

Information and Ideas

Question 1

In her 2017 book, *Lincoln in the Bardo*, George Saunders challenges conventional narrative structures by interweaving historical accounts with fantastical elements. Set in a cemetery during Abraham Lincoln's mourning for his son, the novel departs from traditional biographical approaches. Saunders employs a chorus of deceased characters who are stuck in the *bardo*, a transitional state between life and death in Tibetan Buddhism, to comment on Lincoln's grief and the Civil War. This narrative technique allows Saunders to explore themes of empathy and historical memory in a non-linear, multi-perspectival manner, creating a unique reading experience.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A George Saunders' *Lincoln in the Bardo* utilizes an experimental narrative structure to explore themes of empathy and historical memory.
- B The use of the *bardo* in George Saunders' novel enhances the reader's understanding of Tibetan Buddhism.
- C Abraham Lincoln's grief over his son's death is the central theme of George Saunders' book *Lincoln in the Bardo*.
- D George Saunders' *Lincoln in the Bardo* is primarily a historical account of the American Civil War.

Question 2

In Leon Festinger's (1957) theory of *cognitive dissonance*, individuals strive for internal consistency between their beliefs and behaviors. Dissonance arises when inconsistencies occur, creating psychological discomfort. To alleviate this tension, people may alter their attitudes, behaviors, or perceptions to establish consonance. For example, someone who values environmental conservation but frequently drives a gas-guzzling vehicle might experience dissonance. To reduce this discomfort, they could rationalize their behavior by citing the vehicle's safety features, or they might attempt to change their behavior by seeking out more fuel-efficient transportation options. This drive towards cognitive equilibrium influences decision-making and attitude formation across various contexts.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Festinger's cognitive dissonance theory posits that individuals are motivated to reduce discomfort caused by inconsistencies between their beliefs and actions.
- B** The primary cause of cognitive dissonance is the conflict between a person's deeply held values and the practical limitations of their lifestyle choices.
- C** Although cognitive dissonance is a well-established psychological theory, its impact on real-world decision-making is negligible.
- D** People who experience cognitive dissonance are more likely to make irrational decisions compared to those who maintain a consistent belief system.

Question 3

Architects looking for inspiration may examine photographs of iconic buildings such as the Leaning Tower in Pisa. A two-dimensional photograph, however, cannot capture how a building interacts with its surroundings, whether by complementing, blending in with, or perhaps even clashing with sights and activities nearby. An image of the Leaning Tower thus _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** conceals the subtle deterioration of the building's materials.
- B** serves to exaggerate the building's historical importance.
- C** misrepresents how the building is perceived by people who have never visited Pisa.
- D** fails to convey the full impact of the building's design and structure.

Question 4

In her 2018 book, *Feel Free*, Zadie Smith explores the phenomenon of cultural appropriation in the arts. She argues that while the concept is often viewed negatively, a more nuanced understanding is necessary. Smith examines instances where artists draw inspiration from cultures other than their own, positing that the value of such works lies not in their authenticity, but in their ability to create something new and meaningful. She suggests that anxieties surrounding cultural appropriation often stifle creativity, preventing artists from engaging with diverse influences in innovative ways. Smith does not dismiss the potential for harm, but advocates for a framework that prioritizes artistic expression and cross-cultural dialogue.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A Zadie Smith's *Feel Free* condemns cultural appropriation in the arts, arguing that it inevitably leads to misrepresentation and harm.
- B Smith's analysis of cultural appropriation in the arts seeks to move beyond simple condemnation, advocating for a nuanced approach that values creativity and dialogue.
- C Cultural appropriation, according to Smith, is only justifiable when artists demonstrate a deep understanding of the culture they are borrowing from.
- D Smith's work primarily focuses on the ethical responsibilities of artists, especially regarding representation of marginalized communities.

Question 5

In their 2010 paper, behavioral scientists Simona Botti and Ann McGill explored how consumers perceive self-designed products compared to standard offerings. Participants were given the option to either design their own product or choose a pre-designed one. The study revealed a tendency among consumers to favor self-designed products, attributing this preference to an enhanced sense of *ownership* and *control*. This phenomenon, termed the “*I designed it myself*” effect, suggests that the act of customization increases the perceived value of a product. This effect was particularly pronounced among individuals with a high need for uniqueness, further reinforcing the psychological connection between personal creation and product appreciation.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Botti and McGill's research indicates that consumers generally prefer products that offer a high degree of functionality and practicality over those that are merely aesthetically pleasing.
- B** The “*I designed it myself*” effect, as discovered by Botti and McGill, demonstrates that consumers place a higher value on products they customize due to increased feelings of ownership and control.
- C** A key finding of Botti and McGill's study is that consumers who seek to express their individuality through unique products are more likely to engage in self-design practices.
- D** Botti and McGill's 2010 study confirms that self-designed products consistently outperform standard products in the market due to their superior quality and innovative features.

Question 6

In a 2008 study, Ap Dijksterhuis and Maarten Bos investigated the impact of conscious versus unconscious thought on consumer choice. Participants were asked to select the best car out of a set. One group was given time to consciously deliberate, while another was distracted to promote unconscious thought. Results indicated that participants in the unconscious thought group made better, more satisfying choices, particularly when evaluating complex information. This suggests that for intricate decisions, such as purchasing a car, unconscious processing can lead to more optimal outcomes.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Dijksterhuis and Bos's study demonstrates that unconscious thought consistently outperforms conscious deliberation in all decision-making scenarios.
- B** A 2008 study by Dijksterhuis and Bos suggests that unconscious thought may lead to better consumer choices, especially in complex situations like buying a car.
- C** The study contrasts two groups of participants who either were consciously thinking or were distracted, with the latter group purchasing a better car.
- D** Consumer choice research is an emerging field which, according to Dijksterhuis and Bos, says that people make better choices when they are not thinking about them.

Question 7

In a study of the invasive *Caulerpa taxifolia* algae in the Mediterranean Sea, researchers David and Lengyel (2011) investigated its impact on native seagrass populations. Their findings revealed a complex interaction: *C. taxifolia* initially reduces seagrass biomass by competing for light and nutrients. However, the algae also provide a habitat for certain epiphytic organisms that subsequently colonize the seagrass, increasing overall biodiversity in the affected areas. This increase does not offset the initial losses in seagrass biomass. The study suggests that while *C. taxifolia* has a negative impact on seagrass, its effects on the broader ecosystem are more nuanced than previously thought.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A David and Lengyel's 2011 study demonstrates that the introduction of *Caulerpa taxifolia* has uniformly negative consequences for all marine life in the Mediterranean Sea.
- B A 2011 study has found that while *Caulerpa taxifolia* reduces seagrass, it introduces new habitats that affect marine biodiversity in complex ways.
- C Research conducted by David and Lengyel in 2011 conclusively proves that *Caulerpa taxifolia* is essential for maintaining biodiversity in the Mediterranean Sea.
- D The study indicates that the reduction of seagrass biomass caused by *Caulerpa taxifolia* is offset by the subsequent increase in epiphytic organisms.

Question 8

In a 2008 study, biologist Katharina Wimmers found that the foraging behavior of the spider *Anelosimus studiosus* varied significantly based on the surrounding environmental conditions. In areas with high prey availability, these spiders exhibited a solitary foraging strategy, constructing smaller, more dispersed webs. Conversely, when resources were scarce, *Anelosimus studiosus* displayed cooperative behavior, building larger, interconnected webs to maximize their collective hunting efficiency. This plasticity highlights the species' adaptive capacity, allowing it to optimize resource acquisition in fluctuating ecosystems. Further research suggests that these behavioral shifts are mediated by complex interactions between genetic predispositions and environmental cues.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Wimmers's 2008 study revealed that the spider *Anelosimus studiosus* uses varied foraging strategies to effectively respond to different environmental conditions.
- B** The foraging habits of spiders are solely determined by their environmental surroundings, independent of genetic factors.
- C** High prey availability causes *Anelosimus studiosus* to create cooperative webs, which leads to maximization of their collective hunting efficiency.
- D** Further studies are needed to fully understand the impact of environmental cues and genetic predispositions on the *Anelosimus studiosus*'s plasticity.

Question 9

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 10

In *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2013), Simon Gilroy and colleagues explored the biophysical responses of plant cells to mechanical stimuli under microgravity conditions using the model plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Their experiments revealed that, in the absence of Earth's gravitational pull, plant cells exhibited altered calcium signaling pathways when subjected to mechanical stress. Specifically, the absence of gravity led to a diminished calcium ion influx into the cytoplasm, which is crucial for initiating downstream signaling cascades involved in thigmomorphogenesis, the developmental response to mechanical stimulation. Gilroy's findings suggest that gravity plays a significant role in modulating plant cell mechanotransduction, influencing how plants perceive and respond to touch and physical forces in their environment.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Gilroy's study demonstrates that microgravity conditions inhibit thigmomorphogenesis in *Arabidopsis thaliana* by disrupting calcium signaling pathways.
- B** Gilroy's experiment in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* filled the knowledge gap about calcium signaling of plant cells in outer space.
- C** Gilroy's research indicates that gravitational forces are not required for plant cells to undergo mechanotransduction.
- D** Gilroy's work supports the idea that plants may be cultivated in outer space, as long as calcium signaling pathways are artificially stimulated.

Question 11

In a 2010 study, economists Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren examined the impact of childhood environment on future earnings. Analyzing millions of families, they found that children who moved to areas with higher rates of upward mobility early in life experienced significantly greater financial success as adults compared to those who remained in areas with limited opportunities. This effect was particularly pronounced for children from low-income families. The *Moving to Opportunity* experiment, a separate study, further supported these findings by demonstrating that residential relocation to low-poverty neighborhoods led to improved educational and economic outcomes for children in the long term.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Chetty and Hendren's research, corroborated by the *Moving to Opportunity* experiment, indicates that a child's residential environment significantly influences their future economic success, especially for those from low-income backgrounds.
- B** The *Moving to Opportunity* experiment was a flawed study that did not accurately represent the true impact of childhood environment on future earnings.
- C** While economists Chetty and Hendren found a correlation between childhood environment and future earnings, their findings have been largely discredited by subsequent research.
- D** Residential relocation has no significant impact on a child's future educational and economic outcomes, regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Question 12

In a study published in *Nature* (2019), researchers led by Dr. Emily Carter investigated the role of *aquaporins* in drought tolerance in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Aquaporins*, membrane proteins facilitating water transport, were hypothesized to enhance plant survival under water-deficient conditions. The study involved comparing wild-type plants with those genetically modified to overexpress specific *aquaporin* isoforms. Results indicated that transgenic lines exhibited improved photosynthetic efficiency and reduced water loss compared to controls during drought stress. This suggests that manipulating *aquaporin* expression could be a viable strategy for enhancing drought resistance in crops.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A Dr. Carter's study demonstrated that drought stress severely impairs photosynthetic efficiency in wild-type *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants.
- B Research published in *Nature* suggests that increasing *aquaporin* expression can improve drought tolerance in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.
- C The *aquaporin* isoforms studied by Dr. Carter are not the only membrane proteins that facilitate water transport in plants.
- D Genetically modified *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants are more viable for scientific studies than wild-type plants.

Question 13

In her 2018 book, *Feel Free*, Zadie Smith explores the nuances of contemporary life through essays that blend personal reflection with cultural critique. Smith examines a diverse range of subjects, from the work of artists to the complexities of social media. A central theme in *Feel Free* is the challenge of maintaining intellectual and emotional freedom in an age of information overload and political polarization. Smith argues that genuine freedom requires a willingness to engage deeply with art and ideas, even when they are challenging or uncomfortable. Ultimately, Smith suggests that cultivating inner freedom is essential for navigating the complexities of the modern world.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A In *Feel Free*, Smith focuses primarily on the negative impacts of social media on contemporary society.
- B Smith's *Feel Free* promotes the idea that freedom requires active engagement with challenging art and concepts.
- C *Feel Free* is an autobiographical account of Smith's personal struggles with intellectual and emotional freedom.
- D Smith's essays in *Feel Free* mainly discuss the importance of political activism in today's world.

Question 14

Economists John Davis and Maria Rodriguez published findings in 2021 from their study on the impacts of unconditional cash transfers (*UCTs*) in several low-income communities. A common concern regarding *UCTs* is that recipients might primarily spend the funds on non-essential or frivolous items. However, Davis and Rodriguez observed that the cash was predominantly allocated to meeting basic needs such as food and housing, investing in education, and funding small entrepreneurial ventures. Furthermore, their data suggested that the influx of cash into recipient households appeared to stimulate economic activity within the local markets, benefiting non-recipient businesses as well. This suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** providing *UCTs* is less effective for poverty reduction than targeted aid programs.
- B** concerns about *UCT* recipients misusing funds may be overstated, and the programs can yield broader economic benefits.
- C** the study's findings can be generalized to all cash transfer programs globally, regardless of context.
- D** administering unconditional cash transfer programs is straightforward and cost-effective.

Question 15

Heinrich Wölfflin's *Principles of Art History* (1915) established a foundational framework for understanding the stylistic differences between Renaissance and Baroque art, moving beyond earlier pejorative views of the latter. His formal analysis emphasized categories like 'linear vs. painterly' and 'multiplicity vs. unity,' defining Baroque as a distinct, valid aesthetic rather than a decline from classical ideals. Prior to Wölfflin, many 18th-century critics, steeped in Neoclassical principles, often dismissed Baroque as 'excessive' or 'unnatural,' favoring the clarity and restraint of antiquity. This shift in art historical discourse suggests that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** Wölfflin's systematic approach to art history effectively ended all subsequent debates about the value of Baroque art.
- B** the aesthetic qualities of Baroque art underwent significant changes between the 18th century and the early 20th century.
- C** interpretations of art are often profoundly shaped by the prevailing aesthetic sensibilities and intellectual paradigms of the era in which they are made.
- D** earlier art critics lacked the necessary analytical tools to properly understand complex artistic movements like the Baroque.

Question 16

Biologist Rosanna Alegado believes that we might learn how multicellular organisms developed from single-celled ones if we understand why the single-celled organism *Salpingoeca rosetta*, the oldest living relative of animals, sometimes forms colonies of cells. Alegado and colleagues reviewed data from many studies about how *S. rosetta* responds when exposed to another type of single-celled organism, bacteria, including David C. Edman's work with *Listeria monocytogenes* bacteria and Jang-Cheon Cho's work with *Crocibacter atlanticus* bacteria. Alegado and colleagues concluded that neither *L. monocytogenes* nor *C. atlanticus* are likely to have played a significant role in the development of multicellular organisms.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Alegado and colleagues' conclusion?

- A *S. rosetta* did not tend to form colonies when exposed to either *L. monocytogenes* or *C. atlanticus*.
- B *S. rosetta* tended to form colonies when exposed to *L. monocytogenes* and when exposed to *C. atlanticus*.
- C *S. rosetta* tended to form colonies when exposed to *L. monocytogenes*, but not when exposed to *C. atlanticus*.
- D *S. rosetta* tended to form colonies when exposed to *C. atlanticus*, but not when exposed to *L. monocytogenes*.

Question 17

In her 2021 book, *The Afterlives of the Earth*, Jordana Rice examines humanity's complex relationship with geology, intertwining deep time with personal narrative. Rice posits that the Earth serves not merely as inert matter, but as a repository of cultural memory, bearing witness to historical events and shaping human consciousness. By tracing the journey of clay from the Earth's mantle to its utilization in architecture and art, Rice underscores how the Earth is actively shaping societal structures. This is further exemplified through her analysis of various cultures, revealing its multifaceted role as both a foundation and a metaphor for human experience.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A Rice's *The Afterlives of the Earth* (2021) investigates the geological processes that form the Earth's crust, tracing its transformation from mantle material to architectural element.
- B Rice's book explores the multifaceted role of the Earth as a natural artifact, arguing that it actively shapes human societies and embodies historical memory.
- C Rice's analysis focuses on the artistic representations of the Earth in various cultures, disregarding its geological origins and practical application in architecture.
- D Rice's personal narrative, intertwined with the concept of deep time, leads her to the conclusion that the Earth is merely a natural resource, lacking any cultural or historical significance.

Question 18

Climate change significantly impacts insect populations, particularly specialist herbivores that rely on specific host plants. As temperatures rise and habitats shift, these insects often expand their geographic ranges poleward or to higher elevations. However, successful range expansion is contingent upon the availability of suitable host plants within the newly colonized areas. A study by Elena Rossi and colleagues in 2013 investigated the range expansion of the European distribution of the butterfly *Lasiommata megera*. They observed a significant northward shift in the butterfly's distribution. Based on their analysis of climate data and host plant distribution models, Rossi and her team concluded that while warming temperatures facilitated the butterfly's ability to survive in previously inhospitable northern latitudes, the primary driver of its observed range expansion was the concurrent northward expansion of its preferred larval host plants.

Which finding, if true, would most directly undermine Rossi and colleagues' conclusion?

- A** Surveys show that *Lasiommata megera* populations are establishing themselves in northern areas where their traditional host plants are not yet prevalent.
- B** Genetic analysis reveals that northern *Lasiommata megera* populations have higher heat tolerance than southern populations.
- C** The flight period of *Lasiommata megera* has shifted earlier in the season in both southern and northern parts of its range.
- D** A separate study indicates that another butterfly species, *Pieris rapae*, has also expanded its range northward in recent decades.

Question 19

Ocean warming and acidification pose significant threats to coral reefs, leading to declines in calcification and increasing stress on coral-algal symbioses. These symbiotic dinoflagellates (*Symbiodiniaceae*) are crucial for coral health, contributing substantially to their energy budget through photosynthesis. While many studies, including those by Sarah W. Davies and colleagues, have detailed the negative impacts of these stressors on coral host physiology, the specific mechanisms by which the symbiotic algae adapt or fail to adapt to changing oceanic conditions are complex. Research by Min Chang and Joon Lee (2020) on *Favites colemani* suggests that even under near-future warming and acidification scenarios, the coral's symbiotic algae maintained photosynthetic competency, despite a decline in coral growth. This indicates that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A** coral-algal symbiosis will inevitably collapse under projected future ocean conditions.
- B** the *Favites colemani* species is inherently more tolerant to environmental changes than other coral species.
- C** coral growth decline is primarily driven by a lack of energy transfer from symbiotic algae.
- D** the photosynthetic efficiency of symbiotic algae may be more resilient to ocean warming and acidification than the coral host's calcification processes.

Question 20

When I Roved a Young Highlander is a poem by George Gordon, Lord Byron. In the poem, the speaker reflects on his childhood in the Scottish Highlands, contrasting his deep appreciation for the rugged, natural landscape with his indifference toward seeking out new or more refined surroundings, noting that his contentment was derived from the familiar wildness and a specific emotional attachment, writing _____

Which quotation from *When I Roved a Young Highlander* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A One image, alone, on my bosom impress'd, | I lov'd my bleak regions, nor panted for new; | And few were my wants, for my wishes were bless'd, | And pure were my thoughts, for my soul was with you.
- B When I rov'd a young Highlander o'er the dark heath, | And climb'd thy steep summit, oh Morven of snow! | To gaze on the torrent that thunder'd beneath, | Or the mist of the tempest that gather'd below.
- C I left my bleak home, and my visions are gone; | The mountains are vanish'd, my youth is no more; | As the last of my race, I must wither alone, | And delight but in days, I have witness'd before.
- D When I see some dark hill point its crest to the sky, | I think of the rocks that o'ershadow Colbleen; | When I see the soft blue of a love-speaking eye, | I think of those eyes that endear'd the rude scene.

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: A

The passage describes George Saunders' book *Lincoln in the Bardo* and focuses on how it uses unusual storytelling to look at feelings and memories. So, the main idea should be about the book's experimental style and the topics it covers.

(A) is correct because it states that the book uses an experimental style to explore feelings and memories, which lines up with what the passage is mostly about.

(B) is incorrect because the passage does mention *bardo*, but the book does not focus on explaining it.

(C) is incorrect because although Lincoln's grief is mentioned, it is not the book's main focus.

(D) is incorrect because the book is not a straightforward historical account of the Civil War.

Question 2

Correct Answer: A

The passage introduces Festinger's theory of cognitive dissonance, explains how it arises from inconsistencies, and describes strategies people use to reduce this discomfort.

(A) accurately captures this main idea by stating that the theory explains how people are motivated to reduce discomfort from inconsistencies.

(B) is incorrect because it is too narrow. The passage presents an example of environmental conservation and gas-guzzling vehicles, but it does not state that this is the *primary* cause.

(C) is incorrect because it contradicts the passage. The passage implies that cognitive dissonance does have impact on decision-making.

(D) is incorrect because it is not stated in the passage.

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

The passage can be summarized as follow:

- Architects examine photos of buildings.
- Photos cannot capture building + surrounding interactions.
- Photo of Leaning Tower

The passage states that a photograph "cannot capture how a building interacts with its surroundings." This directly implies that a photo will not convey the complete experience or impression of the building's design and structure when considered in its real-world context. Therefore, a photo "fails to convey the full impact." D is the correct answer.

A, B, and C are incorrect because the passage focuses on the limitation of photos regarding a building's interaction with its surroundings, not deterioration, historical importance, or perception by non-visitors.

Question 4

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about how Zadie Smith thinks about cultural appropriation in her book.

The main idea would be something like "Zadie Smith thinks that cultural appropriation is not that bad, and artists should be able to take inspiration from other cultures to create something new".

(A) is wrong because Smith does not condemn cultural appropriation.

(B) is correct because it says that Smith wants to move beyond simple

condemnation and values creativity and dialogue. This is what the passage is saying.

(C) is wrong because Smith does not say that cultural appropriation is justifiable only when artists understand the culture.

(D) is wrong because the passage is not primarily about ethics or marginalized communities, but about cultural appropriation.

Question 5

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about a study by Botti and McGill that explores why people like products they design themselves. The main idea would be that people value self-designed products more because they feel more in control and like they own it more.

(B) says that Botti and McGill found that people like customized products more because they feel more ownership and control, which is very close to the prediction. Thus, (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because the passage is not about functionality and aesthetics, but about self-design. (C) is incorrect because it's too narrow. The passage mentions people who seek uniqueness, but it's not the main point. (D) is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the performance of self-designed products in the market.

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about the experiment done by Dijksterhuis and Bos. In the experiment, they had people consciously think about cars, or unconsciously think about them by distracting them. The experiment found that those who were distracted picked better cars.

The main idea would be that the experiment by Dijksterhuis and Bos suggests that unconscious thought is better for making choices as a consumer.

(B) matches this prediction.

(A) is incorrect because it's too extreme, as the passage only refers to complex decisions. (C) is incorrect because it is too narrow, as it only describes the experiment and not the conclusion. (D) is incorrect because there isn't enough information, since the passage never said that consumer choice research is an emerging field.

Question 7

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about a study by David and Lengyel about the effects of *Caulerpa taxifolia* on seagrass and biodiversity. The researchers found that *C. taxifolia* decreases seagrass but also creates habitats, leading to complex effects on biodiversity. Therefore, the main idea should include both the reduction of seagrass and the complex effects on biodiversity.

(A) is incorrect because the study found that *C. taxifolia* had a complex effect, not uniformly negative.

(B) is correct because it covers both the reduction of seagrass and the complex effects on biodiversity.

(C) is incorrect because the study did not conclude that *C. taxifolia* is essential.

(D) is incorrect because the study states that the increase in organisms does not offset the losses in seagrass.

Question 8

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about the foraging behavior of the spider *Anelosimus studiosus*. The spider changes its behavior based on the environment. When there are many prey, they hunt alone, but when there are few prey, they hunt together. The main idea would be that the spider uses different hunting methods depending on the environment.

(A) says that the spider uses different hunting ways to respond to different environments. This matches our prediction, so this is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it says that the environment alone determines the spider's hunting behavior, but the passage mentions genetic factors as well.

(C) is incorrect because it only describes one specific scenario (high prey availability).

(D) is incorrect because it focuses on future research, while the passage already presents findings from a study.

Question 9

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 10

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about Simon Gilroy's study on how plant cells respond to touch under microgravity.

The main idea of the passage would be that Gilroy's study found that under microgravity, plant cells don't respond to touch as well because of the change in calcium signaling.

(A) correctly says that Gilroy's study shows that microgravity stops *Arabidopsis thaliana* from responding to touch because it messes up calcium signals. This matches the main idea, so it's correct.

(B) is incorrect because it is too broad. It focuses on filling knowledge gap which is not the focus of the passage.

(C) is incorrect because it directly contradicts the passage, which states gravity DOES play a significant role.

(D) is incorrect because it is off-topic. The passage does not mention anything about whether plants can be cultivated in outer space.

Question 11

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about the research done by economists Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren about the impact of childhood environment on future earnings. The passage also talks about the *Moving to Opportunity* experiment, which supports Chetty and Hendren's research. Therefore, a good main idea should include the information that childhood environment affects future earnings.

(A) is correct because it summarizes the research done by Chetty and Hendren and states that a child's residential environment affects their economic success.

(B) and (D) are incorrect because they contradict the passage by saying that the *Moving to Opportunity* experiment was flawed or residential relocation has no impact.

(C) is incorrect because it includes information not mentioned in the passage, which is that the findings have been discredited by subsequent research.

Question 12

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about Dr. Carter's research on *aquaporins* and their impact on drought tolerance in plants. The researchers compared normal plants with modified plants that had more *aquaporins*. They found that the modified plants handled drought better. The main idea is that increasing *aquaporin* helps plants withstand drought.

(A) is incorrect because while the passage mentions reduced photosynthetic efficiency, it is not the main focus.

(B) is correct because it accurately summarizes the study's finding that increasing *aquaporin* expression improves drought tolerance.

(C) is incorrect because it is a true statement, but it is not the central point of the passage.

(D) is incorrect because while the study uses genetically modified plants, the main point is about *aquaporins* and drought tolerance, not the viability of modified plants for studies in general.

...

Question 13

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about Zadie Smith's book *Feel Free* and what it discusses. The book talks about maintaining freedom in today's world by engaging with

art and ideas. So, we can predict that the main idea would be about Smith's view on freedom and how to achieve it through art and ideas.

(B) accurately captures the main idea by stating that Smith believes freedom requires active engagement with challenging art and concepts.

(A), (C), and (D) are incorrect because they focus on narrower aspects of Smith's work or misrepresent the book's central themes. (A) says the book is about negative impacts of social media, but it is only one of many topics. (C) suggests the book is about Smith's personal struggles, but it is not autobiographical. (D) claims the book is mainly about political activism, but the book focuses more on freedom through art and ideas, instead of politics.

Question 14

Correct Answer: B

The story talks about a study where people in poor areas were given money directly. Some people thought they would waste the money. But the study found they used the money for important things like food, school, and starting little businesses. The study also saw that this money helped the shops and other people in the area too. This tells us that worrying about people wasting the money might not be true, and giving money directly can help the whole area, not just the people who get it.

(A) is wrong because the story shows good things happened, suggesting it might be effective, not less effective.

(C) is wrong because the study was only in a few places, so we can't be sure it works the same way everywhere in the world.

(D) is wrong because the story talks about what people did with the money and how it helped the area, not how easy or cheap it is to give the money out.

Question 15

Correct Answer: C

The passage talks about how people thought about Baroque art at different times. First, in the 18th century, critics who liked old Greek and Roman art (Neoclassical principles) thought Baroque art was too much. But later, in 1915, Wölfflin looked at it differently and said it was its own special style. This shows that how people see and judge art changes depending on the ideas and styles popular in their own time.

(A) is wrong because the passage does not say that Wölfflin's work stopped all arguments about Baroque art. It only talks about a "shift in art historical discourse."

(B) is wrong because art itself does not change over time; what changes is how people understand or interpret it.

(D) is wrong because the passage does not say that earlier critics did not have the right tools. It implies their perspective was influenced by their time's tastes, not a lack of tools.

Question 16

Correct Answer: A

We first look at the passage, which can be summarized as follow:

"Alegado: multicellular from single-celled!" study *S. rosetta* colonies

Alegado + others: reviewed data on *S. rosetta* + bacteria (*L. monocytogenes*, *C. atlanticus*)

Conclusion: *L. monocytogenes* AND *C. atlanticus* NOT important for multicellular development."

The conclusion is that neither type of bacteria (*L. monocytogenes* nor *C. atlanticus*) likely played a significant role in the development of multicellular organisms (which is understood as *S. rosetta* forming colonies). To support this conclusion, we would need a finding where *S. rosetta* does NOT form colonies when exposed to either of these bacteria.

Choice B, C, and D are incorrect because they suggest that *S. rosetta* forms colonies in response to at least one of the bacteria, which would contradict the conclusion that neither played a significant role.

(A) is the correct answer.

Question 17

Correct Answer: B

The passage discusses Amanda Rice's book and its main argument. The book examines how *S. rosetta* — a biological, but also a cultural artifact — influences human societies and holds historical memories. Therefore, we are looking for an answer that reflects this idea.

(B) accurately summarizes Rice's central argument, stating that *S. rosetta*'s multifaceted role and actively shapes human societies. This matches our prediction.

(A) is incorrect because it focuses too much on the geological processes, which are only a part of Rice's broader argument. The book is not just about the geological transformation of *S. rosetta*.

(C) is incorrect because it claims Rice disregards *S. rosetta*'s origins, which is the opposite of what the passage says. Rice actually traces *S. rosetta*'s journey from the Earth's mantle.

(D) is incorrect because it states that Rice concludes *S. rosetta*'s cultural significance, which directly contradicts the passage.

Question 18

Correct Answer: A

The passage states that researchers concluded that the butterfly's range expansion was primarily driven by the northward expansion of its host plants. To undermine this conclusion, you need a finding that suggests the butterfly is expanding its range even without the host plants being the

primary driver. Choice A says the butterfly is establishing in northern areas where the host plants are not common. This means the butterfly's expansion is happening without the host plants being the main reason, which weakens the researchers' conclusion. Choice B talks about heat tolerance, which might help the butterfly survive but doesn't directly contradict the idea that host plants are the main driver of *range expansion*. Choice C talks about the flight period, which is a change in timing, not necessarily a cause of geographic expansion. Choice D talks about a different butterfly, which is not relevant to the conclusion about *Lasiommata megera*.

Question 19

Correct Answer: D

The passage tells us that corals are hurt by warming and acidification, causing their skeletons to shrink. However, a study showed that the tiny algae living inside one type of coral still worked well, making food even when the coral itself was not growing. This suggests that the algae might be tougher against these changes than the coral's ability to build its skeleton.

(A) is wrong because the passage says the algae maintained their ability to make food, which means the symbiosis did not "inevitably collapse."

(B) is wrong because the passage only talks about one type of coral, *Favites colemani*, and does not compare it to other corals, so we don't know if it's generally tougher.

(C) is wrong because the algae were still good at making food (photosynthetic competency), so the problem for the coral's growth isn't that the algae aren't making enough energy. It's more about how the coral uses that energy or how its skeleton-building is directly affected.

Question 20

Correct Answer: A

(A) is the correct answer as it directly illustrates both parts of the claim. The lines "I lov'd my bleak regions, nor panted for new" show his satisfaction with the rugged landscape and lack of desire for new surroundings. The lines "And pure were my thoughts, for my soul was with you" illustrate the specific emotional attachment that completed his contentment.

(B) describes the rugged landscape ("dark heath," "torrent," "tempest") but fails to mention the speaker's indifference to new surroundings or the specific emotional attachment to Mary that is central to the claim.

(C) is off-topic; it focuses on the loss of his youth and home, and his current loneliness, rather than his past contentment with the landscape and his lack of desire for anything new.

(D) describes how current sights remind him of the past landscape and his love, but it does not address the specific claim about his childhood satisfaction with the "bleak regions" and lack of desire for new places.