered a feudal state, and its ruler the Seigneur the head of a fiefdom. Today, Sark has about 600 residents, and most of them are past middle age (according to the passage). What is more, the island, which is only two square miles in landmass, has a horses-only policy and does not allow motor vehicles such as cars; nor are airplanes allowed to fly over the island. The question asks the student to determine the answer choice that best explains this horses-only policy.

From the information provided in the passage, the student should already begin to deduce that the reason might be primarily environmental: (1) the island is very small, (2) the landscape is fragile, and the climate is already heavily affected by the island’s location in the English Channel, and (3) the residents are committed to retaining a sustainable quality on the island. The correct answer choice will combine these facts into a single coherent statement of explanation.

The Correct Answer:

- D** Answer choice (D) accurately expresses the environmental reasons for why an island such as Sark would refuse to allow motor vehicles. Answer choice (D), therefore, is correct.

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The Incorrect Answers:

- A** Answer choice (A) is plausible from a purely practical position, but it does not take the other features of the passage into account, namely the focus on sustainable living and the problems that the island might already face by being located in the English Channel. What is more, the author of the passage notes that most of the residents are past middle age, so walking the entire island might be less possible as they grow older. Answer choice (A) is incorrect.
- B** Answer choice (B) cannot be correct, because the passage offers no explanation for how long the island of Sark has had a horses-only policy. Without knowing if the policy has been in place for long, it is impossible to know if the residents have become accustomed to it. Answer choice (B), therefore, may be eliminated.
- C** It is assuming too much about the lifestyle of residents on the island of Sark to argue that just because people live in small, self-contained villages they would not need to go elsewhere on the island. Answer choice (C) offers too vague and tenuous of a reason, so it is incorrect.
- E** Answer choice (E) is also an explanation that has no real connection to the information provided in the paragraph. And again, the passage does not clearly indicate how long the horses-only policy has been in effect, so it is impossible to claim with any certainty that this is an arbitrary or irrelevant policy dating from an earlier time when Sark was still a feudal state. What is more, answer choice (E) represents a judgment statement that cannot be inferred from the passage. As a result, answer choice (E) is incorrect.

Question 6

Overview: Question 6 provides the student with information about the history of the name *Japan*, starting off by noting that the word is actually an exonym, or a name

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that is given to a country or people by those outside the country and is not the name by which the country identifies itself. The author of the passage points out that in Japan, the country is known as *Nippon* or *Nihon*, meaning “the sun’s origin.” The word *Japan* actually derives from the interaction between Portuguese sailors and the people of Malaysia, who referred to Japan as *Jepang* (a word that might have come from the Mandarin *Cipangu*). The author concludes by noting that the European name *Japan* has become common and that there are nine other languages that utilize it over the words *Nippon* or *Nihon*. The question then asks the student to select an answer choice that may be inferred, so as always with inference questions the student needs to take care to review each answer choice carefully and be able to link the correct answer directly back to a statement or more than one statement made in the passage.

The Correct Answer:

B The passage claims that the Portuguese sailors first used the name *Japan* because that is what the Malay traders used. From this, it may be inferred that the Portuguese utilized the Malay word, because they did not yet have any interaction with the people of Japan. It is very possible that we would call Japan *Nippon* or *Nihon* today if the Europeans had traded first with the Japanese. Answer choice (B) is thus correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A At no point in the passage does the author make a judgment statement about the exonym *Japan*. The author’s purpose is primarily information and not criticism. As a result, it is inferring too much on the part of the reader to claim that the author is offering an opinion on the reality of exonyms, and there is no clear statement in the passage that could be used strongly in support of a criticism. Answer choice (A) cannot be correct.

- C** The author makes no statement about how the Japanese value the names *Nippon* or *Nihon* with regard to non-Japanese usage, so the reader cannot infer from the information in the passage that it would be an insult to the Japanese people for those outside of Japan to use these names. Answer choice (C) cannot be correct.
- D** The author comments that the ultimate origin of the Malay *Jepang* is possibly Mandarin, but the author makes no immediate comment about whether or not the Mandarin word *Cipangu* meant the same as the Japanese words *Nippon* or *Nihon*. The student might know from personal study that this is, in fact, true; but the passage provides no indication of what *Cipangu* means, so the student cannot infer answer choice (D) from the information in the passage. Answer choice (D) is incorrect.
- E** The passage makes no reference to any exonyms other than *Japan*, so it is impossible to assume or argue from the passage that the name *Japan* represents a rarity. Answer choice (E) cannot be correct.

Question 7

Overview: In question 7, the student reads a statement made by a farmer in Norway regarding the rapid growth of the greylag goose population. At some point in the past, the greylag goose became an endangered species, and the Norwegian government stepped in to protect the geese. In consequence, the geese population grew so quickly that they became deleterious to farms by eating crops, but the farmers are unable to get rid of the geese due to the official protection under which the greylag goose falls. The farmer concludes that the government protection of the geese should be lifted and that the farmers should be allowed to remove the geese from their property in order to protect their crops.

The question asks the student to identify the flaw in the farmer’s reasoning, and the student should recognize that the farmer’s reasoning is guilty of an “all-or-nothing”

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conclusion: his solution to the problem of excess geese is to remove the endangered species protection for the geese. What the farmer fails to do, however, is also to consider that this could make the geese vulnerable to endangerment all over again. The farmer does not address this side of the concern and does not offer or suggest a compromise in this issue. As a result, his solution is not much of a solution at all, because it could create the same cycle of problems in the future.

This is a rather simple question, so the student should not worry about analyzing it too closely. The flaw in the farmer's reasoning should be easy to spot, and the answer choice that best reflects it is indeed the correct answer. This will not always be the case in the test, but it will *sometimes* be the case, so the student should watch for these kinds of questions.

The Correct Answer:

- C** Answer choice (C) best explains the flaw in the farmer's reasoning, as indicated in the Overview above: the farmer takes an "all-or-nothing" approach to the issue and assumes that the only way for farmers to protect their crops—since the greylag goose population has increased so much—is for the government to stop protecting the geese. The farmer makes no concession to the other side of the issue (that of the need for safeguarding the geese against population diminishment), and as a result his solution does little more than set the stage for repetition of the same problem scenario. Answer choice (C) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A** Answer choice (A) indicates a part of the problem with the farmer's reasoning: he *does* fail to offer an alternative solution to the problems that farmers are facing with the greylag geese, in the sense that his only suggestion is removing the restrictions. But the weakness in his reasoning is

- fairly specific, and answer choice (A) does not clearly explain the real problem with it. Answer choice (A) may be eliminated due to its unclear explanation.
- B** The farmer mentions no specific data, so it cannot be said that he relies on *questionable* data. Answer choice (B) is incorrect.
- D** While it is true that the farmer does not compare the situation with the greylag goose in Norway to similar situations in which an endangered species has grown its population and become a problem, there is nothing in his comments to suggest that he needs such information to complete his argument. Instead, the problem with his reasoning lies in too blunt of an approach and not in missing data.
- E** It is not surprising that the farmer sides with the other farmers. But the fault in his reasoning lies not in the side that he has taken but in his refusal to see the other side of the issue. It could be said that he fails to demonstrate objectivity, but objectivity is a difficult quality to embrace, and the farmer who is struggling with the inundation of geese of his farm can hardly be expected to demonstrate full objectivity. In reality, the real problem with his reasoning is that he has proffered a solution that ultimately helps no one except in the immediate short term. If the official protection status is lifted, the farmers would be able to remove geese for a time, but it is likely that the goose population would decline all over again—ultimately leading to the same cycle of problems that the farmer is experiencing now and that other farmers would experience in the future. Answer choice (E) is too generic, so it cannot be correct.

Question 8

Overview: Question 8 presents the student with a more abstract line of reasoning, in which the author of the passage makes the distinction between theory and fact.

Theory is represented as “an idea or hypothesis,” while fact is shown to be “evidence

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or proof.” The author goes on to indicate that theory *relies on* fact for support, while fact can stand on its own. As the passage progresses, the author provides context to this discussion by explaining the place of theory and fact in making a logical argument: theory is valid if it has fact to back it up, but without fact theory can only be “speculation.” The question then asks the student to determine the answer choice that is implied by statements made in the passage. With this type of question, the student will definitely have to review the individual answer choices closely to locate the one that is correct. And as always with implication/inference questions, the student needs to be able to point back to the passage for the *clear statement(s) of implication* in order for the answer choice to be correct.

The Correct Answer:

E Answer choice (E) best expresses the implication made in the following statement: “Theory is not always unacceptable in a logical argument, but that theory must be based on comparable facts from similar situations or examples.” In other words, the author is implying that a theory is perfectly valid when making a logical argument, but the theory requires fact from an analogous scenario for it to have a solid place within the argument’s line of reasoning. Answer choice (E) is thus correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A The author does imply that fact is valuable for supporting and developing theory in a logical argument, but the author does not imply a statement of opinion that fact is *always* more important and more valuable than theory. The author seems more focused on discussing the place of each in logical arguments and in considering the way that the two elements work together. From the author’s comments, it is possible to infer that theory developed by fact could be a very effective technique for making a logical argument. Claiming that fact is always more significant than theory assumes more than

the passage implies, so it cannot be correct. Answer choice (A) may be eliminated.

- B** The author makes no statement about *avoiding* theory. In reality, the author suggests that theory supported by fact could be very valuable in making a logical argument. Answer choice (B) assumes too much, so it cannot be correct.
- C** The author indicates that theory void of fact (within a logical argument) “usually ends in a speculation.” This means that theory without fact does not present a strong argument, but this does *not* mean that all theory in a logical argument (with or without fact) is the same as speculation. Answer choice (C) takes the author’s words out of context, so it cannot be correct.
- D** The author does claim that “it is essential to distinguish between theory and fact.” It *cannot* be inferred from this, however, that confusing theory with fact could lead to a logical argument that is *entirely false*. In reality, the author suggests that this could lead to a faulty or weak argument, but the author does not go to the extreme of the answer choice. As a result, answer choice (D) should be eliminated.

Question 9

Overview: In question 9, the student is given information about a large corporation that is in the process of turnover, with many older employees retiring simultaneously. At the same time, the economy is experiencing weakness, so the corporation has to make careful decisions about hiring new employees to replace the retiring employees. The corporation knows that there probably cannot be a simple one-to-one ratio of new employees taking over the jobs of retiring employees, because most of the retiring employees had knowledge and experience that a single employee would not have. In reality, the corporation would probably have to hire more than one new employee to take over the jobs of each of the retiring employees. But the passage goes on to say that this is apparently not the

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corporation's plan. In fact, the corporation expects to hire *fewer* new employees, with no change in work output but a reduction in salaries.

The question asks the student to select the answer choice that most clearly takes these various factors into account and explains the corporation's decision. To answer this question, the student needs to compile all of these elements into a single focus, asking what the details suggest: (1) older employees with many skills are retiring, (2) the corporation would need several employees to replace each retiree, (3) the corporation is planning to hire fewer employees, (4) the corporation expects to see the same amount of work output, and (5) the corporation plans to see reduced salaries. In short, the student should recognize that this all points in one direction. The corporation is planning on hiring very specialized workers who will do several jobs for lower salaries. The correct answer choice will reflect this.

The Correct Answer:

C Answer choice (C) provides information that the corporation is working with a headhunter to locate highly versatile workers who are willing to take on extra work but without the expected salary compensation. Answer choice (C), therefore, is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A The author of the passage notes that the corporation is *not* expecting to see a reduction in work output, so the fact that the corporation is moving to an overseas location is largely irrelevant as the corporation fully expects to see the same amount of work as before, regardless of location. What is more, answer choice (A) does not indicate that the move overseas would reduce the salary requirements, so it does not explain why the company would expect to pay less in salaries. Answer choice (A) may be eliminated.

- B** The passage indicates clearly that the outgoing employees will be retiring and that the company will need to replace them fully. As a result, answer choice (B) counters the statements made in the passage, so it cannot be correct.
- D** Answer choice (D) contradicts the statements made in the passage about the fact that the corporation “does not expect to see a reduction in the work output.” Eliminating jobs without a clear indication that other jobs will pick up the slack would obviously eliminate immediate work output, so answer choice (D) cannot be correct.
- E** Answer choice (E) explains the expected reduction in salaries, but it does not explain the plan to retain the same work output with fewer paid employees. Answer choice (E) thus ignores an important part of the passage, so it cannot be correct.

Question 10

Overview: Question 10 presents the student with an editorial from a local art instructor, claiming that all local elementary schools should incorporate art lessons. The local art instructor argues that art encourages students to “pursue creativity without fear of restriction” while also boosting a student’s performance in other subject areas. The local art instructor then cites studies from Japan, in which the student performance in math and science improved after the school added an art program for the students. The question asks the student to identify the statement that most clearly undermines the local art instructor’s claims about the need for art lessons in local elementary schools. The student should review each answer choice quickly and carefully—and compare each to the statements made in the passage—to determine the one that suggests a weak point in the local art instructor’s reasoning.

The Correct Answer:

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D Answer choice (D) provides information that strongly questions the validity of the Japanese study that the local art instructor cites: the art instructor claims that the art lessons recently added to Japanese elementary schools were followed by an improvement of student performance in math and science. But if the Japanese schools also added a new math and science curriculum, the local art instructor's argument that art lessons boost student performance in other subjects becomes far less valid. Answer choice (D), therefore, most clearly undermines the local art instructor's claims.

The Incorrect Answers:

A Answer choice (A) is primarily a red herring. It redirects the student focus to government funding for math and science programs—thus explaining why local elementary schools would focus on them more than on art programs—but it does not necessarily undermine the local art instructor's claims about the need for added art lessons in the classroom. Answer choice (A) may be eliminated as irrelevant.

B The local art instructor's association with a non-profit organization that is committed to encouraging art programs in schools is interesting, but it does nothing to undermine her arguments about the need for art lessons in local elementary schools. Answer choice (B) cannot be correct.

C Answer choice (C) has the potential for undermining the local art instructor's claims, except for the fact that it is too vague to do so. The local art instructor *does* claim that art lessons encourage student creativity and develop their creative skills. But the answer choice provides no clear evidence about the other unnamed subjects that allow for the development of creative skills, nor does it claim that the local elementary schools are currently teaching these subjects in particular or using programs that allow for creativity in these subjects. Answer choice (C) may be eliminated.

E The fact that local elementary schools once had art programs that were unpopular among students might explain why they have been hesitant to adopt them at present. But this in itself does not necessarily undermine the local art instructor's direct claims about art lessons encouraging creativity, benefiting the development of creative skills, and boosting student performance in other subjects. It may be argued that students who dislike an art program are unlikely to benefit from it, but the local art instructor does *not* argue that the schools should adopt the same program that they used in the past, and there is nothing in the answer choice to indicate that the schools would be required to adopt that program. Answer choice (E) is incorrect.

Questions 11 and 12

Overview: Questions 11 and 12 reference a passage about the early development of the camera and particularly the invention known as the *camera obscura*. According to the passage, the camera obscura is credited to Abu Ali Al-Hasan Ibn al-Haitham, an eleventh-century Arab scientist. The author of the passage goes on to note, however, that Ibn al-Haitham was not necessarily the first to invent a camera along the lines of the camera obscura and that there had been similar work in the fourth century BC from the Chinese scientist Mozi and from Aristotle and Euclid in Greece. In the ninth century, Ibn al-Haitham's fellow Arab scientist Abu Yusuf Ya'qub Ibn Ishaq al-Kindi developed an early prototype of the camera obscura. The author concludes by noting that Ibn al-Haitham himself claimed that he was not the inventor of the camera obscura. In question 11, the student is asked to determine the answer choice that is best supported by statements made in the passage. This type of question is similar to an inference question, but it expands the inference into a full claim. An inference is simply something that the passage implies: A claim supported by statements in the passage goes beyond the inference to make an actual argument. In both cases, however, the student must focus on locating the sentences that support

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the initial inference. In question 12, the student must identify the answer choice that is *not* implied in the passage, so the student must pay attention to the selection of words in the answer choices, because individual words can determine whether the answer choice is correct or incorrect.

Question 11

The Correct Answer:

B Answer choice (B) offers a statement that has full support in the passage. The author of the passage claims, “Ibn al-Haitham is often credited with the creation of the camera obscura, but he is recorded as having said that he did not invent it.” In addition, the author demonstrates that the eventual development of Ibn al-Haitham’s camera obscura came after centuries of previous research on the subject, so it is perfectly correct to claim that it was the *result of discoveries in previous centuries that contributed to his research*. The author does not claim directly that Ibn al-Haitham was familiar with the work of the other scientists mentioned, but if he knew that he did not necessarily invent the camera obscura, it stands to reason that he knew of others who did work on such an object. Answer choice (B) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A** At no point does the author claim or suggest that Mozi by himself invented the camera obscura. Instead, the author indicates that Mozi did work on a pinhole camera that would ultimately contribute to the camera obscura. Answer choice (A) assumes too much, so it may be eliminated.
- C** The passage does claim that Aristotle and Euclid in Greece were doing work on pinhole cameras during the same century that Mozi in China was. But there is not enough information in the passage to forge a direct link between Aristotle’s and Euclid’s work and Mozi’s work, so answer choice (C) infers more than the passage implies. Answer choice (C) cannot be correct.

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- D** Answer choice (D) is tricky, because the passage suggests that Ibn Ishaq al-Kindi was utilizing a camera obscura in the ninth century before Ibn al-Haitham developed his own camera obscura in the eleventh century. The author does not, however, suggest that Ibn Ishaq al-Kindi is the *real* inventor of the camera obscura but that the work of previous centuries contributed to Ibn al-Haitham’s work in the eleventh century. Answer choice (D) pushes the inference beyond what the passage allows, so it cannot be correct.
- E** At no point does the passage indicate that the camera is *usually considered to be a modern development*. The author of the passage references the “modern-day camera,” but there are many modern-day objects known for being invented centuries (and even millennia) in the past, so the passage is not necessarily claiming the camera to be perceived solely as a current invention. Answer choice (E) infers what the passage does not clearly imply, so it cannot be correct.

Question 12

The Correct Answer:

- A** The passage suggests that Ibn al-Haitham utilized and benefited from the research of previous centuries on the camera obscura. But the passage does *not* imply at any point that he *stole* the research. In fact, Ibn al-Haitham recognized that he was not the real inventor of the camera obscura, so he clearly was not stealing research and claiming it as his own. Answer choice (A) is thus correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- B** The author of the passage notes that “the Chinese philosopher Mozi had already begun developing a variety of a pinhole camera in the fourth century BC. Later in the fourth century BC, both Aristotle and Euclid remarked on the placement of light when projected through pinholes.” And the author

- mentions Abu Yusuf Ya‘qub Ibn Ishaq al-Kindi in the ninth century for more advanced work on light and pinholes. Clearly, the passage implies that before Ibn al-Haitham’s recognized development of a full camera obscura in the eleventh century, there were scientists from earlier centuries who had begun the work on light and pinholes. Answer choice (B) cannot be correct.
- C** The passage does not state clearly that Mozi’s work is the earliest on record, but given the fact that the passage is offering a history of the research leading up to Ibn al-Haitham’s work, it may be inferred that the author mentions the earliest recorded work on this subject. Answer choice (C) is implied by default, so it is incorrect.
- D, E** Answer choices (D) and (E) reflect the inferences of the correct answer in question 11, so both are definitely implied in the passage. Answer choices (D) and (E) are incorrect.

Question 13

Overview: Question 13 records a statement made by a political activist in support of nationalized banks. The political activist argues that the influx of government money to the banks indicates a start of the nationalization process. Therefore, under international law, the government must compensate the banks “for the full value of the assets that are assumed” and that by providing federal funding to failing banks, the government has essentially done that already. As a result, the government should simply declare nationalization of the banks in order to offer the banks federal protection. The question then asks for the statement that most strongly undermines the political activist’s argument about the need for official nationalization of the banks. The student should take care to read through the answer choices closely and compare each to the statements made by the political activist.

The Correct Answer:

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D Answer choice (D) explains that the government itself is in debt to other nations. If the government nationalizes the banks, those banks become federal property that could conceivably be used to pay off that debt. As such, the federal protection would cease to exist, and the nationalization would have lost its purpose, as the political activist sees it. Answer choice (D) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A** The opinions of voters, while important at one level, do not necessarily undermine the political activist's argument directly. As the answer choice offers no clear indication about what the voters disagree with concerning nationalization, it is impossible to use this as a contrast for the political activist's statements. Answer choice (A) cannot be correct.
- B** The fact that a small percentage of U.S. banks do not need federal funding does not address the political activist's immediate statements, nor does this call into question the political activist's argument. There is nothing in the passage to indicate that the political activist is arguing for the nationalization of *all* banks (in fact, the political activist mentions the nationalization of "some" banks); it is just a statement about the benefit of nationalization for those that have already received federal funding. Answer choice (B) cannot be correct.
- C** Answer choice (C) offers a very tempting contradiction to the political activist's claims, until there is a closer comparison to the wording in the passage. The political activist claims that the government has "basically" compensated many banks. This suggests that there might still be a degree of compensation to be completed and that the governments would need to finish compensating the banks. The answer choice, however, suggests that the political activist claimed the compensation to be entirely complete, and this is untrue. Answer choice (C), therefore, cannot be correct.

E The lack of success among nationalized banks in the United Kingdom bears no immediate comparison to the potential for nationalized banks in the U.S. without further context. There is always the potential for variations in the two scenarios that could alter the success in the U.S. compared to the success in the United Kingdom. Without that information, answer choice (E) is irrelevant and may be eliminated.

Question 14

Overview: In question 14, the author of the passage provides the student with information about German composer Ludwig van Beethoven, who ultimately lost his hearing and yet continued to compose. The passage explains that the actual cause of Beethoven's deafness has never been determined clearly and that there are a variety of theories. The most significant theory is that Beethoven consumed or absorbed high quantities of lead, which is known for causing deafness. Beethoven also manifested several other examples of unusual behavior, all of which have been connected to lead poisoning as well. But, as the author of the passage concludes, there are some who remain unconvinced. The question then asks for the answer choice that best explains why some continue to question the validity of lead poisoning as a diagnosis for Beethoven's deafness. Selecting the correct answer choice requires the student to place each option against the context of the information in the passage, so the student needs to read carefully.

The Correct Answer:

C The fact that lead poisoning seldom leads to the variety of deafness that Beethoven developed—and the fact that Beethoven's other instances of unusual behavior are not necessarily unique to lead poisoning—most clearly suggests the reason that many still question lead poisoning as the reason for Beethoven's deafness. Answer choice (C) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A** The information about Beethoven's childhood typhus certainly calls into question the firm diagnosis of lead poisoning, but answer choice (A) does not provide any explanation of the other symptoms that have also been linked to lead poisoning. As such, it is an incomplete explanation, so it is incorrect.
- B** Answer choice (B) is far too hypothetical to be a clear explanation for Beethoven's deafness when compared to lead poisoning. As the answer choice does *not* argue that dunking the head in ice cold water has been known to cause hearing problems, but rather that it *could have* caused hearing problems, it is an insufficient explanation. Answer choice (B) is incorrect.
- D** As with answer choice (A), the information about tinnitus is useful and interesting. But without further information about the other symptoms that have been linked to lead poisoning, it is impossible for answer choice (D) to represent a satisfactory explanation. Answer choice (D) is incorrect.
- E** The fact that *some argue* in favor of a hereditary condition and an artistic temperament does not mean this constitutes a solid line of reasoning. It suggests instead the opinions of a few divorced from solid information to support those opinions. Answer choice (E) is interesting but weak as an explanation for the question, so it should be eliminated.

Question 15

Overview: Question 15 provides the student with information concerning the economic arguments about inflation and deflation. The author of the passage begins by noting that inflation is traditionally viewed in a negative light, with deflation traditionally seen as a period for the economy to find stable price levels. In recent years, however, economists have begun to argue in favor of inflation for economic growth, because inflation accompanies the growth of money supply. Prices might be higher than is considered normal or healthy for the economy, but higher prices

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usually signal higher incomes and more liquidity among consumers. The passage concludes with the comment that economists believe inflation to be valuable during a period of economic recession. The question then asks the student to select an answer choice that may be inferred from statements made in the passage.

The Correct Answer:

E Answer choice (E) offers the unstated contrast to inflation by indicating why deflation would *not* help an economy: prices might be lower, but so are incomes, leaving consumers with less liquidity and less opportunity to return money into the economy through spending. Answer choice (E) is correct.

The Incorrect Answer:

- A** Far from recommending or valuing *severe inflation*, economists—according to the passage—recommend “low inflationary levels.” Answer choice (A) contradicts statements that are made in the passage, so it is clearly not inferred. Answer choice (A), therefore, is incorrect.
- B** The author of the passage suggests that inflation has “traditionally” been viewed in the exact reverse of how they are viewed today. As a result, it cannot be inferred from the passage that inflation has *historically* been viewed as healthy, with deflation viewed as unhealthy. Answer choice (B) cannot be correct.
- C** Answer choice (C) offers information that might be perfectly true, but there is nothing in the passage to suggest it. As a result, answer choice (C) must be eliminated as irrelevant.
- D** Answer choice (D) is tempting, because the author does specifically mention the value of “low inflationary levels.” This would suggest that higher rates of inflation would not necessarily benefit an economy. At the same time, there is not enough information in the passage to suggest that higher rates of

inflation can have *devastating effects on a healthy economy*. This assumes more than the passage implies, so answer choice (D) is incorrect.

Question 16

Overview: Question 16 presents a situation in which a popular electronics company has recently manufactured a new music-playing device, and they expect it to take off immediately with the public. According to the passage, the company is well known for its inventive new technology, and the product is being marketed for its easy portability as well as its technical superiority over competitor devices. As it turns out, though, the new device does not sell very well, and the electronics company realizes that the primary competitor's device is still selling much better, in spite of specific drawbacks. The question asks the student to identify an answer choice that best explains the reason for the new device to fail with the public, even though it is easier to use and more portable than the competitor's device. To answer this question correctly, the student must read through each answer choice and compare the information in the answer choice to the statements made in the passage.

The Correct Answer:

D Answer choice (D) offers the explanation that the new music-playing device, whatever its benefits of use and portability, does require owners to purchase music in a unique form that is not compatible with other forms. This means that anyone who has already purchased music will not be able to utilize the purchases and will have to spend even more money to acquire the same music in a different form. This would certainly create a hindrance to easy sales, so answer choice (D) best explains the disparity between the electronics company's expectations and the results. Answer choice (D) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

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- A** It is interesting to find out that consumers have become accustomed to using the competitor's device and dislike the *style* of the new device, but this in itself does not provide a tangible enough reason for why the new device would be so unpopular. Given that the electronics company is said to be very popular and is "known for producing innovative technology," it is reasonable to assume that the new style plays into consumer preferences for this company. Answer choice (A) does not offer a satisfactory explanation for the public response, so it cannot be correct.
- B** The impending release of a new device from the competitor is useful information, but again this in itself does not offer a good explanation for why consumers would prefer the *old* competitor's device to the new device from the company discussed in the passage. Either way, consumers will have to purchase a new device, and since the answer choice does not mention that the competitor company is providing a refund for turning in an old device, there is no reason to assume that there is any immediate benefit to waiting for the upcoming competitor device. Answer choice (B) cannot be correct.
- C** Answer choice (C) directly contradicts the statements made in the passage: the company "recently began heavy marketing for a new music-playing device," and it is "excited about the new device, because it is much smaller than previous devices and is very light and highly portable." These statements suggest strongly that the electronics company took care to market the new music-playing device effectively. Answer choice (C) is clearly incorrect.
- E** The possibility of the president of the one electronics company leaving to work for the other electronics company is interesting but irrelevant to the immediate discussion of why the public would not be eager to purchase the new music-playing device. Without further information about the president deliberately sabotaging marketing attempts, there is no clear link between a staff change and a failed product. Answer choice (E) cannot be correct.

Question 17

Overview: Question 17 presents a statement from a psychiatrist concerning the use of behavioral training techniques for day traders. The psychiatrist notes that recovering from a loss and developing the self-discipline to trade again is one of the greatest challenges for day traders, and the psychiatrist claims that a specific behavioral training system (created by the psychiatrist) will be a great benefit to day traders who need to move past fear and trade with confidence. The question asks the student to select the answer choice that represents an assumption on which the psychiatrist's argument is founded. The correct answer is not necessarily obvious right away, but the student should pay attention to two different comments that the psychiatrist makes: (1) day trading requires "self-discipline and conscious discretion," and (2) the psychiatrist's behavioral training system utilizes "hypnosis and other subconscious techniques." In other words, the psychiatrist believes that it is possible to utilize subconscious techniques in a field requiring conscious self-discipline. The correct answer choice will reflect this.

The Correct Answer:

B Answer choice (B) correctly identifies the fact that the psychiatrist has developed a behavioral training system with subconscious techniques to use for traders, when their chosen field requires conscious self-discipline and activity. Answer choice (B) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A The psychiatrist's recommendation of behavioral training specifically mentions "hypnosis and other subconscious techniques," but this does not in itself indicate that *all* behavioral training includes such techniques. Answer choice (A) infers too much, and it is certainly not the assumption on which the psychiatrist's argument is founded. Answer choice (A) is incorrect.

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- C** The psychiatrist indicates that recovering from losses is a significant concern for many day traders, but answer choice (C) generalizes too much by claiming that *all* day traders develop fear after big losses and that *all* have a difficult time maintaining their trading plans. Answer choice (C) may be eliminated.
- D** The psychiatrist indicates that behavioral training techniques can positively affect some or even many day traders, but it is assuming too much to argue that the psychiatrist believes day trading is *impossible* without behavioral training techniques. Answer choice (D) cannot be correct.
- E** Answer choice (E) paraphrases statements in the passage incorrectly by arguing that successful trades should begin a certain way. What is more, the fact that this might be true does not necessarily mean that it represents the assumption on which the psychiatrist's argument is founded. Answer choice (E) indicates a side point rather than a main point, so it should be eliminated.

Question 18

Overview: Question 18 provides the student with information about the history of the word *diamond*. According to the passage, the stone itself originally came from India but passed through the Greek tradition as the word *adámas*, meaning “unbreakable” or “untamed.” Before encountering physical diamonds, the Greeks had heard rumors of a very strong stone, and they developed a mythology around it, calling it *adamant* and giving the stone the quality of being unbreakable. The author notes that by the medieval era, the diamond was recognized as a real gem, but the *adamant* remained in the literary tradition for its mythical qualities. Contemporary writers continue to reference it as an allegory. The question asks the student to identify the answer choice that is best supported by the claims in the passage. This is primarily an inference question with the added quality of being a *claim* (see the discussion of question 11), so the student needs to approach it in a similar fashion to previous inference questions. The student should begin by considering whether the

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inference is correct and from there decide if the inference may be accurately converted into a claim. *Note: A claim* is a statement that is not necessarily a direct inference from the passage but is rather a statement that infers something from the passage and derives an argument from it. Another way to word this type of question is to ask whether or not the author of the passage would agree with the claim. If yes, the answer choice is probably correct. If no, the claim is assuming more than the author of the passage implies.

The Correct Answer:

B Answer choice (B) accurately provides an inference that has clear antecedent in the passage. The author of the passage claims, “By the Middle Ages, this came to be recognized as the diamond. Over time, the legendary adamant came to take on a mystical quality that passed into certain forms of medieval literature and, even today, has an allegorical place in some genres.” This means that the inference and claim made in answer choice (B) are correct: the adamant *was* originally associated with mythical qualities, and as a result writers still utilize it in literature for its figurative (or allegorical) attributes. Answer choice (B) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A** At no point does the author indicate that it would have been better for the diamond to have remained a mystery in Western literature. In fact, the author makes virtually no judgment statements about the discovery of diamonds, focusing only on the facts about them. Answer choice (A) assumes far more than the passage suggests, so it is incorrect.
- C** Answer choice (C) is tricky, because the author does suggest that what was once known as the adamant was ultimately recognized to be the diamond. But the author also goes on to indicate that there are clear connotations in

- the use of each term, so the student cannot infer that the *terms themselves* may be interchanged without question. Answer choice (C) is incorrect.
- D** The author discusses the use of the Greek word *adamas* and its meaning, but the author does *not* clearly connect this word to a word of ancient India. The author says only that the gem itself was mined in India. Answer choice (D) assumes too much, so it cannot be correct.
- E** The author of the passage does not indicate whether or not the Greeks were correct in identifying the stone as unbreakable. In fact, the author suggests that the qualities now associated with the mythology of the adamant were just that—mythology. As a result, answer choice (E) assumes too much, so it cannot be correct.

Questions 19 and 20

Overview: Questions 19 and 20 reference a passage that discusses the early research about the possibility of life on Mars. The passage begins by explaining that scientists have been considering this topic “in earnest” since the middle of the nineteenth century. The English scientist William Whewell claimed that Mars might have a similar landscape to Earth. Additionally, scientists discovered that Mars has days just over 24-hours long, although the seasons are twice as long as seasons on Earth given the axial tilt in combination with the elongation of the orbit of Mars. Late nineteenth-century scientists observed that there appeared to be canals on the planet, and there was argument about previous civilizations. But the later work of scientists with more powerful telescopes discovered that Mars has no water or oxygen in its atmosphere.

Question 19 asks the student to select the answer choice that is *strictly implied* within the statements about canals on Mars, so the student needs to review each answer choice carefully and compare each one to the statements in the passage. The correct answer choice will be an inference, but this inference will only utilize the

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information provided in the passage and will not assume more than the passage can explain.

Question 20 asks for a simple inference, so the student must read closely to determine which answer choice has clear implication in the passage.

Question 19

The Correct Answer:

E Answer choice (E) offers a clear link between the fourth and fifth sentences of the passage. The author of the passage notes that some scientists claimed to see canals on the surface of Mars and argued for the presence of intelligent life, while later scientists discovered that there was no water or oxygen in the atmosphere of Mars. From this, the student may deduce that the discovery of the lacking elements in Mars's atmosphere made it impossible for earlier civilizations to exist there. Therefore, the "canals" must have been confused with some other feature on the landscape of Mars, and answer choice (E) is correct. (*Note:* This is also historically true. Stronger telescopes revealed that what were assumed to be canals did not actually exist on the surface of Mars.)

The Incorrect Answers:

A The passage is not entirely clear about who was believed to have inhabited the "earlier civilizations" rumored to have lived on Mars, but the author *does* imply that the earlier civilizations would have required water and oxygen, and the belief about the life was related to "intelligent life forms." From this, the student may infer that earlier civilizations with intelligent beings (similar to humans, if not actually humans) were likely believed to have been on Mars, and the author is proving this theory incorrect with the discovery of the lacking elements in Mars's atmosphere. The student cannot infer from

- the information in this passage alone, however, that *all* life forms require water and oxygen. Answer choice (A) infers more than the passage is focused on implying, so it is incorrect.
- B** As indicated in answer choice (A), the author of the passage seems to be implying that the previous inhabitants on the surface of Mars were believed to be human or similar to human beings in their intelligent ability to develop civilizations (that included canals). Answer choice (B), therefore, is also incorrect.
- C** The author of the passage implies strongly that the canals—as they were observed—did not even exist and were confused with another feature on the landscape of Mars. The passage notes that William Wallace and others were able to “debunk the canal theory”; as such, it cannot be inferred that there were canals at all. Answer choice (C) cannot be correct.
- D** The passage indicates clearly that William Wallace was but one scientist whose research indicated the canal theory to be impossible, so he alone cannot be credited with debunking it. Answer choice (D) assumes too much, so it is also incorrect.

Question 20

The Correct Answer:

- C** By showing the gradual development of an understanding of Mars, its atmosphere, and landscape since the middle of the nineteenth century, the author of the passage hints strongly that early scientists argued for and relied on incorrect information due to equipment that was not strong enough to be fully accurate. As a result, the student may definitely infer the statement made in answer choice (C), so it is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A** Answer choice (A) might very well be true: there are probably scientists who continue to hold out for the possibility of life forms being discovered on Mars. But that information in itself cannot necessarily be derived from the information in the passage. Answer choice (A) infers too much, so it is incorrect.
- B** The author of the passage focuses only on the canal-theory and the research that debunked belief in intelligent (human or human-like) life forms developing earlier civilizations on Mars. The author does *not* argue, however, that this research *showed conclusively* that life had never existed on Mars. Answer choice (B) also infers too much, so it cannot be correct.
- D** Far from implying the information in answer choice (D), the author implies something entirely different. The passage notes, “Mars experienced days that spanned virtually the same length of hours as on Earth but with seasons that were approximately double the length due to Mars’s axial tilt in combination with its highly elongated orbit..” If the seasons are twice the length of those on earth, then so are the years. In other words, one year on Mars is equivalent to two years on Earth. Answer choice (D) cannot be correct.
- E** The author of the passage mentions water and oxygen as missing in the atmosphere of Mars. If water is missing, it may safely be assumed that hydrogen is lacking to some degree, but beyond this it is impossible to say that *many other essential elements* are lacking in the atmosphere of Mars. Answer choice (E) assumes far more than the passage implies, so it must be incorrect.

Question 21

Overview: In question 21, the student is given a statement from a medical sales agent who is advertising the benefits of a new surgical device that is intended to assist in making a specific procedure faster and less invasive for the patient. The medical sales agent relies on the reasoning that the new device has received positive

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feedback from the audience that has tested it, so it will be “universally useful to all surgeons and patients.” The question then asks the student to identify the logical fallacy and to select an answer choice that contains a similar logical fallacy. Students who are familiar with logical fallacies will recognize what is known as the converse fallacy of argument, in which a special case (i.e., the test audience at the area hospitals) becomes a rule (i.e., it helped some people, so it will help everyone). In this case, the medical sales agent relies on tests done only on a small group and with no further details about the group itself and the types of tests that were done. There are many different variables that could affect this outcome and limit the value of the device to a larger audience; without the information about these variables, the conclusion is too broad. Even if the student does not recognize the logical fallacy by name, the student should be able to recognize the problem in the reasoning: the medical sales agent claims that the few who valued the new device represent the population at large. The correct answer choice will argue from a similar position of *special situation = rule*.

The Correct Answer:

E Although the similarities do not appear to be exact, answer choice (E) does offer a similar logical fallacy to that of the medical sales agent. The argument is made that 80% of the voters in the western district of a state dislike a piece of proposed legislation (*special situation*), and the conclusion is derived that it must be a poor piece of legislation that offers no benefits to anyone (*rule*). As in the statement from the medical sales agent, no further details are provided about this audience and their reasoning; a conclusion is drawn simply by the statistics of one group. Answer choice (E) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A The fallacy contained within answer choice (A) is one of *affirming the consequent*: it draws the conclusion from something that does not necessarily

support the conclusion. Not parking a car in the garage might make it rusty, but a rusty car does not necessarily mean the owner failed to park it in the garage. Answer choice (A) is definitely a logical fallacy, but it is not similar to the fallacy of special situation = rule.

- B, D** Answer choices (B) and (D) provide examples of the *argumentum ad baculum*, or the argument based on fear: if something is done (or not done), something bad will happen, which no one wants, so a certain action must (or must not) be taken. Both answer choices (B) and (D) represent logical fallacies, but these fallacies are not that of special situation = rule.
- C** Answer choice (C) represents the *argumentum ad hominem*, or the argument that makes its point by attacking someone else. In some cases (and specifically in this case), the attack might be unrelated to the argument at hand (i.e., the connection between using animals for medical research and purchasing an SUV). This is definitely a logical fallacy, but it is not the fallacy of special situation = rule. Answer choice (C) cannot be correct.

Question 22

Overview: Question 22 references a passage discussing the recent scientific focus on the dangers of ground-level ozone. According to the author of the passage, ground-level ozone “occurs when strong sunlight combines with nitrous oxide and volatile organic compounds.” This has been known to scientists in Los Angeles for some time, and they believed that the specific geophysical situation of that city in a basin-like setting has made it vulnerable to ground-level ozone. But scientists in Chicago have recently discovered that Chicago experiences high levels of ground-level ozone as well, although that city has a geophysical setting totally unlike Los Angeles.

The author of the passage concludes by noting that the scientists in Chicago now believe that advective heating—occurring when a strong wind pulls in heat but does not circulate it effectively—is the real cause of large amounts of ground-level ozone.

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The author finishes with a comment that Los Angeles receives a great deal of wind off the Pacific Ocean, and the question asks the student to determine which answer choice is implied within the passage. This is an inference/implication question, so the student must read carefully, particularly since the implication is not connected to a certain section of the passage but may come from any part of it.

The Correct Answer:

- A** The author of the passage does not directly explain the reason for mentioning advective heating in the fourth sentence and then mentioning that Los Angeles receives strong ocean winds in the final sentence, but the student may deduce from this that the author is pointing to advective heating as the source of ground-level ozone in Los Angeles and not the city's location "sitting in a natural basin with little circulation." Answer choice (A) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- B** The author does reference Chicago as the Windy City, but this alone does not necessarily guarantee that Chicago receives the same amount of wind as Los Angeles (or vice versa). This expression is simply a common colloquial usage in referring to Chicago, and the author utilizes it while discussing wind in that city. It might be true that Chicago and Los Angeles receive comparable amounts of wind, but the passage does not clearly imply this, so the student cannot infer it. Answer choice (B) is incorrect.
- C** The author of the passage focuses only on ground-level ozone and makes no comment on ozone in the upper levels of the atmosphere. The student might know from prior knowledge that the statement in answer choice (C) is, in fact, true: ozone in the upper regions of the atmosphere is both safe and essential. But the passage itself does not imply this, and there is no sentence that clearly points to such a comment. Answer choice (C) infers too much, so it cannot be correct.

- D** While the author of the passage does mention that ground-level ozone can have “dangerous effects,” the author does not specify what these effects might be. Although *respiratory problems* seems like a logical explanation for the problems that might occur, there is nothing in the passage to suggest this directly, so the student cannot infer answer choice (D). As a result, answer choice (D) is incorrect.
- E** Far from suggesting the statement made in answer choice (E), the passage seems to contradict it implicitly. The author does say that Chicago sits on a “flat, open plain,” but this is only to contrast the location of Chicago with the location of Los Angeles. The author also indicates that Chicago experiences advective heating, with winds that are *not* circulating well, so answer choice (E) cannot be correct. It may be eliminated immediately.

Question 23

Overview: Question 23 presents a statement from a psychologist concerning the issue of news and the psychological response among Americans at watching the news. The psychologist argues that “Americans feel more stress after watching a news program than before it,” largely because the news programs focus on the negative stories over the positive stories. In addition, the psychologist goes on to indicate that the graphic images in the news stories contribute to higher levels of stress. As a result, the psychologist concludes that the media should provide a balance to negative stories by showing positive stories as well, since studies show that stress levels are reduced after people view positive stories. The question then asks the student to select an answer choice that best describes the flaw in the psychologist’s reasoning.

In order to answer this question correctly, the student needs to sort through the psychologist’s flow of thought, because the passage might not seem to hold a clear example of flawed reasoning at first. But there is a problem embedded in this

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argument that can be identified. The psychologist argues: (1) the American media is expected to report news objectively whether it is positive or negative, (2) the media is clearly *not* objective in selecting its stories due to the obvious rate of negative stories that are covered, (3) Americans experience more stress after watching negative news stories, particularly negative news stories that contain graphic images, and (4) the media should select news stories to provide a better balance between the negative stories and the positive stories.

From this, it becomes clear that the psychologist begins by criticizing news programs for denying objectivity in the way that stories are selected, but concludes by suggesting that news programs subjectively select a balance of positive and negative. In other words, the psychologist demands objectivity but then suggests subjectivity. The correct answer choice will reflect this.

The Correct Answer:

B Answer choice (B) accurately explains that the psychologist accuses the media of subjectivity but then goes on to suggest that subjectivity is necessary as long as it is a different kind of subjectivity. Answer choice (B) is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

A The psychologist attacks the media for the selection of negative stories, but there is no clear attack on the reporting within the stories, nor does the psychologist claim that the media reports negative stories in a subjective way. Instead, the psychologist is focused on the subjectivity of selection, so answer choice (A) cannot be correct.

C The psychologist does not have two separate arguments that are combined. Instead, the psychologist has a single argument: the news media is too subjective in selecting negative stories and needs to find a balance between

positive and negative. That is one complete argument, so answer choice (C) cannot be correct.

- D** The psychologist does claim, “When the news program presents a positive story, however, the stress level goes down.” This is a sufficient counter to the previous statement, “A recent report in a major psychological journal has indicated that Americans feel more stress after watching a news program than before it. When graphic images accompany a negative story, the stress level gets even higher.” Because answer choice (D) does not indicate *why* this would not be a good indication of the benefits of positive stories, it is too vague to be correct. Answer choice (D) may be eliminated.
- E** Answer choice (E) is difficult, because there is nothing in the passage to counter it, and yet there is nothing in the passage to suggest that it is clearly true. The latter is the key to the problem with the answer choice. Because there is no context for *why* the psychologist would need to distinguish among negative stories, there is no reason, based on the information provided in the psychologist’s statement, to believe that this is necessary. Had the psychologist referenced different types of negative stories, answer choice (E) might be valid. With no mention of this element, however, answer choice (E) is largely irrelevant and may be eliminated.

Question 24

Overview: In question 24, the author of the passage focuses on the way that unborn babies are able to hear and even develop preferences for music. The passage claims that an unborn baby’s hearing organs begin development at four weeks, and the baby can hear by four months. The passage goes on to claim that unborn infants can “hear clearly” in the womb at six months, and “some biologists believe that they are already developing a partiality for certain kinds of music” by that point. The author notes that there are companies who are currently developing prenatal listening devices to feed classical music to their children (due to the perceived benefits of

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listening to classical music), yet the passage concludes by noting that there is research suggesting that unborn babies respond best to the type of music the mother enjoys most. The question then asks the student to determine the answer choice that is implied regarding the issue of unborn babies and listening to music. The student should approach this as an inference/implication question and review each of the answer choices carefully to locate an antecedent statement (or statements) in the passage.

The Correct Answer:

- C** The author claims that “research has indicated that classical music has very positive effects on the mind development of unborn babies. Some research suggests, however, that the baby is most likely to respond positively to the mother’s musical preference, because her favorite music is most likely to relax her.” In other words, classical music is possibly beneficial, but the unborn baby is best served by listening to music that the mother likes. Answer choice (C) accurately states this, so it is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A** Answer choice (A) makes a statement of argument that utilizes language not clearly used in the passage. The author of the passage notes that playing music for the unborn baby might very well be beneficial, but the author does not suggest the judgment statement that *astute parents* should introduce music to their unborn child. This infers more from the author’s tone than is clearly present, so answer choice (A) cannot be correct.
- B** Answer choice (B) is incorrect due to the strength of the word choice. The passage notes that “research has indicated that classical music has very positive effects on the mind development of unborn babies.” This means that classical music *might* be of benefit for the developing minds of unborn

- babies. It does not mean unequivocally that it is the *best music* with the *most positive benefits*. Answer choice (B) may be eliminated.
- D** The author indicates that unborn babies are often most comfortable with the mother's preference, but the passage does not necessarily claim that babies *will definitely* develop similar preferences. The passage seems to indicate that the baby is responding positively to the mother's preference, and while this means that the baby ultimately develops a similar preference, the word "definitely" is too strong to be inferred from the passage. Answer choice (D) cannot be correct.
- E** The author of the passage indicates that babies can develop partiality. But the author makes no mention of the baby indicating a dislike for the music, and while it is possible that the unborn child can express a certain sense of discomfort, there is nothing in the passage to indicate that the infant will *make its dislike for music very clear*. This assumes just a little too much, so it cannot be correct.

Question 25

Overview: The final question in the third section of the test references the history of the Cyrillic alphabet, beginning in the ninth century AD with the work of the missionary brothers Cyril and Methodius. The author of the passage claims that the Cyrillic alphabet is a combination of the Greek alphabet and the now-obsolete Glagolitic alphabet. There are currently six Slavic languages and five non-Slavic languages that use Cyrillic, and during the time of the Soviet Union, there were upwards of fifty languages utilizing Cyrillic script. In 2007, Cyrillic became the third official alphabet of the European Union. The question asks the student to determine which answer choice is *not* implied in the passage, so the student needs to read through each answer choice carefully and decide if there is a sentence (or sentences) in the passage that *clearly implies* the statement made in the answer choice.

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The Correct Answer:

- B** Answer choice (B) claims that the Slavic peoples were not literate and had no alphabet, but the passage does not imply this anywhere clearly. In fact, the passage notes that Glagolitic was “an obsolete Slavic form,” or an obsolete Slavic alphabet. This would indicate that the Slavic peoples *did* have an alphabet of some kind (just perhaps not a comprehensive one—hence the value of Methodius and Cyril’s work) and were literate. Answer choice (B) assumes more than the passage implies, so it is correct.

The Incorrect Answers:

- A** The passage indicates that “the Cyrillic alphabet is credited to the brothers Cyril and Methodius, natives of Thessalonika who became missionaries to the Slavic peoples.” This statement implies that Cyril and Methodius developed the Cyrillic alphabet in conjunction with their missionary work, so answer choice (A) is implied and cannot be correct.
- C** The author of the passages notes that “many languages have rejected the use of the Cyrillic alphabet since the USSR’s collapse.” The word “rejected” suggests a deliberate change on the part of the nations, and it may be inferred that the change was due to a negative association with the USSR. Answer choice (C) may be inferred, so it is incorrect.
- D** The author of the passage states, “Today the Cyrillic alphabet is used for six Slavic languages and at least five non-Slavic languages in nations that stretch from Eastern Europe to Mongolia.” While it is clear that not all of the nations utilizing Cyrillic are in Europe, it stands to reason that several of them are. With the decision by the European Union to make Cyrillic an official alphabet, it may also be inferred that Cyrillic has enough of a presence to warrant this recognition. Answer choice (D) may thus be inferred and so is incorrect.

E The second sentence of the passage notes that Cyril and Methodius “utilized a type of Greek script in combination with the Glagolitic alphabet, an obsolete Slavic form, in order to create a writing system for sounds not existing in Greek.” This implies that the Greek alphabet alone was not enough for recording the language system of the Slavic peoples, so answer choice (E) may be inferred. Answer choice (E) is thus incorrect.