

Central Ideas and Details

Question 1

In a 2010 study, Marianne Bertrand and Sendhil Mullainathan sent out nearly 5,000 *résumés* in response to help-wanted ads. The *résumés* were identical, with one exception: some listed stereotypically White names such as "Emily Walsh" and "Greg Baker"; others listed stereotypically African American names such as "Lakisha Washington" and "Jamal Jones". The researchers found that the White names received 50 percent more callbacks than the African American names, suggesting that racial bias remains a significant factor in hiring practices.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Bertrand and Mullainathan's study indicated a significant level of racial bias in hiring practices.
- ☐ B African American names are significantly less common on *résumés* than White names.
- ☐ C The names that people have can affect their likelihood of getting hired.
- ☐ D *Résumés* with the name Emily Walsh always receive more callbacks than those with the name Jamal Jones.

Question 2

In his 1996 book, *The Cloister Walk*, Kathleen Norris examines the relevance of monastic traditions in modern life. Norris, who spent extended periods in a Benedictine monastery, reflects on how monastic practices, such as silence and contemplation, offer valuable lessons for managing the distractions of contemporary society. She argues that these ancient traditions provide a framework for cultivating inner peace and a deeper understanding of oneself and the world.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Kathleen Norris's *The Cloister Walk* explores the benefits of adapting monastic traditions to cope with the complexities of modern life.
- ☐ B Benedictine monasteries are the only places where individuals can truly experience silence and contemplation.
- ☐ C Monastic traditions are incompatible with the demands and distractions of contemporary society.
- ☐ D Kathleen Norris is a Benedictine monk who advocates for the complete abandonment of modern life.

Question 3

Methylmercury (MeHg), a highly toxic organometallic cation, poses a significant threat to avian species, particularly songbirds. Research on *Tachycineta bicolor* (tree swallows) in the California Central Valley (2019) revealed a strong correlation between MeHg concentrations and disruptions in parental care. Elevated MeHg levels in female *T. bicolor* led to decreased incubation times, more frequent breaks, and increased likelihood of substantial egg temperature drops. These altered behaviors can delay embryonic development, extend incubation periods, and heighten vulnerability to predation, ultimately affecting chick quality and survival. This study highlights the sublethal yet critical impacts of MeHg on avian reproductive success, emphasizing the need for continued monitoring and mitigation efforts.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** A study on *Tachycineta bicolor* nesting in California's Central Valley demonstrated that elevated methylmercury concentrations have a direct impact on avian parental care, threatening offspring development.
- B** Methylmercury contamination is a localized issue primarily affecting *Tachycineta bicolor* populations in the California Central Valley due to unique environmental factors.
- C** Research indicates that methylmercury exposure in avian species leads to a variety of physiological and behavioral abnormalities, ultimately affecting their ability to thrive in their natural habitats.
- D** While methylmercury is known to be harmful to avian species, its effects on parental care behaviors are negligible compared to the direct toxic effects on embryonic development.

Question 4

In a 2021 study, Professor Anya Miller explored the impact of social media on political polarization. Participants who primarily received news from social media showed increased tendencies to favor information confirming their existing beliefs. This phenomenon, known as the echo chamber effect, was particularly pronounced among individuals with strong political affiliations. Miller's research suggests that while social media can enhance access to diverse perspectives, it often reinforces existing biases.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Professor Miller's 2021 study demonstrated that social media significantly reduces political diversity.
- B** Social media's echo chamber effect can reinforce political biases, especially among those with strong views.
- C** Social media offers diverse political perspectives, but most users ignore views that differ from their own.
- D** Political polarization is a recent phenomenon that began with the rise of social media.

Question 5

The advertisement call of the spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) is a crucial component of its reproductive strategy, primarily functioning in mate attraction. Research indicates that the temporal and spectral attributes of these calls are subject to variation influenced by a confluence of environmental factors. Studies have shown that ambient temperature significantly impacts calling behavior, exhibiting an inverse relationship with call duration and a positive correlation with call rate. Furthermore, experimental investigations have demonstrated that exposure to various types of acoustic interference, including conspecific and anthropogenic noise, can lead to modifications in the structure of the *Pseudacris crucifer* advertisement call, such as alterations in duration and peak frequency, suggesting a capacity for phenotypic plasticity in vocalization in response to environmental conditions.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** The advertisement call of the spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) is solely determined by genetic factors, ensuring consistent mate attraction signals across diverse environmental conditions.
- B** Temperature is the only environmental variable that influences the call characteristics of the spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*), affecting both call duration and call rate in a predictable manner.
- C** The vocalization patterns, specifically the advertisement call attributes, of the spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) are significantly shaped by a combination of environmental variables, including temperature and various forms of acoustic interference.
- D** While the advertisement call of the spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) is important for reproduction, the specific ways in which environmental factors like temperature and acoustic interference influence call structure and timing remain largely unknown and require extensive future research.

Question 6

In their 2018 study, Kristin Diehl and colleagues explored how consumers react to numerical product information. They found that presenting numerical data in a seemingly precise format (e.g., 98.6% satisfaction rate) can paradoxically decrease purchase intention compared to less precise numbers (e.g., about 99% satisfaction rate). The researchers attributed this effect to perceived manipulation. Consumers tend to distrust precise figures, interpreting them as attempts to mislead or overly influence their decisions. This skepticism diminishes when numbers are presented as estimates, fostering a sense of transparency and, consequently, increasing consumer trust and purchase likelihood.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Diehl and colleagues' study reveals that consumers generally prefer products with higher satisfaction rates, regardless of how the numerical data is presented.
- B** Consumers' purchase intentions are influenced not only by the numerical information itself but also by how precisely that information is presented, as demonstrated in Diehl and colleagues' 2018 study.
- C** The 2018 study by Diehl and colleagues showed that products with satisfaction rates around 99% are more likely to be purchased than those with lower satisfaction rates.
- D** Consumers are more likely to trust satisfaction rates when the rates are below 98%, which was discovered by Diehl and colleagues in their 2018 study.

Question 7

Research by social psychologist Kristin-Joi Wheaton suggests that an individual's interpretation of ambiguous social cues is significantly influenced by their current emotional state. In a 2018 study, participants were shown video clips of interactions between strangers that could be interpreted as either neutral or subtly hostile. Wheaton found that participants experiencing induced anxiety were more likely to perceive the interactions as hostile compared to those in a calm state. This effect was particularly pronounced among individuals with a pre-existing high level of trait anxiety, indicating that emotional state can amplify inherent biases in social perception. These findings align with prior work on *affective forecasting* and contribute to a broader understanding of how emotions shape cognitive processes.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Wheaton's study reveals that induced anxiety leads to misinterpretations of social interactions, especially for those with high trait anxiety.
- ☐ B Research suggests that anxiety, whether induced or pre-existing, uniformly distorts an individual's perception of all social cues.
- ☐ C Wheaton's findings support previous research on *affective forecasting*, confirming that individuals can accurately predict their emotional reactions in social situations.
- ☐ D A 2018 study indicates that negative emotions always have a greater impact on social perception than do positive emotions.

Question 8

The following text is from Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem *To Mary Shelley*. The poem expresses the speaker's deep sense of loss and melancholy while addressing a loved one.

The world is dreary, | And I am weary | Of wandering on without thee, Mary; | A joy was erewhile | In thy voice and thy smile, | And 'tis gone, when I should be gone too, Mary.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A The speaker is tired of traveling and wishes to return home to rest.
- ☐ B The speaker feels exhausted and sorrowful because he is separated from Mary.
- ☐ C The speaker believes that Mary has lost her ability to find joy in the world.
- ☐ D The speaker is describing a beautiful landscape that reminds him of Mary.

Question 9

In a study published in *Science Advances* (2023), McElwain et al. investigated the physiological responses of *Arabidopsis thaliana* to varying concentrations of salicylic acid (SA). Wild-type *Arabidopsis* plants and SA-insensitive mutants were subjected to SA concentrations ranging from 0 to 500 μM . The researchers found that wild-type plants exhibited increased expression of pathogenesis-related genes at lower SA concentrations (50-100 μM), indicative of systemic acquired resistance. However, at higher SA concentrations (200-500 μM), wild-type plants showed signs of phytotoxicity, including reduced photosynthetic efficiency and increased production of reactive oxygen species. SA-insensitive mutants did not exhibit increased pathogen resistance at lower SA concentrations. These findings suggest that the concentration of SA is critical for balancing defense responses and preventing self-inflicted damage in plants.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** The *Arabidopsis thaliana* mutants' failure to activate pathogen resistance, as reported by McElwain et al. in *Science Advances*, underscores the importance of salicylic acid.
- B** High concentrations of salicylic acid are critical for triggering systemic acquired resistance in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, but can cause phytotoxicity, according to a study.
- C** McElwain et al.'s study in *Science Advances* demonstrates that the concentration of salicylic acid is a key factor in balancing defense responses and toxicity in plants.
- D** The expression of pathogenesis-related genes in *Arabidopsis thaliana* is solely determined by the concentration of salicylic acid, as shown by McElwain et al.

Question 10

Phyllostomus hastatus, the greater spear-nosed bat, is a large phyllostomid bat species native to Central and South America. Research by Bohn, Wilkinson, and Moss in 2009 on *Phyllostomus hastatus* pups revealed intriguing aspects of their vocal development. They found that isolation calls, emitted by pups when separated, initially exhibit significant variation in spectral and temporal characteristics. However, as the pups mature and integrate into social groups, their calls converge acoustically with those of their group members. This phenomenon, termed vocal convergence, suggests a role for social learning and auditory experience in shaping the acoustic structure of isolation calls within *Phyllostomus hastatus* social groups, potentially facilitating group recognition and cohesion.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** The spectral and temporal characteristics of isolation calls in *Phyllostomus hastatus* pups become more varied as they age, indicating a lack of vocal learning in this species.
- B** Research on *Phyllostomus hastatus* pups indicates that their isolation calls undergo acoustic changes influenced by social interaction, suggesting vocal convergence within social groups.
- C** *Phyllostomus hastatus*, a large phyllostomid bat species, uses isolation calls primarily for individual recognition rather than group recognition within its social structure.
- D** The study of *Phyllostomus hastatus* vocalizations by Bohn, Wilkinson, and Moss in 2009 was the first to document any form of vocal learning in bat species.

Question 11

In a 2018 study, Ashley Whillans found that individuals who prioritize time over money report higher levels of well-being. Participants were asked to choose between a more expensive apartment closer to work or a cheaper apartment farther away. Those who chose the closer apartment, thus saving time on their commute, reported greater satisfaction. This suggests that for some, the trade-off between financial savings and increased leisure time favors time as a key component of happiness.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Ashley Whillans's 2018 study revealed that prioritizing leisure time over financial savings can lead to increased well-being.
- B** Commuting time has no impact on overall happiness, as demonstrated by Whillans's study.
- C** The cost of housing is the most significant factor in determining an individual's happiness.
- D** Saving money is more important than saving time for individuals seeking to maximize their well-being.

Question 12

The following text is from Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem *Circumstance*. The poem recounts an ironic sequence of events involving two men, a rope, and a lost purse to illustrate a broader point about fate.

A man who was about to hang himself, | Finding a purse, then
threw away his rope; | The owner, coming to reclaim his pelf, | The
halter found; and used it. So is Hope | Changed for Despair--one
laid upon the shelf, | We take the other. Under Heaven's high cope
| Fortune is God--all you endure and do | Depends on
circumstance as much as you.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** It argues that despair is a more powerful human emotion than hope because it drives people to drastic actions.
- B** It tells a story about a man who finds a fortune but eventually loses it due to his own recklessness.
- C** It suggests that human beings have total control over their own lives if they choose to exercise their free will.
- D** It illustrates how unpredictable external events can drastically alter human outcomes and emotional states.

Question 13

The following text is from John Keats's poem *Give Me Women, Wine, and Snuff*. The poem expresses the speaker's humorous and enthusiastic dedication to three specific earthly pleasures.

GIVE me women, wine, and snuff | Untill I cry out "hold, enough!" |
You may do so sans objection | Till the day of resurrection: | For,
bless my beard, they aye shall be | My beloved Trinity.

According to the text, what does the speaker indicate about the items he desires?

- ☐ A He intends to give them up before the day of resurrection.
- ☐ B He considers them to be his cherished trio of delights.
- ☐ C He believes they are harmful to his health and beard.
- ☐ D He is asking for them only because he has run out.

Question 14

Scholars have long debated the precise nature of *Homo sapiens*'s dispersal out of Africa, with conflicting archaeological and genetic evidence complicating the picture. A prominent hypothesis suggests a single, rapid exodus around 60,000 years ago, linked to environmental shifts. However, recent archaeological findings, particularly those from the sites of *Jebel Faya* in the United Arab Emirates and *Skhul and Qafzeh* in Israel, indicate earlier, possibly multiple, dispersal events dating back to perhaps 100,000 years ago or even earlier. These findings necessitate a more nuanced understanding of early human population dynamics and their capacity for adapting to diverse Eurasian environments long before the conventionally accepted major out-of-Africa migration.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Newly unearthed archaeological evidence at locations such as the *Jebel Faya* and *Skhul and Qafzeh* sites suggests that the dispersal of *Homo sapiens* out of Africa was not a single, recent event but rather a more complex process involving earlier, multiple migrations.
- B** The long-standing hypothesis of a single, rapid migration of *Homo sapiens* from Africa around 60,000 years ago is definitively disproven by recent genetic studies and environmental analyses.
- C** While genetic evidence supports a single, large-scale migration event for *Homo sapiens* approximately 60,000 years ago, archaeological discoveries provide limited and inconclusive evidence for earlier human presence outside of Africa.
- D** The adaptation of early human populations to varied Eurasian environments occurred solely during the major out-of-Africa migration event around 60,000 years ago, as supported by both genetic and archaeological data.

Question 15

In *Archaeology and Language: The Puzzle of Indo-European Origins* (1990), Colin Renfrew proposed the Anatolian hypothesis, which suggests that the dispersal of the Proto-Indo-European languages originated in Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) during the Neolithic period with the spread of agriculture, dating the split to around 7000-6500 BCE. This contrasts with the traditional Kurgan hypothesis, which places the origin in the Pontic-Caspian steppe during the Bronze Age, associated with the Yamnaya culture and a later dispersal around 3000 BCE. Renfrew's theory posits a more peaceful, demic diffusion process tied to farming expansion rather than the nomadic, conquest-based model of the Kurgan hypothesis. His work challenges prevailing linguistic and archaeological interpretations by suggesting a much earlier timeline for the dispersal of the Indo-European linguistic family.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Colin Renfrew's *Archaeology and Language: The Puzzle of Indo-European Origins* is a seminal work that fully discredits the Kurgan hypothesis regarding the origin and dispersal of the Proto-Indo-European languages due to its association with a later, conquest-based model.
- B** The traditional Kurgan hypothesis, which attributes the origin of the Proto-Indo-European languages to the Pontic-Caspian steppe during the Bronze Age and links its dispersal to the Yamnaya culture, remains the most widely accepted theory despite challenges.
- C** The dispersal of the Proto-Indo-European languages from Anatolia during the Neolithic period, as proposed by Colin Renfrew's Anatolian hypothesis, was primarily a violent process driven by the expansionist tendencies of agricultural societies.
- D** In *Archaeology and Language: The Puzzle of Indo-European Origins*, Colin Renfrew proposes the Anatolian hypothesis as an alternative to the Kurgan hypothesis, suggesting an earlier, Neolithic origin and a

different mechanism for the dispersal of the Proto-Indo-European languages linked to the spread of agriculture.

Question 16

Cerorhinca monocerata, commonly known as the Rhinoceros Auklet, is a seabird species that nests in underground burrows. Research conducted by Wilson and Manuwal (1986) on the breeding biology of *C. monocerata* in Washington revealed the importance of minimizing disturbance and habitat damage during studies. Conventional methods involving burrow excavation for accessing nests can be detrimental, especially in long-term research. This led to the investigation of using artificial burrows as a less intrusive alternative. Studies have shown that *C. monocerata* will utilize artificial burrows, and nesting success within these structures can be comparable to that in natural burrows. Therefore, artificial burrows present a viable and less harmful method for studying the breeding ecology of *C. monocerata*, mitigating the negative impacts associated with traditional excavation techniques.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Utilizing artificial burrows offers a less destructive and effective methodology for investigating the reproductive behaviors and environmental interactions of *Cerorhinca monocerata* compared to conventional methods that necessitate extensive excavation of natural habitats.
- B** The breeding biology of *Cerorhinca monocerata* in Washington, as studied by Wilson and Manuwal in 1986, highlights the critical need for developing novel research techniques to mitigate the considerable disturbance inflicted upon natural burrow structures.
- C** *Cerorhinca monocerata* is a species of seabird that constructs underground nests, and previous research efforts involving the excavation of these burrows have unfortunately resulted in substantial damage to their delicate habitat and caused undue stress to the avian subjects.
- D** While artificial burrows have demonstrated some potential as alternative nesting sites for *Cerorhinca monocerata*, further extensive

research is required to definitively ascertain their long-term efficacy and equivalence to natural burrows in supporting successful reproduction and population viability.

Question 17

The following text is from Jane Austen's 1811 novel *Sense and Sensibility*. The passage describes a conversation between Elinor Dashwood and her half-brother, John Dashwood, regarding his financial situation and improvements to his estate.

"You may guess, after all these expenses, how very far we must be from being rich, and how acceptable Mrs. Ferrars's kindness is."

"Certainly," said Elinor; "and assisted by her liberality, I hope you may yet live to be in easy circumstances."

"Another year or two may do much towards it," he gravely replied; "but however there is still a great deal to be done. There is not a stone laid of Fanny's green-house, and nothing but the plan of the flower-garden marked out."

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** John Dashwood complains of financial constraints despite planning costly improvements to his estate.
- B** Elinor is openly critical of John Dashwood's decision to build a green-house before paying his debts.
- C** Mrs. Ferrars has refused to provide any financial assistance until the flower-garden is completed.
- D** John Dashwood has finished all renovations on his estate and is now wealthy.

Question 18

The following text is from Charlotte Bronte's 1847 novel *Jane Eyre*. In the passage, a character named Blanche Ingram expresses her strong opinions about the qualities she values and despises in men while playing the piano.

"Oh, I am so sick of the young men of the present day!" exclaimed she, rattling away at the instrument. "Poor, puny things, not fit to stir a step beyond papa's park-gates; nor to go even so far without mamma's permission and guardianship! Creatures so absorbed in care about their pretty faces, and their white hands, and their small feet; as if a man had anything to do with beauty! ...Whenever I marry," she continued... "I am resolved my husband shall not be a rival, but a foil to me. I will suffer no competitor near the throne; I shall exact an undivided homage."

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Blanche Ingram believes that physical beauty is the most important trait for both men and women to possess.
- B** Blanche Ingram disdains vanity and weakness in men, preferring a husband who will highlight her own superiority rather than compete with it.
- C** Blanche Ingram argues that modern young men are superior to previous generations because they take better care of their appearance.
- D** Blanche Ingram feels that women should focus on strength and valor while men should be concerned with maintaining their physical attractiveness.

Question 19

The World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893, served as a pivotal moment in American urban planning and architectural history. While its ostensible purpose was to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World, the exposition became a showcase for the City Beautiful movement, advocating for monumental grandeur and rational urban design. Daniel Burnham, the Director of Works for the exposition, along with landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, orchestrated the creation of the "White City," a collection of neoclassical buildings and planned landscapes that stood in stark contrast to the often chaotic and unsanitary conditions of contemporary American cities. This ambitious undertaking, though temporary, profoundly influenced subsequent urban development and the design of public spaces across the United States, promoting the integration of aesthetic considerations and systematic planning into the growth of metropolitan areas.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was primarily a celebration of historical significance, focusing on the architectural styles prevalent at the time of Christopher Columbus's voyages.
- B** Frederick Law Olmsted's involvement in the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was limited to landscape architecture and did not significantly influence the overall urban planning principles showcased at the event.
- C** The "White City" built for the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was a short-lived artistic endeavor with minimal lasting impact on the practices of urban planning and architectural design in the United States.
- D** Beyond its commemorative function, the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 was instrumental in promoting and providing a model for integrating systematic planning and aesthetic grandeur in American

urban development.

Question 20

The following text is from Edith Wharton's 1905 novel *The House of Mirth*. In this scene, Lily Bart faces a confrontational encounter with Gus Trenor, a wealthy acquaintance who has given her money.

Over and over her the sea of humiliation broke—wave crashing on wave so close that the moral shame was one with the physical dread. It seemed to her that self-esteem would have made her invulnerable—that it was her own dishonour which put a fearful solitude about her. His touch was a shock to her drowning consciousness. She drew back from him with a desperate assumption of scorn.

“I’ve told you I don’t understand—but if I owe you money you shall be paid——”

Trenor’s face darkened to rage: her recoil of abhorrence had called out the primitive man.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Lily feels a deep sense of isolation because Trenor’s physical aggression has forced her to realize she has no one to turn to for financial assistance.
- B** Trenor’s anger is primarily driven by Lily’s refusal to acknowledge the financial debt she owes him, rather than her personal rejection of him.
- C** The encounter highlights Lily’s realization that her fear of Trenor is misplaced, as her own lack of self-respect is the only true danger she faces.
- D** Lily experiences a profound internal crisis where her sense of guilt amplifies her fear, leading her to reject Trenor’s advances with a feigned display of contempt.

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about a study by Bertrand and Mullainathan that showed racial bias in hiring. So, the main idea would be about the findings of this study.

(A) accurately reflects the main point that the study found racial bias in hiring. This is correct.

(B) is off-topic because the passage focuses on callbacks, not the frequency of names.

(C) is too broad, as it doesn't specifically mention the racial bias aspect that the study highlights.

(D) contradicts the passage, which speaks about averages, not absolutes, so we can't say "*résumés* with the name Emily Walsh *always* receive more calls."

Question 2

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about Kathleen Norris's book and how it talks about monastic traditions can help us today. So, the main idea should be something like "Norris's book says old traditions can help with today's problems".

(A) is correct because it says Kathleen Norris's book talks about how old traditions can help with today's problems. This is exactly what we predicted.

(B) is wrong because the passage does not say monasteries are the only places. It's too extreme.

(C) is wrong because the passage says the opposite. Monastic traditions

are compatible. This contradicts the passage.

(D) is wrong because Kathleen Norris is not a monk, and the book does not advocate for the complete abandonment of modern life. This is a half-right, half-wrong answer.

Question 3

Correct Answer: A

The main idea is that methylmercury disrupts parental care in *Tachycineta bicolor*, which affects offspring development.

(A) This choice aligns perfectly with the passage. The key information is that it's about a study on *Tachycineta bicolor*, methylmercury, parental care, and offspring development.

(B) This is incorrect because it is too narrow. While the study focused on the California Central Valley, the implications are broader than just a localized issue.

(C) This is incorrect because it is too broad. While the passage mentions other potential effects, the main focus is specifically on parental care.

(D) This is incorrect because it contradicts the passage. The study suggests that effects on parental care are significant, not negligible.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about how social media can strengthen people's political biases because people tend to see information that they already agree with.

The main idea should be about social media making political biases stronger.

(B) is the correct answer because it says that social media can make people's political biases stronger.

(A) is incorrect because the passage says social media can increase access to diverse perspectives. This choice says social media reduces diversity, which is the opposite of what the passage says.

(C) is incorrect because the passage focuses on how social media *reinforces* biases, not whether users ignore different views.

(D) is incorrect because the passage doesn't say when political polarization started, so it is off-topic.

Question 5

Correct Answer: C

The passage discusses how the advertisement call of the *Pseudacris crucifer* is influenced by environmental factors. It mentions temperature affecting call duration and rate, and noise affecting call structure. Therefore, the main idea is that the vocalization patterns are shaped by environmental variables.

(A) is incorrect because the passage states that environmental factors influence calls, contradicting the idea that only genetic factors are involved.

(B) is incorrect because the passage explicitly mentions both temperature and acoustic interference as influential factors, not just temperature.

(D) is incorrect because the passage describes specific ways temperature and noise affect calls, indicating that these influences are at least partially understood.

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

The passage discusses a study by Diehl and colleagues about how consumers react to numerical product information. The study found that seemingly precise numbers decrease purchase intention because consumers feel that they are being manipulated. Therefore, a good summary of the passage would be that consumer purchase intentions are

affected by the precision of the numerical information, according to Diehl and colleagues' study.

(B) correctly summarizes the passage by mentioning the study and the main finding.

(A) is incorrect because the passage argues that the presentation of the data also matters.

(C) is incorrect because it only focuses on products with 99% satisfaction rates.

(D) is incorrect because the study does not conclude that consumer trusts satisfaction rates below 98%.

Question 7

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about a study by Wheaton, and how anxiety affects people's judgement in social situations.

The main idea would be something like: Wheaton's study found that anxiety makes people see social interactions more negatively, especially if they are already anxious.

(A) matches this prediction. It says that Wheaton's study shows anxiety makes people misinterpret social interactions, particularly those who are already anxious.

(B) is incorrect because it is too broad. The passage only refers to ambiguous cues and does not refer to all social cues.

(C) is incorrect because it is off-topic. The passage mentions *affective forecasting*, but it is not the main point.

(D) is incorrect because it is not mentioned in the passage whether negative emotions have a greater impact than positive emotions.

Question 8

Correct Answer: B

The speaker in the poem says the world feels sad and he feels tired ("weary") because he has to keep going without Mary. He remembers the joy that used to be in her voice and smile, but now that joy is gone, and he feels like he shouldn't be here either.

Since the speaker explicitly links his weariness and the dreary world to "wandering on without thee," the main idea is his sadness over this separation. Choice (B) matches this perfectly.

Choice (A) is incorrect because the "wandering" is metaphorical for living life without her, not a literal travel complaint about needing rest. Choice (C) is incorrect because the speaker says *he* has lost the joy of her voice and smile, not that Mary herself has lost the ability to be happy. Choice (D) is incorrect because the poem describes the world as "dreary" (sad/gloomy), not as a beautiful landscape.

Question 9

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about a study by McElwain and others that looks at how different amounts of salicylic acid (SA) affect *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants. It found that the right amount of SA helps the plant defend itself, but too much can harm it.

The main idea is that the right amount of SA is important for the plant to balance defending itself and avoiding damage.

(A) is incorrect because it only talks about the mutants and why salicylic acid is important, but does not mention toxicity. This is too narrow.

(B) is incorrect because it says that high concentrations are critical, which contradicts the passage.

(D) is incorrect because it is too extreme by saying that SA concentration

solely determines the expression of genes.

Therefore, (C) is correct because it summarizes the study's finding that the concentration of SA is key in balancing defense and toxicity.

Question 10

Correct Answer: B

The passage discusses a study on *Phyllostomus hastatus* pups and how their isolation calls change as they grow and interact with their social group. The calls start varied but become similar to their group members' calls. This change is called vocal convergence and is thought to help the bats recognize their group. So, the main idea is that the calls of young *Phyllostomus hastatus* change because of social reasons, leading to vocal convergence in their groups.

(A) is wrong because the passage says the calls become *less* varied, not more varied, and it suggests vocal learning is happening, not a lack of it.

(C) is wrong because the passage emphasizes group recognition and cohesion as a potential function of the vocal convergence, not primarily individual recognition.

(D) is wrong because while the passage discusses this specific study, it doesn't claim it's the *first* documentation of vocal learning in *all* bat species.

Question 11

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about a study by Ashley Whillans that found that people who value time more than money are generally happier. This means that when people choose to save time, even if it costs them more money, they tend to be more satisfied with their lives. So, the main idea would be about how choosing time over money can make people happier, according to this study.

(A) This choice is correct because it says that the study showed that valuing free time over money can lead to greater happiness, which is exactly what the passage is about.

(B) This is incorrect because the study actually showed that commute time does have an impact on happiness.

(C) This choice is incorrect because, while the cost of housing is mentioned, the study focuses on the trade-off between time and money, not just housing costs.

(D) This is incorrect because the study suggests the opposite, that saving time is more important for well-being than saving money.

Question 12

Correct Answer: D

The text tells a short story about two men. One man plans to end his life but finds money and becomes hopeful. The other man loses his money and ends his life using the rope the first man left behind. The poem concludes by saying that "Fortune is God" and that what happens to us depends on "circumstance as much as you." This means that luck and outside events change our lives in ways we cannot predict.

Therefore, (D) is the correct answer because it captures this theme: unpredictable events (finding/losing a purse) change the outcomes for the men involved.

(A) is incorrect because the poem treats Hope and Despair as interchangeable states that depend on luck, not as one being stronger than the other.

(B) is incorrect because it misinterprets the plot; the man who finds the fortune does not lose it in the poem—the original owner is the one who suffers.

(C) is incorrect because it contradicts the main point of the poem, which explicitly states that what we endure depends on circumstance, not just on us.

Question 13

Correct Answer: B

The text tells us that the speaker wants "women, wine, and snuff" until he has had enough. In the last two lines, he says, "they aye shall be | My beloved Trinity." The word "aye" means always, and a "Trinity" is a group of three things. By calling them his "beloved Trinity," he is saying that these three things are his favorite group of items that he cherishes.

Therefore, the correct answer is (B) because it paraphrases the idea that he considers these three items ("women, wine, and snuff") to be his "beloved Trinity," or cherished trio.

(A) is incorrect because the text says he will enjoy them "Till the day of resurrection," which implies he will keep them until the very end, not give them up before then.

(C) is incorrect because although he mentions his "beard," he says "bless my beard" as an exclamation. He does not say the items are harmful to his health or beard.

(D) is incorrect because the text never mentions whether he has run out of these items; it only expresses his strong desire to have them continuously.

Question 14

Correct Answer: A

The passage discusses the debate surrounding how and when humans left Africa. It presents the older idea of one big move about 60,000 years ago. Then it talks about new digs at places like *Jebel Faya* and *Skhul and Qafzeh*. These new finds suggest humans left Africa earlier and more than once. So, the main point is that new findings are changing the old idea about humans leaving Africa. Looking at the choices, (A) says new evidence from specific places suggests that humans leaving Africa was not just one recent event but earlier and multiple moves. This matches what the passage says.

(B) is wrong because the passage doesn't say the old idea is *definitely* disproven, just that new evidence suggests a different view. It also doesn't focus on genetic studies disproving the idea. (C) is wrong because the passage highlights archaeological finds providing strong evidence for earlier migrations. (D) is wrong because the passage suggests adaptation to environments happened earlier than the 60,000-year mark due to earlier migrations.

Question 15

Correct Answer: D

The passage introduces Colin Renfrew's Anatolian hypothesis as presented in his book, and contrasts it with the traditional Kurgan hypothesis. The passage explains what Renfrew's hypothesis is and how it differs from the Kurgan hypothesis in terms of origin location, time period, and the mechanism of dispersal. Therefore, the main idea is to present Renfrew's alternative theory.

(A) is incorrect because the passage does not state that Renfrew's work "fully discredits" the Kurgan hypothesis, only that it challenges it.

(B) is incorrect because the passage focuses on introducing Renfrew's alternative hypothesis, not on asserting the continued dominance of the Kurgan hypothesis.

(C) is incorrect because the passage describes Renfrew's proposed mechanism as a "more peaceful, demic diffusion process tied to farming expansion," not a violent or conquest-based one.

(D) accurately captures the main idea by stating that Renfrew proposes the Anatolian hypothesis as an alternative to the Kurgan hypothesis, highlighting the key differences in origin, time, and dispersal mechanism.

Question 16

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about how digging up the nests of *Cerorhinca monocerata* birds to study them can hurt the birds and their homes. It then says that using fake nests is a better way to study them because it doesn't cause as much harm and the birds still use them. So, the main idea is that using fake nests is a good, less harmful way to study these birds.

(A) says that using artificial burrows is a less harmful and effective way to study the birds' breeding and how they interact with their environment, which is exactly what the passage is about.

(B) talks about the study from 1986 and the need for new techniques, but it doesn't fully capture that artificial burrows are the solution being presented and that they are effective.

(C) focuses on the problem of digging up nests causing damage and stress, but it doesn't include the solution of using artificial burrows, which is a key part of the passage.

(D) suggests that more research is needed on artificial burrows, but the passage implies they are already a viable tool since it states their effectiveness can be comparable to natural burrows.

Question 17

Correct Answer: A

The text tells us about a man named John Dashwood talking to Elinor. First, John says he is not rich because he has spent a lot of money, and he is happy to get help from Mrs. Ferrars. Then, right after saying he isn't rich, he talks about building a new green-house and a flower-garden. This shows he is worried about money but still plans to spend more on fancy things.

Prediction: The main idea is that John says he is short on money but still wants to do expensive projects like building a green-house.

(A) is the correct answer. It matches our prediction perfectly. He complains about money ("financial constraints") but is still planning "costly improvements" like the green-house.

(B) is incorrect because the text says Elinor said "Certainly" and hoped he would be okay. It does not say she was "openly critical" or mean to him in this part.

(C) is incorrect because the text says Mrs. Ferrars's kindness is "acceptable," which means she is helping him. It does not say she refused to help.

(D) is incorrect because John says "There is not a stone laid" for the green-house, meaning the work is not finished at all. He also says he is "far... from being rich," not wealthy.

Question 18

Correct Answer: B

The text is about a lady named Blanche who is complaining about young men. She thinks they are too weak ("puny") and care too much about looking pretty ("pretty faces," "white hands"). She says men shouldn't worry about beauty; only women should. She also says that when she marries, she wants a husband who makes her look better ("a foil to me") and doesn't try to be the center of attention ("no competitor near the throne").

Therefore, the main idea is that she dislikes men who are vain and weak, and she wants a husband who lets her be the star.

(B) is the correct answer because it matches the prediction perfectly. It mentions her dislike for vanity ("care about their pretty faces") and weakness, and her desire for a husband who acts as a foil (someone who makes her shine brighter).

(A) is incorrect because Blanche actually says the opposite about men. She says, "as if a man had anything to do with beauty!" meaning she thinks beauty is for women, not men.

(C) is incorrect because she is criticizing modern men, not saying they are superior. She says she is "sick of the young men of the present day."

(D) is incorrect because she swaps the roles. In the text, she says men should have "strength and valor" and that beauty ("loveliness") is the special right of women.

Question 19

Correct Answer: D

The passage discusses how the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, while commemorating a historical event, was important for American urban planning and architecture. It mentions the "White City" design by Daniel Burnham and Frederick Law Olmsted as a planned and aesthetically pleasing environment that differed from typical cities then. The passage concludes that this had a significant and lasting impact on urban development and public spaces in the US. Therefore, the main idea is about the exposition's influence on urban planning and design.

(A) is incorrect because while the exposition commemorated a historical event, the passage emphasizes its role in urban planning and architecture, not just historical styles related to Columbus.

(B) is incorrect because the passage states that Frederick Law Olmsted, as a landscape architect, orchestrated the creation of the "White City" along with Daniel Burnham, indicating his significant influence on the overall design and planning principles showcased.

(C) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that the undertaking, though temporary, "profoundly influenced subsequent urban development and the design of public spaces across the United States," contradicting the idea of minimal lasting impact.

(D) accurately reflects the passage's main point that the exposition went beyond its commemorative purpose to promote and serve as a model for planned and aesthetically considered urban growth in America.

Question 20

Correct Answer: D

The passage describes a woman named Lily who is feeling very ashamed and scared. It says humiliation is crashing over her like waves. She feels like if she had more self-respect, she would be safer, but her own "dishonour" makes her feel lonely and vulnerable. When the man, Trenor, touches her, she pulls away and acts scornful (hateful/disrespectful) to protect herself. Trenor then gets angry because she pulls away.

So, the main idea is that Lily feels guilty and ashamed, which makes her fear worse, and she reacts by pushing Trenor away to defend herself.

(D) is the correct answer because it captures both her internal feelings (guilt amplifying fear) and her external action (rejecting him with a "desperate assumption of scorn," which means she is faking or putting on a show of contempt).

(A) is incorrect because the passage says her solitude comes from her "own dishonour," not because she has no one to turn to. The focus is on her internal shame, not her lack of friends or help.

(B) is incorrect because the text says Trenor's face darkened to rage specifically because of her "recoil of abhorrence" (her pulling away in disgust). It was her personal rejection that made him angry, not just the money issue.

(C) is incorrect because it claims she thinks her fear is "misplaced." The text says her shame and fear are mixed together ("moral shame was one with the physical dread"), but it doesn't say the fear isn't real or necessary. She is definitely afraid of him.