

# Inferences

## Question 1

A 2011 study by Michael I. Norton, Daniel Mochon, and Dan Ariely investigated what they termed the "*IKEA effect*." Participants were asked to assemble IKEA boxes, fold origami, or build with Legos. They then bid on their own creations and on similar items assembled by experts. The study found that participants consistently valued the items they had assembled themselves more highly than the expert-assembled ones, even when their own creations were objectively less well-made. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- ☐ A people prefer assembling items themselves to purchasing pre-assembled ones.
- ☐ B the act of putting effort into creating something can increase its perceived value to the creator.
- ☐ C experts are generally worse at assembling items than the average person.
- ☐ D the *IKEA effect* only applies to furniture and other household items.

## Question 2

In a 2007 study, Martin Heil and his team investigated plant communication. They observed that Lima bean plants (*Phaseolus lunatus*) under attack by spider mites release volatile organic compounds into the air. These airborne chemicals were then detected by nearby undamaged Lima bean plants. Remarkably, the undamaged plants subsequently began to produce their own defense-related proteins, even without direct contact with the mites. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the chemicals released by damaged plants are primarily intended to deter spider mites from the damaged plant itself.
- B** plant communication through airborne chemicals is a rare phenomenon unique to Lima bean plants.
- C** undamaged plants are able to anticipate potential threats by interpreting chemical signals from their neighbors.
- D** the defensive proteins produced by undamaged plants make them less effective at photosynthesis.

## Question 3

Many early critics of Charlotte Brontë's 1847 novel *Jane Eyre* focused on the title character's journey towards independence and moral fortitude. They often viewed Bertha Mason, Rochester's hidden wife, merely as a plot device symbolizing the obstacles Jane must overcome. However, Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar's influential 1979 study, *The Madwoman in the Attic*, offered a different perspective. They interpreted Bertha not just as an obstacle, but as a representation of Jane's own contained anger and desire for freedom in a restrictive society, suggesting that

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Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** early critics failed to understand Jane's journey towards independence.
- B** *Jane Eyre* was primarily intended as a critique of marriage laws in the 19th century.
- C** Gilbert and Gubar argued that Bertha Mason was a more central character than Jane Eyre herself.
- D** Bertha serves as a symbolic double for Jane, reflecting aspects of Jane's own inner conflicts.

## Question 4

A 2020 study by Sarah Kiefer and colleagues examined how urban noise affects the singing behavior of European blackbirds (*Turdus merula*). They found that blackbirds in noisier urban areas sang at higher frequencies than those in quieter rural areas. This difference wasn't due to physical variations in the birds themselves, as they tested for factors like body size. The researchers noted that singing at a higher frequency could help the birds' songs stand out against lower-frequency urban noise. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** urban blackbirds have adapted their singing to be heard over the specific type of noise present in their environment.
- B** the increased stress of living in urban environments causes blackbirds to sing more frequently.
- C** rural blackbirds have a wider range of vocalizations compared to urban blackbirds.
- D** the diet of urban blackbirds differs significantly from that of rural blackbirds.

## Question 5

Katie S. Abernethy and colleagues' 2020 study investigated the diets of great tits (*Parus major*) across urban and rural environments. Using stable isotope analysis, they found that urban great tits incorporated significantly more human-derived food items, such as bread or birdseed, into their diet compared to their rural counterparts, which primarily consumed insects and seeds. This dietary shift in urban populations was evident even in nestling diets, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** rural great tits are facing severe food shortages, prompting urban birds to seek alternative sources.
- B** all great tits prefer human-derived food sources over natural ones whenever they are available.
- C** urban great tits have adapted their foraging behavior to leverage new food opportunities.
- D** the 2020 study was the first to identify any dietary differences between urban and rural bird populations.

## Question 6

In a 2006 study, Judith Chevalier and Dina Mayzlin investigated how online customer reviews influence book sales on major retail websites like Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com. They observed that books with a higher average rating and a greater number of positive reviews consistently saw higher sales figures compared to books with lower ratings or fewer positive reviews, even after accounting for other factors. This finding suggests that online reviews \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- ☐ A play a significant role in shaping consumers' purchasing decisions.
- ☐ B are generally unreliable sources of information for potential buyers.
- ☐ C are more effective when displayed on websites with a large selection of books.
- ☐ D are read only by consumers who have already decided to buy the book.

## Question 7

Photosynthesis, the process by which plants convert light energy into chemical energy, is affected by several environmental factors, including temperature. A study by Dr. Elena Rodriguez in 2021 investigated the photosynthetic rates of *Zea mays* (corn) at varying leaf temperatures. The study found that photosynthetic rates increased as leaf temperature rose from 25°C to 35°C, reaching an optimal rate around 35°C. However, at temperatures above 35°C, the photosynthetic rate began to decline significantly. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- ☐ A *Zea mays* cannot photosynthesize at temperatures below 25°C.
- ☐ B the enzymes involved in photosynthesis in *Zea mays* are highly sensitive to temperatures exceeding 35°C.
- ☐ C increasing the leaf temperature indefinitely will continue to increase the photosynthetic rate in *Zea mays*.
- ☐ D 35°C is the ideal temperature for photosynthesis for all plant species.

## Question 8

In their seminal 1968 study, psychologists Bibb Latané and John Darley observed that individuals were less likely to offer help to a victim when other people were present. They staged emergencies, such as a person having a seizure, and varied the number of bystanders. When participants believed they were the sole witness, they intervened quickly. However, as the perceived number of other witnesses increased, the likelihood and speed of intervention decreased. This phenomenon, known as the *bystander effect*, suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- ☐ A bystanders are inherently uncaring in group situations.
- ☐ B the perceived presence of others reduces an individual's feeling of personal responsibility.
- ☐ C people are more likely to help others in situations they deem less urgent.
- ☐ D larger crowds generally lead to more effective emergency responses.

## Question 9

A classic social psychology study by John Bargh, Mark Chen, and Lara Burrows in 1996 investigated how exposure to certain concepts can affect behavior. Participants were unconsciously "primed" with words related to the elderly, such as "Florida," "senile," or "bingo." Following the experiment, researchers timed how long it took participants to walk down a corridor. They found that participants exposed to the elderly-related words took significantly longer to walk down the corridor than those in a control group. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** participants who were thinking about elderly people knew they were expected to walk slower.
- B** the study proves that walking slowly is a sign of old age.
- C** reading words about locations like Florida affects travel speed.
- D** mental associations formed by exposure to words can unconsciously affect behavior.

## Question 10

A study by Nigel Raine and Lars Chittka in 2008 investigated the link between learning speed and foraging success in bumblebees (*Bombus terrestris*). The researchers measured the learning speed of different bumblebee colonies in a laboratory setting, where bees learned to associate specific flower colors with nectar rewards. They then observed the foraging performance of the same colonies in their natural environment, recording the amount of nectar collected. The study found a strong correlation: colonies that learned faster in the lab also collected significantly more nectar in the field. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** bumblebees are unable to learn about flower rewards in their natural habitat.
- B** the color of flowers is the most important factor in a bumblebee's foraging success.
- C** a bumblebee colony's ability to learn quickly directly impacts its success in finding food in the wild.
- D** laboratory studies on bumblebee learning are not reliable indicators of their behavior in natural settings.

## Question 11

Leon Festinger, Stanley Schachter, and Kurt Back's 1950 study examined how physical distance influenced friendship formation among residents in a university housing complex. They found that people were much more likely to become friends with those who lived nearby, particularly next-door neighbors and those living near stairwells or mailboxes. This phenomenon, known as the proximity effect, highlighted the powerful role of physical layout in shaping social connections within a community. These findings suggest that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Friendship formation is mainly influenced by people having similar hobbies.
- B** People intentionally choose to live closer to those they already know will become their friends.
- C** The study's results are only applicable to male residents in university settings.
- D** the architectural design of residential buildings can significantly impact the development of social relationships among inhabitants.

## Question 12

In Toni Morrison's 1987 novel *Beloved*, the character Sethe is haunted by traumatic memories of slavery, embodied by the ghost of her deceased daughter. Morrison deliberately avoids a linear narrative structure, instead weaving together past and present through fragmented recollections and flashbacks. This narrative technique mirrors the psychological experience of trauma, where memories resurface unpredictably and disrupt the present. The fragmented storytelling forces the reader to piece together Sethe's history, mirroring her own struggle to confront and integrate her past, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- ☐ A Morrison's narrative style is intentionally designed to reflect the disorienting and persistent nature of traumatic memory.
- ☐ B Sethe eventually overcomes her trauma by forgetting the past entirely.
- ☐ C *Beloved* is primarily a historical account of slavery rather than a psychological exploration.
- ☐ D Linear narrative structures are ineffective for telling stories about difficult subjects.

## Question 13

Early readings of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel *Frankenstein* often focused on the work as a cautionary tale about scientific ambition unbound by morality. However, scholar Anne K. Mellor's 1988 analysis highlights Shelley's critique of masculine models of creation detached from female gestation and nurture. Mellor argues that Victor Frankenstein's solitary act of creation contrasts sharply with natural, collaborative modes of reproduction, ultimately leading to tragedy. This shift in critical focus suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Mellor believed Victor Frankenstein's experiment was a scientific success despite its tragic outcome.
- B** interpretations of the novel have evolved to consider themes related to gender and societal roles.
- C** all literary works are eventually reinterpreted through a feminist lens.
- D** early critics completely ignored the destructive consequences of Victor Frankenstein's actions.

## Question 14

In a famous 1951 study, psychologist Solomon Asch gathered male college students for a "vision test." Shown lines of different lengths, participants were asked to publicly state which of three comparison lines matched a standard line. Unbeknownst to the sole true participant in each group, the others were *confederates* instructed to give incorrect answers on certain trials. Asch found that a significant percentage of true participants conformed to the majority's wrong answer, even when the correct answer was obvious. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- ☐ A individuals can be influenced by group pressure to doubt their own judgment.
- ☐ B people are generally unwilling to disagree with others in a group setting.
- ☐ C college students have poorer vision than the general population.
- ☐ D the design of the experiment was flawed and did not accurately measure conformity.

## Question 15

In their seminal 1968 study, social psychologists John Darley and Bibb Latané investigated what became known as the *bystander effect*. Participants were placed in separate rooms and communicated via an intercom system. One participant, a confederate, simulated having a seizure. The researchers observed how quickly and frequently participants sought help for the confederate. They found that when participants believed fewer other people were also listening, they were significantly more likely to intervene. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** people are generally less empathetic when they cannot see someone in distress.
- B** modern communication systems hinder people's ability to respond to emergencies.
- C** the presence of more perceived witnesses can lead to a diffusion of responsibility.
- D** individuals are more likely to seek help themselves rather than offering it to others.

## Question 16

Jane Austen's 1813 novel *Pride and Prejudice* is often celebrated primarily as a romance, focusing on the relationship between Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. However, some literary critics, like Susan Fraiman, argue that this focus often overshadows the novel's sharp critique of the social and economic limitations faced by women in Regency England. Fraiman contends that viewing the novel solely through a romantic lens risks minimizing Austen's commentary on the societal structures that necessitated advantageous marriages for women of that era, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Austen primarily focused on the romantic entanglements of her characters, neglecting the broader social issues of the time.
- B** the character of Mr. Darcy is less important to the novel's meaning than the economic circumstances of the Bennet family.
- C** understanding the novel's social critique is essential to grasping its overall depth and Austen's intentions.
- D** Austen's later novels moved away from the themes of social critique present in *Pride and Prejudice*.

## Question 17

For centuries, traditional historical accounts in the United States often depicted Christopher Columbus as a heroic explorer who bravely discovered the Americas. However, works by historians like Howard Zinn, particularly in his 1980 book *A People's History of the United States*, challenged this narrative. Zinn focused on the devastating impact of Columbus's arrival on Indigenous populations, highlighting violence and exploitation. This shift in focus significantly altered how Columbus's legacy is discussed in many educational and public forums, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Zinn's interpretation definitively replaced the traditional heroic view of Columbus in all contexts.
- B** Traditional historical accounts completely ignored the existence of Indigenous populations before Columbus.
- C** Howard Zinn was the first historian to ever question the heroic narrative of Columbus.
- D** historical narratives are not fixed, but can evolve based on new perspectives and evidence.

## Question 18

Ocean acidification, a process driven by increased atmospheric carbon dioxide dissolving into seawater, causes the ocean's pH to drop. This change reduces the availability of carbonate ions, essential building blocks for marine calcifying organisms.

Creatures like corals, oysters, and certain algae rely on these ions to form and maintain their shells and skeletons. Research, such as studies by Katharina Fabricius on the *Great Barrier Reef*, shows significant decreases in calcification rates in these organisms, suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** marine organisms are rapidly evolving new methods to build their shells in acidic conditions.
- B** only a small number of marine species are affected by changes in ocean chemistry.
- C** the primary impact of ocean acidification is an increase in ocean temperature, not chemical changes.
- D** the ongoing increase in ocean acidity poses a fundamental threat to the structural integrity and survival of many marine species.

## Question 19

Urban environments pose challenges for birds that rely on song for communication. One such challenge is the pervasive low-frequency noise from traffic and other human activities. A 2021 study by *Sarah Woolaver* and colleagues investigated how *European robins* (*Erithacus rubecula*) adapt their songs in noisy urban settings. They found that urban robins tend to sing at higher frequencies compared to their rural counterparts. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** urban *European robins* decrease the overall volume of their songs in response to traffic noise.
- B** the diet of *European robins* in urban areas differs significantly from that of rural populations.
- C** *European robins* are the only bird species known to alter their songs in urban environments.
- D** adjusting song frequency is one way *European robins* compensate for the masking effect of urban noise.

## Question 20

Research by Marcel Visser and colleagues on European pied flycatchers (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) in the Netherlands revealed that while these migratory birds have advanced their breeding timing in response to climate change, their arrival dates from migration have not shifted at the same rate. The studies indicate that different environmental cues, likely temperature variations at different times or locations, influence these distinct stages of the annual cycle. This suggests that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Pied flycatchers are not affected by climate change as much as other bird species.
- B** the temperature changes in the Netherlands have a stronger effect on the birds' migration than on their breeding.
- C** the birds should find new migration routes to adapt to the changing climate.
- D** the timing of their arrival and the optimal time for breeding may become mismatched.

# Answers

## Question 1

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage talks about a study where people built things and then valued their own creations more than ones made by experts, even if theirs weren't as good. This tells us that doing the work to make something makes people like it more.

(A) is wrong because the study is about how people value things they built, not about whether they like building itself more than buying things already built.

(C) is wrong because the passage says the participants' creations were often less well-made than the experts', so experts were likely better at assembling.

(D) is wrong because the study used Legos and origami, not just furniture, showing the effect isn't limited to household items.

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## Question 2

**Correct Answer: C**

The passage talks about a study where sick plants send out a smell. Healthy plants nearby smell this and then start making their own "medicine" even before they get sick. This means the healthy plants understand the smell is a warning and get ready for trouble.

(A) is wrong because the passage focuses on what the *undamaged* plants do after smelling the chemicals, not just what the chemicals do for the *damaged* plant.

(B) is wrong because the passage only talks about Lima bean plants. It doesn't say if this is rare or common for other plants.

(D) is wrong because the passage doesn't say anything about how the "medicine" affects the healthy plants' ability to make food from sunlight.

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## Question 3

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage talks about the book *Jane Eyre*. Early critics thought the character Bertha was just something Jane had to get past. But two later critics, Gilbert and Gubar, had a different idea. They thought Bertha showed Jane's secret anger and wish to be free. This means Bertha is like a hidden part of Jane.

So, the best ending is (D) because it says Bertha is like a mirror showing Jane's secret feelings and problems.

(A) is wrong because the passage says early critics *did* focus on Jane's journey.

(B) is wrong because the passage is about how characters are seen, not mainly about marriage laws.

(C) is wrong because the passage doesn't say Gilbert and Gubar thought Bertha was *more* important than Jane, just that she represented Jane's feelings.

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## Question 4

**Correct Answer: A**

The passage talks about a study on blackbirds. The study found that blackbirds in noisy cities sing higher than blackbirds in quiet areas. The study also said this is not because the birds are different sizes. The researchers thought that singing higher helps the city birds' songs be heard over the city noise, which is usually low. This means the birds changed how they sing so they can be heard in the noisy city. So, they adapted their singing to the city noise.

(B) is wrong because the passage doesn't say anything about stress or how often the birds sing.

(C) is wrong because the passage only talks about the frequency of the song, not the variety of sounds the birds make.

(D) is wrong because the passage doesn't mention anything about what the blackbirds eat.

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## Question 5

**Correct Answer: C**

The passage describes a study that found great tits living in cities ate more food from humans, like bread, compared to great tits in the countryside, who mostly ate insects and seeds. This change in their food choices, even for baby birds, means the birds in the city are changing how they find food because of the new food available to them.

(A) is wrong because the passage only talks about city birds eating human food and does not say anything about country birds not having enough food.

(B) is wrong because the passage does not say that all great tits prefer human food. It only says city birds incorporated more human food, and country birds still ate natural food.

(D) is wrong because the passage only talks about this specific study and does not say if it was the first study ever to find such differences.

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## Question 6

**Correct Answer: A**

The story talks about a study that looked at online reviews for books and how many books were sold. The study found that books with more good reviews sold more. This means that what people write in reviews helps people decide whether to buy a book. So, the reviews help shape what people decide to buy. This matches answer (A).

Answer (B) is not right because the study shows good reviews are linked to more sales, suggesting people *do* find them useful, not unreliable.

Answer (C) might be true, but the story doesn't say anything about how the size of the book selection matters, only that the study looked at big websites.

Answer (D) is not right because if people read reviews *after* deciding to buy, the reviews wouldn't explain why some books sold more based on the reviews. The reviews must be helping them *make* the decision.

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## Question 7

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage talks about how plant photosynthesis changes with temperature based on a study. It says that photosynthesis goes up as temperature goes from 25°C to 35°C, is best at 35°C, and then goes down a lot when the temperature goes above 35°C.

We need to figure out what this means.

(A) is wrong because the passage only says what happens between 25°C and 35°C and above 35°C. It doesn't say photosynthesis stops below 25°C.

(B) is correct because if the photosynthesis goes down a lot after 35°C, it means the parts of the plant that do photosynthesis (like enzymes) don't work well when it gets too hot.

(C) is wrong because the passage clearly states that the rate goes down after 35°C, not up.

(D) is wrong because the study was only on *Zea mays* (corn), not all plants. What is true for one plant is not necessarily true for all plants.

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## Question 8

**Correct Answer: B**

The passage describes a study where people were less likely to help someone in trouble if more people were around. If they were alone, they

helped quickly. This means that when other people are there, a person feels less like it's their job alone to help.

(A) is incorrect because the passage says people are "less likely" to help, not that they are "inherently uncaring." It's about how the situation changes their behavior, not their basic nature.

(B) is correct because if more people are present and someone is less likely to help, it suggests that each person feels less personally responsible, thinking someone else might step in.

(C) is incorrect because the study used emergencies, which are urgent situations, not less urgent ones.

(D) is incorrect because the study shows that more people present led to less help, not more effective responses.

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## Question 9

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage talks about a study where people were shown words related to old people. Then, the researchers watched how fast they walked. People who saw words about old people walked slower without even knowing it. This means that just seeing words (which makes ideas in your mind) can make you act differently without you thinking about it.

(A) is wrong because the passage says the people were "unconsciously" primed, meaning they didn't know what was happening.

(B) is wrong because the study was about how seeing certain words changes speed, not about why people walk slowly when they are old.

(C) is wrong because the study used many words related to old people, not just "Florida," and it was about walking speed, not travel speed in general.

(D) is right because it says that ideas from words can make you do things without knowing it, which is exactly what happened in the study.

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## Question 10

**Correct Answer: C**

The passage talks about a study on bumblebees. The study looked at how fast different groups of bumblebees learned to find food in a lab. Then, they watched how well these same bumblebees found food outside in nature. The study found that the groups that learned faster in the lab were better at finding food in nature. This means that being able to learn quickly helps bumblebees find food better in the wild.

Choice (A) is wrong because the study shows that bumblebees *do* learn about food in both the lab and nature.

Choice (B) is wrong because while flower color was used in the lab test, the study focused on learning speed and foraging success in general, not just about color.

Choice (D) is wrong because the study found a connection between what happened in the lab and what happened in nature, which means the lab study was helpful in understanding their behavior in nature.

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## Question 11

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage talks about a study that found people become friends more easily when they live close to each other, like next door or near places where they often run into each other. This is called the proximity effect. It shows that where people live and how buildings are laid out affects who becomes friends.

(A) is wrong because the passage talks about distance, not hobbies.

(B) is wrong because the study shows that living near people helps you become friends, not that you become friends first and then choose to live near them.

(C) is wrong because the passage does not say the study was only about men or just for university places. It talks about residents in general.

(D) is correct because if living close to people helps you become friends, then how a building is designed (like where doors, stairs, or mailboxes are) can change how often people see each other and who they become friends with.

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## Question 12

**Correct Answer: A**

The story *Beloved* is about a character named Sethe who has bad memories from slavery. The author, Toni Morrison, tells the story in a mixed-up way, jumping between the past and the present, like how bad memories can pop up suddenly. The story says this way of telling the story is like how trauma feels in your head. This helps the reader understand Sethe's struggle. Therefore, it makes sense that Morrison chose this style on purpose to show how trauma affects memory. This points to (A) as the right answer.

(B) is wrong because the story says Sethe struggles to face her past, not forget it. (C) is wrong because the story talks a lot about Sethe's feelings and memories (psychology), not just history. (D) is wrong because the story only talks about this *one* book, *Beloved*; it doesn't say that all stories about hard things must be told this way. It makes a statement that is too big or too broad.

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## Question 13

**Correct Answer: B**

The story is about how people understood the book *Frankenstein*. First, people thought it was just a warning about science going too far. Later, a smart person named Anne K. Mellor looked at it differently. She said the book was also about how men tried to create life alone, without women, and how that caused problems. The story shows that how people understood the book changed over time.

So, the best ending is (B) because it says that people started thinking about the book in new ways, including ideas about men, women, and how society works.

(A) is wrong because Mellor thought Victor's creation led to tragedy and criticized his actions, not called it a success.

(C) is wrong because the story only talks about *Frankenstein*, not all books ever written.

(D) is wrong because the story says early readers saw it as a warning tale, which means they did see bad consequences, just maybe not in the way Mellor did.

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## Question 14

**Correct Answer: A**

The passage talks about an experiment where people were asked to choose the longest line. Most people in the group were told to pick the wrong line on purpose. The real person in the group often picked the wrong line too, even though the right answer was easy to see. This shows that what the group does can make people doubt what they see or think is right.

(A) says that people can be influenced by the group to doubt themselves. This matches what happened in the experiment.

(B) says people don't like to disagree in a group. While this might be true sometimes, the experiment specifically showed people changing their answers, which is more about influence than just not wanting to disagree.

(C) is incorrect because the passage doesn't say anything about the vision of college students.

(D) is incorrect because the passage describes the experiment's findings, which suggest it did measure conformity, not that it was flawed.

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## Question 15

**Correct Answer: C**

The passage describes a study where people were less likely to help someone in trouble if they thought more other people were around. This means that if more people are thought to be watching, each person feels less responsible to step in and help. So, (C) is the best choice because it says that when more people are believed to be present, the feeling of responsibility spreads out among them, making each person feel less accountable.

(A) is incorrect because the study was about the number of people perceived to be present, not whether they could see the person in distress.

(B) is incorrect because the intercom system was just how the study was set up; it wasn't shown to be the reason people didn't help. The problem was about how many other people were thought to be listening.

(D) is incorrect because the study was about whether people would offer help to someone else, not about whether they would seek help for themselves.

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## Question 16

**Correct Answer: C**

The passage talks about Jane Austen's book *Pride and Prejudice*. Many people see it mostly as a love story. But a critic named Susan Fraiman says that looking only at the love story makes us miss Austen's important points about the problems women faced back then, especially needing to marry for money and security. Fraiman thinks the social comments are very important. This suggests that to really understand the book well, we need to pay attention to its comments on society and money problems for women.

(A) is wrong because Fraiman argues Austen *did* focus on social issues, not that she neglected them. This choice says the opposite of Fraiman's point.

(B) is wrong because the passage doesn't compare the importance of Mr. Darcy to the Bennet family's money situation. It talks about romance versus social critique generally.

(D) is wrong because the passage only talks about *Pride and Prejudice* and doesn't mention Austen's other books at all.

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## Question 17

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage talks about how people used to see Christopher Columbus as a hero. Then, a historian named Howard Zinn wrote a book (*A People's History of the United States*) showing the bad things that happened to Native Americans because of Columbus. This changed how people talk about Columbus. This means that the way we understand history isn't always the same; it can change when people look at it from a different angle or find new information. That's why (D) makes sense.

(A) is wrong because the passage says Zinn's view *altered* the discussion, not that it *replaced* the old view everywhere.

(B) is wrong because the passage doesn't say traditional stories *ignored* Native Americans completely, just that they focused on Columbus being a hero instead of the harm done to them.

(C) is wrong because the passage doesn't say Zinn was the very *first* person to criticize Columbus, only that his work challenged the traditional view and changed the discussion.

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## Question 18

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage says that ocean acidification makes it hard for marine animals like corals and oysters to build their shells because they need special building blocks that are disappearing. It also says that studies show these animals are building their shells much less. So, if they can't build their shells,

it means their bodies are in danger, and they might not survive. This affects many types of sea creatures.

(A) is wrong because the passage only talks about the problem, not about animals quickly finding new ways to build shells.

(B) is wrong because the passage talks about many types of animals like corals, oysters, and algae being affected, which is not just a small number.

(C) is wrong because the passage specifically says ocean acidification is about the ocean's chemistry changing (pH dropping, less building blocks), not primarily about temperature getting hotter. While temperature is another problem for oceans, the passage focuses on chemical changes.

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## Question 19

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage says that cities have a lot of low noise, like from cars. It also says that a study in 2021 found that city birds called *European robins* sing higher notes than birds in the countryside. If the low noise in the city makes it hard to hear low notes, singing higher notes would help the bird's song be heard. So, the passage is saying that changing the song's notes helps the birds deal with the city noise.

Choice (A) is wrong because the passage talks about changing the notes (frequency), not how loud the song is (volume).

Choice (B) is wrong because the passage is about singing, not about what the birds eat.

Choice (C) is wrong because the passage only talks about *European robins*. It doesn't say if other birds do this too, and using words like "only" makes it too strong.

Choice (D) is right because it connects the birds singing higher notes to helping their songs be heard over the low city noise. This is a good guess based on what the passage tells us.

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## Question 20

**Correct Answer: D**

The passage says that birds are arriving at one time, and breeding at another time. It also says that the time they arrive is not changing much, but the time they breed *is* changing because of warmer weather. This means the gap between when they arrive and when they breed is changing. If these two times get too far apart, the birds might arrive too early or too late for the best time to have babies, like when there is the most food.

(D) says the time they arrive and the best time to breed might not match up anymore. This makes sense because one time is changing, but the other isn't changing in the same way.

(A) is wrong because the passage says climate change *does* affect their breeding time.

(B) is wrong because the passage says arrival time is *not* shifting much, while breeding time *is* shifting, which means breeding is more affected relative to arrival in this specific way.

(C) is wrong because the passage doesn't talk about birds finding new migration routes.