Question 1 (1) INFERENCE QUESTIONS - MEDIUM COMPREHENSIVE

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: d748c3fd

In her 2021 article "Throwaway History: Towards a Historiography of Ephemera," scholar Anne Garner discusses John Johnson (1882-1956), a devoted collector of items intended to be discarded, including bus tickets and campaign pamphlets. Johnson recognized that scholarly institutions considered his expansive collection of ephemera to be worthless—indeed, it wasn't until 1968, after Johnson's death, that Oxford University's Bodleian Library acquired the collection, having grasped the items' potential value to historians and other researchers. Hence, the example of Johnson serves to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. demonstrate the difficulties faced by contemporary historians in conducting research at the Bodleian Library without access to ephemera.

B. represent the challenge of incorporating examples of ephemera into the collections of libraries and other scholarly institutions.

C. lend support to arguments by historians and other researchers who continue to assert that ephemera holds no value for scholars.

D. illustrate both the relatively low scholarly regard in which ephemera was once held and the later recognition of ephemera's possible utility.

Question 2

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 3190835d

Some businesses believe that when employees are interrupted while doing their work, they experience a decrease in energy and productivity. However, a team led by Harshad Puranik, who studies management, has found that interruptions by colleagues can have a social component that increases employees' sense of belonging, resulting in greater job satisfaction that benefits employees and employers. Therefore, businesses should recognize that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. the interpersonal benefits of some interruptions in the workplace may offset the perceived negative effects.

B. in order to maximize productivity, employers should be willing to interrupt employees frequently throughout the day.

C. most employees avoid interrupting colleagues because they don't appreciate being interrupted themselves.

D. in order to cultivate an ideal workplace environment, interruptions of work should be discouraged.

Question 3

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 7c1e5880

Scholars have noted that F. Scott Fitzgerald's writings were likely influenced in part by his marriage to Zelda Fitzgerald, but many don't recognize Zelda as a writer in her own right. Indeed, Zelda authored several works herself, such as the novel *Save Me the Waltz* and numerous short stories. Thus, those who primarily view Zelda as an inspiration for F. Scott's writings _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. overlook the many other factors that motivated F. Scott to write.

B. risk misrepresenting the full range of Zelda's contributions to literature.

C. may draw inaccurate conclusions about how F. Scott and Zelda viewed each other's works.

D. tend to read the works of F. Scott and Zelda in an overly autobiographical light.

Question 4 (2)

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: db876fd5

Songbirds learn to respond to and imitate their species' songs from an early age. With each generation, small differences are introduced that result in distinct variations—called dialects—among geographically isolated populations of the same species. A research study examined whether twelve-day-old *Ficedula hypoleuca* (pied flycatcher) nestlings prefer local dialects over the unfamiliar dialects of nonlocal *F. hypoleuca* populations: the more begging calls the nestlings made in response to a song, the stronger their preference. The researchers found that nestlings produced more begging calls in response to their own dialect than to nonlocal dialects. Since song preference plays a role in songbird mate selection, the finding suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings' preference for their own dialect likely disappears as they mature to promote socialization between different *F. hypoleuca* populations.

B. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings who show an early preference for their own dialect are likely to receive more food from their caretakers than nestlings who show no preferences among any *F. hypoleuca* dialects.

C. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings' preference for their own dialect likely drives them when they mature to reproduce with other *F. hypoleuca* from local rather than nonlocal populations.

D. *F. hypoleuca* nestlings show a preference for both local *F. hypoleuca* dialects and the songs of other local songbirds over the songs of nonlocal birds of any species.

Question 5

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 3cc2eacc

In a study of the mechanisms underlying associative memory—or the ability to learn and remember connections between inherently unrelated things—neuroscientists Kei Igarashi, Jasmine Chavez, and others presented mice with memory tests. The team discovered that fan cells, a type of cell found in the medial temporal lobe of the brain, are necessary for the acquisition of new associative memories. They also found that fan cell activity requires dopamine, a chemical the brain produces in response to pleasure and rewards. Consequently, receiving a reward should likely help to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. decrease an individual's capacity to utilize dopamine.

B. increase an individual's capacity to recognize differences between unrelated things.

C. increase an individual's capacity to form associative memories.

D. decrease an individual's capacity to create fan cells.

Question 6

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 54057e3f

Although military veterans make up a small proportion of the total population of the United States, they occupy a significantly higher proportion of the jobs in the civilian government. One possible explanation for this disproportionate representation is that military service familiarizes people with certain organizational structures that are also reflected in the civilian government bureaucracy, and this familiarity thus _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. makes civilian government jobs especially appealing to military veterans.

B. alters the typical relationship between military service and subsequent career preferences.

C. encourages nonveterans applying for civilian government jobs to consider military service instead.

D. increases the number of civilian government jobs that require some amount of military experience to perform.

Question 7

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 123bd312

Herbivorous sauropod dinosaurs could grow more than 100 feet long and weigh up to 80 tons, and some researchers have attributed the evolution of sauropods to such massive sizes to increased plant production resulting from high levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide during the Mesozoic era. However, there is no evidence of significant spikes in carbon dioxide levels coinciding with relevant periods in sauropod evolution, such as when the first large sauropods appeared, when several sauropod lineages underwent further evolution toward gigantism, or when sauropods reached their maximum known sizes, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. fluctuations in atmospheric carbon dioxide affected different sauropod lineages differently.

B. the evolution of larger body sizes in sauropods did not depend on increased atmospheric carbon dioxide.

C. atmospheric carbon dioxide was higher when the largest known sauropods lived than it was when the first sauropods appeared.

D. sauropods probably would not have evolved to such immense sizes if atmospheric carbon dioxide had been even slightly higher.

Question 8 (3)

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 55688b3c

Dutch painters in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries often showed tables filled with large wheels of cheese or carved shards of butter. Some art historians, noting that dairy products were a major component of the Dutch diet, interpret these depictions as reflections of everyday Dutch eating habits. However, a group of researchers recently reviewed hundreds of food-related paintings and found that lemons—which could only be acquired in the Netherlands at great cost, since they had to be imported from warmer climates—feature in Dutch paintings of the period more than three times as frequently as dairy products do, thereby casting doubt on the idea that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. dairy products were a more significant component of the Dutch diet of the period than lemons were.

B. food was a more popular subject among Dutch painters than it was among painters from other countries at the time.

C. depictions of food in Dutch paintings of the period should be taken as realistic representations of Dutch eating habits.

D. Dutch painters of the period may have depicted foods for symbolic reasons rather than to show what Dutch people typically ate.

Question 9

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: c95995bc

Colonized by Spain in the 1600s, New Mexico is home to a dialect of Spanish that differs significantly from dialects spoken in Spain's other former colonies in the Americas. Most notably, the New Mexican dialect retains older features of the language that other dialects lost in later centuries. But why would it have done so? New Mexico was so distant from population centers in Spain's other colonies that it attracted few colonists after its initial colonization. Geographical isolation in turn would have limited the exposure of New Mexican colonists to changes occurring to Spanish grammar and vocabulary elsewhere in the empire. Thus, the present-day uniqueness of the New Mexican dialect suggests the extent to which _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. a language can protect itself from being influenced by other languages.

B. the grammar and vocabulary of any given language change from one generation to the next.

C. geographical isolation can influence how a language develops.

D. speakers of one dialect of a language can understand speakers of another dialect of that language.

Question 10

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 8fbed1cb

When the Vinland Map, a map of the world purported to date to the mid-1400s, surfaced in 1957, some scholars believed it demonstrated that European knowledge of the eastern coast of present-day North America predated Christopher Columbus's 1492 arrival. In 2021, a team including conservators Marie-France Lemay and Paula Zyats and materials scientist Anikó Bezur performed an extensive analysis of the map and the ink used. They found that the ink contains titanium dioxide, a compound that was first introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. Therefore, the team concluded that

_____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. mid-1400s Europeans could not have known about the eastern coast of present-day North America.

B. the Vinland Map could not have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.

C. mapmakers must have used titanium compounds in their ink in the 1400s.

D. there isn't enough information to determine when the ink was created.

Question 11 (4)

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 5432d1de

It's common for jazz musicians and fans to refer to certain songs as having "swing," indicating that the songs provoke a strong feeling, like the impulse to tap one's foot or dance. The exact acoustic properties that give a song swing, however, have long been thought to be undefinable. To investigate swing, a team led by physicist Corentin Nelias delayed the downbeats and synchronized the offbeats in jazz piano solos and asked jazz musicians to compare the intensity of swing in each modified piece with the intensity of swing in the original piece. They found that participants were more than seven times likelier to characterize the modified songs as having swing than to characterize the original versions as having swing, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. synchronized offbeats tend to give a song swing regardless of whether downbeats are delayed.

B. the acoustic properties that give a song swing are not easy for jazz musicians to manipulate.

C. jazz songs that feature the piano are more likely to have swing than are jazz songs that do not feature the piano.

D. the timing of downbeats and offbeats may play a crucial role in giving a song swing.

Question 12

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Information and Ideas	Inferences	■■□

ID: 4e9afd7a

The Indus River valley civilization flourished in South Asia from 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE. Many examples of the civilization's writing system exist, but researchers haven't yet deciphered it or identified which ancient language it represents. Nevertheless, archaeologists have found historical artifacts, such as clay figures and jewelry, that provide information about the civilization's customs and how its communities were organized. The archaeologists' findings therefore suggest that

_____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

A. investigating an ancient civilization is easier without knowledge of the civilization's language.

B. knowing an ancient civilization's language isn't necessary in order to learn details about the civilization.

C. archaeological research should focus on finding additional artifacts rather than deciphering ancient languages.

D. examining the civilization's historical artifacts has resolved the debate about this civilization's language.