File #1 RW

DIGITAL SAT

SELECTED READING & WRITING QUESTION TYPES & STRATEGIES

Vocabulary (Words)-in-context Questions

- Read the text for clues. Clues are keywords that explain or point to the blank.
- Look at the answer choices and pick the word matching the clues.
- No obvious clues? ☛ Make a guess for the blank based on the context of the passage.
- The correct answer is the choice matching the word you have guessed!

Question 1

When gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) were first detected in 1967 by the Vela satellites, NASA astronomer William B. Lenoir said that he didn't have a definite idea of what GRBs were, but he _____ that those explosions were the most powerful class of explosions in the universe, more immensely energetic than the explosions that had been observed in distant galaxies. This conjecture inspired him to conduct subsequent studies of the galaxies and supernovae associated with the bursts.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A) denounced
B) demanded
C) confirmed
D) speculated

Question 2

Charlotte Bronte was an English novelist and poet whose novels became classics of English literature. Her works contain elements of social criticism approaching such topics as Christian morality, class, and feminism. Jane Eyre, her best known masterpiece, is among the most _____ of feminist novels: it is still widely read more than 170 years after its publication.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A) confusing
B) powerful
C) provoking
D) enduring

Question 3

The following text is adapted from Nathaniel Hawthorne's 1837 story "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment." The main character, a physician, is experimenting with rehydrating a dried flower.

> At first [the rose] lay lightly on the surface of the fluid, appearing to imbibe none of its moisture. Soon, however, a singular change began to be visible. The crushed and dried petals stirred and assumed a deepening tinge of crimson, as if the flower were reviving from a deathlike slumber.

As used in the text, what does the phrase "a singular" most nearly mean?

A. A lonely

B. A disagreeable

C. An acceptable

D. An extraordinary

Question 4

Although science fiction was dominated mostly by white male authors when Octavia Butler, a Black woman, began writing, she did not view the genre as _____: Butler broke into the field with the publication of several short stories and her 1976 novel *Patternmaster*, and she later became the first science fiction writer to win a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

A. legal
B. impenetrable
C. compelling
D. indecipherable

Purpose Questions

- Read the text, highlighting the main topic (the main Who or What) and its related keywords.
- The main topic is usually introduced early in the passage and is repeated and developed throughout the text. → Pay attention to repeated keywords.
- In your own words, make a simple, short summary of the text based on the topic and keywords.
- The correct answer is the choice matching your summary.
- Keep in mind the "different words, same thing" rule: specific terms in the text matching their synonyms or broader generalization in the correct answer choice.

Question 5

Early in the Great Migration of 1910-1970, which involved the mass migration of Black people from the southern to the northern United States, political activist and *Chicago Defender* writer Fannie Barrier Williams was instrumental in helping other Black women establish themselves in the North. Many women hoped for better employment opportunities in the North because, in the South, they faced much competition for domestic employment and men tended to get agricultural work. To aid with this transition, Barrier Williams helped secure job placement in the North for many women before they even began their journey.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A. To introduce and illustrate Barrier Williams's integral role in supporting other Black women as their circumstances changed during part of the Great Migration

B. To establish that Barrier Williams used her professional connections to arrange employment for other Black women, including jobs with the *Chicago Defender*

C. To demonstrate that the factors that motivated the start of the Great Migration were different for Black women than they were for Black men

D. To provide an overview of the employment challenges faced by Black women in the agricultural and domestic spheres in the southern United States

Question 6

The following text is from Lucy Maud Montgomery's 1908 novel *Anne of Green Gables*. Anne, an eleven-year-old girl, has come to live on a farm with a woman named Marilla in Nova Scotia, Canada. Anne reveled in the world of color about her.

"Oh, Marilla," she exclaimed one Saturday morning, coming dancing in with her arms full of gorgeous boughs, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it? Look at these maple branches. Don't they give you a thrill—several thrills? I'm going to decorate my room with them."
"Messy things," said Marilla, whose aesthetic sense was not noticeably developed. "You clutter up your room entirely too much with out-of-doors stuff, Anne. Bedrooms were made to sleep in."

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A. To demonstrate that Anne has a newly developed appreciation of nature

B. To describe an argument that Anne and Marilla often have

C. To emphasize Marilla's disapproval of how Anne has decorated her room

D. To show that Anne and Marilla have very different personalities

Question 7

The following text is adapted from a work of fiction.

As Eleanor stood outside the auditorium, she listened to the applause that greeted the student selected to deliver the graduation speech. She had secretly hoped for that honor herself, and a brief sting of disappointment settled over her. Yet as she watched her classmate step confidently onto the stage, she found herself smiling despite her envy. She admired the speech's quiet sincerity and recognized that it deserved the audience's praise. Walking away afterward, Eleanor felt both the lingering ache of her own ambition and an unexpected sense of peace.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A) To describe how a student gradually overcomes her fear of speaking before a large audience.

B) To illustrate the conflicting emotions a character experiences while coming to terms with another person's success.

C) To argue that academic competitions often damage friendships among talented students.

D) To explain why a graduating student ultimately decides not to pursue a career in public speaking.

Question 8

- There is a study or experiment in the text. What is the setup?
- The experiment group: what is tested on this group?
- The control group: what is it function in the study?
- What are the results or findings of the study/experiment?

Scientists have long wondered whether brief exposure to natural environments can improve people's ability to concentrate. To investigate this question, psychologist Dr. Emily Carter and her team recruited 80 university students and randomly assigned them to two groups. One group spent twenty minutes walking through a botanical garden, while the other walked through nearby city streets for the same amount of time. Afterward, both groups completed the same attention test. Students who had walked through the botanical garden consistently scored higher than those who had walked through the city, suggesting that short exposure to natural settings may enhance concentration.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A) To explain why psychologists believe that urban environments reduce people's long-term cognitive abilities.

B) To discuss the findings of a study that evaluated the effects of exposing university students to natural environments.

C) To describe the specific procedures researchers use when designing controlled psychological experiments.

D) To argue that botanical gardens should replace city parks because they improve academic performance.

Question 9

Space scientists Anna-Lisa Paul, Stephen M. Elardo, and Robert Ferl planted seeds of *Arabidopsis thaliana* in samples of lunar regolith—the surface material of the Moon—and, serving as a control group, in terrestrial soil. They found that while all the seeds germinated, the roots of the regolith-grown plants were stunted compared with those in the control group.
Moreover, unlike the plants in the control group, the regolith-grown plants exhibited red pigmentation, reduced leaf size, and inhibited growth rates—indicators of stress that were corroborated by postharvest molecular analysis.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A. It describes an experiment that addressed an unresolved question about the extent to which lunar regolith resembles terrestrial soils.
B. It compares two distinct methods of assessing indicators of stress in plants grown in a simulated lunar environment.
C. It presents evidence in support of the hypothesis that seed germination in lunar habitats is an unattainable goal.
D. It discusses the findings of a study that evaluated the effects of exposing a plant species to lunar soil conditions.