



Answer Explanations

SAT® Practice Test #1

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Section 1: Reading Test

QUESTION 1.

Choice B is the best answer. In the passage, a young man (Akira) asks a mother (Chie) for permission to marry her daughter (Naomi). The request was certainly surprising to the mother, as can be seen from line 47, which states that prior to Akira’s question Chie “had no idea” the request was coming.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage depicts two characters engaged in a civil conversation, with Chie being impressed with Akira’s “sincerity” and finding herself “starting to like him.” Choice C is incorrect because the passage is focused on the idea of Akira’s and Naomi’s present lives and possible futures. Choice D is incorrect because the interactions between Chie and Akira are polite, not critical; for example, Chie views Akira with “amusement,” not animosity.

QUESTION 2.

Choice B is the best answer. The passage centers on a night when a young man tries to get approval to marry a woman’s daughter. The passage includes detailed descriptions of setting (a “winter’s eve” and a “cold rain,” lines 5-6); character (Akira’s “soft, refined” voice, line 33; Akira’s eyes “sh[ining] with sincerity,” line 35); and plot (“Naomi was silent. She stood a full half minute looking straight into Chie’s eyes. Finally, she spoke,” lines 88-89).

Choice A is incorrect because the passage focuses on a nontraditional marriage proposal. Choice C is incorrect because the passage concludes without resolution to the question of whether Akira and Naomi will receive permission to marry. Choice D is incorrect because the passage repeatedly makes clear that for Chie, her encounter with Akira is momentous and unsettling, as when Akira acknowledges in line 73 that he has “startled” her.

QUESTION 3.

Choice C is the best answer. Akira “came directly, breaking all tradition,” (line 1) when he approached Chie and asked to marry her daughter, and he “ask[ed] directly,” without “a go-between” (line 65) or “mediation,” because doing otherwise would have taken too much time.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in these contexts, “directly” does not mean in a frank, confident, or precise manner.

QUESTION 4.

Choice A is the best answer. Akira is very concerned Chie will find his marriage proposal inappropriate because he did not follow traditional protocol and use a “go-between” (line 65). This is clear in lines 63-64, when Akira says to Chie “Please don’t judge my candidacy by the unseemliness of this proposal.”

Choice B is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Akira worries that Chie will mistake his earnestness for immaturity. Choice C is incorrect because while Akira recognizes that his unscheduled visit is a nuisance, his larger concern is that Chie will reject him due to the inappropriateness of his proposal. Choice D is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Akira worries Chie will underestimate the sincerity of his emotions.

QUESTION 5.

Choice C is the best answer. In lines 63-64, Akira says to Chie, “Please don’t judge my candidacy by the unseemliness of this proposal.” This reveals Akira’s concern that Chie may say no to the proposal simply because Akira did not follow traditional practices.

Choices A, B, and D do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice A is incorrect because line 33 merely describes Akira’s voice as “soft, refined.” Choice B is incorrect because lines 49-51 reflect Chie’s perspective, not Akira’s. Choice D is incorrect because lines 71-72 indicate only that Akira was speaking in an eager and forthright matter.

QUESTION 6.

Choice D is the best answer because Akira clearly treats Chie with respect, including “bow[ing]” (line 26) to her, calling her “Madame” (line 31), and looking at her with “a deferential peek” (line 34). Akira does not offer Chie utter deference, though, as he asks to marry Naomi after he concedes that he is not following protocol and admits to being a “disruption” (line 31).

Choice A is incorrect because while Akira conveys respect to Chie, there is no evidence in the passage that he feels affection for her. Choice B is incorrect because neither objectivity nor impartiality accurately describes how Akira addresses Chie. Choice C is incorrect because Akira conveys respect to Chie and takes the conversation seriously.

QUESTION 7.

Choice D is the best answer. The first paragraph (lines 1-4) reflects on how Akira approached Chie to ask for her daughter's hand in marriage. In these lines, the narrator is wondering whether Chie would have been more likely to say yes to Akira's proposal if Akira had followed tradition: "Akira came directly, breaking all tradition. Was that it? Had he followed form—had he asked his mother to speak to his father to approach a go-between—would Chie have been more receptive?" Thus, the main purpose of the first paragraph is to examine why Chie reacted a certain way to Akira's proposal.

Choice A is incorrect because the first paragraph describes only one aspect of Japanese culture (marriage proposals) but not the culture as a whole. Choice B is incorrect because the first paragraph implies a criticism of Akira's individual marriage proposal but not the entire tradition of Japanese marriage proposals. Choice C is incorrect because the narrator does not question a suggestion.

QUESTION 8.

Choice B is the best answer. In line 1, the narrator suggests that Akira's direct approach broke "all tradition." The narrator then wonders if Akira had "followed form," or the tradition expected of him, would Chie have been more receptive to his proposal. In this context, following "form" thus means following a certain tradition or custom.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in this context "form" does not mean the way something looks (appearance), the way it is built (structure), or its essence (nature).

QUESTION 9.

Choice C is the best answer. Akira states that his unexpected meeting with Chie occurred only because of a "matter of urgency," which he explains as "an opportunity to go to America, as dentist for Seattle's Japanese community" (lines 41-42). Akira decides to directly speak to Chie because Chie's response to his marriage proposal affects whether Akira accepts the job offer.

Choice A is incorrect because there is no evidence in the passage that Akira is worried his parents will not approve of Naomi. Choice B is incorrect because Akira has "an understanding" with Naomi (line 63). Choice D is incorrect; while Akira may know that Chie is unaware of his feelings for Naomi, this is not what he is referring to when he mentions "a matter of urgency."

QUESTION 10.

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 39-42, Akira clarifies that the "matter of urgency" is that he has "an opportunity to go to America, as dentist for Seattle's Japanese community." Akira needs Chie's answer to his marriage proposal so he can decide whether to accept the job in Seattle.

Choices A, C, and D do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice A is incorrect because in line 39 Akira apologizes for interrupting Chie’s quiet evening. Choice C is incorrect because lines 58-59 address the seriousness of Akira’s request, not its urgency. Choice D is incorrect because line 73 shows only that Akira’s proposal has “startled” Chie and does not explain why his request is time-sensitive.

QUESTION 11.

Choice A is the best answer. Lines 1-9 include examples of how many people shop (“millions of shoppers”), how much money they spend (“over \$30 billion at retail stores in the month of December alone”), and the many occasions that lead to shopping for gifts (“including weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and baby showers.”). Combined, these examples show how frequently people in the US shop for gifts.

Choice B is incorrect because even though the authors mention that “\$30 billion” had been spent in retail stores in one month, that figure is never discussed as an increase (or a decrease). Choice C is incorrect because lines 1-9 provide a context for the amount of shopping that occurs in the US, but the anxiety (or “dread”) it might cause is not introduced until later in the passage. Choice D is incorrect because lines 1-9 do more than highlight the number of different occasions that lead to gift-giving.

QUESTION 12.

Choice B is the best answer. Lines 9-10 state “This frequent experience of gift-giving can engender ambivalent feelings in gift-givers.” In the subsequent sentences, those “ambivalent” feelings are further exemplified as conflicted feelings, as shopping is said to be something that “[m]any relish” (lines 10-11) and “many dread” (line 14).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in this context, “ambivalent” does not mean feelings that are unrealistic, apprehensive, or supportive.

QUESTION 13.

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 10-13, the authors clearly state that some people believe gift-giving can help a relationship because it “offers a powerful means to build stronger bonds with one’s closest peers.”

Choice A is incorrect because even though the authors state that some shoppers make their choices based on “egocentrism,” (line 33) there is no evidence in the passage that people view shopping as a form of self-expression. Choice B is incorrect because the passage implies that shopping is an expensive habit. Choice C is incorrect because the passage states that most people have purchased and received gifts, but it never implies that people are *required* to reciprocate the gift-giving process.

QUESTION 14.

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 10-13, the authors suggest that people value gift-giving because it may strengthen their relationships with others: “Many relish the opportunity to buy presents because gift-giving offers a powerful means to build stronger bonds with one’s closest peers.”

Choices B, C, and D do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice B is incorrect because lines 22-23 discuss how people often buy gifts that the recipients would not purchase. Choice C is incorrect because lines 31-32 explain how gift-givers often fail to consider the recipients’ preferences. Choice D is incorrect because lines 44-47 suggest that the cost of a gift may not correlate to a recipient’s appreciation of it.

QUESTION 15.

Choice A is the best answer. The “deadweight loss” mentioned in the second paragraph is the significant monetary difference between what a gift-giver would pay for something and what a gift-recipient would pay for the same item. That difference would be predictable to social psychologists, whose research “has found that people often struggle to take account of others’ perspectives—their insights are subject to egocentrism, social projection, and multiple attribution errors” (lines 31-34).

Choices B, C, and D are all incorrect because lines 31-34 make clear that social psychologists would expect a disconnect between gift-givers and gift-recipients, not that they would question it, be disturbed by it, or find it surprising or unprecedented.

QUESTION 16.

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 41-44 suggest that gift-givers assume a correlation between the cost of a gift and how well-received it will be: “. . . gift-givers equate how much they spend with how much recipients will appreciate the gift (the more expensive the gift, the stronger a gift-recipient’s feelings of appreciation).” However, the authors suggest this assumption may be incorrect or “unfounded” (line 47), as gift-recipients “may not construe smaller and larger gifts as representing smaller and larger signals of thoughtfulness and consideration” (lines 63-65).

Choices A, B, and D are all incorrect because the passage neither states nor implies that the gift-givers’ assumption is insincere, unreasonable, or substantiated.

QUESTION 17.

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 63-65 suggest that the assumption made by gift-givers in lines 41-44 may be incorrect. The gift-givers assume that recipients will have a greater appreciation for costly gifts than for less costly

gifts, but the authors suggest this relationship may be incorrect, as gift-recipients “may not construe smaller and larger gifts as representing smaller and larger signals of thoughtfulness and consideration” (lines 63-65).

Choices A and D are incorrect because lines 53-55 and 75-78 address the question of “why” gift-givers make specific assumptions rather than addressing the validity of these assumptions. Choice B is incorrect because lines 55-60 focus on the reasons people give gifts to others.

QUESTION 18.

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 53-55 state that “Perhaps givers believe that bigger (i.e., more expensive) gifts convey stronger signals of thoughtfulness and consideration.” In this context, saying that more expensive gifts “convey” stronger signals means the gifts send, or communicate, stronger signals to the recipients.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in this context, to “convey” something does not mean to transport it (physically move something), counteract it (act in opposition to something), or exchange it (trade one thing for another).

QUESTION 19.

Choice A is the best answer. The paragraph examines how gift-givers believe expensive gifts are more thoughtful than less expensive gifts and will be more valued by recipients. The work of Camerer and others offers an explanation for the gift-givers’ reasoning: “gift-givers attempt to signal their positive attitudes toward the intended recipient and their willingness to invest resources in a future relationship” (lines 57-60).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the theory articulated by Camerer and others is used to explain an idea put forward by the authors (“givers believe that bigger . . . gifts convey stronger signals”), not to introduce an argument, question a motive, or support a conclusion.

QUESTION 20.

Choice B is the best answer. The graph clearly shows that gift-givers believe that a “more valuable” gift will be more appreciated than a “less valuable gift.” According to the graph, gift-givers believe the monetary value of a gift will determine whether that gift is well received or not.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph does not suggest that gift-givers are aware of gift-recipients’ appreciation levels. Choices C and D are incorrect because neither the gift-givers’ desire for the gifts they purchase nor the gift-givers’ relationship with the gift-recipients is addressed in the graph.

QUESTION 21.

Choice A is the best answer. Lines 69-75 explain that while people are often both gift-givers and gift-receivers, they struggle to apply information they learned as a gift-giver to a time when they were a gift-receiver: “Yet, despite the extensive experience that people have as both givers and receivers, they often struggle to transfer information gained from one role (e.g., as a giver) and apply it in another, complementary role (e.g., as a receiver).” The authors suggest that the disconnect between how much appreciation a gift-giver thinks a gift merits and how much appreciation a gift-recipient displays for the gift may be caused by both individuals’ inability to comprehend the other’s perspective.

Choices B and C are incorrect because neither the passage nor the graph addresses the idea that society has become more materialistic or that there is a growing opposition to gift-giving. Choice D is incorrect because the passage emphasizes that gift-givers and gift-recipients fail to understand each other’s perspective, but it offers no evidence that the disconnect results only from a failure to understand the other’s intentions.

QUESTION 22.

Choice B is the best answer. Lines 2-4 of the passage describe DNA as “a very long chain, the backbone of which consists of a regular alternation of sugar and phosphate groups.” The backbone of DNA, in other words, is the main structure of a chain made up of repeating units of sugar and phosphate.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage describes DNA on the molecular level only and never mentions the spinal column of organisms. Choice C is incorrect because the passage describes the backbone of the molecule as having “a regular alternation” of sugar and phosphate, not one or the other. Choice D is incorrect because the nitrogenous bases are not the main structural unit of DNA; rather, they are attached only to the repeating units of sugar.

QUESTION 23.

Choice D is the best answer. The authors explain that hydrogen bonds join together pairs of nitrogenous bases, and that these bases have a specific structure that leads to the pairing: “One member of a pair must be a purine and the other a pyrimidine in order to bridge between the two chains” (lines 27-29). Given the specific chemical properties of a nitrogenous base, it would be inaccurate to call the process random.

Choice A is incorrect because lines 5-6 describe how nitrogenous bases attach to sugar but not how those bases pair with one another. Choice B is incorrect because lines 9-10 do not contradict the student’s claim. Choice C is incorrect because lines 23-25 describe how the two molecules’ chains are linked, not what the specific pairing between nitrogenous bases is.

QUESTION 24.

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 12-14 the authors state: “the first feature of our structure which is of biological interest is that it consists not of one chain, but of two.”

Choices A and B are incorrect because lines 12-14 explicitly state that it is the two chains of DNA that are of “biological interest,” not the chemical formula of DNA, nor the common fiber axis those two chains are wrapped around. Choice C is incorrect because, while the X-ray evidence did help Watson and Crick to discover that DNA consists of two chains, it was not claimed to be the feature of biological interest.

QUESTION 25.

Choice C is the best answer. In lines 12-14 the authors claim that DNA molecules appear to be comprised of two chains, even though “it has often been assumed . . . there would be only one” (lines 15-17). The authors support this claim with evidence compiled from an X-ray: “the density, taken with the X-ray evidence, suggests very strongly that there are two [chains]” (lines 18-19).

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the authors mention density and X-ray evidence to support a claim, not to establish that DNA carries genetic information, present a hypothesis about the composition of a nucleotide, or confirm a relationship between the density and chemical formula of DNA.

QUESTION 26.

Choice B is the best answer. The authors explain that “only certain pairs of bases will fit into the structure” (lines 25-26) of the DNA molecule. These pairs must contain “a purine and the other a pyrimidine in order to bridge between the two chains” (lines 27-29), which implies that any other pairing would not “fit into the structure” of the DNA molecule. Therefore, a pair of purines would be larger than the required purine/pyrimidine pair and would not fit into the structure of the DNA molecule.

Choice A is incorrect because this section is not discussing the distance between a sugar and phosphate group. Choice C is incorrect because the passage never makes clear the size of the pyrimidines or purines in relation to each other, only in relation to the space needed to bond the chains of the DNA molecule. Choice D is incorrect because the lines do not make an implication about the size of a pair of pyrimidines in relation to the size of a pair consisting of a purine and a pyrimidine.

QUESTION 27.

Choice D is the best answer. The authors explain how the DNA molecule contains a “precise sequence of bases” (lines 43-44), and that the authors can use the order of bases on one chain to determine the order of bases on the other chain: “If the actual order of the bases on one of the pair of chains were

given, one could write down the exact order of the bases on the other one, because of the specific pairing. Thus one chain is, as it were, the complement of the other, and it is this feature which suggests how the deoxyribonucleic acid molecule might duplicate itself” (lines 45-51). The authors use the words “exact,” “specific,” and “complement” in these lines to suggest that the base pairings along a DNA chain is understood and predictable, and may explain how DNA “duplicate[s] itself” (line 51).

Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that most nucleotide sequences are known. Choice B is incorrect because these lines are not discussing the random nature of the base sequence along one chain of DNA. Choice C is incorrect because the authors are describing the bases attached only to the sugar, not to the sugar-phosphate backbone.

QUESTION 28.

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 6-7 state that “Two of the possible bases—adenine and guanine—are purines,” and on the table the percentages of adenine and guanine in yeast DNA are listed as 31.3% and 18.7% respectively.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not state the percentages of both purines, adenine and guanine, in yeast DNA.

QUESTION 29.

Choice A is the best answer. The authors state: “We believe that the bases will be present almost entirely in their most probable forms. If this is true, the conditions for forming hydrogen bonds are more restrictive, and the only pairs of bases possible are: adenine with thymine, and guanine with cytosine” (lines 31-35). The table shows that the pairs adenine/thymine and guanine/cytosine have notably similar percentages in DNA for all organisms listed.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the choice of “Yes” is correct, the explanation for that choice misrepresents the data in the table. Choices C and D are incorrect because the table does support the authors’ proposed pairing of nitrogenous bases in DNA molecules.

QUESTION 30.

Choice A is the best answer because it gives the percentage of cytosine (17.3%) in sea urchin DNA and the percentage of guanine (17.7%) in sea urchin DNA. Their near similar pairing supports the authors’ proposal that possible pairings of nitrogenous bases are “adenine with thymine, and guanine with cytosine” (line 35).

Choices B, C, and D do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice B (cytosine and thymine), Choice C (cytosine and adenine), and Choice D (guanine and adenine) are incorrect because they show pairings of nitrogenous bases that do not compose a similar percentage of the bases in sea urchin DNA.

QUESTION 31.

Choice D is the best answer. The table clearly shows that the percentage of adenine in each organism's DNA is different, ranging from 24.7% in *E.coli* to 33.2% in the octopus. That such a variability would exist is predicted in lines 41-43, which states that "in a long molecule many different permutations are possible."

Choices A and B are incorrect because the table shows that the percentage of adenine varies between 24.7% and 33.2% in different organisms. Choice C is incorrect because lines 36-38 state that adenine pairs with thymine but does not mention the variability of the base composition of DNA.

QUESTION 32.

Choice B is the best answer. In this passage, Woolf asks women a series of questions. Woolf wants women to consider joining "the procession of educated men" (lines 56-57) by becoming members of the workforce. Woolf stresses that this issue is urgent, as women "have very little time in which to answer [these questions]" (lines 48-49).

Choice A is incorrect because Woolf argues against the tradition of only "the sons of educated men" (lines 82-83) joining the workforce. Choice C is incorrect because Woolf is not highlighting the severity of social divisions as much as she is explaining how those divisions might be reduced (with women joining the workforce). Choice D is incorrect because Woolf does not question the feasibility of changing the workforce dynamic.

QUESTION 33.

Choice A is the best answer. Throughout the passage, Woolf advocates for more women to engage with existing institutions by joining the workforce: "We too can leave the house, can mount those steps [to an office], pass in and out of those doors, . . . make money, administer justice . . ." (lines 30-32). Woolf tells educated women that they are at a "moment of transition" (line 51) where they must consider their future role in the workforce.

Choice B is incorrect because even though Woolf mentions women's traditional roles (lines 68-69: "while they stirred the pot, while they rocked the cradle"), she does not suggest that women will have to give up these traditional roles to gain positions of influence. Choice C is incorrect because though Woolf wonders how "the procession of the sons of educated men" impacts women's roles, she does not argue that this male-dominated society has had grave and continuing effects. Choice D is incorrect because while Woolf suggests educated women can hold positions currently held by men, she does not suggest that women's entry into positions of power will change those positions.

QUESTION 34.

Choice C is the best answer. Woolf uses the word "we" to refer to herself and educated women in English society, the "daughters of educated men"

(line 64). Woolf wants these women to consider participating in a changing workforce: “For there, trapesing along at the tail end of the procession [to and from work], we go ourselves” (lines 23-24). In using the word “we” throughout the passage, Woolf establishes a sense of solidarity among educated women.

Choice A is incorrect because Woolf does not use “we” to reflect on whether people in a group are friendly to one another; she is concerned with generating solidarity among women. Choice B is incorrect because though Woolf admits women have predominantly “done their thinking” within traditional female roles (lines 64-69), she does not use “we” to advocate for more candor among women. Choice D is incorrect because Woolf does not use “we” to emphasize a need for people in a group to respect one other; rather, she wants to establish a sense of solidarity among women.

QUESTION 35.

Choice B is the best answer. Woolf argues that the “bridge over the River Thames, [has] an admirable vantage ground for us to make a survey” (lines 1-3). The phrase “make a survey” means to carefully examine an event or activity. Woolf wants educated women to “fix [their] eyes upon the procession—the procession of the sons of educated men” (lines 9-11) walking to work.

Choice A is incorrect because while Woolf states the bridge “is a place to stand on by the hour dreaming,” she states that she is using the bridge “to consider the facts” (lines 6-9). Woolf is not using the bridge for fanciful reflection; she is analyzing “the procession of the sons of educated men” (lines 10-11). Choice C is incorrect because Woolf does not compare the bridge to historic episodes. Choice D is incorrect because Woolf does not suggest that the bridge is a symbol of a male-dominated past, but rather that it serves as a good place to watch men proceed to work.

QUESTION 36.

Choice D is the best answer. Woolf writes that the men who conduct the affairs of the nation (lines 15-17: “ascending those pulpits, preaching, teaching, administering justice, practising medicine, transacting business, making money”) are the same men who go to and from work in a “procession” (line 10). Woolf notes that women are joining this procession, an act that suggests the workforce has become less exclusionary: “For there, trapesing along at the tail end of the procession, we go ourselves” (lines 23-24).

Choice A is incorrect because the procession is described as “a solemn sight always” (lines 17-18), which indicates that it has always been influential. Choice B is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that this procession has become a celebrated feature of English life. Choice C is incorrect because the passage states only that the procession is made up of “the sons of educated men” (lines 10-11).

QUESTION 37.

Choice C is the best answer, as lines 23-24 suggest that the workforce has become less exclusionary. In these lines Woolf describes how women are joining the male-dominated procession that travels to and from the work place: “For there, trapesing along at the tail end of the procession, we go ourselves.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice A is incorrect because lines 12-17 describe the positions predominantly held by men. Choice B is incorrect because lines 17-19 use a metaphor to describe how the procession physically looks. Choice D is incorrect because lines 30-34 hypothesize about future jobs for women.

QUESTION 38.

Choice C is the best answer. Woolf characterizes the questions she asks in lines 53-57 as significant (“so important that they may well change the lives of all men and women for ever,” lines 52-53) and urgent (“we have very little time in which to answer them,” lines 48-49). Therefore, Woolf considers the questions posed in lines 53-57 as both momentous (significant) and pressing (urgent).

Choice A is incorrect because Woolf characterizes the questions as urgent and important, not as something that would cause controversy or fear. Choice B is incorrect because though Woolf considers the questions to be weighty (or “important”), she implies that they can be answered. Choice D is incorrect because Woolf does not imply that the questions are mysterious.

QUESTION 39.

Choice B is the best answer. The answer to the previous question shows how Woolf characterizes the questions posed in lines 53-57 as momentous and pressing. In lines 48-49, Woolf describes these questions as “important,” or momentous, and states that women “have very little time in which to answer them,” which shows their urgency.

Choices A, C, and D do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choices A and D are incorrect because lines 46-47 and line 62 suggest that women need to think about these questions and not offer trivial objections to them. Choice C is incorrect because line 57 characterizes only the need for urgency and does not mention the significance of the questions.

QUESTION 40.

Choice C is the best answer. Woolf writes that women “have thought” while performing traditional roles such as cooking and caring for children

(lines 67-69). Woolf argues that this “thought” has shifted women’s roles in society and earned them a “brand-new sixpence” that they need to learn how to “spend” (lines 70-71). The “sixpence” mentioned in these lines is not a literal coin. Woolf is using the “sixpence” as a metaphor, as she is suggesting women take advantage of the opportunity to join the male-dominated workforce.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in this context, “sixpence” does not refer to tolerance, knowledge, or perspective.

QUESTION 41.

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 72-76, Woolf repeats the phrase “let us think” to emphasize how important it is for women to critically reflect on their role in society. Woolf states this reflection can occur at any time: “Let us think in offices; in omnibuses; while we are standing in the crowd watching Coronations and Lord Mayor’s Shows; let us think . . . in the gallery of the House of Commons; in the Law Courts; let us think at baptisms and marriages and funerals.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in lines 72-76 Woolf is not emphasizing the novelty of the challenge faced by women, the complexity of social and political issues, or the enjoyable aspect of women’s career possibilities.

QUESTION 42.

Choice B is the best answer. The author of Passage 1 identifies specific companies such as the “Planetary Resources of Washington,” “Deep Space Industries of Virginia,” and “Golden Spike of Colorado” to support his earlier assertion that there are many interested groups “working to make space mining a reality” (line 8).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the author of Passage 1 does not mention these companies to profile the technological advances in space mining, the profit margins from space mining, or the diverse approaches to space mining.

QUESTION 43.

Choice A is the best answer. The author of Passage 1 explicitly states that one benefit to space mining is access to precious metals and earth elements: “within a few decades, [space mining] may be meeting earthly demands for precious metals, such as platinum and gold, and the rare earth elements vital for personal electronics, such as yttrium and lanthanum” (lines 18-22).

Choice B is incorrect because Passage 1 does not suggest that precious metals extracted from space may make metals more valuable on Earth. Choice C and Choice D are incorrect because Passage 1 never mentions how space mining could create unanticipated technological innovations or change scientists’ understanding of space resources.

QUESTION 44.

Choice A is the best answer. Lines 18-22 suggest that space mining may help meet “earthly demands for precious metals . . . and the rare earth elements vital for personal electronics.” In this statement, the author is stating materials (“metals,” “earth elements”) that may be gathered as a result of space mining, and that these materials may be important to Earth’s economy.

Choices B, C, and D do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice B is incorrect because lines 24-28 focus on an “off-planet economy” but never address positive effects of space mining. Choice C is incorrect because lines 29-30 suggest the relative value of water found in space. Choice D is incorrect because lines 41-44 state that space mining companies hope to find specific resources in lunar soil and asteroids but do not address how these resources are important to Earth’s economy.

QUESTION 45.

Choice D is the best answer. The author suggests in lines 19-22 that space mining may meet “earthly demands for precious metals, such as platinum and gold, and the rare earth elements vital for personal electronics.” In this sentence, “earthly demands” suggests that people want, or desire, these precious metals and rare earth elements.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in this context “demands” does not mean offers, claims, or inquiries.

QUESTION 46.

Choice C is the best answer. Lines 29-30 introduce the idea that water mined in space may be very valuable: “water mined from other worlds could become the most desired commodity.” Lines 35-40 support this assertion by suggesting how mined space water could be used “for drinking or as a radiation shield” (lines 36-37) or to make “spacecraft fuel” (line 38).

Choice A is incorrect because the comparison in the previous paragraph (the relative value of gold and water to someone in the desert) is not expanded upon in lines 35-40. Choice B is incorrect because the question asked in the previous paragraph is also answered in that paragraph. Choice D is incorrect because no specific proposals are made in the previous paragraph; rather, an assertion is made and a question is posed.

QUESTION 47.

Choice B is the best answer. The author of Passage 2 recognizes that space mining may prove beneficial to humanity, stating that “we all stand to gain: the mineral bounty and spin-off technologies could enrich us all” (lines 50-52). The author also repeatedly mentions that space mining should be carefully considered before it is implemented: “But before the miners

start firing up their rockets, we should pause for thought” (lines 53-54); “But [space mining’s] consequences—both here on Earth and in space—merit careful consideration” (lines 57-59).

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 concedes that “space mining seems to sidestep most environmental concerns” (lines 55-56) but does not imply that space mining will recklessly harm the environment, either on Earth or in space. Choice C is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does not address any key resources that may be disappearing on Earth. Choice D is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 admits that “resources that are valuable in orbit and beyond may be very different to those we prize on Earth” (lines 74-76) but does not mention any disagreement about the commercial viabilities of space mining discoveries.

QUESTION 48.

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 60-66, the author presents some environmental arguments against space mining: “[space] is not ours to despoil” and we should not “[glut] ourselves on space’s riches.” The author then suggests that these environmental arguments will be hard to “hold,” or maintain, when faced with the possible monetary rewards of space mining: “History suggests that those will be hard lines to hold . . .” (line 68).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in this context, “hold” does not mean grip, restrain, or withstand.

QUESTION 49.

Choice D is the best answer. The author of Passage 1 is excited about the possibilities of space mining and how it can yield valuable materials, such as metals and elements (lines 19-20 and lines 41-42), water ice (line 35), and space dirt (line 44). The author of Passage 2, on the other hand, recognizes the possible benefits of space mining but also states that space mining should be thoughtfully considered before being implemented. Therefore, the author of Passage 2 expresses some concerns about a concept discussed in Passage 1.

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does not refute the central claim of Passage 1; both authors agree there are possible benefits to space mining. Choice B is incorrect because the author of Passage 1 does not describe space mining in more general terms than does the author of Passage 2. Choice C is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 is not suggesting that the space mining proposals stated in Passage 1 are impractical.

QUESTION 50.

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 18-28, the author of Passage 1 describes many of the possible economic benefits of space mining, including the

building of “an off-planet economy” (line 25). The author of Passage 2 warns that there may be ramifications to implementing space mining and building an “emerging off-world economy” (line 73) without regulation: “But miners have much to gain from a broad agreement on the for-profit exploitation of space. Without consensus, claims will be disputed, investments risky, and the gains made insecure” (lines 83-87).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does not suggest that the benefits to space mining mentioned in lines 18-28 of Passage 1 are unsustainable, unachievable, or will negatively affect Earth’s economy. Rather, the author recognizes the benefits of space mining but advocates for the development of regulation procedures.

QUESTION 51.

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 85-87, the author of Passage 2 states that the future of space mining will prove difficult without regulations because “claims will be disputed, investments risky, and the gains made insecure.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice A is incorrect because lines 60-63 present some environmental concerns toward space mining. Choice B is incorrect because lines 74-76 focus on how space mining may discover valuable resources that are different from the ones found on Earth. Choice C is incorrect because lines 81-83 simply describe one person’s objections to the regulation of the space mining industry.

QUESTION 52.

Choice A is the best answer because both Passage 1 and Passage 2 indicate a belief that the resources most valued in space may differ from those most valued on our planet. Passage 2 says this explicitly in lines 74-76: “The resources that are valuable in orbit and beyond may be very different to those we prize on Earth.” Meanwhile Passage 1 suggests that water mined from space may be more valuable than metals or other earth elements when creating an “off-planet economy” (lines 25-30).

Choice B is incorrect because neither passage discusses, either implicitly or explicitly, the need for space mining to be inexpensive. Choice C is incorrect because Passage 2 does not specifically identify precious metals or rare earth elements but instead focuses on theoretical problems with space mining. Choice D is incorrect because diminishing resources on Earth is not discussed in Passage 2.