

Inferences

Question 1

Literary criticism of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* has evolved significantly. Early analyses often focused on biographical elements or saw it primarily as a Gothic horror story. However, beginning in the 1970s, a new wave of scholarship, notably influenced by feminist perspectives such as those presented by Anne K. Mellor in *Mary Shelley: Her Life, Her Fiction, Her Monsters* (1988), began to explore previously overlooked themes. These scholars highlighted the novel's engagement with issues of gender, creation, and social responsibility, moving beyond simplistic interpretations. Similarly, Chris Baldick's *In Frankenstein's Shadow: Myth, Monstrosity, and Nineteenth-Century Writing* (1987) examined the novel's broader cultural and political implications, tracing its influence as a modern myth. This suggests that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** *Frankenstein* is primarily a product of Mary Shelley's personal trauma and experiences, as early critics believed.
- B** the initial reception of *Frankenstein* failed to recognize the novel's complex thematic depth.
- C** feminist and cultural studies approaches are the only valid ways to interpret *Frankenstein*.
- D** more recent literary analysis has revealed *Frankenstein*'s relevance to a wider range of critical perspectives.

Question 2

In her 1988 analysis *Mary Shelley: Her Life, Her Fiction, Her Monsters*, literary critic Anne K. Mellor argues that Victor Frankenstein's rejection of his creation stems less from the Creature's inherent hideousness and more from Victor's failure to embrace a parental role. Mellor points out Victor's immediate disgust and abandonment, contrasting it with the Creature's initial benevolence and desire for connection. This focus shifts the primary blame for the ensuing tragedy away from the Creature's nature, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the Creature was inherently evil from the moment of its creation, regardless of Victor's actions.
- B** Mary Shelley's primary intention was to critique the scientific ambitions prevalent in her era.
- C** the Creature's later destructive actions are largely a consequence of his abandonment and mistreatment by Victor and society.
- D** Victor Frankenstein's scientific methods were fundamentally flawed, leading to the Creature's grotesque appearance.

Question 3

Literary critic Harold Bloom, in his 1998 work *Shakespeare: The Invention of the Human*, championed Sir John Falstaff as one of Shakespeare's greatest creations, embodying wit, freedom, and a profound zest for life. Bloom argued against interpretations that overly moralize Falstaff's actions, seeing him instead as a figure who transcends conventional judgment. He emphasized Falstaff's intellectual vitality and rhetorical skill, viewing these qualities not as mere tools for deception but as central components of his irresistible charm and complexity, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Falstaff was intended by Shakespeare primarily as a cautionary tale about excess.
- B** Bloom believed Falstaff's appeal was limited mainly to audiences of Shakespeare's time.
- C** for Bloom, understanding Falstaff necessitates appreciating his intellectual and verbal prowess over judging his ethical shortcomings.
- D** Shakespeare's later plays show a clear decline in the quality of character creation compared to Falstaff.

Question 4

Early critical appraisals of *Berthe Morisot's* Impressionist paintings frequently emphasized their "feminine grace" and "delicate charm," often framing her contributions within the confines of domestic themes and private life. This perspective, prevalent in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, tended to differentiate her work from the perceived "masculine vigor" of contemporaries like *Claude Monet* or *Édouard Manet*. However, recent scholarship, exemplified by Anne Higonnet's 1990 work *Berthe Morisot's Images of Women*, rigorously re-examines Morisot's oeuvre, highlighting her bold brushwork, innovative compositions, and profound engagement with the complexities of Parisian modernity. This re-evaluation suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Morisot's artistic impact was primarily limited to influencing other female painters of her era.
- B** Impressionist painters in general found it challenging to convey the full scope of modern life in their works.
- C** prior interpretations of Morisot's art may have been constrained by prevailing gendered aesthetic biases.
- D** the technical sophistication of Morisot's brushwork was not fully appreciated until the late 20th century.

Question 5

In his influential work *Literary Theory: An Introduction* (1983), Terry Eagleton posits that literary works are not isolated creations but are profoundly shaped by the social and historical circumstances of their production. Furthermore, Eagleton suggests that the act of interpretation is itself influenced by the reader's own context and ideological background. The meaning derived from a text, therefore, is not fixed but evolves as societal perspectives change, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the original meaning intended by the author is the only valid interpretation of a literary work.
- B** Eagleton primarily focused on poetry rather than novels in his analysis of literary theory.
- C** readers must fully understand the author's specific historical context to grasp any meaning from a text.
- D** a single literary work can yield different, yet valid, interpretations depending on the historical period in which it is read.

Question 6

Research on social behavior often explores how people act when they know they are being watched. For instance, a 2018 meta-analysis by Alex Bradley, Claire Lawrence, and Eamonn Ferguson found a small but significant positive link between observability and prosociality, like generosity. This effect was notably stronger when decisions had consequences. Similarly, a 2008 study by Jessie Piazza and John M. Bering found that participants in an economic game made more generous choices when they knew their actions could be discussed with others, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** people are generally more generous in private settings than in public ones.
- B** the long-term effects of observation on prosocial behavior are stronger than immediate effects.
- C** individuals adjust their actions to present themselves favorably to others.
- D** monetary incentives are the primary motivators for increased generosity.

Question 7

In their 1994 study on reader response, literary scholars David S. Miall and Don Kuiken examined how readers react to "foregrounding" in literary texts—stylistic features like unusual metaphors or complex syntax that deviate from everyday language. They observed that readers consistently spent more time processing lines containing foregrounded elements compared to more conventional lines. Furthermore, readers rated these foregrounded passages as being more emotionally impactful and striking, suggesting that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** readers find texts with foregrounding less enjoyable overall due to the increased processing time required.
- B** the primary function of foregrounding is to make literary texts more challenging to understand for the average reader.
- C** Miall and Kuiken's study primarily focused on the negative emotions evoked by difficult language in literature.
- D** the deliberate use of unconventional stylistic features in literature directly influences how readers cognitively engage with and emotionally respond to the text.

Question 8

In her 1792 work *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Mary Wollstonecraft advocates for significant improvements in women's education. She argues that the prevailing educational approach, which emphasized accomplishments suited for attracting a husband, rendered women intellectually shallow and overly dependent. Wollstonecraft contended that providing women with an education equal to men's would cultivate their reason and moral strength, making them not only better wives and mothers but also capable members of society, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Wollstonecraft believed that the primary purpose of educating women was to enhance their domestic skills.
- B** Wollstonecraft saw improved education as crucial for enabling women to achieve intellectual and moral autonomy.
- C** Wollstonecraft argued that men and women have fundamentally different intellectual capacities that education cannot change.
- D** Wollstonecraft felt that women's education should focus primarily on artistic and social pursuits rather than reason.

Question 9

The *Mimosa pudica*, often called the sensitive plant, is known for rapidly folding its leaves inward when touched. This response is thought to be a defense mechanism against herbivores. However, studies by Monica Gagliano and colleagues in 2014 and later by others have shown that *M. pudica* plants exhibit habituation: they stop responding to repeated stimuli that are not harmful. This habituation is not due to exhaustion and can last for several weeks. Responding to stimuli requires energy, suggesting that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** *Mimosa pudica* plants are capable of complex learning behaviors similar to those seen in some animals.
- B** the leaf-folding response in *Mimosa pudica* is primarily a reaction to changes in light levels, not touch.
- C** habituation allows *Mimosa pudica* to conserve energy by not reacting to irrelevant stimuli.
- D** the long-term memory observed in *Mimosa pudica* is dependent on the presence of a central nervous system.

Question 10

Research by Birte Englich and Thomas Mussweiler in 2001 examined the phenomenon of anchoring bias, a cognitive heuristic where individuals rely too heavily on an initial piece of information (the "anchor") when making subsequent judgments. Their studies, particularly one involving experienced legal professionals, demonstrated that even experts tasked with objective assessments can be swayed by irrelevant numerical anchors. For instance, mock judges presented with a prosecutor's extremely high or low sentencing demand for a specific crime, *even when explicitly told the demand was arbitrary*, subsequently proposed sentences that correlated significantly with the anchor. This suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** judicial decisions are primarily based on initial demands rather than on established legal precedents.
- B** the cognitive mechanisms underlying anchoring bias can subtly influence professional assessments, even when the anchoring information is known to be arbitrary.
- C** informing individuals that an anchor is arbitrary effectively mitigates its influence on their subsequent judgments.
- D** the impact of anchoring bias is more pronounced in simulated environments than in real-world professional contexts.

Question 11

Samuel Johnson, writing in the 18th century, viewed Hamlet's inaction as a flaw in Shakespeare's characterization, describing the character as inconsistent. Johnson believed a tragic hero should act decisively. However, many later interpretations, particularly those influenced by psychology, view Hamlet's hesitation not as a character flaw but as a realistic portrayal of profound grief, melancholy, and the internal conflict of an introspective individual facing an overwhelming task. This shift in interpretation suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- ☐ A later interpretations identified psychological complexity and realism in the aspects of Hamlet's character that Johnson criticized.
- ☐ B Samuel Johnson's analysis of *Hamlet* is no longer considered relevant by modern scholars.
- ☐ C understanding Hamlet's character requires extensive knowledge of modern psychology.
- ☐ D Shakespeare wrote *Hamlet* primarily to explore themes of grief and melancholy.

Question 12

Emily Balcetis and David Dunning's 2006 study, "*See what you want to see: motivational influences on visual perception*", investigated how an individual's desires can subtly bias their visual perception. In one experiment, participants were presented with two beverages: a desirable orange juice and a distasteful "organic veggie smoothie." They were informed they would be "randomly assigned" to drink one based on a number displayed on a computer screen. Critically, some participants were led to believe that seeing a high number would result in consuming the preferred drink, while others associated a low number with the same outcome. The researchers observed that participants' estimations of the displayed number were significantly skewed in the direction that favored receiving the orange juice, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Individuals consistently overestimate numerical values when presented with a choice between a preferred and an unappealing option.
- B** The human visual system is not merely a passive recorder of external stimuli but is actively shaped by internal goals and expectations.
- C** Perceptual biases are more pronounced when individuals are aware of the potential for random assignment outcomes.
- D** The brain's processing of visual information is largely independent of conscious thought processes or volitional control.

Question 13

Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky's 1979 work on Prospect Theory explored how the framing of choices affects decision-making. They found that people tend to be risk-averse when choices are framed in terms of gains, but risk-seeking when the same choices are framed in terms of losses. For instance, people are more likely to choose a guaranteed outcome over a risky one if it means securing a gain, but prefer a risky outcome over a guaranteed one if it avoids a sure loss, even if the expected value is the same. This suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** people are generally more afraid of losing something than they are excited about gaining something.
- B** individuals consistently make irrational choices when faced with uncertainty.
- C** the way options are described primarily impacts decisions involving large financial risks.
- D** human decision-making processes are not based purely on objective calculations of outcomes.

Question 14

Extremophiles are organisms that thrive in conditions considered hostile to most life on Earth, such as intensely hot deep-sea hydrothermal vents or highly acidic mine drainage. Recent genomic analyses of certain *thermoacidophilic* archaea, found flourishing in volcanic hot springs, reveal unique enzymatic structures enabling protein stability at temperatures exceeding 90°C and pH levels below 3. Similarly, *psychrophiles* isolated from Antarctic permafrost exhibit antifreeze proteins preventing intracellular ice formation at sub-zero temperatures. These adaptations highlight life's remarkable plasticity. The consistent discovery of diverse microbial life across Earth's most challenging niches, from deep anoxic sediments to radiation-scorched deserts, suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the study of extremophiles offers limited insight into the potential for life beyond Earth.
- B** life on Earth primarily evolved in moderate conditions before adapting to extreme environments.
- C** future space missions should prioritize discovering new forms of life within Earth's oceans.
- D** conditions once thought to preclude biological activity may in fact support diverse ecosystems elsewhere in the universe.

Question 15

Ancient accounts of Alexander the Great, like those by Arrian, often highlight his military brilliance and seemingly divine destiny. Modern biographies, such as A. B. Bosworth's 1988 work, offer a more critical perspective. While acknowledging Alexander's tactical genius, Bosworth emphasizes the immense brutality and suffering caused by his campaigns, detailing events like the destruction of Thebes. This shift in focus doesn't dispute the military achievements but recontextualizes them, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** modern biographers like Bosworth disregard Alexander's military successes entirely.
- B** ancient accounts like Arrian's failed to mention any of the negative consequences of Alexander's campaigns.
- C** later historical accounts may evaluate figures like Alexander based on a wider set of criteria, including the ethical implications of their actions, than earlier accounts did.
- D** A. B. Bosworth's work is solely focused on correcting inaccuracies found in Arrian's account.

Question 16

Archaeological excavations at a Roman villa site in Britain have recently uncovered a large collection of Samian ware pottery. Historically, the presence of this fine pottery, originally imported from Gaul, was widely considered indicative of the wealth and high status of a site's inhabitants, suggesting strong reliance on foreign trade for luxury goods. However, Dr. Eleanor Vance's recent analysis (2022) of the quantity and diversity of the discovered Samian ware, alongside evidence for local pottery production at or near the villa, challenges this singular focus. Vance argues that the findings point to a more nuanced economic picture, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the inhabitants of the Roman villa site preferred locally produced goods over imported luxury items from Gaul.
- B** Samian ware pottery was not considered a luxury item by the Roman inhabitants of Britain.
- C** previous archaeological interpretations of Roman villa sites in Britain were entirely incorrect.
- D** the economy at the villa site was not solely dependent on the importation of luxury goods from abroad.

Question 17

Many early critics, like Lionel Trilling in his influential 1945 analysis, viewed Jay Gatsby from F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* primarily as a symbol of the corrupted American Dream, a figure whose immense hope was ultimately hollow. However, later analyses, such as Jeffrey Steinbrink's 1981 essay, focus more on Gatsby's deliberate crafting of his persona and his detachment from the genuine emotions of others around him. This shift highlights not Gatsby's hope, but his isolation and performative nature, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Steinbrink's analysis primarily reinforces Trilling's view of Gatsby as a symbol of hope.
- B** critical understanding of Gatsby has evolved from emphasizing his symbolic representation of an ideal to exploring the deliberate artificiality of his character.
- C** *The Great Gatsby's* enduring popularity is primarily due to the character of Jay Gatsby.
- D** early critics like Trilling were less interested in the psychological depth of characters than later critics like Steinbrink were.

Question 18

Psychologist Robert Cialdini and colleagues investigated the power of social norms in shaping behavior, distinguishing between descriptive norms (perceptions of what is commonly done) and injunctive norms (perceptions of what is commonly approved or disapproved of). In a 2006 study concerning theft of petrified wood from a national park, they tested signs emphasizing different norms. A sign highlighting descriptive norms ("Many past visitors have removed petrified wood...") significantly increased theft compared to a baseline. Conversely, a sign highlighting injunctive norms ("Please don't remove the petrified wood...") decreased theft, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** attempts to discourage undesirable behavior by highlighting its commonness may inadvertently normalize it and increase its occurrence.
- B** messages conveying disapproval (injunctive norms) are generally less effective in modifying behavior than messages describing common actions (descriptive norms).
- C** visitor compliance in national parks is primarily driven by awareness of regulations rather than perceptions of social norms.
- D** descriptive norms are only influential when they pertain to positive or socially approved behaviors.

Question 19

In a 1981 study, psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky presented participants with a hypothetical public health scenario involving 600 people affected by a deadly disease. When identical programs were described in terms of lives saved (Program A guarantees 200 lives saved), a large majority preferred this certain option. However, when the exact same programs were described in terms of lives lost (Program C guarantees 400 people will die), most participants avoided the certain option and chose the riskier alternative. This difference in preference suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the way information is presented can significantly impact people's choices, even if the underlying facts are unchanged.
- B** people are inherently more optimistic when situations are framed positively than when framed negatively.
- C** participants in the study likely did not fully understand the statistical probabilities involved.
- D** decisions involving potential loss of life are always more difficult for people to make than other types of decisions.

Question 20

In their 2015 study exploring domain-specificity in decision-making under uncertainty, Grit Hein, Philippe N. Tobler, Katerina Langa, and Ernst Fehr observed distinct patterns of ambiguity aversion. Participants evaluated scenarios involving either financial prospects with precisely defined probabilities versus ambiguous probabilities, or analogous medical treatment options where treatment efficacy probabilities were either specified or vague. Consistent with established models of economic choice, significant ambiguity aversion—a preference for known-risk options over unknown-risk ones—was prevalent in the financial domain. Conversely, in the medical decision-making context, particularly concerning treatments for severe hypothetical conditions, participants exhibited substantially attenuated ambiguity aversion, sometimes even showing ambiguity-seeking behavior. This observed dissociation in ambiguity attitudes across contexts suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the fundamental cognitive mechanism driving ambiguity aversion operates uniformly across different contexts, indicating that participants' underlying preference for known probabilities remained equally strong when evaluating both potential financial repercussions and uncertain medical treatment efficacies.
- B** specific contextual factors inherent to medical decision-making, possibly related to the perceived non-negotiability of health outcomes or different ethical considerations, can substantially alter individuals' weighting of ambiguity compared to how they evaluate mathematically analogous uncertainties in financial contexts.
- C** participants generally found the ambiguous medical scenarios less complex or inherently uncertain than the ambiguous financial scenarios, suggesting that the operationalization of ambiguity differed significantly in perceived difficulty between the two domains.

- D the observed reduction in ambiguity aversion in the medical domain stems primarily from participants employing heuristic shortcuts unique to health-related decisions, rather than a fundamental shift in their tolerance for unknown probabilities concerning severe conditions.

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: D

The passage talks about how people used to think *Frankenstein* was just a scary story or about the writer's life. But later, smart people like Anne K. Mellor and Chris Baldick looked closer and found deeper meanings about stuff like boys and girls, making things, and being kind to others. This means that looking at the book in new ways showed that it is important for more than just one or two things.

(A) is wrong because the passage says later critics moved away from just looking at the writer's life.

(B) is right because it says the first people who read it didn't see how deep it was.

(C) is wrong because it says only certain ways of looking at the book are right, but the passage just talks about new ways that came up.

(D) is the best answer because it says that the new ways of looking at the book showed it was important for many different ideas.

Question 2

Correct Answer: C

The passage explains Anne K. Mellor's idea about *Frankenstein*. Mellor says Victor Frankenstein is mainly to blame for the bad things that happen because he didn't act like a good parent to his creation. She notes that Victor was disgusted right away and left the Creature, even though the Creature started out good and wanted friendship. This suggests the Creature turned bad because of how Victor treated him. So, (C) makes sense because it says the Creature's bad actions later on happened because Victor abandoned him.

(A) is wrong because Mellor argues the Creature was *not* inherently evil, but became that way due to Victor's rejection.

(B) is wrong because the passage focuses specifically on Mellor's view of Victor's parental failure, not on Shelley's critique of science in general.

(D) is wrong because the passage emphasizes Victor's *rejection* and *failure as a parent*, not the specific scientific flaws in his creation process, as the reason for the tragedy.

Question 3

Correct Answer: C

The passage explains that the critic Harold Bloom saw Shakespeare's character Falstaff as representing wit, freedom, and a love for life. Bloom didn't like when people judged Falstaff too harshly based on morals. Instead, Bloom focused on Falstaff's smartness and how well he used words, seeing these as key parts of his charm and complexity. This suggests that Bloom thought we should appreciate Falstaff's cleverness and way with words more than focusing on his moral mistakes. This idea matches choice (C).

(A) is wrong because the passage says Bloom argued *against* interpretations that focus too much on judging Falstaff's actions morally, which would include seeing him just as a cautionary tale.

(B) is wrong because the passage talks about Bloom's view of Falstaff's qualities, not about whether his appeal was only for people in Shakespeare's time.

(D) is wrong because the passage only discusses Bloom's opinion about Falstaff, not how Falstaff compares to characters in Shakespeare's later plays.

Question 4

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about how *Berthe Morisot's* art was first seen as "feminine" and about "home life." But later, a scholar named Anne Higonnet looked at her work again and saw how powerful and smart her art really was, showing big city life. This change in how her art is seen suggests that the first ideas about her art were too small or unfair because they focused too much on her being a woman and not enough on her amazing art skills.

(A) is wrong because the passage does not say her impact was only on other female painters. It focuses on how her art was understood generally.

(B) is wrong because the passage is about *Morisot's* art specifically, not about all Impressionist painters. It also doesn't say they found it challenging to show modern life.

(D) is wrong because while the passage mentions "bold brushwork," it doesn't say this specific aspect was *not* appreciated until the late 20th century. The main point of the re-evaluation is about overcoming the gendered framing, not just technical appreciation.

Question 5

Correct Answer: D

The passage explains Terry Eagleton's idea that a book's meaning comes from both when it was written and when it is read. It says the reader's background and society's views affect how they understand the book. This means the book's meaning isn't stuck in time but can change. Therefore, the most logical conclusion is that the same book can be understood differently by people reading it in different time periods, and these different understandings can all be reasonable. This matches choice (D).

(A) is incorrect because it says the opposite of what the passage implies. The passage suggests meaning changes, not that only the author's original meaning is right.

(B) is incorrect because the passage doesn't mention whether Eagleton focused more on poetry or novels; it discusses his general ideas about literature.

(C) is incorrect because while the passage says context is important, it doesn't say readers need *full* understanding of the author's time to get *any* meaning. It emphasizes how the *reader's* time also shapes meaning.

Question 6

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about how people act when they know others are watching them. It mentions two studies. One study found that people are more generous when they are being watched, especially when their actions have consequences. Another study found that people were more generous when they knew their actions could be talked about by others.

From this information, we can figure out that (C) is the correct answer. If people are more generous when watched, especially when their actions can be discussed (which relates to their reputation), it means they are changing their behavior to look good to others. They want to be seen in a positive way.

(A) is wrong because the passage says that being watched makes people *more* generous, not less. This means they are *less* generous in private settings.

(B) is wrong because the passage only talks about how people act immediately when observed; it does not give information about long-term effects.

(D) is wrong because the passage talks about being watched and reputation, not about money making people more generous.

Question 7

Correct Answer: D

The passage talks about a study by Miall and Kuiken from 1994. They looked at how readers react to special writing styles in stories, called "foregrounding". This means using things like different metaphors or sentence structures. The study found two main things: readers take longer to read parts with foregrounding, and they feel these parts are more emotional and interesting. This information leads us to think about why authors use these styles. Since these styles make people read slower and feel more, it suggests the styles are used on purpose to affect how people think and feel when reading (D).

(A) is wrong because the passage says readers found the parts striking and emotional, not less enjoyable. It doesn't say if the extra time made it less fun.

(B) is wrong because while it might take longer to read, the passage links foregrounding to emotional impact and being striking, not just being hard to understand.

(C) is wrong because the passage mentions emotional impact or intensity, not specifically *negative* emotions. The study looked at the strength of the emotion, which could be positive or negative.

Question 8

Correct Answer: B

The passage explains that Mary Wollstonecraft wrote *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* in 1792. She argued against the way women were usually educated because it made them shallow and dependent. Wollstonecraft believed that giving women the same education as men would help them develop reason and become morally strong. This would make them better wives, mothers, and also capable members of society. The passage suggests that Wollstonecraft thought better education was key for women to think for themselves and be morally independent. This points to (B) as the logical completion.

(A) is incorrect because Wollstonecraft argued education would make women *more* than just good wives and mothers (i.e., capable members of society), not just enhance domestic skills.

(C) is incorrect because Wollstonecraft argued women *lacked* education, not that they had fundamentally different capacities; she believed they were rational beings deserving the same education as men.

(D) is incorrect because Wollstonecraft criticized education focused on accomplishments (like artistic/social pursuits for attracting husbands) and advocated for education that cultivates reason.

Question 9

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about a plant called *Mimosa pudica* that closes its leaves when touched, likely to protect itself. But the passage also says the plant stops closing its leaves if it's touched many times and nothing bad happens. This is called habituation. The passage also mentions that reacting takes energy. Since the plant stops reacting to touches that aren't harmful, it suggests that the plant is saving energy by not reacting to useless touches.

Let's look at the choices:

(A) The passage mentions habituation and memory, which are like simple learning, but it doesn't say the plant has complex learning like some animals.

(B) The passage clearly states the plant responds to touch, not light levels.

(C) This choice says habituation helps the plant save energy by not reacting to things that don't matter. This fits with the passage saying reactions use energy and the plant stops reacting to harmless touches.

(D) The passage talks about memory but doesn't mention or suggest anything about a central nervous system, which plants don't have.

So, the best choice is (C) because it logically follows from the plant using energy to react and habituating to non-harmful touches.

Question 10

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about a study where even smart people, like judges, were influenced by a starting number, or "anchor," even when they knew the number was just made up and not important. The judges still gave sentences that were close to that made-up number.

(B) is correct because it says that the way our brains work (cognitive mechanisms) can quietly change how professionals make decisions (assessments), even if they know the starting information is not real (arbitrary). This matches exactly what the passage says about the judges.

(A) is incorrect because the passage says the judges' sentences were "correlated significantly" with the anchor, not that they were "primarily based" on it. It also doesn't talk about legal precedents, which is outside the scope of the passage.

(C) is incorrect because the passage explicitly states the opposite: the judges were affected "even when explicitly told the demand was arbitrary." This means telling them it was arbitrary did *not* stop the influence.

(D) is incorrect because the passage doesn't compare simulated environments to real-world ones. It only describes the study with mock judges, not whether the effect is stronger or weaker in different settings.

Question 11

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about two ways people thought about the character Hamlet from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. First, a writer named Samuel Johnson thought Hamlet didn't act quickly enough and wasn't consistent, which Johnson saw as a problem with the character. Then, later thinkers, especially those who knew about psychology (how the mind works), saw Hamlet's slowness not as a problem, but as a real way someone might act if they were very sad, thoughtful, and facing a big challenge. The passage shows a change from seeing Hamlet's inaction as a flaw to seeing it as something complex and real about his mind. This means later thinkers found interesting psychological reasons for the same things Johnson didn't like.

So, (A) makes sense because it says later interpretations found psychological complexity and realism where Johnson saw problems.

(B) is wrong because the passage doesn't say people ignore Johnson now; it just presents a different view. (C) is wrong because the passage mentions psychology helped understand Hamlet, but it doesn't say you need *lots* of psychology knowledge to understand him. (D) is wrong because the passage is about how people *interpreted* Hamlet's actions, not about why Shakespeare *wrote* the play in the first place.

Question 12

Correct Answer: B

The passage describes a study where people's desire for orange juice made them "see" the number on a screen in a way that would get them the juice. This means what they wanted influenced what they perceived.

(B) is the correct answer because it says that what we see (our visual system) is not just about what's outside (external stimuli) but also about what we want or expect (internal goals and expectations). The study shows that people's desire for the orange juice actively changed how they perceived the number, supporting this idea.

(A) is incorrect because the study showed the numbers were "skewed" in a desired direction, which isn't always overestimation, and it doesn't mean this happens "consistently" in all choices. The main point is the bias, not the specific direction or consistency across all situations.

(C) is incorrect because the passage states participants were told about random assignment, but it doesn't say that knowing about random assignment makes the bias stronger. The bias came from their desire for the drink, not just the awareness of random assignment.

(D) is incorrect because the study shows that people's motivations and desires (internal goals) *do* affect what they see. This contradicts the idea that visual processing is "largely independent" of such internal processes.

Question 13

Correct Answer: D

The passage talks about a study by Kahneman and Tversky that shows how people choose differently depending on if the options are talked about as getting something good or losing something bad, even when the math behind the options is the same. This means that people don't just use the math (objective calculations) to make decisions. How the choice is presented, or "framed," also changes what they decide.

Option (D) says that people's decisions are not based *only* on the math (objective calculations). This fits what the passage says because the "framing" part, which isn't about math, also affects the decision.

Option (A) talks about people being more scared of losing than happy about gaining. While the study touches on this idea, the main point shown by the *framing effect* described is that the *way* the choice is presented changes things, not just the feeling about gain versus loss itself.

Option (B) says people always make bad choices. The passage just describes how people make choices; it doesn't say if the choices are good or bad, or that people always make them this way.

Option (C) says that how options are described only matters for big money problems. The passage doesn't say how much money is involved, and the study's ideas are about how people think in general, not just with big money.

Question 14

Correct Answer: D

The passage talks about tiny living things called extremophiles. These creatures can live in places most other living things can't, like very hot places or very cold places on Earth. The passage says they have special ways to survive these tough spots. Because we keep finding these living things in such difficult places on Earth, it makes us think about what this

means for finding life in space.

(D) is the best answer because the passage explains that extremophiles live in conditions that were once thought to be too harsh for any life. This suggests that if life can survive in such harsh conditions on Earth, it might also be able to survive in similarly harsh conditions on other planets or moons in space.

(A) is wrong because the passage implies the opposite; it says these discoveries "broaden the scope of astrobiological inquiry," meaning they offer *more* insight into life beyond Earth, not limited insight.

(B) is wrong because the passage talks about where these creatures live *now* and their special adaptations, not about how life on Earth first started or evolved.

(C) is wrong because while the passage talks about life in tough places on Earth, the main idea suggested by these discoveries is about the potential for life *elsewhere in the universe*, not just finding new life within Earth's oceans.

Question 15

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about two views of Alexander the Great. Old accounts, like Arrian's, focus on his awesome military skills and how special he seemed. Newer accounts, like Bosworth's, still agree he was a smart general but also point out he was very cruel and caused a lot of pain. Bosworth doesn't ignore the wins but looks at them differently by including the bad stuff.

The key information is that Arrian focused on positive things (skill, destiny), while Bosworth added negative things (brutality, suffering) to give a different picture. This suggests that how historians judge people like Alexander has changed over time. Newer historians think about more things, like whether actions were right or wrong (ethical), not just about winning battles.

(C) says that newer accounts judge Alexander using more factors, including right and wrong, compared to older accounts. This matches what we inferred from the passage.

(A) is wrong because the passage clearly says Bosworth *acknowledges* Alexander's tactical genius; he doesn't ignore it.

(B) is wrong because the passage says Arrian *often highlighted* the good parts, not that he *never* mentioned any bad parts.

(D) is wrong because the passage says Bosworth gives a *critical perspective* and *recontextualizes* Alexander's actions; it doesn't say his only aim was to fix Arrian's story.

Question 16

Correct Answer: D

The passage talks about finding old pottery at a Roman house site in Britain. People used to think that finding this pottery meant the people living there were rich because the pottery was fancy and came from another place called Gaul. But a new study by Dr. Vance looked at how much pottery there was, what kinds there were, and also found signs that similar pottery was made nearby. This new information makes the old idea seem too simple. The new idea is that the money and business stuff happening at the house was more complicated than just buying fancy things from far away.

The correct answer is (D). Since the old idea focused *only* on buying fancy things from far away, and the new study found signs of making things nearby too, it makes sense that the money stuff at the house was *not just* about buying fancy things from far away. It means other things, like making pottery locally, were also part of their business.

(A) is wrong because the passage doesn't say people liked local things *more* than imported ones. It just says local making happened too.

(B) is wrong because the passage says the pottery was *considered* fancy and a luxury. The new study makes the picture more complicated but doesn't say it wasn't considered luxury at all.

(C) is too strong. The passage says the new findings *challenge* the *singular focus* of old ideas, not that the old ideas were completely wrong about everything.

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about how people thought about the character Jay Gatsby from the book *The Great Gatsby*. At first, a writer named Trilling (in 1945) said Gatsby was like a symbol of the American Dream, but his hope was empty. Later, another writer named Steinbrink (in 1981) looked more at how Gatsby pretended to be someone he wasn't and didn't connect with real feelings. This change shows that people started thinking about Gatsby in a new way.

(B) is the best answer because it says that the way people understood Gatsby changed. First, they saw him as a symbol (like Trilling did), but later they looked more at how he acted fake on purpose (like Steinbrink did). This matches the change the passage describes.

(A) is wrong because it says Steinbrink agreed with Trilling about Gatsby being a symbol of hope. The passage says Steinbrink focused on something different (Gatsby acting fake and being alone), not hope.

(C) is wrong because it talks about why the book *The Great Gatsby* is popular. The passage isn't about the book's popularity, it's about how people's ideas about the character Gatsby changed over time.

(D) is wrong because it makes a guess about what Trilling was interested in (saying he cared less about character feelings). The passage only tells us what Trilling wrote about Gatsby, not everything he was interested in. It focuses on the *interpretation* of Gatsby, not the general interests of the critics.

Question 18

Correct Answer: A

The passage explains a study by Robert Cialdini about two types of social messages, called norms. One type, descriptive norms, tells people what others often do. The other type, injunctive norms, tells people what others approve or disapprove of. In a park study, a sign saying many people stole wood (descriptive norm) led to *more* stealing. A sign asking people not to steal (injunctive norm) led to *less* stealing.

The study showed that telling people "many people do this bad thing" actually made more people do the bad thing. This suggests that pointing out how common a bad behavior is can accidentally make it seem normal or okay, which makes people more likely to do it. Answer (A) says exactly this, that highlighting how common bad behavior is can backfire and increase it. This matches the finding about the descriptive norm sign.

Answer (B) is wrong because the passage shows the injunctive norm sign *did* work (it decreased theft), and while the descriptive norm sign also had an effect, it was a negative one. It doesn't support saying injunctive norms are less effective. Answer (C) is wrong because the study focused only on social norm messages; it didn't compare them to people's knowledge of park rules, so we can't conclude what the *primary* driver is based on this text. Answer (D) is wrong because the study showed a descriptive norm ("many people steal") influenced behavior even though stealing is a *negative*, disapproved behavior.

Question 19

Correct Answer: A

The story talks about an experiment where scientists asked people to choose between two plans to save people from a disease. The funny thing was, even when the plans would save the *exact same* number of people, people chose differently depending on how the scientists described the plans. If they said "you will save 200 people," most people picked that sure

plan. But if they said "400 people will die," most people picked a risky plan instead.

This tells us that just changing the words used to describe something (saving lives vs. people dying) changed people's choices, even though the results of the plans were the same.

So, the best ending is (A) because it says that *how* you say something matters a lot in what people choose.

Why the others are not right:

(B) is too general. The study shows a difference based on wording ("framing"), not just that people are always more optimistic with positive words. They actually took a *riskier* choice when faced with the negative "dying" frame.

(C) might be true for some people, but the main point the study shows isn't about *understanding* the numbers, but about how the *description* changed their feelings and choices. The passage focuses on the effect of the description.

(D) talks about *all* decisions about life and death being harder. The study only compared choices within *one* specific scenario and showed how the description changed the choice, not that life/death decisions are always harder than, say, choosing what to eat. It's too broad and wasn't the focus of the experiment described.

Question 20

Correct Answer: B

The passage describes a study where people made choices involving known risks versus unknown risks (ambiguity). In financial situations, people strongly preferred known risks, which is called ambiguity aversion. However, when making decisions about medical treatments, especially for serious conditions, this preference for known risks was much weaker, and sometimes people even preferred the unknown risk. This difference between financial and medical choices shows that the situation or context matters.

The key information is

1 People dislike unknown risks in money situations.

2 People dislike unknown risks much less (or even like them) in serious medical situations.

3 This difference shows that the *type* of situation changes how people feel about unknown risks.

We need to find the choice that logically follows from this difference.

(B) says that something specific about medical decisions (maybe how serious health issues feel, or ethical thoughts) changes how people handle unknown risks compared to how they handle similar unknown risks with money. This fits perfectly with the study finding different reactions in the two different situations (domains or contexts). It suggests the *context* changes the *reaction*.

(A) is incorrect because it says people react the same way to unknown risks in both money and medical situations. The passage clearly states they react differently (less aversion in medical).

(C) is incorrect because it suggests the medical choices felt less complicated or uncertain than the money choices. The passage doesn't say anything about how complicated the choices felt, only how people reacted to the uncertainty itself.

(D) is incorrect because it claims people used special mental shortcuts (heuristics) for health decisions. The passage doesn't mention *how* people made their decisions or if they used shortcuts, only that their *preference* regarding ambiguity changed depending on the context (financial vs. medical).