

# Command of Evidence

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## Question 1

What is the  $y$ -coordinate of the  $y$ -intercept of the graph of  $y = g(x) - 3$  in the  $xy$ -plane?  $g(x) = 2(16x - 17)$

- A -37
- B -34
- C -20
- D -17

## Question 2

*The Garden Party* is a 1922 short story by Katherine Mansfield. In the story, Mansfield portrays the protagonist, Laura, as possessing a deep appreciation for the beauty of nature, even when practical matters like the placement of a marquee are being discussed.

Which quotation from *The Garden Party* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "H'm, going to have a band, are you?" said another of the workmen. He was pale. He had a haggard look as his dark eyes scanned the tennis-court.
- B "Oh, Laura!" Jose began to be seriously annoyed. "If you're going to stop a band playing every time someone has an accident, you'll lead a very strenuous life."
- C And they were so lovely, with their broad, gleaming leaves, and their clusters of yellow fruit. They were like trees you imagined growing on a desert island.
- D "Hallo!" he was half-way upstairs, but when he turned round and saw Laura he suddenly puffed out his cheeks and goggled his eyes at her. "My word, Laura!"

## Question 3

*The Power Of Prayer* is a poem by Sidney Lanier. In the poem, the speaker, a blind man named Jim, demonstrates a selfless willingness to sacrifice his own life to protect a younger companion named Dinah, writing \_\_\_\_\_.

Which quotation from *The Power Of Prayer* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "And as for Hebben, -- bless de Lord, and praise His holy name -- | DAT shines in all de co'ners of dis cabin jes' de same"
- B "I know my front ones IS stopped up, and things is sort o' dim, | But den, th'u' DEM, temptation's rain won't leak in on ole Jim!"
- C "O hebbenly Marster, what thou willest, dat mus' be jes' so, | [...] | Den, Lord, please take ole Jim, and lef young Dinah hyar below!"
- D "Jes' now he squealed down dar; -- hush; dat's a mighty weakly scream! | Yas, sir, he's gone, he's gone; -- he snort way off, like in a dream!"

## Question 4

*Song* is a poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley. In the poem, Shelley contrasts the harshness of the natural world with human cruelty, suggesting that the betrayal by a loved one is more painful than the freezing cold of winter, writing \_\_\_\_\_.

Which quotation from *Song* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- ☐ A Cold, cold is the blast when December is howling, | Cold are the damps on a dying man's brow
- ☐ B She said nothing, but wringing the wet from her hair, | Crossed the dark mountain side, though the hour it was late.
- ☐ C But colder is scorn from the being who loved thee, | More stern is the sneer from the friend who has proved thee
- ☐ D Around it no demons or ghosts dare to rave, | But spirits of peace steep her slumbers in dew.

## Question 5

During the mid-19th century, Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann spearheaded a vast urban renovation of Paris, known as *Haussmannization*. This ambitious project involved demolishing old, narrow streets and constructing wide boulevards and grand public buildings. In his work *Paris, Capital of Modernity* (2003), scholar David Harvey argues that these changes not only modernized the city's infrastructure but also fundamentally altered Parisian social life and identity. Harvey concludes that the new urban landscape fostered a sense of alienation among its inhabitants, despite the perceived improvements.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Harvey's conclusion?

- A** The new boulevards significantly improved traffic flow in central Paris.
- B** Surveys conducted among Parisians in the late 19th century revealed widespread feelings of loneliness and detachment.
- C** The grandeur of the newly constructed opera houses and parks became major points of civic pride for residents.
- D** Similar urban planning projects in other European capitals also led to significant economic growth.

## Question 6

*Wuthering Heights* is a 1847 novel by Emily Brontë. In the novel, the character Edgar Linton reveals a conflicted attitude toward his own mortality, confessing that his previous desire for death has turned into fear \_\_\_\_\_.

Which quotation from *Wuthering Heights* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "If thou weren't more a lass than a lad, I'd fell thee this minute, I would; pitiful lath of a crater!"
- B "I wink," he answered: "I wink to see my father strike a dog or a horse, he does it so hard."
- C "'I've prayed often,' he half soliloquised, 'for the approach of what is coming; and now I begin to shrink, and fear it.'"
- D "What a shame of your mother, never to waken your filial regard for me! You are my son, then, I'll tell you"

## Question 7

Many nocturnal insects rely on natural light cues, like moonlight, for navigation. However, the proliferation of artificial light at night (ALAN) from urban development is changing their environments. Ecologist Travis Longcore and his team, in a 2015 review, hypothesized that increased ALAN disrupts these crucial natural behaviors. For instance, strong artificial lights can disorient moths, leading them to circle endlessly rather than foraging or mating. The researchers concluded that continued increase in ALAN could significantly reduce nocturnal insect populations over time.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion?

- A** Diurnal insect species are largely unaffected by the presence of ALAN in their habitats.
- B** Areas with historically higher levels of ALAN show a statistically significant decline in diverse nocturnal insect species over the past decade.
- C** Some nocturnal insect species have developed a tolerance to low levels of artificial light.
- D** The energy consumption for streetlights in urban areas has substantially increased since 2010.

## Question 8

*The Minister's Black Veil* is a short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne. In the story, Hawthorne describes how the black veil worn by the protagonist, Mr. Hooper, casts a disturbing and ominous shadow over a wedding ceremony, transforming a joyful occasion into a fearful one, writing \_\_\_\_\_.

Which quotation from *The Minister's Black Veil* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A "For a few moments she appeared lost in thought, considering, probably, what new methods might be tried to withdraw her lover from so dark a fantasy."
- B "Such was its immediate effect on the guests that a cloud seemed to have rolled duskily from beneath the black crape, and dimmed the light of the candles."
- C "But Mr. Hooper's mildness did not forsake him. He even smiled again—that same sad smile, which always appeared like a faint glimmering of light."
- D "In truth, his own antipathy to the veil was known to be so great, that he never willingly passed before a mirror, nor stooped to drink at a still fountain."

## Question 9

Behavioral economist Dan Ariely and his colleagues investigated factors influencing charitable giving. In a 2012 study, they found that donors contributed significantly more money when their names were publicly displayed than when their donations were anonymous. For instance, participants offered a matching donation gave more when their names were listed on a prominent donor board. The researchers concluded that public recognition, rather than purely altruistic motives, is a primary driver of increased charitable contributions.

Which finding, if true, would most directly undermine Ariely's conclusion?

- A** Donors who prefer anonymity often contribute to a wider variety of charities.
- B** Many charitable organizations have started offering digital badges for online donations.
- C** Younger donors are more likely to share their donation activity on social media than older donors.
- D** A subsequent study found that when given a choice, participants who chose to remain anonymous donated a larger average amount than those whose names were publicly listed.

## Question 10

Studies by cognitive psychologist Keith Oatley and colleagues suggest that reading fiction enhances empathy. According to Oatley, engaging with stories about other people's lives allows readers to simulate social experiences and better understand others' feelings and perspectives. This simulation, Oatley argues, strengthens the same neural pathways used in real-world social interactions, leading to increased empathy. Therefore, the more deeply a reader becomes absorbed in a fictional narrative and its characters, the more significant the potential impact on their empathic abilities.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Oatley's conclusion about the effect of reading fiction on empathy?

- A** Individuals who report being frequently and deeply absorbed in fictional stories score higher on tests measuring empathy than those who do not.
- B** Reading non-fiction books, such as historical accounts or scientific texts, also correlates with increased scores on empathy tests.
- C** Brain imaging studies show that the neural pathways activated when reading fiction are entirely different from those used in real-world social interactions.
- D** Individuals who prefer reading short stories show no significant difference in empathy scores compared to those who prefer reading novels.

## Question 11

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818) is often seen as a cautionary tale about unchecked scientific ambition. However, literary critic Anne Mellor, in her 1988 book *Mary Shelley: Her Life, Her Fiction, Her Monsters*, offers a compelling feminist interpretation. Mellor argues that the novel primarily explores the dangers of a male-dominated creative process devoid of nurturing. She highlights Victor Frankenstein's abandonment of his creation as a central flaw, leading to the creature's monstrosity. Mellor thus concludes that *Frankenstein* illustrates the catastrophic consequences when creation lacks maternal care and empathy.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Mellor's conclusion?

- A** Victor Frankenstein initially intended his creature to be a benevolent companion.
- B** Analysis of other fictional narratives reveals that creations provided with consistent nurturing by their creators rarely exhibit destructive behavior.
- C** Many film adaptations of *Frankenstein* emphasize the creature's terrifying physical deformities.
- D** Mary Shelley's personal diaries reveal her anxieties about the scientific advancements of her era.

## Question 12

Walter J. Ong, in his 1982 work *Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word*, explored the profound differences between oral and literate cultures. He posited that societies relying solely on spoken word developed distinct thought patterns and narrative strategies, such as reliance on formulas, repetition, and a focus on action over abstract thought. These characteristics, Ong argues, were essential for memory and transmission in the absence of writing. He hypothesized that many features observed in early written literature, like Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, are direct reflections of their earlier oral performance and composition traditions.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Ong's hypothesis?

- A** The earliest known written languages developed independently in several distinct regions of the world.
- B** Scholars discover that early written epics frequently employ narrative structures and repetitive phrases common in oral storytelling.
- C** Oral traditions in many contemporary cultures are primarily preserved through performance rather than through written records.
- D** The development of writing systems significantly increased the complexity of legal codes and bureaucratic records.

## Question 13

Plants use light for energy and growth, and different colors of light can have specific effects. Dr. Kevin Folta's 2004 research investigated how lettuce plants respond to red and blue light. His team found that lettuce grown under blue light developed shorter, wider leaves compared to lettuce grown under red light. Folta hypothesized that blue light activates specific genetic pathways in lettuce plants that lead to this more compact growth pattern.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Folta's hypothesis?

- A** Lettuce plants exposed to blue light exhibit increased expression of genes known to inhibit stem elongation.
- B** The nutritional content of lettuce grown under blue light is different from that of lettuce grown under red light.
- C** Blue light is absorbed by different pigments in lettuce leaves than red light is.
- D** Lettuce plants grow faster overall under a combination of red and blue light than under only blue light.

## Question 14

In 1975, researchers Stephen Worchel, Lee, and Adewole conducted a study on the effect of perceived scarcity on valuation. Participants were asked to rate the desirability of chocolate chip cookies. Some participants received cookies from a jar containing ten cookies, while others received cookies from a jar containing only two. The study found that cookies from the jar with fewer cookies were rated as significantly more desirable. The researchers concluded that people tend to value items more highly when they believe those items are scarce.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Worchel, Lee, and Adewole's conclusion?

- A** Participants in a follow-up study rated cookies from a jar containing twelve cookies as more desirable than those from a jar containing two cookies.
- B** The study found that the participants' hunger levels significantly influenced their cookie desirability ratings, regardless of the number of cookies.
- C** Participants rated the two-cookie jar cookies even higher when told that eight of the original ten cookies had already been purchased by other eager customers.
- D** A later study revealed that the type of cookie, such as oatmeal or sugar, affected participants' desirability ratings more than the quantity available.

## Question 15

Dr. Jean M. Twenge, a psychologist and author of *iGen* (2017), has extensively researched the effects of technology on adolescent well-being. Her work highlights a significant decline in mental health indicators among teenagers since the early 2010s, coinciding with the widespread adoption of smartphones and social media. Twenge's studies have shown increased rates of depression, anxiety, and loneliness in this generation. She concludes that excessive social media use is a primary factor contributing to this decline in adolescent mental health.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Dr. Twenge's conclusion?

- A** Teenagers who spend more time on educational apps also report higher academic achievement.
- B** Parents express increasing concern about the amount of time their children spend online.
- C** A long-term study reveals that adolescents who significantly reduce their daily social media use experience a notable improvement in their self-reported psychological well-being.
- D** The overall amount of screen time, including TV and video games, has remained consistent for adolescents over the past decade.

## Question 16

Art historians often classify Johannes Vermeer's iconic *Girl with a Pearl Earring* as a *tronie*, a type of Dutch Golden Age painting. Unlike traditional portraits, *tronies* were not commissioned to depict specific, identifiable individuals but rather served as character studies or explorations of expression. According to scholars at institutions like the Mauritshuis, the enigmatic nature of the girl's identity strongly supports its designation as a *tronie*.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the scholars' contention?

- A** Analysis reveals that the pearl earring in the painting is made of glass, not a real pearl.
- B** Archival records indicate that the model for *Girl with a Pearl Earring* was an anonymous young woman employed by Vermeer for multiple "character studies."
- C** The painting was initially displayed alongside other genre scenes depicting daily life.
- D** Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* became one of his most popular works only centuries after its creation.

## Question 17

Social scientists Bibb Latané, Kipling Williams, and Stephen Harkins explored social loafing, the phenomenon where individuals exert less effort when working in a group. In a 1979 study, participants were asked to cheer or clap as loudly as possible, first alone, and then in groups of two, four, or six people. The researchers found that the average sound output per person decreased significantly as group size increased. Latané and his colleagues hypothesized that this reduction in individual effort stems from a diffusion of responsibility among group members.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Latané and his colleagues' hypothesis?

- A** Participants in larger groups reported feeling more energetic after the task.
- B** The study found that larger groups generated a higher total sound output than individuals.
- C** The amount of noise generated by individuals did not decrease when participants were aware their individual contributions were being measured.
- D** Participants stated they felt less personally accountable for the group's overall performance as group size increased.

## Question 18

A study by L. M. Church, A. M. H. Lau, K. J. C. Chu, L. A. E. A. Lim, A. L. Y. Chan, A. L. N. Ng, and C. M. S. C. Ng (2018) explored the effectiveness of incentives on survey response rates. They found that providing even a small monetary incentive significantly increased participation. However, they also observed that larger incentives did not lead to a proportionally higher increase in responses compared to very small ones. This suggests a diminishing return on investment. The researchers therefore concluded that for certain tasks like surveys, small incentives are the most cost-effective way to boost participation.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support the researchers' conclusion?

- A** Survey response rates are generally higher among participants who have a strong interest in the survey's topic.
- B** A trial offering a \$1 incentive achieved an 80% response rate, whereas offering a \$20 incentive only increased the rate to 82%.
- C** Providing incentives can sometimes lead to participants rushing through surveys without careful consideration.
- D** The overall number of online surveys distributed annually has grown significantly in recent years.

## Question 19

For centuries, art historians largely maintained that Renaissance patrons, such as the Medici family, exerted near-absolute control over the artistic output of painters like Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. This view suggested that artists were primarily technicians, fulfilling precise demands regarding subject, style, and even specific colors. However, recent analysis by Dr. Alistair Finch in his 2022 research on Florentine workshops suggests a more nuanced dynamic. Finch's work indicates that while patrons certainly set the thematic agenda, artists frequently retained substantial autonomy in stylistic execution and creative interpretation. Dr. Finch therefore concludes that Renaissance artists possessed considerably more creative freedom than previously acknowledged.

Which finding, if true, would most directly undermine Dr. Finch's conclusion?

- A** The Medici family's extensive records show their meticulous accounting for all artistic commissions, including material costs and artist fees.
- B** Newly discovered contracts between patrons and artists often include highly detailed specifications for artistic style, color palettes, and compositional elements.
- C** Many Renaissance artists were also skilled architects and sculptors, demonstrating their diverse talents.
- D** The artistic styles of the High Renaissance show a clear evolution from earlier periods, reflecting changes in societal tastes.

## Question 20

Bibb Latané and John Darley's research (1968) on the bystander effect suggested that individuals are less likely to offer help in an emergency when other people are present. This phenomenon is often attributed to a diffusion of responsibility, where each person feels less accountable when others are also available to help. In their seminal study, participants were less likely to report smoke filling a room if they believed other participants were also present. The researchers hypothesized that increasing the perceived competency of other bystanders would further reduce an individual's likelihood of intervening.

Which finding, if true, would most directly undermine the researchers' hypothesis?

- A** Participants in a similar study reported feeling increased anxiety when more bystanders were present.
- B** In a follow-up experiment, participants who observed highly trained medical professionals present in an emergency were more likely to offer aid themselves.
- C** Studies conducted in different cultural contexts showed varied rates of intervention regardless of bystander competency.
- D** The original study's findings on the diffusion of responsibility were replicated in numerous subsequent experiments.

# Answers

## Question 1

**Correct Answer: A**

To find the y-intercept of the graph of  $(y=g(x)-3)$ , set  $(x=0)$ .

First compute  $(g(0))$ :

$$g(0) = 2(16 \cdot 0 - 17) = 2(-17) = -34.$$

Then

$$y = g(0) - 3 = -34 - 3 = -37.$$

So, the y-coordinate of the y-intercept is  $(-37)$ .

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## Question 2

**Correct Answer: C**

(C) is the correct answer as it directly describes Laura's admiration for the karaka trees, noting their "broad, gleaming leaves" and "clusters of yellow fruit," highlighting her appreciation for natural beauty.

(A) is incorrect because it describes the appearance of a workman, not Laura's appreciation of nature.

(B) is incorrect because it focuses on a conflict between Laura and her sister Jose regarding the party and an accident, rather than nature.

(D) is incorrect because it depicts an interaction between Laura and her brother Laurie about her appearance, unrelated to nature.

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## Question 3

**Correct Answer: C**

(C) is the correct answer as it directly illustrates Jim's selflessness. He prays to the "Lord" (Marster) and explicitly asks to be taken ("take ole Jim") so that Dinah can be left safe ("lef young Dinah hyar below").

(A) is incorrect because it focuses on Jim's faith and perception of Heaven, not on sacrificing himself for Dinah.

(B) is incorrect because it discusses Jim's blindness and how it protects him from temptation, which is unrelated to saving Dinah.

(D) is incorrect because it describes the moment the "Devil" (actually a steamboat) moves away, rather than Jim's offer of sacrifice.

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## Question 4

**Correct Answer: C**

(C) is the correct answer as it directly compares emotional pain to physical coldness. By stating that scorn is "colder" and a sneer is "more stern" than the elements, it supports the claim that human betrayal is the more painful experience.

(A) is incorrect because it only describes the physical cold of winter and death, without making the comparison to human cruelty. (B) is incorrect because it describes a character's actions and movement, not the relative severity of her pain. (D) is incorrect because it describes the peacefulness of the character's grave, which is unrelated to the pain of betrayal.

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## Question 5

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage explains that Haussmann changed Paris, and researcher David Harvey concluded that these changes made the people living there feel lonely or separated from each other.

(B) is the correct answer because if people felt lonely and detached, that directly supports Harvey's idea that they felt alienated.

(A) is incorrect because improved traffic flow talks about roads and cars, not how people felt inside.

(C) is incorrect because feeling proud is the opposite of feeling alienated or lonely.

(D) is incorrect because what happened in other cities or how their economy grew does not tell us how people felt in Paris.

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## Question 6

**Correct Answer: C**

**(C)** is the correct answer as it directly illustrates Edgar Linton's conflicting emotions about death. The quote states that he has "prayed often" for death ("what is coming"), indicating he desired it, but now that it is near, he begins to "shrink, and fear it."

**(A)** is incorrect because it depicts Hareton Earnshaw expressing anger at being insulted, not Edgar discussing mortality.

**(B)** is incorrect because it features Linton Heathcliff talking about his father's cruelty toward animals, which is unrelated to Edgar's death.

**(D)** is incorrect because it shows Heathcliff speaking to his son about his mother, a topic unrelated to Edgar's conflicting feelings about dying.

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## Question 7

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage says that researchers think more artificial light at night might make fewer nocturnal insects over time.

(A) talks about insects that are awake during the day, which is not what the passage is about. So, (A) is not correct.

(B) says that places with more artificial light have fewer nocturnal insects. This directly supports the idea that more artificial light makes fewer

nocturnal insects. So, (B) is the correct answer.

(C) says some nocturnal insects get used to dim light, which doesn't directly support the idea that more light causes populations to go down. So, (C) is not correct.

(D) talks about how much energy streetlights use, which is about electricity, not directly about how it affects insect populations. So, (D) is not correct.

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## Question 8

**Correct Answer: B**

(B) is the correct answer because it directly describes the negative atmosphere the veil creates at the wedding. The imagery of a "cloud" rolling "duskily" and dimming the candles perfectly illustrates the claim that the veil cast an ominous shadow over the ceremony.

(A) is incorrect because it describes Elizabeth's thoughts about how to convince Mr. Hooper to remove the veil, not the veil's effect on the wedding itself.

(C) is incorrect because it focuses on Mr. Hooper's sad smile and his mild demeanor, which is a character description rather than a description of the wedding's atmosphere.

(D) is incorrect because it describes Mr. Hooper's own fear of seeing his reflection in a mirror or water, rather than how the guests at the wedding reacted to him.

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## Question 9

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage says that researchers concluded that showing people's names makes them give more money to charity. To undermine this idea means to find something that shows this is not true, or that the opposite is true.

(A) is incorrect because it talks about how many different charities anonymous givers support, which is not about how much money they give or if showing names makes people give more.

(B) is incorrect because it talks about charities using digital badges, which does not tell us if showing names makes people give more money.

(C) is incorrect because it talks about who shares donations on social media, not whether sharing makes people give more money.

(D) is correct because it says that people gave more money when their names were NOT shown. This directly goes against the idea that showing names makes people give more money.

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## Question 10

**Correct Answer: A**

The passage says that Keith Oatley thinks reading fiction helps people understand how others feel. He thinks that the more someone gets lost in a story, the more it helps them learn about other people's feelings. So, if people who get really into stories are also better at understanding others' feelings, that would show he is right. Answer choice (A) says that people who get deeply absorbed in stories are better at understanding others' feelings, which supports Oatley's idea. Answer choice (B) talks about reading non-fiction, which is not what the passage is about. Answer choice (C) says reading fiction uses different brain parts, which would go against what the passage says. Answer choice (D) compares different types of fiction (short stories and novels) and does not directly address the link between being absorbed in reading and empathy.

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## Question 11

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage explains that literary critic Anne Mellor believes *Frankenstein* shows what happens when something created does not get enough care

and kindness, leading to bad results. So, to support her idea, we need to find something that shows when creations *do* get care, they turn out well.

(A) is incorrect because it talks about what Victor wanted at first, not about the result of his lack of care.

(B) is correct because it shows that when creations in other stories *are* cared for, they do not act badly. This helps prove Mellor's idea that *lack* of care leads to bad outcomes.

(C) is incorrect because it talks about movies and the creature's looks, which is not about whether a lack of care caused its behavior.

(D) is incorrect because it talks about Mary Shelley's own feelings, not about what her book *Frankenstein* shows about creations and care.

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## Question 12

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage talks about how Walter J. Ong thought that certain features in early written books, like Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, came from older ways of telling stories by speaking them aloud. These features include using repeated phrases and focusing on actions.

(A) is incorrect because it talks about where written languages came from, which is not what Ong's idea is about.

(B) is correct because it shows that early written books actually have the features (like repeated phrases and narrative structures) that are found in spoken stories, which directly supports Ong's idea.

(C) is incorrect because it talks about how spoken stories are kept alive *today*, not about how they influenced *early written* stories.

(D) is incorrect because it talks about how writing changed laws and records, which is not related to the features of early written literature.

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## Question 13

**Correct Answer: A**

The passage talks about a study by Dr. Kevin Folta showing that blue light makes lettuce grow short and wide, and he thinks this happens because blue light turns on certain tiny instructions (genetic pathways) inside the plant that cause it to grow in a short and wide way (compact development). We need to find information that makes this idea stronger. Option (A) says that blue light makes the plant turn on instructions (genes) that stop it from growing tall (inhibit stem elongation). This directly supports the idea that blue light activates specific pathways leading to compact growth. Option (B) is about food value, which is not what the hypothesis is about. Option (C) is about how the plant takes in light, not the instructions inside the plant. Option (D) talks about growing faster under mixed light, which is not about why blue light causes compact growth.

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## Question 14

**Correct Answer: C**

The passage describes a study where people liked cookies more when there were fewer of them in a jar. The researchers concluded that people like things more when they think those things are hard to get or scarce.

(C) supports this idea because it shows that when people thought the cookies were scarce because others *wanted* them (high demand), they liked them even more. This makes the idea of scarcity making things more valuable even stronger.

(A) contradicts the conclusion. It says more cookies were preferred, which is the opposite of what the researchers concluded about scarcity.

(B) is about hunger levels, which is off-topic. The conclusion is about how scarcity affects value, not how hunger affects it.

(D) is about different types of cookies, which is also off-topic. The study focused on the effect of quantity (scarcity) on desirability, not the type of

cookie.

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## Question 15

**Correct Answer: C**

The passage describes Dr. Twenge's research, which concludes that too much social media use makes teenagers feel sadder, more worried, and lonelier. To support this idea, we need a finding that shows a direct link between less social media and better mental health.

(A) is incorrect because it talks about educational apps and school grades, which is not about social media or mental health.

(B) is incorrect because it describes what parents think, not what actually happens to teenagers' mental health from using social media.

(C) is correct because it shows that when teenagers use less social media, they feel better emotionally. This directly supports Dr. Twenge's idea that too much social media is bad for mental health.

(D) is incorrect because it talks about all kinds of screen time, like TV and games, not just social media. It also doesn't say anything about mental health.

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## Question 16

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage explains that a *tronie* is a type of painting that does not show a specific, known person, but instead is like a study of a face or an expression. It says that the mystery of who the girl is in the painting helps make it a *tronie*.

(A) is incorrect because it talks about what the pearl is made of, not about who the girl in the painting is.

(B) is correct because if the model was an anonymous person used for many "character studies," it means the painting was not meant to be a

picture of a specific person, which is exactly what a *tronie* is. This supports the idea that the painting is a *tronie* because the girl's identity is not known.

(C) is incorrect because it talks about where the painting was shown, not about whether it is a *tronie* or why it is classified that way.

(D) is incorrect because it talks about when the painting became famous, which has nothing to do with why it is called a *tronie*.

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## Question 17

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage describes a study where people made less noise when they were in a group compared to when they were alone. The researchers thought this happened because people felt less responsible when there were more people in the group. We need to find something that shows people felt less responsible.

(A) is wrong because feeling more energetic doesn't explain why people made less noise or felt less responsible.

(B) is wrong because it talks about the total sound, not the individual effort or responsibility. Even if the total sound was more, individual effort still decreased, which is what the study is about.

(C) is wrong because it describes a situation where the individual effort *didn't* decrease. This would go against the idea of social loafing, not directly support the reason for it.

(D) is correct because it directly shows that people felt less responsible when in a bigger group. This matches exactly what the researchers thought was happening.

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## Question 18

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage describes a study about incentives for surveys. The researchers found that small incentives worked well, and larger incentives

didn't help much more. So, they concluded that small incentives are the best value to get people to participate.

(B) supports this because it shows that a very small incentive (\$1) got a high response rate (80%), and a much larger incentive (\$20) only got a tiny bit more (82%). This proves that small incentives are indeed the most cost-effective because you don't get much more for a lot more money.

(A) is incorrect because it talks about people's interest in the topic, which is not about the size or cost-effectiveness of incentives.

(C) is incorrect because it describes a potential problem with incentives, not how cost-effective small incentives are compared to large ones.

(D) is incorrect because it talks about how many surveys are sent out, which has nothing to do with whether small incentives are the best value.

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## Question 19

### Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about a new idea by Dr. Finch. Old ideas said that rich people (patrons) told artists exactly what to do. But Dr. Finch says artists had *more* freedom to create their own way. We need to find something that shows Dr. Finch's idea is wrong.

(A) talks about how rich people paid for art. This doesn't tell us if artists had more or less freedom in their art. So, it's not the answer.

(B) says that new old papers show rich people told artists *exactly* how to paint, even what colors to use. This means artists *did not* have a lot of freedom, which goes against Dr. Finch's idea. So, this is the correct answer.

(C) talks about artists being good at many things. This doesn't tell us if they had freedom when someone paid them to make art. So, it's not the answer.

(D) talks about art changing over time. This is a very big idea and doesn't directly tell us about the everyday freedom artists had when working for rich people. So, it's not the answer.

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## Question 20

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage describes a study about how people react in emergencies when others are around. The researchers thought that if other people nearby seemed more capable, a person would be even *less* likely to help.

To undermine this idea means to find something that shows the opposite is true or that the idea is wrong.

(B) says that if trained medical people were around, individuals were *more* likely to help. This goes against the idea that perceived competency would make people *less* likely to help, so (B) is the correct answer.

(A) talks about feeling anxious, which is not about whether people help or not when others are competent.

(C) talks about different cultures and general varied rates, which doesn't directly address the specific idea about bystander competency making people less likely to help.

(D) supports the original study's findings, but it doesn't talk about or go against the *new idea* about perceived competency making people *less* likely to help.