

Inferences

Question 1

Research into media consumption habits suggests a complex relationship between individual cognitive biases and the evolving information landscape. Studies on confirmation bias, for instance, indicate a robust tendency for individuals to favor information aligning with their pre-existing beliefs. This phenomenon is particularly pronounced in online environments where algorithmic filtering can create "echo chambers" and "filter bubbles," limiting exposure to dissenting viewpoints. While some research suggests that encountering counter-attitudinal information can potentially moderate biased understandings, the predominant effect observed is the reinforcement of existing attitudes. The rise of partisan media outlets further exacerbates this, as their content is specifically curated to appeal to a particular political or ideological base. This suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** individuals are increasingly likely to encounter a wide diversity of perspectives due to the sheer volume of information available online.
- B** algorithmic filtering is the sole factor driving the reinforcement of pre-existing beliefs in online media consumption.
- C** exposure to partisan media inevitably leads to the complete rejection of all mainstream news sources.
- D** the structure of the contemporary media environment, coupled with cognitive tendencies, makes individuals more susceptible to having their existing beliefs strengthened.

Question 2

The fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is a destructive agricultural pest. While female moths are capable of flight, they typically remain near their emergence sites for a period before undertaking longer migratory flights. Male *Spodoptera frugiperda* moths, however, exhibit stronger dispersal tendencies and are more likely to undertake long-distance flights immediately after emergence. A study by Yong-Jian Wan and colleagues in 2020 investigated the use of artificial light traps for monitoring and controlling this pest. Their findings indicated that while both sexes were attracted to certain light wavelengths, male moths were captured in significantly higher numbers than females in these traps. This suggests that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** female *Spodoptera frugiperda* moths are not attracted to the artificial light wavelengths used in the study.
- B** artificial light traps are a more effective method for controlling female *Spodoptera frugiperda* populations than male populations.
- C** the migratory behavior of *Spodoptera frugiperda* moths is solely driven by the need to find new food sources.
- D** the artificial light traps used by Wan and colleagues are more effective at capturing male *Spodoptera frugiperda* moths than female moths.

Question 3

In a study by Mika R. Moran, Daniel A. Rodriguez, and colleagues, residents of Mexico City, Mexico, and La Paz, Bolivia, were surveyed about parks in their cities. Of the 562 respondents from Mexico City, 77.6% indicated that they use the city's parks, and of the 528 respondents from La Paz, 67.5% indicated using city parks. Given that the percentage of Mexico City respondents who reported living within a 10-minute walk of a park was much lower than that reported by La Paz respondents, greater proximity alone can't explain the difference in park use.

The text makes which point about the difference between the proportions of Mexico City residents and La Paz residents using parks?

- A** It could be due to inaccuracies in the survey results.
- B** It was calculated using sources that predate the survey.
- C** It was much larger than the researchers conducting the study expected.
- D** It is caused by something other than the parks' proximity to city residents.

Question 4

In a 2020 study, Jie Ma and colleagues investigated the phenomenon of "moral decoupling," the process by which individuals separate judgments of an actor's performance from judgments of that actor's morality. They proposed that automation, due to its perceived lack of sentience and intentionality, might increase this decoupling. Participants in their experiment were asked to evaluate either a human or an automated agent performing a task that resulted in both positive outcomes and negative externalities. The findings revealed that when the agent was automated, participants were more likely to rate its performance favorably despite acknowledging the negative consequences, compared to when the agent was human. This suggests that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** participants held automated agents to a higher moral standard than human agents.
- B** the perceived nature of an agent influenced how participants integrated performance outcomes with moral considerations.
- C** negative externalities were more likely to occur when a task was performed by an automated agent.
- D** participants were generally more critical of the performance of human agents than automated agents.

Question 5

Researchers frequently explore the complex interplay between perceived social norms and individual behavior, particularly in prosocial contexts like charitable giving. Studies suggest that individuals' perceptions of what is considered normal or expected within their social group significantly influence their willingness to donate or volunteer. For instance, if someone believes that most people they know donate to charity, they are more likely to donate themselves. This phenomenon, often discussed within the framework of descriptive norms (perceptions of what is commonly done) and injunctive norms (perceptions of what is approved or disapproved), highlights the potent, albeit sometimes underestimated, role of social influence on ostensibly personal decisions. This suggests that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** individual charitable behavior is primarily motivated by altruism rather than social factors.
- B** disseminating accurate information about actual donation rates could potentially impact charitable contributions.
- C** people are always aware of the social norms that influence their charitable giving decisions.
- D** the influence of perceived social norms is limited to financial donations and does not extend to other forms of prosocial behavior.

Question 6

The fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), a polyphagous insect pest, has evolved resistance to several *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) insecticidal proteins expressed in genetically modified crops. Notably, resistance to Cry1F, a widely used Bt toxin in maize, has become prevalent in certain populations. A study by Huang et al. (2014) documented significant field resistance to Cry1F maize in the southeastern United States, with some fall armyworm populations exhibiting high levels of resistance to the purified Cry1F protein. The study also noted that Cry1F-resistant *S. frugiperda* showed a low level of cross-resistance to Cry1A.105, another Bt protein, but not to Cry2Ab2 or Vip3A. This suggests that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Cry1F resistance in fall armyworm is primarily due to a single, highly specific genetic mutation.
- B** deploying maize expressing Cry1A.105 alone would likely be ineffective in controlling Cry1F-resistant fall armyworm populations.
- C** the mechanisms of resistance to Cry1F in fall armyworm do not necessarily confer resistance to all other Bt proteins.
- D** fall armyworm populations in the southeastern United States have developed resistance to all commercially available Bt maize varieties.

Question 7

Reader-response criticism, a school of literary theory, posits that a reader's interpretation of a text is not solely determined by the author's intent or the text's inherent structure and content. Instead, this perspective emphasizes the active role of the reader in constructing meaning. Theorists like Louise Rosenblatt argue that reading is a transactional process where the reader brings their own experiences, emotions, and background to interact with the text. This interaction creates a unique "performance" of the work for each individual. Consequently, there can be multiple valid interpretations of the same literary piece, suggesting that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the author's historical context is irrelevant to understanding a literary work.
- B** a literary text's meaning is not fixed but is instead fluid and variable.
- C** the primary goal of literary analysis is to uncover the single, correct interpretation intended by the author.
- D** a reader's emotional response is less significant than a structural analysis of the text.

Question 8

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 9

Research by Hadjichristidis and colleagues (2019) explored the effect of cognitive load on trustworthiness judgments. Participants were presented with scenarios and asked to assess the trustworthiness of individuals described. The study manipulated cognitive load by requiring participants to simultaneously perform a demanding memory task. Results indicated that under high cognitive load, participants were less able to differentiate between individuals who were described with cues typically associated with trustworthiness and those described with cues typically associated with untrustworthiness. In contrast, participants under low cognitive load showed a significant difference in their trustworthiness ratings for these two types of individuals. This suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the ability to make nuanced trustworthiness judgments is not significantly affected by the amount of cognitive resources available.
- B** individuals described with cues associated with untrustworthiness are consistently rated as less trustworthy, regardless of cognitive load.
- C** allocating fewer cognitive resources impairs the sophisticated processing required to discern subtle social cues related to trustworthiness.
- D** the memory task used to induce high cognitive load was not sufficiently demanding to impact participants' judgment processes.

Question 10

The earliest known writing system is Sumerian cuneiform, emerging in Mesopotamia around 3200 BCE. Initially, this script, known as proto-cuneiform, was primarily logographic, with symbols representing objects or ideas. Research by scholars like Hans Nissen indicates that the initial impetus for developing this system was largely administrative and economic, driven by the needs of complex urban centers like Uruk to manage resources and transactions. These early tablets often recorded lists of goods, quantities, and their distribution. While cuneiform later evolved to include phonetic elements and was used for literature, law, and correspondence, its origins appear rooted in pragmatic concerns. This suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the aesthetic qualities of proto-cuneiform symbols were secondary to their functional purpose in early Mesopotamian society.
- B** the development of writing in Mesopotamia was initially tied more closely to the demands of managing resources than to expressing complex narratives or abstract thoughts.
- C** early Mesopotamian society placed a higher value on economic transactions than on religious or literary expression.
- D** the transition from logographic to phonetic elements in cuneiform was a direct result of increasing literacy rates in Uruk and other city-states.

Question 11

Motivated reasoning describes the tendency for individuals' beliefs and preferences to influence how they process information, often leading them to favor conclusions that align with their pre-existing views. Dan Kahan's research in 2013, building on earlier work, explored how this phenomenon affects the interpretation of empirical data, particularly in politically charged contexts. Kahan and colleagues presented individuals with a dataset related to a politically controversial issue, varying the presentation of the data to make one interpretation align with either a liberal or conservative viewpoint. They found that individuals, regardless of their cognitive abilities, were more likely to accept the interpretation that supported their political ideology. This effect was even observed among individuals with high cognitive reflection, suggesting that motivated reasoning is not simply a result of poor analytical skills but rather a pervasive tendency to protect one's identity and group affiliation. This indicates that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** individuals with higher cognitive abilities are immune to the effects of political bias when evaluating data.
- B** people may interpret the same set of data differently depending on their political beliefs.
- C** presenting data in a neutral format would eliminate the influence of motivated reasoning.
- D** motivated reasoning primarily affects individuals with lower levels of education and analytical skills.

Question 12

Geert Hofstede's seminal work in cross-cultural psychology introduced several dimensions for understanding national cultures, including Uncertainty Avoidance (*UAI*). *UAI* reflects a society's tolerance for ambiguity and the unknown, with high-*UAI* cultures favoring strict rules and predictability to minimize uncertainty. Conversely, low-*UAI* cultures are more comfortable with unstructured situations and diverse perspectives. Subsequent research has explored the relationship between these cultural dimensions and economic behaviors. Studies have indicated that *UAI* can influence various financial decisions, such as investment choices and debt management. For instance, creditors in countries with high levels of uncertainty avoidance tend to prefer issuing short-term debt and seeking low-risk investment portfolios. This suggests that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** cultures with a high tolerance for uncertainty are more likely to see individuals and institutions engaging in financial risk-taking.
- B** a society's comfort level with ambiguity can predict its overall economic stability and growth rate.
- C** national culture, as measured by the *UAI* dimension, is the primary determinant of individual financial literacy.
- D** differences in *UAI* primarily affect large-scale governmental financial policies rather than individual or corporate financial decisions.

Question 13

Marine neuroecologist Philip L. Munday and colleagues' 2009 research elucidated a critical vulnerability of coral reef fish to ocean acidification. They demonstrated that elevated seawater partial pressure of carbon dioxide ($p\text{CO}_2$), mimicking projected future oceanic conditions, severely impairs the olfactory-mediated predator avoidance behavior in larval fish. Typically, these teleosts exhibit a robust innate aversion to chemical cues released by predators. However, under experimentally induced hypercapnia, the larval fish displayed a marked reduction in their capacity to discriminate these crucial chemosensory signals, sometimes even developing a paradoxical attraction to them. This neurological disruption suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the primary threat to coral reef fish populations from ocean acidification is not behavioral but physiological stress.
- B** larval fish behavior under future ocean conditions will lead to an overall increase in reef biodiversity.
- C** other sensory modalities in larval fish, such as vision, will adapt to compensate for impaired olfaction.
- D** marine teleosts relying on chemosensory cues will face significantly heightened predation pressure in acidified environments.

Question 14

The small white heron and the little blue heron are long legged birds that live in wetlands. like the Everglades in Florida. Laura D'Acunto and colleagues wanted to know how these birds choose an area in which to live. They looked at features of these birds' habitats, such as how quickly water drains from the area and the amount of tree-canopy cover there is in the area. They found that small white herons prefer areas with extensive canopy cover, but this was not true for little blue herons. The researchers therefore concluded that wetland-management strategies that increase the amount of tree canopy in potential wetland bird habitats are less likely to _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** attract little blue herons to the area than they are to attract small white herons to the area.
- B** extend the average lifespan of small white herons already in the area than they are to attract a greater number of those birds to the area.
- C** decrease the area's appeal to both small white herons and little blue herons than they are to increase the appeal to other species.
- D** attract birds that don't typically live in wetlands to the area than they are to attract small white herons or little blue herons to the area.

Question 15

Many mesopelagic fish species utilize ventral bioluminescence, emitting light from photophores on their undersides. This adaptation, known as counterillumination, serves as camouflage by matching the intensity and spectrum of the dim downwelling light from the surface, effectively hiding the fish's silhouette from predators below. However, precisely regulating the intensity of this ventral light to match the variable ambient light at different depths presents a significant challenge, especially since the fish cannot directly observe their own ventral photophores. Research on stomiiform fishes has investigated potential mechanisms for this regulation. One hypothesis proposed that some species might use a small, internal photophore directed towards the eye as a reference. This "eye-facing" photophore would allow the fish to perceive a proxy for their ventral light output relative to the ambient light detected by the eye, suggesting that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** the effectiveness of counterillumination is primarily determined by the fish's overall size and the number of ventral photophores it possesses.
- B** eye-facing photophores, if present and functional as hypothesized, could enable mesopelagic fish to dynamically adjust their bioluminescence for optimal camouflage.
- C** the spectral properties of the downwelling light in the mesopelagic zone are relatively constant, simplifying the process of counterillumination for fish.
- D** predators in the mesopelagic zone primarily detect prey using chemosensory cues rather than visual information.

Question 16

In the realm of aesthetic reception, scholars like Hans Robert Jauss (1982) have challenged the traditional focus on a fixed, inherent meaning in artworks. Their *reception aesthetics* posits that an artwork's significance is not primarily determined by authorial intent or original production context, but rather emerges through a dynamic interplay with the changing *horizon of expectation* of its successive audiences. Each new engagement, shaped by evolving cultural paradigms and interpretive frameworks, contributes to the artwork's ongoing *exegesis* and public discourse. This suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- ☐ A the reconstruction of an artist's original intent remains the most objective method for understanding an artwork's true message.
- ☐ B an artwork's meaning is fluid, continuously re-negotiated and enriched by its encounters with diverse historical audiences.
- ☐ C a complete and final interpretation of any given artwork is theoretically attainable once all historical data are compiled.
- ☐ D the absence of direct access to the artist's personal philosophy renders any attempt at interpreting their work ultimately futile.

Question 17

Researchers studying *Anolis carolinensis*, the green anole lizard, have observed remarkable physiological adaptations in populations exposed to elevated ambient temperatures. A 2018 study by Logan and colleagues demonstrated that lizards from historically warmer microclimates exhibited significantly higher critical thermal maxima (CT_{max})—the highest temperature an organism can survive—compared to those from cooler regions. Furthermore, these lizards showed altered gene expression patterns related to thermoregulatory proteins and metabolic regulation, with some traits appearing heritable across generations. This robust phenotypic plasticity, coupled with a capacity for rapid genetic assimilation, suggests a strong evolutionary response to thermal stress. The sustained presence of *Anolis carolinensis* in increasingly warm environments, despite earlier models predicting steep population declines, implies that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** *Anolis carolinensis* possesses a unique metabolic rate that makes it impervious to extreme heat.
- B** the species demonstrates a more pronounced and rapid adaptive capability to thermal shifts than prior ecological models accounted for.
- C** the lizards in cooler microclimates will inevitably migrate to warmer regions to maximize their reproductive success.
- D** critical thermal maxima are primarily influenced by short-term acclimatization rather than long-term evolutionary pressures.

Question 18

In their seminal 1981 paper, *The Framing of Decisions and the Psychology of Choice*, Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky presented participants with hypothetical scenarios, including the famous *Asian Disease Problem*. They found that when a public health program was framed in terms of "lives saved," a majority preferred a certain, less risky option. However, when the exact same program was framed in terms of "lives lost," a majority opted for a riskier, probabilistic alternative, even if the expected outcomes were mathematically identical. This discrepancy highlights how the presentation of information can profoundly influence human judgment and decision-making, suggesting that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** individuals are generally more inclined to accept risk when facing potential gains than when facing potential losses.
- B** the cognitive biases observed in laboratory settings may not accurately reflect decision-making in real-world public health crises.
- C** individuals' subjective assessment of risk and value is highly susceptible to the way choices are verbally characterized.
- D** policymakers should always present public health information in terms of lives saved to ensure optimal societal outcomes.

Question 19

The frigid bumblebee (*Bombus frigidus*) is a species typically found in cold, high-latitude, or high-altitude regions. As with many bumblebee species, their ability to regulate internal thoracic temperature is crucial for foraging and reproductive success. Studies, such as that by Oyen and Dillon in 2018, have investigated the thermal limits of various bumblebee species, finding that cold-adapted species generally exhibit lower heat tolerance compared to those in warmer climates. *Bombus frigidus*, being an arctic bee, has adaptations for conserving heat in cold environments, including relatively large body size which helps minimize heat loss. However, research on how rising global temperatures specifically impact the thermoregulatory capacity and overall viability of *Bombus frigidus* suggests that _____.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** *Bombus frigidus* is likely to expand its range into lower-latitude regions as temperatures increase.
- B** the larger body size of *Bombus frigidus* may provide a significant advantage in adapting to warmer conditions.
- C** *Bombus frigidus* possesses a high degree of phenotypic plasticity, allowing it to tolerate a wide range of temperatures.
- D** *Bombus frigidus* may be particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to its specialized thermal physiology.

Question 20

Previous research has shown that plant species with a narrow geographical range tend to be more genetically homogeneous than plant species with extensive ranges are. Based on these findings, researchers recently ran simulations to predict how the genetic variation of several species of *Mammillaria*, a genus of cactus found throughout the Americas, might change in different distribution conditions. One of these species, *M. anniana*, is found only in the state of Tamaulipas. The researchers simulated what would happen if *M. anniana* spread to new habitats outside Tamaulipas, and, consistent with previous findings, the results showed that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** there was a gradual increase in the genetic homogeneity of *Mammillaria* species in states neighboring Tamaulipas.
- B** *Mammillaria* species other than *M. anniana* would become more common in Tamaulipas.
- C** several other *Mammillaria* species could survive in Tamaulipas in the future.
- D** the genetic homogeneity of *M. anniana* decreased over time.

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: D

The passage talks about how people tend to like news that already matches what they think, which is called confirmation bias. It also says that the internet and special news channels called partisan media make it easier for people to only see news that agrees with them. This means that because of how news is set up now and how people's brains work, it's more likely that their current ideas will get stronger. (A) is wrong because the passage says people are less likely to see different ideas, not more. (B) is wrong because the passage mentions other things too, like confirmation bias and partisan media, not just algorithms. (C) is wrong because the passage doesn't say people will stop trusting all other news, just that their own ideas get stronger.

Question 2

Correct Answer: D

The passage says that male fall armyworm moths were caught much more often than female moths in the light traps used by the researchers. This tells us that the traps worked better for catching males than females.

(A) is wrong because the passage says both sexes were attracted to the light, even if males were caught more.

(B) is wrong because the traps caught more males, not females, so they would be better for controlling males.

(C) is wrong because the passage talks about flight patterns related to emergence and migration, but doesn't say the only reason for migration is finding food.

(D) is right because the study found significantly higher numbers of male moths were captured in the traps compared to females, meaning the traps

were more effective at catching males.

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

The passage can be summarized as follow:

"Mexico City vs La Paz: Park Use Survey

Mexico City: 77.6% use parks

La Paz: 67.5% use parks

Mexico City has lower park proximity than La Paz

Conclusion: Park proximity NOT = difference in park use"

The passage explicitly states, "greater proximity alone can't explain the difference in park use." This directly tells us that the difference in park use is caused by something other than how close the parks are to the residents. D is the correct answer.

A is incorrect because the passage does not mention any inaccuracies in the survey. B is incorrect because the passage refers to current survey results, not older sources. C is incorrect because the passage does not indicate the researchers' expectations regarding the difference in park use.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about a study where people judged either a person or a robot doing something that had good and bad results. When it was a robot, people thought the robot did a good job even if bad things happened. When it was a person, people didn't think the person did as good a job if bad things happened. This means that whether the agent was a robot or a person changed how people thought about the good and bad results together.

(A) is wrong because the study showed people were less critical of the robot's bad results, not more critical.

(C) is wrong because the passage doesn't say that robots actually caused more bad things, just that people judged them differently.

(D) is wrong because the study focused on how people judged the performance alongside the moral results, not just the performance itself.

Question 5

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about how people's ideas about what others do (social norms) can change whether they donate to charity. It says that if someone thinks many people they know donate, they are more likely to donate too. This means that what people *think* others are doing matters for their own actions. So, if we tell people the truth about how many people actually donate, it might change what they think is normal and make them more likely to donate.

(A) is wrong because the passage focuses on social factors influencing behavior, not saying altruism is the main reason.

(C) is wrong because the passage talks about perceived norms, and people aren't always aware of everything that influences them.

(D) is wrong because the passage mentions both donating and volunteering as examples of prosocial behavior influenced by norms.

Question 6

Correct Answer: C

The passage says that fall armyworms resistant to Cry1F were still killed by Cry2Ab2 and Vip3A. This means that being resistant to one type of Bt protein does not mean they are resistant to all types. So, the way they resist Cry1F is not the same way they would resist Cry2Ab2 or Vip3A. This supports the idea that resistance mechanisms are not universal for all Bt

proteins.

(A) is wrong because the passage doesn't talk about the specific genetic mutation, only the result of the resistance.

(B) is wrong because the passage says there is only a *low* level of cross-resistance to Cry1A.105, which doesn't automatically mean it would be ineffective.

(D) is wrong because the passage explicitly states that the resistant fall armyworms were *not* resistant to Cry2Ab2 or Vip3A, meaning they are not resistant to *all* Bt maize varieties.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about a way of looking at books called "reader-response criticism." This idea says that when someone reads a book, the meaning they get from it comes from what's in the book *and* what's in their own head, like their past experiences and feelings. Because everyone's head is different, the meaning can be different for each person. This means the meaning of a book isn't stuck in one place; it can change depending on who is reading it. This suggests the meaning is not fixed but can change.

(A) is wrong because the passage doesn't say anything about the author's history.

(C) is wrong because the passage says there can be *many* right ways to understand a book, not just one the author wanted.

(D) is wrong because the passage says the reader's feelings and background are important in making meaning, not less important.

Question 8

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 9

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about a study where people judged how trustworthy others are. Some people had their minds busy with another task (high cognitive load), while others did not (low cognitive load). The study found that people with busy minds couldn't tell the difference between trustworthy and untrustworthy people as well as those with less busy minds. This means having a busy mind, or fewer thinking resources, makes it harder to figure out the small signs that show if someone is trustworthy.

(A) is wrong because the study shows that cognitive load *does* affect the ability to judge trustworthiness.

(B) is wrong because under high cognitive load, participants could *not* differentiate well between trustworthy and untrustworthy individuals.

(D) is wrong because the study results clearly show that the high cognitive load *did* impact the judgment process.

Question 10

Correct Answer: B

The passage says that the earliest writing, proto-cuneiform, was used for keeping track of things like goods and how they were given out because cities like Uruk needed to manage their stuff. It also says that writing was used for stories and ideas later on. This means that writing was first used for practical things like managing goods, not for telling stories or sharing big ideas. So, answer choice (B) is the best fit.

Answer choice (A) talks about how the writing looked, but the passage doesn't say if it looked pretty or not.

Answer choice (C) talks about what was important to people, like money or stories, but the passage only talks about why writing started, not what people valued most.

Answer choice (D) talks about how writing changed to include sounds and if more people could read, but the passage doesn't give information about how many people could read.

Question 11

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about how people's existing beliefs can change how they understand new information. A study by Dan Kahan showed that people tend to favor ideas that match their political side, even if they are good thinkers. This means that what someone already believes politically can make them see the same facts in a different way.

(A) is wrong because the passage says even smart people were affected by their political side.

(B) is right because the passage explains that people's political beliefs caused them to interpret the same information in ways that fit what they already thought.

(C) is wrong because the passage doesn't say anything about what happens if the data is shown in a neutral way.

(D) is wrong because the passage shows that motivated reasoning happened even with people who had high thinking skills, not just those with lower skills or education.

Question 12

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about Geert Hofstede's idea of Uncertainty Avoidance (UAI), which is about how comfortable a society is with things that are unclear or unknown. The passage says that cultures that don't like uncertainty (high UAI) prefer safe financial choices, like short-term debt and low-risk investments. This means that cultures that are okay with uncertainty (low UAI) would likely be more comfortable with financial risk-taking. So, option A is the most logical conclusion.

Option B is incorrect because the passage only talks about financial decisions, not overall economic stability or growth.

Option C is incorrect because the passage does not mention financial literacy at all.

Option D is incorrect because the passage explicitly mentions individual and corporate financial decisions (creditors preferring certain types of debt and investments), not just government policies.

Question 13

Correct Answer: D

The passage explains that rising ocean acidity makes young coral reef fish unable to smell and avoid their predators. Sometimes, the fish even start being attracted to the smells of predators. This means that if fish can't sense danger and avoid predators, they are much more likely to be eaten. So, the

correct answer is (D) because it says that fish that use smell to find their way will be hunted more often in acidic oceans.

(A) is wrong because the passage focuses on behavioral changes, not saying that they are less important than physical stress.

(B) is wrong because if fish can't avoid predators, their numbers might go down, which wouldn't likely lead to more different types of creatures (biodiversity).

(C) is wrong because the passage only talks about problems with the sense of smell and does not provide any information about other senses like vision adapting to make up for it.

Question 14

Correct Answer: A

The passage can be summarized as follow:

- White heron: Likes canopy cover
- Blue heron: Does not like canopy cover
- Strategy: Increase canopy cover

Since white herons prefer canopy cover and blue herons do not, a management strategy that increases canopy will be highly effective for white herons but not for blue herons. Therefore, such a strategy is less likely to attract the blue herons compared to the white herons. **(A)** is the correct answer.

(B) is incorrect because the passage discusses habitat preference and attraction to an area, not the lifespan of the birds.

(C) is incorrect because the passage suggests that increasing canopy cover would actually increase the appeal for white herons, not decrease it for both species.

(D) is incorrect because the study focuses specifically on the preferences of white and blue herons; there is no information provided about birds that don't live in wetlands.

Question 15

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about how some deep-sea fish use lights on their belly to hide from animals looking up at them. This is called counterillumination. The fish need to match the light from above to hide well, but it's hard because the light from above changes and the fish can't see their own belly lights. Scientists thought maybe some fish have a special small light pointed at their eye to help them figure out how bright their belly lights are compared to the light from above. If this special light works like scientists think, it would help the fish change their belly light to match the light around them better so they can hide.

(A) is wrong because the passage talks about matching the light, not the size or number of lights being the main thing for hiding.

(C) is wrong because the passage says the light from above is "variable," meaning it changes, not that it is constant.

(D) is wrong because the passage focuses on hiding from predators using light and seeing, not using smell (chemosensory cues).

Question 16

Correct Answer: B

The passage explains that an artwork's meaning is not fixed and does not only come from the artist's original idea. Instead, its meaning changes and grows because of how different groups of people understand it over time. This happens because people's ways of thinking change.

(B) is the correct answer because it says that an artwork's meaning changes and is made richer by how different people understand it over time. This matches what the passage says about meaning not being fixed and changing with different audiences.

(A) is wrong because the passage says that focusing only on the artist's original idea is not the *main* way to understand the artwork.

(C) is wrong because the passage says that understanding an artwork is an "ongoing" process, not something that can be finished or completed.

(D) is wrong because it says that understanding an artwork is useless without knowing the artist's thoughts. The passage shows that meaning comes from the audience's interaction, not just the artist's original idea.

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about lizards called *Anolis carolinensis* that can live in hot places. Scientists found that these lizards can handle very hot temperatures better than lizards from cooler places. They also found that the lizards' bodies change, and these changes can even be passed down to their babies. This shows that the lizards are quickly adapting to the heat. Even though old ideas said these lizards would disappear in hot places, they are still there.

This means that the lizards are better at adapting to heat changes than scientists first thought.

(A) is wrong because the passage does not say the lizards are completely safe from heat ("impervious"). It only says they are adapting.

(C) is wrong because the passage talks about lizards adapting to heat, not about lizards moving from cool places to warm places to have more babies.

(D) is wrong because the passage says the changes can be passed down to babies ("heritable") and involve "genetic assimilation," which means long-term changes, not just short-term ones.

Question 18

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about a study where people made different choices depending on how a problem was told to them. Even though the actual math of saving or losing lives was the same, how it was *said* (framed as "lives saved" versus "lives lost") changed what people picked.

(C) is correct because it says that how people see risk and what they value can change a lot depending on the words used to describe the choices. This matches how the "lives saved" versus "lives lost" framing made people choose differently.

(A) is wrong because the passage shows the opposite. When it was about "lives lost," people took *more* risk. When it was about "lives saved" (a gain), they took *less* risk.

(B) is wrong because the passage is about how framing affects decisions. It doesn't talk about whether lab results are like real-world crises.

(D) is wrong because the passage describes what happened in the study, but it doesn't tell policymakers what they "should always" do. This is a suggestion, not a conclusion from the facts presented.

Question 19

Correct Answer: D

The passage talks about a type of bee called the *Bombus frigidus*. It says this bee lives in cold places and is good at staying warm. But, studies show that bees from cold places are not good at handling heat. The passage also says this bee is big, which helps it stay warm, not cool. The passage ends by saying researchers looked at how hotter temperatures affect this bee. We need to figure out what the research likely found. Since the bee is made for the cold and not good with heat, the research probably suggests that hotter temperatures will be bad for it.

(A) is wrong because the bee likes cold. If it gets hotter, it won't want to move to hotter places.

(B) is wrong because being big helps it stay warm, which is the opposite of what it needs if the weather gets hotter.

(C) is wrong because the passage says the bee is specialized for cold, not good at handling many different temperatures.

(D) is correct because the bee is built for cold and is not good with heat, so getting hotter (climate change) will likely hurt it.

Question 20

Correct Answer: D

The passage can be summarized as follow:

- Previous research: Narrow geographical range !' more genetically homogeneous (less genetic variation).
- Previous research: Extensive geographical range !' less genetically homogeneous (more genetic variation).
- Researchers simulated what would happen if *M. anniana* (a cactus with a narrow range) spread to new habitats.

The simulation was consistent with previous findings. This means that as *M. anniana*'s geographical range became wider, it would become less genetically homogeneous, or in other words, its genetic variation would increase. Therefore, the genetic homogeneity of *M. anniana* would decrease over time. (D) is the correct answer.

(A) is incorrect because the simulation focused on *M. anniana*, not other *Mammillaria* species.

(B) is incorrect because the simulation was about *M. anniana* spreading outside of Tamaulipas, not about other species moving into it.

(C) is incorrect because the simulation was about the genetic variation of *M. anniana*, not the survival of other species.