

Main Idea

Question 1

In social cognition, individuals often employ heuristics, cognitive shortcuts that simplify complex decisions. While efficient, these heuristics can introduce biases, leading to deviations from rational judgment. For instance, the *availability heuristic* leads people to overestimate the likelihood of events that are readily accessible in memory. Conversely, the *representativeness heuristic* involves assessing the similarity of an event to a prototype, potentially overlooking base rates. Dual-process theories posit that both intuitive and analytical thinking influence decision-making, with heuristics dominating when cognitive resources are limited.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Heuristics are detrimental to decision-making because they invariably lead to inaccurate judgments and flawed conclusions.
- B** Social cognition relies on heuristics to streamline decision-making, but these cognitive shortcuts can introduce biases that compromise rationality.
- C** Dual-process theories suggest that analytical thinking is superior to intuitive thinking in social cognition, yielding more accurate judgments.
- D** The availability and representativeness heuristics are the only cognitive shortcuts that significantly impact decision-making in social contexts.

Question 2

In her 2009 book, *The Shape of the Book*, Janneke Adema explores the evolving role of the codex in the digital age. Adema posits that the codex, traditionally viewed as a static container of information, is undergoing a metamorphosis. She argues against the notion of the codex as merely a precursor to digital formats, instead highlighting its adaptability and continued relevance. Adema suggests that the codex is not disappearing but rather co-evolving with digital technologies, influencing and being influenced by them in a dynamic interplay. The rise of e-readers and online libraries, according to Adema, does not signal the end of the *physical book per se* but a transformation of its form and function, challenging conventional notions of authorship, readership, and the very concept of a *text*.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Adema's *The Shape of the Book* argues that the codex is obsolete due to the rise of digital technologies.
- ☐ B Adema's work examines how digital formats will eventually replace the codex.
- ☐ C Adema's book explores the dynamic relationship between the codex and digital technologies, arguing for the codex's continued relevance.
- ☐ D Adema's *The Shape of the Book* primarily focuses on the history and traditional importance of the codex.

Question 3

Confirmation bias, a pervasive cognitive phenomenon, significantly impacts information processing and decision-making. Individuals exhibit a tendency to selectively seek out information that corroborates existing beliefs, while simultaneously disregarding contradictory evidence. This bias is amplified by *belief perseverance*, where initial conceptions are maintained even after being discredited. Studies by Rabin and Schrag (1999) suggest that such biased assimilation can lead to overconfidence in incorrect judgments. Furthermore, *attitude polarization* emerges as individuals with opposing views become more entrenched in their positions upon exposure to the same evidence, as demonstrated in Lord, Ross, and Lepper's (1979) research.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Research by Rabin, Schrag, Lord, Ross, and Lepper highlights the severe consequences of confirmation bias on the legal system.
- B** Confirmation bias, intensified by belief perseverance, causes polarized views when individuals are presented with the same information.
- C** Confirmation bias is solely responsible for the perpetuation of misinformation, regardless of an individual's cognitive abilities.
- D** While confirmation bias influences some judgments, its impact is negligible compared to emotional and environmental factors.

Question 4

In her 2009 book, *Against Empathy*, Paul Bloom argues that empathy—feeling what others feel—is a poor guide to moral action. Bloom asserts that empathy is narrow-minded, inclining us to favor those we resemble or who are close to us. Furthermore, empathy can be easily manipulated; vivid stories can trigger strong empathetic responses, regardless of the broader context or actual need. Bloom suggests that relying on reason and detached compassion, rather than empathy, leads to more consistent and morally sound decisions. He contends that reason allows us to consider the long-term consequences of our actions and to apply universal principles of fairness and justice.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* suggests that empathy, due to its inherent biases and manipulability, is a flawed basis for moral decision-making, advocating instead for reason and detached compassion.
- B** Paul Bloom's book offers various strategies on how to make decisions, and it emphasizes the importance of considering the feelings of others when faced with a difficult moral dilemma.
- C** Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* argues that empathy is the most important factor to making a moral decision, since it allows us to understand the needs and perspectives of others.
- D** Paul Bloom's book fails to consider the importance of diverse cultural contexts when making moral judgements, thereby undermining its central argument.

Question 5

In her 2012 publication, *The Post-Secular in International Relations*, scholar Elizabeth Shakman Hurd challenges the assumption that the separation of religion and politics is a prerequisite for modern governance. Hurd examines historical and contemporary case studies, arguing that the strict division of these spheres is neither universally applicable nor empirically accurate. She critiques the Western-centric view that secularism is a neutral framework, revealing how it often serves to marginalize non-Western perspectives. The work advocates for a more nuanced understanding of the interplay between religious and political life, urging a reevaluation of secularism as a global norm.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Hurd's *The Post-Secular in International Relations* challenges the notion that modern governance requires a strict separation of religion and politics.
- B** Elizabeth Shakman Hurd's publication provides a comprehensive overview of Western and non-Western perspectives on secularism.
- C** The separation of religion and politics is a Western-centric ideal that should be universally applied to ensure modern governance.
- D** Hurd's analysis focuses primarily on historical case studies to demonstrate the negative impacts of religious influence on political life.

Question 6

In *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology* (2019), Dale Drickamer and Catherine Vom Saal examined the presence and effects of the major urinary protein (MUP) in mice. MUP, a pheromone, signals critical information such as identity and social status. The study revealed that male mice strategically adjust their MUP production based on social context. In environments suggesting increased competition, such as a high population density, males exhibited elevated MUP levels to assert dominance. Conversely, when resources were abundant and competition was low, MUP production decreased. This modulation suggests MUP isn't just a static signal, but a dynamic communication tool reflecting environmental pressures.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Drickamer and Vom Saal's study demonstrates that MUP production in male mice is solely determined by genetic factors.
- B** The research by Drickamer and Vom Saal indicates that MUP production in male mice varies depending on social and environmental conditions.
- C** *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology's* findings show MUP's primary function is to attract mates, regardless of social context.
- D** Drickamer and Vom Saal's work confirms that high MUP levels invariably lead to increased aggression in male mice.

Question 7

In her 2004 book, *Touching Feeling: Affect, Pedagogy, Performativity*, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick investigates the role of affect—feelings and emotions—in critical theory and pedagogy. Sedgwick critiques what she perceives as a tendency within academic discourse to prioritize suspicion and critical distance over more vulnerable or empathetic modes of engagement. She argues that this "paranoid style" of reading, while valuable for uncovering hidden power dynamics, can also limit the possibilities for genuine connection and understanding. Sedgwick advocates for a "reparative reading" practice, one that seeks to find value and meaning in texts and experiences, even when acknowledging their potential flaws or limitations. This approach, she suggests, can open up new avenues for learning, creativity, and social change.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Sedgwick's *Touching Feeling* critiques academic discourse's over-reliance on suspicion, advocating for a "reparative reading" to foster connection and understanding.
- B** Sedgwick's 2004 book *Touching Feeling* explores the role of performativity in critical theory and pedagogy.
- C** "Paranoid reading," as identified by Sedgwick, is harmful as it limits the possibilities for genuine connection and understanding, hindering social change.
- D** Sedgwick's work is an effort to balance the vulnerability and empathy of affect with the critical distance necessary for theoretical analysis.

Question 8

In their 2010 publication, behavioral scientists Dan Ariely and Michael Norton conducted an experiment regarding the correlation between wealth inequality and people's happiness. In the study, participants were asked to construct their ideal wealth distributions and estimate the current wealth distribution in the United States. Surprisingly, most participants, regardless of their own economic status, preferred a more egalitarian distribution of wealth than what they perceived to be the current state. This preference remained consistent even when participants were given different scenarios or economic models to consider. Ariely and Norton concluded that a significant awareness gap exists, with people underestimating the true extent of wealth inequality and, furthermore, desiring a society with a more equitable distribution.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Ariely and Norton's study reveals a universal preference for egalitarian wealth distribution, highlighting a potential disconnect between people's ideals and their perceptions of reality.
- B** The research conducted by Ariely and Norton primarily aimed to explore the various economic models that could lead to a more equitable distribution of wealth in the United States.
- C** The publication by Ariely and Norton demonstrated that most Americans are well-aware of the growing wealth inequality but remain indifferent to implementing any changes.
- D** Ariely and Norton's experiment proved that people's desired wealth distributions are heavily influenced by their own economic status and individual financial experiences.

Question 9

In her 2012 book, *Myths of the Mummy*, Dr. Jasmine Day explores the cultural narratives surrounding mummies in Western imagination. Day argues that mummies are not merely historical artifacts, but figures onto which Western societies have projected anxieties about death, otherness, and the passage of time. She traces the evolution of the mummy figure from the exoticized object of early archaeological expeditions to the monstrous antagonist of horror literature and film. Day contends that these fictional portrayals reveal more about Western cultural preoccupations than they do about ancient Egyptian beliefs or practices.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Day's analysis reveals a shift in Western understanding of mummies, focusing on anxieties rather than historical accuracy.
- B** Day's *Myths of the Mummy* is a comprehensive study of ancient Egyptian beliefs and practices regarding mummification.
- C** Mummies have evolved from being figures of historical interest to becoming antagonists in horror literature and film.
- D** Western societies' fascination with mummies reflects a deep-seated fear of death and the unknown, as argued by Day.

Question 10

In his 1966 essay, "The Birth of the Author," Roland Barthes articulates a radical shift in literary criticism, challenging the traditional emphasis on authorial intent. Barthes argues that once a work is published, it becomes detached from its creator, and its meaning is derived not from the author's background or purpose, but from the interplay of language and cultural codes within the text itself. This perspective suggests that readers, rather than seeking to understand the author's intended meaning, should focus on the multiple interpretations that arise from the text's internal structure and its engagement with broader cultural contexts. Ultimately, Barthes seeks to liberate the text from the constraints of authorial authority, allowing for a more democratic and multifaceted reading experience.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Barthes's "The Birth of the Author" emphasizes the importance of understanding an author's life and intentions to fully grasp the meaning of their work.
- B** Roland Barthes's essay advocates for a new approach to literary criticism that prioritizes the text and reader interpretation over authorial intent.
- C** "The Birth of the Author" revolutionized literary criticism by demonstrating that language and cultural codes are irrelevant to a text's meaning.
- D** Barthes argues that the meaning of a literary work is solely determined by the author's background and personal experiences.

Question 11

In their 2014 study, Mullainathan and Shafir found that poverty directly impedes cognitive function. They theorized that the poor have reduced *mental bandwidth*, or cognitive resources, because their attention is consumed by financial scarcity. Participants were asked to play games that simulated real-life financial decisions. The study showed that when faced with simulated scarcity, participants performed poorly on cognitive tests, analogous to a 13-point dip in IQ. This effect was not observed in wealthier participants facing the same simulated conditions. The researchers concluded that poverty creates a cognitive burden that diminishes an individual's capacity for effective decision-making.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Mullainathan and Shafir's 2014 study demonstrated that poverty diminishes cognitive function due to the mental burden of financial scarcity.
- ☐ B The study of Mullainathan and Shafir primarily used games that simulated real-life financial decisions to measure the cognitive function of individuals.
- ☐ C The cognitive function of wealthier individuals remains unaffected even when faced with simulated conditions of financial scarcity.
- ☐ D Impoverished people have inherent cognitive deficiencies, leading to poor performance on cognitive tests and financial decisions.

Question 12

In a study published in *Nature Communications* (2023), Liang et al. investigated the role of *Sprouty2* (*Spry2*) gene in regulating pancreatic β -cell function under hyperglycemic conditions. The researchers found that prolonged exposure to high glucose concentrations, mimicking type 2 diabetes, led to a significant downregulation of *Spry2* expression in β -cells. This downregulation was associated with impaired insulin secretion and increased oxidative stress. Overexpression of *Spry2* in β -cells, however, mitigated these effects, restoring insulin secretion and reducing oxidative damage. These findings suggest that *Spry2* plays a protective role against glucotoxicity in pancreatic β -cells, indicating its potential as a therapeutic target for preserving β -cell function in diabetic patients.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Liang et al.'s study demonstrates that decreased expression of the *Spry2* gene in pancreatic β -cells, resulting from high glucose levels, can be reversed through therapeutic interventions.
- B** The research by Liang et al. reveals that the *Spry2* gene protects pancreatic β -cells from glucotoxicity by maintaining insulin secretion and reducing oxidative stress, suggesting its therapeutic potential for diabetes.
- C** The *Nature Communications* study found that the *Spry2* gene is essential for pancreatic β -cell function. β -cell downregulation invariably leads to the onset of type 2 diabetes.
- D** Liang et al.'s 2023 study highlights the harmful effects of high glucose concentrations on pancreatic β -cells, which can only be counteracted by completely preventing the downregulation of the *Spry2* gene.

Question 13

The study of ocean acidification's impact on marine life has largely focused on calcifying organisms, such as corals and shellfish. However, research by Dupont et al. (2013) reveals a more complex picture. Exposing sea urchin larvae to elevated CO₂ levels, mimicking future ocean conditions, impaired the larvae's *skeletogenesis* (formation of the skeleton). Yet, the same conditions surprisingly enhanced the larvae's *biomineralization* rate during later development. This suggests that while early developmental stages are vulnerable, sea urchins possess a compensatory mechanism, potentially mitigating the long-term effects of acidification. The implications extend beyond sea urchins, suggesting the need for nuanced investigations into species-specific responses.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Research on sea urchin larvae indicates that ocean acidification uniformly impairs the biomineralization process across all developmental stages.
- B** A study on sea urchin larvae shows that the impact of ocean acidification varies across developmental stages, with potential compensatory mechanisms at play.
- C** Dupont et al.'s study confirms that ocean acidification poses a significant threat to all marine calcifying organisms, necessitating immediate conservation efforts.
- D** The investigation into sea urchin larvae biomineralization reveals that the long-term effects of ocean acidification are negligible due to skeletal compensation.

Question 14

In her 2017 book, *The Art of Noticing: 131 Ways to Spark Creativity, Encourage Compassion, and Increase Productivity*, Rob Walker argues that attention is a finite resource, and our capacity to appreciate art is deeply intertwined with our ability to focus. Walker draws upon cognitive psychology, suggesting that the constant barrage of stimuli in modern life diminishes our capacity for sustained attention. By employing techniques such as mindful observation and deliberate engagement with art, individuals can recalibrate their attentional systems. These practices, Walker posits, not only enhance artistic appreciation but also cultivate a broader sense of awareness, fostering deeper connections with the world and promoting mental well-being.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Walker's book offers 131 distinct strategies for improving creativity and productivity.
- B** Cognitive psychology supports Walker's claim that modern life impairs our attentional abilities.
- C** Walker's central argument is that attention is a limited resource, and that we can improve our well-being through art engagement.
- D** Mindful observation, as described by Walker, is the only reliable way to increase mental well-being.

Question 15

In his seminal work, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Sigmund Freud posits that dreams are the disguised fulfillments of repressed wishes. He delineates the manifest content, the dream as it is consciously experienced, from the latent content, the unconscious desires underlying the dream. Freud argues that the latent content, often laden with symbolic meaning, undergoes a process of distortion, termed dreamwork, to become the more palatable manifest content. Critics, however, contend that Freud's interpretations are highly subjective and lack empirical validation. They propose alternative models, emphasizing cognitive processes and neurological mechanisms rather than repressed desires, to elucidate the enigmatic nature of dreams.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* elucidates the distinction between manifest and latent dream content.
- B** While Freud believed dreams are disguised wish fulfillments, alternative theories emphasize cognitive and neurological aspects.
- C** The process of dreamwork, as defined by Freud, is a universally accepted model for understanding dream formation.
- D** Dream interpretation is a field dominated by psychoanalytic theories, with Freud's work being the most empirically validated.

Question 16

In a 2010 study, Neil Roach and colleagues proposed the *aquatic ape hypothesis (AAH)*, suggesting that human bipedalism evolved from wading behaviors. This contrasts the savanna-based models, which attribute bipedalism to adaptations for seeing over tall grasses. Roach's team analyzed the energetic costs of walking on two legs versus four in chimpanzees and found bipedalism more efficient at shallow depths. Critics, however, point to the scarcity of fossil evidence supporting a semi-aquatic phase in human evolution. Moreover, the anatomical adaptations in hominins, such as the position of the foramen magnum, may not exclusively indicate wading but could also result from selection pressures unrelated to aquatic environments.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Roach's *aquatic ape hypothesis* is widely supported by fossil records and provides a comprehensive explanation for the development of bipedalism in early hominins.
- B** While the *aquatic ape hypothesis* offers a compelling alternative to savanna-based models for the evolution of bipedalism, it is challenged by a lack of fossil evidence and alternative explanations for hominin anatomy.
- C** Studies on chimpanzees have conclusively demonstrated that bipedalism is always more energy-efficient than quadrupedalism, regardless of the environment.
- D** The position of the foramen magnum in hominins definitively proves that early humans spent a significant amount of time wading in shallow water.

Question 17

In her 2009 book, *Against Empathy*, Paul Bloom challenges the conventional wisdom that empathy is always a positive force. Bloom argues that empathy, which he defines as feeling another's emotions, can often lead to irrational and biased decision-making. He contrasts empathy with compassion, which involves caring about others' well-being without necessarily experiencing their feelings. Bloom contends that compassion, rather than empathy, is a more reliable guide to moral action, leading to fairer and more effective altruism. He cites examples ranging from political policies to personal relationships, illustrating how empathy can distort judgment and hinder objective reasoning.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- ☐ A Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* argues that empathy, while often viewed positively, can lead to flawed decision-making, advocating instead for compassion as a more reliable basis for moral action.
- ☐ B Paul Bloom's book, *Against Empathy*, suggests that empathy is the sole cause of irrational and biased decision-making in both political policies and personal relationships.
- ☐ C Paul Bloom's 2009 book examines the differences between political policies and personal relationships, concluding that empathy is more important for the latter.
- ☐ D Paul Bloom's *Against Empathy* primarily focuses on defining the differences between altruism and compassion, with a secondary focus on empathy.

Question 18

In a study published in *Nature* (2018), Chen et al. investigated the role of *N6-methyladenosine (m6A)*, the most abundant mRNA modification in eukaryotes, in modulating plant immunity. The researchers found that in *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *m6A* deposition, catalyzed by the *MTA* complex, is crucial for plant defense against bacterial pathogens. Specifically, *m6A* promotes the decay of transcripts encoding negative regulators of immunity, thereby enhancing plant resistance. Mutant plants lacking a functional *MTA* complex exhibited increased susceptibility to bacterial infection, confirming the essential role of *m6A* in regulating plant immune responses.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Chen et al.'s 2018 study in *Nature* demonstrated that *N6-methyladenosine (m6A)* modification in *Arabidopsis thaliana* is not involved in plant immunity against bacterial pathogens.
- B** The *MTA* complex in plants catalyzes the deposition of *m6A*, which is essential for degrading transcripts and reducing the plant's susceptibility to bacterial infection.
- C** Research by Chen et al. (2018) revealed that *m6A* modification, facilitated by the *MTA* complex, plays a critical role in plant immunity by promoting the degradation of transcripts that inhibit defense responses.
- D** Mutant *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants with a non-functional *MTA* complex show decreased susceptibility to bacterial infection.

Question 19

In a 2008 study, Tanya Chartrand and John Bargh investigated the *chameleon effect*, the unconscious mirroring of behaviors, and its impact on social interactions. Participants interacted with a confederate who either frequently shook their foot or touched their face. The study revealed that participants unconsciously mirrored these behaviors. Furthermore, participants who were mimicked reported a more positive experience and perceived the confederate as more likable. These findings suggest that the *chameleon effect* plays a crucial role in facilitating social connections and fostering rapport. However, the extent to which these effects translate across diverse cultural contexts warrants further investigation.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Chartrand and Bargh's study confirms that the *chameleon effect* is a conscious strategy employed to manipulate social interactions for personal gain.
- B** The *chameleon effect*, as demonstrated in Chartrand and Bargh's research, highlights the unconscious mirroring of behaviors, which fosters positive social interactions.
- C** The primary focus of Chartrand and Bargh's study was to determine the cultural contexts in which the *chameleon effect* is most prominently displayed.
- D** While the *chameleon effect* is a well-documented phenomenon, Chartrand and Bargh's study is unique in its methodology and focus on nonverbal cues.

Question 20

In a 2008 paper, biologist Marlene Zuk and colleagues challenged the conventional wisdom that animal signals are invariably honest. While signals such as the bright plumage of birds often genuinely reflect an individual's health and genetic quality, Zuk's work on the *sexual signals* of *crickets* suggests otherwise. Her research indicates that some *crickets* use deceptive signaling strategies, manipulating the information they convey to potential mates. For example, a male *cricket* might exaggerate the volume of its mating call to attract more females, even if its physical condition doesn't support such robust behavior. This form of dishonest signaling provides the signaler with a short-term reproductive advantage, but can ultimately undermine the overall reliability of communication within the *cricket* population.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A** Zuk's study of *crickets* reveals that, contrary to previous assumptions, not all animal signals accurately indicate an individual's health or genetic fitness.
- B** The exaggeration of mating calls among male *crickets* is a unique behavior not observed in other animal species.
- C** Honest signaling in animal populations ensures the long-term survival and reproductive success of the entire species.
- D** Zuk's 2008 paper was the first to challenge the assumption that animal signals are invariably honest.

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: B

The main idea of the passage is that heuristics are used to make decision making easier, but can lead to biased and irrational decision making.

(A) is incorrect because heuristics do not "invariably" lead to inaccurate judgment.
(B) is correct because it correctly summarizes that heuristics are used for decision-making, but have shortcomings.
(C) is incorrect because the passage suggests that both thinking processes impact decision-making, but neither is superior.
(D) is incorrect because it is too narrow, as the passage does not state that these are the only heuristics.

Question 2

Correct Answer: C

The passage is about Janneke Adema's book and its argument about the codex. The main idea is that the book discusses the relationship between the codex and digital technologies and why codex remains relevant.

(C) matches this prediction.

(A) is incorrect because the passage states that Adema argues against the idea that codex is obsolete. (B) is incorrect because the passage states that Adema argues against the idea that digital formats will replace the codex. (D) is incorrect because Adema focuses on the *relationship* between the codex and digital technologies, not the codex's history.

Question 3

Correct Answer: B

The passage describes confirmation bias and its related effects, *belief perseverance* and *attitude polarization*, which together lead to individuals becoming more convinced in their beliefs, especially when presented with the same information. Thus, the main idea would be that confirmation bias, together with its related effects, result in attitude polarization.

(A) is incorrect because the passage does not mention the legal system.
(C) is incorrect because the passage does not state that confirmation bias is solely responsible.
(D) is incorrect because the passage actually says it has significant impact, not negligible.

Question 4

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about Paul Bloom's book and its argument against empathy as a basis for moral action. The main idea would be that the book claims empathy is flawed and proposes reason and detached compassion as better alternatives.

(A) accurately reflects the main idea by mentioning Bloom's argument against empathy and his advocacy for reason and detached compassion.
(B) is incorrect because the book does not offer strategies, and it deemphasizes the importance of considering the feeling of others.
(C) is incorrect because the book argues against empathy.
(D) is incorrect because the passage does not mention cultural contexts.

Question 5

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about Elizabeth Shakman Hurd's book and its argument against the idea that religion and politics must be separate for a government

to be modern.

The main idea is that Hurd questions the need to separate religion and politics in modern governments.

(A) accurately reflects this.

(B) is incorrect because while the passage mentions Western and non-Western perspectives, the main focus is not to provide an overview of them.

(C) is incorrect because it states the opposite of what Hurd argues.

(D) is incorrect because Hurd's analysis does not focus primarily on the negative impacts of religious influence.

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about the study by Drickamer and Vom Saal, and their finding that MUP production changes based on environment.
We can predict that the main idea would be that MUP production is not constant.

(B) is correct because it says MUP production varies depending on environment, which matches our prediction.

(A) is incorrect because the passage says MUP production varies with environment, which is the opposite of the choice.
(C) is incorrect because the passage never mentions that the function of MUP is to attract mates.
(D) is incorrect because the passage mentions high MUP levels in increased competition, but does not mention aggression.

Question 7

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about Sedgwick's book and its argument against over-reliance on suspicious reading, suggesting reparative reading. Therefore, the main idea should include these points.

(A) accurately summarizes the passage's main idea by mentioning Sedgwick's critique and her advocacy for "reparative reading."

(B) is incorrect because it only mentions the topic that Sedgwick's book explores. However, it does not elaborate on the argument.
(C) is incorrect because it is too narrow. It

only mentions one concept mentioned in the passage.
(D) is incorrect because it is not mentioned in the passage. The passage only mentions the vulnerability and empathy of affect.

Question 8

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about a study by Ariely and Norton on wealth distribution and people's preferences.

The main idea would be that the study shows a gap between what people want (equal wealth) and what they think is happening (unequal wealth).

(A) matches this idea. It says people want equal wealth but don't realize how unequal things really are. This is the correct answer.
(B) is wrong because the study didn't focus on different economic models.
(C) is wrong because the study found that people *weren't* aware of how unequal wealth is.
(D) is wrong because the study found that people's preferences were similar no matter their own wealth.

Question 9

Correct Answer: A

The passage is about Dr. Jasmine Day's book and her idea about how Western societies see mummies. She thinks mummies are used to show Western fears.

The main idea is likely about Day's book and how it explains the Western view of mummies.

(A) correctly says Day's book looks at how the Western understanding of mummies has changed. This is the main idea.
(B) is wrong because Day's book actually focuses on Western views of mummies, not Egyptian practices.
(C) is incorrect because it is too narrow, only focusing on one aspect of Day's argument.
(D) is incorrect because while it is true, the passage states that it is Day who argues it, not necessarily something that is already known or stated.

Question 10

Correct Answer: B

The passage talks about Roland Barthes's essay *The Birth of the Author*, and how it suggests that a text's meaning comes from the language and cultural codes within the text, not the author's intentions.

The main idea would be something like Barthes's essay suggests that literary criticism should focus on the text and how readers understand it, rather than what the author meant.

(A) is incorrect because it is the opposite of what Barthes is arguing.
(B) is correct because it aligns with the prediction.
(C) is incorrect because it is too extreme. Barthes is not saying that language and cultural codes are *irrelevant*.
(D) is incorrect because it is also the opposite of what Barthes is arguing.

Question 11

Correct Answer: A

The passage talks about a study by Mullainathan and Shafir that found poverty hurts people's brains because they are too focused on money problems.

We want to find the answer choice that best summarizes this main idea.

(A) says Mullainathan and Shafir's study showed that poverty makes it harder to think clearly because of money worries. This sounds like a good summary of the passage.
(B) only mentions the games used in the study, which is too narrow.
(C) focuses on how wealthier people are not affected, but the main point is about how poverty affects cognitive function.
(D) claims poor people are inherently not smart, which is not supported by the passage.

Therefore, (A) is the best answer.

Question 12

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about how the *Spry2* gene can protect pancreatic ;"Ö6VÆÇ2 from damage caused by high glucose levels, which is relevant to treating diabetes. Thus, we can predict that the correct answer choice should include the *Spry2* gene, its protective function, and its therapeutic potential.

(B) matches the prediction.

(A) is incorrect because the passage focuses on the protective role of *Spry2* rather than the reversibility of its downregulation.

(C) is incorrect because the passage doesn't claim that *Spry2* downregulation *always* causes diabetes.

(D) is incorrect because the passage does not suggest that preventing *Spry2* downregulation is the *only* way to counteract the effects of high glucose.

Question 13

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about a study on how ocean acidification affects sea urchin larvae. The study found that acidification hurts the larvae early on but helps them later, showing they can adjust. So, the main point is that acidification's impact changes as the larvae grow and they might have ways to cope.

(B) matches this idea perfectly. It says the study shows the impact differs at different stages and that there might be ways for the larvae to compensate.

(A) is wrong because it says acidification always hurts biomineralization, but the passage says it can also help. (C) is wrong because the passage only talks about sea urchins, not all marine life. (D) is wrong because the passage suggests the effects might not be negligible.

Question 14

Correct Answer: C

The passage is about Rob Walker's book, which claims that our attention is limited, and we can improve our lives by focusing on art. A good summary of this passage should include both of these ideas.

(A) is incorrect because it is too narrow. It only mentions the number of strategies in the book, but it misses the main point that attention is important.
(B) is incorrect because it focuses too much on cognitive psychology, which is only a supporting detail in the passage.
(C) is correct because it includes both the idea that attention is limited and the idea that art can improve our well-being.
(D) is incorrect because it is too extreme. The passage does not say that mindful observation is the *only* way to increase mental well-being.

Question 15

Correct Answer: B

The passage introduces Freud's theory of dreams, but it also presents a critique of his ideas. It mentions alternative theories that focus on different aspects of dream formation.
The main idea should be a summary of the entire passage. Thus, a good prediction would be "Freud has a theory of dreams, but some people disagree and have other ideas."

(A) is incorrect because it only focuses on Freud's work but ignores the alternative theories mentioned in the passage.
(B) aligns well with our prediction.
(C) is incorrect because it makes an untrue statement. The passage states that critics don't agree with Freud.
(D) is incorrect because the passage states that Freud's work lacks empirical validation, going against what the choice suggests.

Question 16

Correct Answer: B

The passage introduces the *aquatic ape hypothesis (AAH)*, which is about how walking on two feet might have started from wading in water. Then, it says that there are arguments against it.

We can predict that the

main idea would be that the AAH is a possible explanation, but it has some problems.

(A) says that the AAH is well-supported and explains everything, which is the opposite of what the passage says.
(B) says that the AAH is a good idea, but it has some issues, which matches what the passage is about. So, (B) is correct.
(C) talks about chimpanzees and energy, but the main point is about the AAH, not just chimpanzees.
(D) focuses on the foramen magnum, which is too specific and not the main point of the passage.
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Question 17

Correct Answer: A

The passage says that Paul Bloom wrote a book. In his book, he argues that empathy can cause bad decisions. Instead, he says that compassion is better. The main idea is probably about Bloom saying empathy is bad and compassion is good.

(A) is correct because it says that Bloom's book argues empathy can cause bad decisions, and compassion can lead to better actions. This is exactly what we predicted.
(B) is wrong because it says empathy is the *only* cause of irrational decisions. The passage does not say this.
(C) is wrong because the book is not about comparing political policies and personal relationships. Instead, the book only says that empathy can influence both.
(D) is wrong because the main focus of the book is empathy, not altruism.

Question 18

Correct Answer: C

The passage is about the *m6A* modification and its role in plant immunity. A study found that *m6A*, which is deposited by the *MTA* complex, helps plants defend against bacteria by breaking down transcripts that negatively regulate immunity. Therefore, the main idea should be about the role of *m6A* and *MTA* in plant immunity.

(A) contradicts the passage because the study found that *m6A* is involved in plant immunity.
(B) is incorrect

because it only mentions that *MTA* degrades transcripts, but it doesn't explain that those transcripts inhibit defense responses. Thus, this choice is half-right, half-wrong.
(D) is incorrect because plants with non-functional *MTA* complexes show *increased* susceptibility. Thus, this choice contradicts the passage.

Question 19

Correct Answer: B

The passage is about the *chameleon effect* and how it impacts social interactions, based on the study by Chartrand and Bargh (2008). The main idea should include these key points.

(B) accurately summarizes the passage by mentioning Chartrand and Bargh's study, the *chameleon effect*, unconscious mirroring, and positive social interactions.

(A) is incorrect because the passage states that the mirroring of behaviors is unconscious, not a conscious strategy.

(C) is incorrect because the study's primary focus was not to determine the cultural contexts. The passage only mentions that further investigation is needed.

(D) is incorrect because the study is not unique in its methodology, nor is the study's focus on nonverbal cues the main point.

Question 20

Correct Answer: A

The passage discusses Zuk's research which challenges the idea that animal signals are always honest, using *crickets* as an example of deceptive signaling. Therefore, we can predict that the main idea would be about how animal signals may be dishonest.

(A) accurately reflects this main idea by stating that Zuk's study shows that animal signals don't always accurately show health or fitness.

(B) is incorrect because the passage doesn't claim that this behavior is unique to *crickets*.

(C) is incorrect because it discusses honest signaling, which is the opposite of the passage's main point.

(D) is incorrect because while the passage

mentions Zuk's 2008 paper, it doesn't claim it was the first to challenge the assumption of honest signaling.