

Central Ideas and Details

Question 1

In her 1966 essay, Susan Sontag explores the concept of *camp*—an aesthetic style that values artifice, exaggeration, and irony. Sontag argues that *camp* is not simply about being ridiculous or frivolous but rather represents a particular sensibility. According to Sontag, *camp* taste appreciates the "off," emphasizing the theatrical and the stylized over the natural and sincere. She suggests that *camp* is a way of appreciating art and culture through a lens of detachment and irony, celebrating the artificial and exaggerated as forms of aesthetic pleasure. *Camp* taste identifies and enjoys the spirit of extravagance. She makes the distinction that not all things are *camp*; *camp* is a certain mode of art.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Sontag's essay analyzes *camp* as an aesthetic that values artifice and irony, distinguishing it from mere ridiculousness and emphasizing its role in appreciating extravagance.
- ☐ B Sontag's work on *camp* is an outdated perspective that has little relevance in contemporary discussions of art and culture.
- ☐ C Sontag's exploration of *camp* focuses primarily on its manifestations in theater and performance art, neglecting its broader cultural impact.
- ☐ D Sontag's essay aimed to criticize the rise of artificiality and insincerity in modern art, advocating for a return to more natural and sincere forms of expression.

Question 2

In social cognition, individuals often employ heuristics, cognitive shortcuts that simplify complex decisions. While efficient, these heuristics can introduce biases, leading to deviations from rational judgment. For instance, the *availability heuristic* leads people to overestimate the likelihood of events that are readily accessible in memory. Conversely, the *representativeness heuristic* involves assessing the similarity of an event to a prototype, potentially overlooking base rates. Dual-process theories posit that both intuitive and analytical thinking influence decision-making, with heuristics dominating when cognitive resources are limited.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Heuristics are detrimental to decision-making because they invariably lead to inaccurate judgments and flawed conclusions.
- B** Social cognition relies on heuristics to streamline decision-making, but these cognitive shortcuts can introduce biases that compromise rationality.
- C** Dual-process theories suggest that analytical thinking is superior to intuitive thinking in social cognition, yielding more accurate judgments.
- D** The availability and representativeness heuristics are the only cognitive shortcuts that significantly impact decision-making in social contexts.

Question 3

In her 2009 book, *The Cult of the Amateur*, Andrew Keen argues that the internet's democratic nature fosters a culture of uncritical acceptance of information. Keen suggests that the traditional media's role as gatekeepers ensured a level of quality control that is absent in the digital age, leading to a proliferation of misinformation. *Wikipedia*, for example, while vast, is often unreliable due to its open editing policy. Similarly, online news platforms frequently prioritize sensationalism over accuracy to attract clicks. According to Keen, this decline in journalistic integrity has severe consequences for society, undermining informed public discourse and critical thinking.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Andrew Keen's *The Cult of the Amateur* highlights the ways in which the internet's open structure diminishes media quality and impairs societal understanding.
- B** The rise of *Wikipedia* and online news platforms has democratized access to information, leading to a more informed and engaged citizenry.
- C** Andrew Keen's book primarily focuses on how traditional media outlets can adapt to the challenges posed by digital platforms.
- D** The internet has created a new generation of amateur journalists who are dedicated to uncovering the truth and holding power accountable.

Question 4

Confirmation bias, a pervasive cognitive phenomenon, significantly impacts information processing and decision-making. Individuals exhibit a tendency to selectively seek out information that corroborates existing beliefs, while simultaneously disregarding contradictory evidence. This bias is amplified by *belief perseverance*, where initial conceptions are maintained even after being discredited. Studies by Rabin and Schrag (1999) suggest that such biased assimilation can lead to overconfidence in incorrect judgments. Furthermore, *attitude polarization* emerges as individuals with opposing views become more entrenched in their positions upon exposure to the same evidence, as demonstrated in Lord, Ross, and Lepper's (1979) research.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Research by Rabin, Schrag, Lord, Ross, and Lepper highlights the severe consequences of confirmation bias on the legal system.
- B** Confirmation bias, intensified by belief perseverance, causes polarized views when individuals are presented with the same information.
- C** Confirmation bias is solely responsible for the perpetuation of misinformation, regardless of an individual's cognitive abilities.
- D** While confirmation bias influences some judgments, its impact is negligible compared to emotional and environmental factors.

Question 5

The intricate relationship between a host organism and its microbiome is increasingly recognized as a key factor in shaping the host's phenotype. Microbiomes, the communities of microorganisms inhabiting a host, contribute significantly to various physiological processes. These processes include nutrient metabolism and immune system modulation. Studies, such as those highlighted by Zilber-Rosenberg and Rosenberg (2008), suggest that the *holobiont* (the host plus its microbiome) should be considered a unit of selection in evolution. The precise mechanisms, however, through which the microbiome influences host traits are still being investigated, with research focusing on microbial metabolites and genetic interactions.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** The *holobiont* concept suggests that a host's microbiome should be considered separately when studying evolution.
- B** Microbiomes significantly influence a host's physiology, impacting traits through complex mechanisms still under investigation.
- C** While microbiomes impact metabolic and immune processes, host genetics are the primary determinants of the organism's phenotype.
- D** Further research is needed to understand the methods by which microbial metabolites affect specific genes in the host organism.

Question 6

In her 2009 book, *Against Empathy*, Paul Bloom argues that empathy—feeling what others feel—is a poor guide to moral action. Bloom asserts that empathy is narrow-minded, inclining us to favor those we resemble or who are close to us. Furthermore, empathy can be easily manipulated; vivid stories can trigger strong empathetic responses, regardless of the broader context or actual need. Bloom suggests that relying on reason and detached compassion, rather than empathy, leads to more consistent and morally sound decisions. He contends that reason allows us to consider the long-term consequences of our actions and to apply universal principles of fairness and justice.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* suggests that empathy, due to its inherent biases and manipulability, is a flawed basis for moral decision-making, advocating instead for reason and detached compassion.
- B** Paul Bloom's book offers various strategies on how to make decisions, and it emphasizes the importance of considering the feelings of others when faced with a difficult moral dilemma.
- C** Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* argues that empathy is the most important factor to making a moral decision, since it allows us to understand the needs and perspectives of others.
- D** Paul Bloom's book fails to consider the importance of diverse cultural contexts when making moral judgements, thereby undermining its central argument.

Question 7

In their 2003 publication, zoologists C.R. Brown and M.B. Brown describe an instance of apparent altruistic behavior in cliff swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). These birds nest in large colonies, making them susceptible to parasite infestations. The Browns observed that some swallows would frequently leave their own nests to preen others, removing parasites. This behavior, seemingly disadvantageous to the preeners, was more common in colonies with higher parasite loads. The Browns hypothesize that such reciprocal altruism may serve to reduce overall parasite prevalence within the colony, indirectly benefiting all individuals, including the preeners themselves.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** The 2003 publication by C.R. Brown and M.B. Brown highlights the methodology used to study reciprocal altruism.
- B** C.R. Brown and M.B. Brown's observations of cliff swallows suggest that reciprocal altruism may evolve as a response to parasitic infestations in nesting colonies.
- C** Although preening behavior in cliff swallows may seem altruistic, it actually benefits only the preeners themselves, as discovered by C.R. Brown and M.B. Brown.
- D** The research done by C.R. Brown and M.B. Brown indicates the evolutionary pressures that cause cliff swallows to develop nesting colonies.

Question 8

In her 1990 essay, literary critic Barbara Johnson argued that the ambiguity in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* stems from its challenge to established literary conventions. Johnson posited that the novel resists a singular interpretation, intentionally oscillating between standard English and vernacular dialect to mirror Janie Crawford's evolving identity. This fluidity, Johnson contended, destabilizes traditional readings that seek to categorize the novel within a fixed literary or social framework. Some scholars, however, critique Johnson's emphasis on ambiguity, suggesting that Hurston's use of dialect is a deliberate and assertive expression of Black cultural identity, rather than a sign of indecision.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Barbara Johnson's analysis of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* focuses on the novel's deliberate ambiguity, a perspective challenged by scholars who see Hurston's dialect as a celebration of Black cultural identity.
- B** The contrasting interpretations of Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* highlight a debate over whether the novel's literary merit stems from its use of vernacular dialect or its ability to mirror Janie Crawford's evolving identity.
- C** While Barbara Johnson views the mixture of standard English and vernacular dialect in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* as a challenge to literary conventions, other scholars believe that this is a weakness to the novel.
- D** The ambiguity in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is unintentional, reflecting Zora Neale Hurston's struggle to reconcile standard English with vernacular dialect, resulting in a novel that defies categorization.

Question 9

In her 2012 book, *Myths of the Mummy*, Dr. Jasmine Day explores the cultural narratives surrounding mummies in Western imagination. Day argues that mummies are not merely historical artifacts, but figures onto which Western societies have projected anxieties about death, otherness, and the passage of time. She traces the evolution of the mummy figure from the exoticized object of early archaeological expeditions to the monstrous antagonist of horror literature and film. Day contends that these fictional portrayals reveal more about Western cultural preoccupations than they do about ancient Egyptian beliefs or practices.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Day's analysis reveals a shift in Western understanding of mummies, focusing on anxieties rather than historical accuracy.
- B** Day's *Myths of the Mummy* is a comprehensive study of ancient Egyptian beliefs and practices regarding mummification.
- C** Mummies have evolved from being figures of historical interest to becoming antagonists in horror literature and film.
- D** Western societies' fascination with mummies reflects a deep-seated fear of death and the unknown, as argued by Day.

Question 10

In their 2014 study, Mullainathan and Shafir found that poverty directly impedes cognitive function. They theorized that the poor have reduced *mental bandwidth*, or cognitive resources, because their attention is consumed by financial scarcity. Participants were asked to play games that simulated real-life financial decisions. The study showed that when faced with simulated scarcity, participants performed poorly on cognitive tests, analogous to a 13-point dip in IQ. This effect was not observed in wealthier participants facing the same simulated conditions. The researchers concluded that poverty creates a cognitive burden that diminishes an individual's capacity for effective decision-making.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Mullainathan and Shafir's 2014 study demonstrated that poverty diminishes cognitive function due to the mental burden of financial scarcity.
- ☐ B The study of Mullainathan and Shafir primarily used games that simulated real-life financial decisions to measure the cognitive function of individuals.
- ☐ C The cognitive function of wealthier individuals remains unaffected even when faced with simulated conditions of financial scarcity.
- ☐ D Impoverished people have inherent cognitive deficiencies, leading to poor performance on cognitive tests and financial decisions.

Question 11

In his 1966 essay, "The Birth of the Author," Roland Barthes articulates a radical shift in literary criticism, challenging the traditional emphasis on authorial intent. Barthes argues that once a work is published, it becomes detached from its creator, and its meaning is derived not from the author's background or purpose, but from the interplay of language and cultural codes within the text itself. This perspective suggests that readers, rather than seeking to understand the author's intended meaning, should focus on the multiple interpretations that arise from the text's internal structure and its engagement with broader cultural contexts. Ultimately, Barthes seeks to liberate the text from the constraints of authorial authority, allowing for a more democratic and multifaceted reading experience.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Barthes's "The Birth of the Author" emphasizes the importance of understanding an author's life and intentions to fully grasp the meaning of their work.
- B** Roland Barthes's essay advocates for a new approach to literary criticism that prioritizes the text and reader interpretation over authorial intent.
- C** "The Birth of the Author" revolutionized literary criticism by demonstrating that language and cultural codes are irrelevant to a text's meaning.
- D** Barthes argues that the meaning of a literary work is solely determined by the author's background and personal experiences.

Question 12

In a study published in *Nature Communications* (2023), Liang et al. investigated the role of *Sprouty2* (*Spry2*) gene in regulating pancreatic ;"Ö6VÆÂ gVæ7F–öâ VæFW" vÇV6÷Föxic conditions. The researchers found that prolonged exposure to high glucose concentrations, mimicking type 2 diabetes, led to a significant downregulation of *Spry2* expression in ;"Ö6VÆÇ0. This downregulation was associated with impaired insulin secretion and increased oxidative stress. Overexpression of *Spry2* in ;"Ö6VÆÇ0, however, mitigated these effects, restoring insulin secretion and reducing oxidative damage. These findings suggest that *Spry2* plays a protective role against glucotoxicity in pancreatic ;"Ö6VÆÇ0, indicating its potential as a therapeutic target for preserving ;"Ö6VÆÂ gVæ7F–öâ –â diabetic patients.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Liang et al.'s study demonstrates that decreased expression of the *Spry2* gene in pancreatic ;"Ö6VÆÇ0, resulting from high glucose levels, can be reversed through therapeutic interventions.
- B** The research by Liang et al. reveals that the *Spry2* gene protects pancreatic ;"Ö6VÆÇ2 g&öÖ vÇV6÷Föxicity by maintaining insulin secretion and reducing oxidative stress, suggesting its therapeutic potential for diabetes.
- C** The *Nature Communications* study found that the *Spry2* gene is essential for pancreatic ;"Ö6VÆÂ gVæ7F–öâÂ æB —G2 Föwnregulation invariab leads to the onset of type 2 diabetes.
- D** Liang et al.'s 2023 study highlights the harmful effects of high glucose concentrations on pancreatic ;"Ö6VÆÇ0, which can only be counteracted by completely preventing the downregulation of the *Spry2* gene.

Question 13

The study of ocean acidification's impact on marine life has largely focused on calcifying organisms, such as corals and shellfish. However, research by Dupont et al. (2013) reveals a more complex picture. Exposing sea urchin larvae to elevated CO₂ levels, mimicking future ocean conditions, impaired the larvae's *skeletogenesis* (formation of the skeleton). Yet, the same conditions surprisingly enhanced the larvae's *biomineralization* rate during later development. This suggests that while early developmental stages are vulnerable, sea urchins possess a compensatory mechanism, potentially mitigating the long-term effects of acidification. The implications extend beyond sea urchins, suggesting the need for nuanced investigations into species-specific responses.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Research on sea urchin larvae indicates that ocean acidification uniformly impairs the biomineralization process across all developmental stages.
- B** A study on sea urchin larvae shows that the impact of ocean acidification varies across developmental stages, with potential compensatory mechanisms at play.
- C** Dupont et al.'s study confirms that ocean acidification poses a significant threat to all marine calcifying organisms, necessitating immediate conservation efforts.
- D** The investigation into sea urchin larvae biomineralization reveals that the long-term effects of ocean acidification are negligible due to skeletal compensation.

Question 14

In a 2010 study, Neil Roach and colleagues proposed the *aquatic ape hypothesis (AAH)*, suggesting that human bipedalism evolved from wading behaviors. This contrasts the savanna-based models, which attribute bipedalism to adaptations for seeing over tall grasses. Roach's team analyzed the energetic costs of walking on two legs versus four in chimpanzees and found bipedalism more efficient at shallow depths. Critics, however, point to the scarcity of fossil evidence supporting a semi-aquatic phase in human evolution. Moreover, the anatomical adaptations in hominins, such as the position of the foramen magnum, may not exclusively indicate wading but could also result from selection pressures unrelated to aquatic environments.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Roach's *aquatic ape hypothesis* is widely supported by fossil records and provides a comprehensive explanation for the development of bipedalism in early hominins.
- B** While the *aquatic ape hypothesis* offers a compelling alternative to savanna-based models for the evolution of bipedalism, it is challenged by a lack of fossil evidence and alternative explanations for hominin anatomy.
- C** Studies on chimpanzees have conclusively demonstrated that bipedalism is always more energy-efficient than quadrupedalism, regardless of the environment.
- D** The position of the foramen magnum in hominins definitively proves that early humans spent a significant amount of time wading in shallow water.

Question 15

In his seminal work, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Sigmund Freud posits that dreams are the disguised fulfillments of repressed wishes. He delineates the manifest content, the dream as it is consciously experienced, from the latent content, the unconscious desires underlying the dream. Freud argues that the latent content, often laden with symbolic meaning, undergoes a process of distortion, termed dreamwork, to become the more palatable manifest content. Critics, however, contend that Freud's interpretations are highly subjective and lack empirical validation. They propose alternative models, emphasizing cognitive processes and neurological mechanisms rather than repressed desires, to elucidate the enigmatic nature of dreams.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* elucidates the distinction between manifest and latent dream content.
- B** While Freud believed dreams are disguised wish fulfillments, alternative theories emphasize cognitive and neurological aspects.
- C** The process of dreamwork, as defined by Freud, is a universally accepted model for understanding dream formation.
- D** Dream interpretation is a field dominated by psychoanalytic theories, with Freud's work being the most empirically validated.

Question 16

In her 2016 book, *Against Empathy*, Yale professor Dr. Paul Bloom argues that empathy—feeling another's emotions—is a poor guide to moral action. While empathy can motivate helping behavior, it is inherently biased, favoring those similar or close to us. Bloom highlights research showing that empathy is susceptible to manipulation and can lead to irrational and even harmful decisions. He advocates for a more rational, detached approach to moral reasoning, emphasizing the use of compassion—caring about others' well-being without necessarily feeling their emotions—and a commitment to universal principles of justice and fairness.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Dr. Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* suggests that empathy, while seemingly beneficial, is a flawed basis for moral action due to its inherent biases and potential for manipulation.
- B** Research indicates that empathy is a consistently reliable predictor of ethical behavior, particularly when individuals are closely connected.
- C** Compassion, as opposed to empathy, is highlighted by Dr. Paul Bloom as the most effective means of connecting with individuals from different cultural backgrounds.
- D** Dr. Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* critiques the overuse of emotional appeals in contemporary political discourse, arguing for more rational debate.

Question 17

In a 2008 study, Tanya Chartrand and John Bargh investigated the *chameleon effect*, the unconscious mirroring of behaviors, and its impact on social interactions. Participants interacted with a confederate who either frequently shook their foot or touched their face. The study revealed that participants unconsciously mirrored these behaviors. Furthermore, participants who were mimicked reported a more positive experience and perceived the confederate as more likable. These findings suggest that the *chameleon effect* plays a crucial role in facilitating social connections and fostering rapport. However, the extent to which these effects translate across diverse cultural contexts warrants further investigation.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Chartrand and Bargh's study confirms that the *chameleon effect* is a conscious strategy employed to manipulate social interactions for personal gain.
- B** The *chameleon effect*, as demonstrated in Chartrand and Bargh's research, highlights the unconscious mirroring of behaviors, which fosters positive social interactions.
- C** The primary focus of Chartrand and Bargh's study was to determine the cultural contexts in which the *chameleon effect* is most prominently displayed.
- D** While the *chameleon effect* is a well-documented phenomenon, Chartrand and Bargh's study is unique in its methodology and focus on nonverbal cues.

Question 18

In her 2009 book, *Against Empathy*, Paul Bloom challenges the conventional wisdom that empathy is always a positive force. Bloom argues that empathy, which he defines as feeling another's emotions, can often lead to irrational and biased decision-making. He contrasts empathy with compassion, which involves caring about others' well-being without necessarily experiencing their feelings. Bloom contends that compassion, rather than empathy, is a more reliable guide to moral action, leading to fairer and more effective altruism. He cites examples ranging from political policies to personal relationships, illustrating how empathy can distort judgment and hinder objective reasoning.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* argues that empathy, while often viewed positively, can lead to flawed decision-making, advocating instead for compassion as a more reliable basis for moral action.
- ☐ B Paul Bloom's book, *Against Empathy*, suggests that empathy is the sole cause of irrational and biased decision-making in both political policies and personal relationships.
- ☐ C Paul Bloom's 2009 book examines the differences between political policies and personal relationships, concluding that empathy is more important for the latter.
- ☐ D Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* primarily focuses on defining the differences between altruism and compassion, with a secondary focus on empathy.

Question 19

In a 2008 paper, biologist Marlene Zuk and colleagues challenged the conventional wisdom that animal signals are invariably honest. While signals such as the bright plumage of birds often genuinely reflect an individual's health and genetic quality, Zuk's work on the *sexual signals* of *crickets* suggests otherwise. Her research indicates that some *crickets* use deceptive signaling strategies, manipulating the information they convey to potential mates. For example, a male *cricket* might exaggerate the volume of its mating call to attract more females, even if its physical condition doesn't support such robust behavior. This form of dishonest signaling provides the signaler with a short-term reproductive advantage, but can ultimately undermine the overall reliability of communication within the *cricket* population.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Zuk's study of *crickets* reveals that, contrary to previous assumptions, not all animal signals accurately indicate an individual's health or genetic fitness.
- B** The exaggeration of mating calls among male *crickets* is a unique behavior not observed in other animal species.
- C** Honest signaling in animal populations ensures the long-term survival and reproductive success of the entire species.
- D** Zuk's 2008 paper was the first to challenge the assumption that animal signals are invariably honest.

Question 20

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.

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: A

The passage describes Sontag's 1966 essay and her view on the concept of *camp*.

The main idea would be that Sontag's essay discusses *camp* and its artistic value.

(A) correctly states this.

(B) is incorrect because Sontag's work is not outdated, and the passage does not say this.

(C) is incorrect because the passage mentions a broader cultural impact, so the essay does not only focus on performance art.

(D) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that Sontag is criticizing the rise of insincerity.

Question 2

Correct Answer: B

The main idea of the passage is that heuristics are used to make decision making easier, but can lead to biased and irrational decision making.

(A) is incorrect because heuristics do not "invariably" lead to inaccurate judgment.

(B) is correct because it correctly summarizes that heuristics are used for decision-making, but have shortcomings.

(C) is incorrect because the passage suggests that both thinking processes impact decision-making, but neither is superior.

(D) is incorrect because it is too narrow, as the passage does not state that these are the only heuristics.

Question 3

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about Andrew Keen's book that argues that the internet has a lot of information, but they are of lower quality, which hurts how well the public understands things.

The main idea would be that Andrew Keen thinks the internet's openness hurts media quality and public understanding.

(A) matches this idea.

(B) is wrong because the passage says the internet hurts informed citizenry.

(C) is wrong because the passage focuses on the problems with the internet, not how traditional media can adapt.

(D) is wrong because the passage argues against the idea that the internet helps uncover the truth.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

The passage describes confirmation bias and its related effects, *belief perseverance* and *attitude polarization*, which together lead to individuals becoming more convinced in their beliefs, especially when presented with the same information. Thus, the main idea would be that confirmation bias, together with its related effects, result in attitude polarization.

(A) is incorrect because the passage does not mention the legal system.

(C) is incorrect because the passage does not state that confirmation bias is solely responsible.

(D) is incorrect because the passage actually says it has significant impact,

not negligible.

Question 5

Correct Answer: B

The main idea is that microbiomes have a big effect on how a host looks and works, and scientists are still figuring out exactly how this happens.

(A) This is incorrect because the passage states that holobiont should be considered as a unit, not separately.

(B) This is correct because the passage explains how microbiomes influence physiology and traits, but the specific methods are still being studied.

(C) This is incorrect because the passage implies that microbiomes and host genetics both affect the phenotype.

(D) This is incorrect because the passage is about the general mechanisms, not just how metabolites affect genes.

Question 6

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about Paul Bloom's book and its argument against empathy as a basis for moral action. The main idea would be that the book claims empathy is flawed and proposes reason and detached compassion as better alternatives.

(A) accurately reflects the main idea by mentioning Bloom's argument against empathy and his advocacy for reason and detached compassion.

(B) is incorrect because the book does not offer strategies, and it deemphasizes the importance of considering the feeling of others.

(C) is incorrect because the book argues against empathy.

(D) is incorrect because the passage does not mention cultural contexts.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

The main idea is that C.R. Brown and M.B. Brown observed cliff swallows' altruistic behavior to reduce parasite prevalence, which may benefit all individuals. Thus, the passage is about how reciprocal altruism evolves as a response to parasitic infestations.

(B) matches this main idea.

(A) is incorrect because the passage is about altruistic behavior, not the methodology.

(C) contradicts the passage because the passage indicates that the behavior benefits the individuals besides the preeners.

(D) is incorrect because the passage indicates the altruistic behavior within the colonies, not the evolutionary pressure to develop nesting colonies.

Question 8

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about Barbara Johnson's argument on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and other scholars' disagreement with her. So, the main idea should be about Johnson's argument and the disagreement.

(A) accurately describes the passage's central theme: Johnson's focus on ambiguity and the opposing view that sees Hurston's dialect as a celebration of Black identity. (B) is incorrect because the passage does not explicitly discuss the literary merit of the novel. (C) is incorrect because the passage does not state that scholars view the mixture of English and dialect as a weakness. (D) contradicts the passage by stating that the ambiguity is unintentional.

Question 9

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about Dr. Jasmine Day's book and her idea about how Western societies see mummies. She thinks mummies are used to show Western fears.

The main idea is likely about Day's book and how it explains the Western view of mummies.

(A) correctly says Day's book looks at how the Western understanding of mummies has changed. This is the main idea.

(B) is wrong because Day's book actually focuses on Western views of mummies, not Egyptian practices.

(C) is incorrect because it is too narrow, only focusing on one aspect of Day's argument.

(D) is incorrect because while it is true, the passage states that it is Day who argues it, not necessarily something that is already known or stated.

Question 10

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about a study by Mullainathan and Shafir that found poverty hurts people's brains because they are too focused on money problems.

We want to find the answer choice that best summarizes this main idea.

(A) says Mullainathan and Shafir's study showed that poverty makes it harder to think clearly because of money worries. This sounds like a good summary of the passage.

(B) only mentions the games used in the study, which is too narrow.

(C) focuses on how wealthier people are not affected, but the main point is about how poverty affects cognitive function.

(D) claims poor people are inherently not smart, which is not supported by the passage.

Therefore, (A) is the best answer.

Question 11

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about Roland Barthes's essay *The Birth of the Author*, and how it suggests that a text's meaning comes from the language and cultural codes within the text, not the author's intentions.

The main idea would be something like Barthes's essay suggests that literary criticism should focus on the text and how readers understand it, rather than what the author meant.

(A) is incorrect because it is the opposite of what Barthes is arguing.

(B) is correct because it aligns with the prediction.

(C) is incorrect because it is too extreme. Barthes is not saying that language and cultural codes are *irrelevant*.

(D) is incorrect because it is also the opposite of what Barthes is arguing.

Question 12

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about how the *Spry2* gene can protect pancreatic ;"Ö6VÆÇ2 from damage caused by high glucose levels, which is relevant to treating diabetes. Thus, we can predict that the correct answer choice should include the *Spry2* gene, its protective function, and its therapeutic potential.

(B) matches the prediction.

(A) is incorrect because the passage focuses on the protective role of *Spry2* rather than the reversibility of its downregulation.

(C) is incorrect because the passage doesn't claim that *Spry2* downregulation *always* causes diabetes.

(D) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that preventing *Spry2* downregulation is the *only* way to counteract the effects of high glucose.

Question 13

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about a study on how ocean acidification affects sea urchin larvae. The study found that acidification hurts the larvae early on but helps them later, showing they can adjust. So, the main point is that acidification's impact changes as the larvae grow and they might have ways to cope.

(B) matches this idea perfectly. It says the study shows the impact differs at different stages and that there might be ways for the larvae to compensate.

(A) is wrong because it says acidification always hurts biomineralization, but the passage says it can also help. (C) is wrong because the passage only talks about sea urchins, not all marine life. (D) is wrong because the passage suggests the effects might not be negligible.

Question 14

Correct Answer: B

The passage introduces the *aquatic ape hypothesis (AAH)*, which is about how walking on two feet might have started from wading in water. Then, it says that there are arguments against it.

We can predict that the main idea would be that the AAH is a possible explanation, but it has some problems.

(A) says that the AAH is well-supported and explains everything, which is the opposite of what the passage says.

(B) says that the AAH is a good idea, but it has some issues, which

matches what the passage is about. So, (B) is correct.

(C) talks about chimpanzees and energy, but the main point is about the AAH, not just chimpanzees.

(D) focuses on the foramen magnum, which is too specific and not the main point of the passage.

...

Question 15

Correct Answer: B

The passage introduces Freud's theory of dreams, but it also presents a critique of his ideas. It mentions alternative theories that focus on different aspects of dream formation.

The main idea should be a summary of the entire passage. Thus, a good prediction would be "Freud has a theory of dreams, but some people disagree and have other ideas."

(A) is incorrect because it only focuses on Freud's work but ignores the alternative theories mentioned in the passage.

(B) aligns well with our prediction.

(C) is incorrect because it makes an untrue statement. The passage states that critics don't agree with Freud.

(D) is incorrect because the passage states that Freud's work lacks empirical validation, going against what the choice suggests.

Question 16

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about Dr. Paul Bloom's book *Against Empathy*, in which he says empathy is not a good guide for moral action because it's biased and can be manipulated. Instead, he suggests using compassion and fairness.

The main idea would be that the book says empathy is flawed and proposes a different approach to morality.

(A) matches this idea. It says Dr. Bloom's book argues that empathy is a flawed basis for moral action because it's biased and easily manipulated.

(B) is incorrect because the passage says empathy is *not* reliable.

(C) is incorrect because while the passage mentions compassion, it doesn't say it's about connecting with different cultures.

(D) is incorrect because the passage doesn't talk about political discourse.

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about the *chameleon effect* and how it impacts social interactions, based on the study by Chartrand and Bargh (2008). The main idea should include these key points.

(B) accurately summarizes the passage by mentioning Chartrand and Bargh's study, the *chameleon effect*, unconscious mirroring, and positive social interactions.

(A) is incorrect because the passage states that the mirroring of behaviors is unconscious, not a conscious strategy.

(C) is incorrect because the study's primary focus was not to determine the cultural contexts. The passage only mentions that further investigation is needed.

(D) is incorrect because the study is not unique in its methodology, nor is the study's focus on nonverbal cues the main point.

Question 18

Correct Answer: A

The passage says that Paul Bloom wrote a book. In his book, he argues that empathy can cause bad decisions. Instead, he says that compassion is better. The main idea is probably about Bloom saying empathy is bad and compassion is good.

(A) is correct because it says that Bloom's book argues empathy can cause bad decisions, and compassion can lead to better actions. This is exactly what we predicted.

(B) is wrong because it says empathy is the *only* cause of irrational decisions. The passage does not say this.

(C) is wrong because the book is not about comparing political policies and personal relationships. Instead, the book only says that empathy can influence both.

(D) is wrong because the main focus of the book is empathy, not altruism.

Question 19

Correct Answer: A

The passage discusses Zuk's research which challenges the idea that animal signals are always honest, using *crickets* as an example of deceptive signaling. Therefore, we can predict that the main idea would be about how animal signals may be dishonest.

(A) accurately reflects this main idea by stating that Zuk's study shows that animal signals don't always accurately show health or fitness.

(B) is incorrect because the passage doesn't claim that this behavior is unique to *crickets*.

(C) is incorrect because it discusses honest signaling, which is the opposite of the passage's main point.

(D) is incorrect because while the passage mentions Zuk's 2008 paper, it doesn't claim it was the first to challenge the assumption of honest signaling.

Question 20

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.