

Transitions

Question 1

In hindsight, given the ideas about the natural world circulating among British scientists in the 1800s, the theory of natural selection was an obvious next step. It may not have been a coincidence, _____ that Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace arrived at the concept independently. Indeed, contrary to the popular myth of the lone genius, theirs is not the first paradigm-shifting theory to have emerged from multiple scholars working in parallel.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A however,
- ☐ B then,
- ☐ C moreover,
- ☐ D for example,

Question 2

In his essay "Of Coaches," French philosopher Michel de Montaigne explores a relatively light subject, but he expresses heavier fare in "Of the Inconvenience of Greatness." Regardless of subject matter, Montaigne works to question his own perceptive throughout his essay. _____ his personal motto was "What do I know?"

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Still,
- ☐ B Conversely,
- ☐ C Fittingly,
- ☐ D Nowadays,

Question 3

Blanche K. Bruce was an outspoken abolitionist whose Washington, DC, home was a stop on the underground railroad (the network of people and places that some enslaved people used to escape to freedom). It was relatively rare for supporters of the railroad to be secretive about their antislavery views. _____ they were vocal abolitionist like Bruce.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Fittingly,
- ☐ B Granted,
- ☐ C For example,
- ☐ D More often,

Question 4

The concept of the 'zone of proximal development' was introduced by psychologist Lev Vygotsky to describe the gap between what a learner can do without help and what they can achieve with guidance. A learner completes a task with the assistance of a more knowledgeable other, such as a teacher or peer; _____ the learner internalizes the skill and can perform the task independently.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A moreover,
- ☐ B in contrast,
- ☐ C for example,
- ☐ D subsequently,

Question 5

Many historical analyses focus on ignorance as a simple lack of knowledge. In 2008, _____ a study by Robert Proctor and Londa Schiebinger argued that ignorance can be actively constructed for political or commercial gain. Termed agnotology, it is the deliberate creation of doubt.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A however,
- ☐ B thus,
- ☐ C similarly,
- ☐ D for instance,

Question 6

Physicists have long explored the unusual behavior of heat in certain materials at extremely low temperatures. For decades, it was assumed that heat always diffused through a material from hot to cold. _____ researchers led by a team including Zhang, X. found strong evidence for heat moving as a wave, a phenomenon known as second sound, in graphite.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Lastly,
- ☐ B However,
- ☐ C For instance,
- ☐ D Thus,

Question 7

In a 2022 analysis of 200 terms, researchers found a broad pattern of valence-dependent mutation in which negative adjectives saw a faster rate of cognate replacement—the rate at which a word will be replaced over time with a noncognate form—than other words. _____ the adjective “illegal” would be expected to mutate faster than the noun “crisis.”

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Thus,
- ☐ B Moreover,
- ☐ C Meanwhile,
- ☐ D However,

Question 8

The *khar*, which is written as a circular hieroglyph with horizontal lines running across it, and the *heseb*, which is written as a hieroglyph that looks like an X, were ancient Egyptian units of _____ to record volume and area, respectively, the *khar* and *heseb* have since fallen out of use.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A measurement used
- B measurement, used
- C measurement. Used
- D measurement and used

Question 9

In the early 20th century, William Graham Sumner first defined folkways as the informal, routine conventions of everyday life, such as etiquette and customary dress. He posited that these norms were essential for maintaining social order and cohesion within a group. _____ Sumner also identified a distinct category of norms, mores, which are more strictly enforced moral standards that are often codified into law.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Thus,
- ☐ B However,
- ☐ C Certainly,
- ☐ D Moreover,

Question 10

In hindsight, given the ideas about the natural world circulating among British scientists in the 1800s, the theory of natural selection was an obvious next step. It may not have been a coincidence, _____ that Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace arrived at the concept independently. Indeed, contrary to the popular myth of the lone genius, theirs is not the first paradigm-shifting theory to have emerged from multiple scholars working in parallel.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A however,
- ☐ B then,
- ☐ C moreover,
- ☐ D for example,

Question 11

The Swiss mathematician Johann Bernoulli posed a challenge to his contemporaries in 1696: find the curve of fastest descent, or the *brachistochrone curve*. He was seeking the specific shape a ramp must have for a ball to travel between two points in the shortest possible time. Today, _____ the solution is widely recognized not as a straight line or an arc of a circle, but as a cycloid curve.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A however,
- ☐ B for example,
- ☐ C nevertheless,
- ☐ D similarly,

Question 12

In a 2022 analysis of 200 terms, researchers found a broad pattern of valence-dependent mutation in which negative adjectives saw a faster rate of cognate replacement—the rate at which a word will be replaced over time with a noncognate form—than other words. _____ the adjective "illegal" would be expected to mutate faster than the noun "crisis."

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Thus,
- ☐ B Moreover,
- ☐ C Meanwhile,
- ☐ D However,

Question 13

In the eighteenth century, mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange theorized the existence of gravitationally stable locations in a two-body system, which he termed libration points. _____ these areas, now known as Lagrange points, have become critical for deploying satellites and space telescopes that require a fixed position relative to the Earth-Sun system.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Subsequently,
- ☐ B Moreover,
- ☐ C For this reason,
- ☐ D Progressively,

Question 14

The philosophical concept of solipsism posits that only one's own mind is sure to exist, and anything outside of one's own mind is uncertain. _____ some interpretations suggest this extends to the denial of an external reality independent of one's consciousness, according to philosopher George Berkeley.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Furthermore,
- ☐ B For instance,
- ☐ C Consequently,
- ☐ D That is to say,

Question 15

While other even-toed ungulate species, such as the water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), are among the most populous animal species on earth, the Przewalski's gazelle (*Procapra przewalskii*) has a total population between 700 and 800 _____ one of the criteria required for a species to be considered endangered.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A individuals; fulfilling
- ☐ B individuals: fulfilling
- ☐ C individuals. Fulfilling
- ☐ D individuals, fulfilling

Question 16

In the 1970s, British economist Charles Goodhart introduced a concept that would become a cornerstone of social science. In an article on monetary policy, he argued that once a statistical measure is targeted, it loses its value as a reliable indicator.

_____ he formulated what is now known as Goodhart's law, the principle that when a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A In other words,
- ☐ B In summary,
- ☐ C Furthermore,
- ☐ D For instance,

Question 17

In 2013, researcher Brian Dias and his colleague Kerry Ressler conducted a study on epigenetic inheritance in mice. They exposed male mice to the scent of acetophenone, a chemical with a sweet, almond-like smell, while simultaneously giving them a mild foot shock. The mice quickly learned to fear the smell. _____ Dias and Ressler found that the offspring of these mice, and even the next generation, showed an increased sensitivity and fear response to the same scent, despite never having been exposed to it themselves.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Consequently,
- ☐ B Nonetheless,
- ☐ C Conversely,
- ☐ D Similarly,

Question 18

The tendency for consumers to value a product less when it is presented as part of a larger, less valuable package is a curious phenomenon. _____ this "less-is-better" effect suggests that the perceived value of a superior item can be diminished when bundled with an inferior one. Christopher Hsee's 1998 study on product evaluation provides a compelling opportunity to explore this hypothesis.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A Moreover,
- ☐ B Nonetheless,
- ☐ C Therefore,
- ☐ D Specifically,

Question 19

Post-humanism challenges the foundational belief in human exceptionalism, suggesting that humans are not the measure of all things and are deeply interconnected with non-human entities. Artist Patricia Piccinini's sculptures, like *The Young Family*, vividly embody this by presenting hybrid, transgenic creatures that evoke empathy. _____ Renaissance humanism, exemplified by Leonardo da Vinci's *Vitruvian Man*, placed the human form at the very center of the universe, celebrating its perfection and rationality. This starkly different worldview highlights the radical shift post-humanism proposes in our understanding of the human and our place in the world.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A On the other hand,
- ☐ B accordingly,
- ☐ C for instance,
- ☐ D in other words,

Question 20

The initial discovery of the exoplanet *55 Cancri e* in 2004 by a team led by Barbara McArthur suggested it was a gas giant with a substantial atmosphere. _____ subsequent observations revealed a much denser "super-Earth" with a surface that could be covered in graphite and diamond, a stark contrast to the initial interpretation of its composition.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- ☐ A That is to say,
- ☐ B Similarly,
- ☐ C However,
- ☐ D Thus,

Answers

Question 1

Correct Answer: B

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'In hindsight, given the ideas about the natural world circulating among British scientists in the 1800s, the theory of natural selection was an obvious next step.'

- 'It may not have been a coincidence, _____ that Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace arrived at the concept independently.'

The first clause states that natural selection was an “obvious next step.” The second clause then introduces the idea that Darwin and Wallace arriving at the concept independently “may not have been a coincidence.” This suggests a cause-and-effect relationship: because it was an obvious next step, it's not a coincidence that two people thought of it. Thus, a causal transition is needed. Therefore, (B) 'then,' is the correct answer.

Question 2

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

Clause 1: 'Regardless of subject matter, Montaigne works to question his own perceptive throughout his essay.'Clause 2: 'his personal motto was "What do I know?"'

The first clause states that the philosopher Montaigne constantly questions his own perceptions. The second clause reveals his personal motto. The motto 'What do I know?' is a very appropriate or suitable summary of his habit of self-questioning. Therefore, we need a transition that shows this suitability.

The transition '*Fittingly*,' which means 'in a suitable or appropriate way,' perfectly captures this relationship, showing that his motto was appropriate for his philosophical approach. The correct answer is **(C)**.

Question 3

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- *'It was relatively rare for supporters of the railroad to be secretive about their antislavery views.'*
- *'they were vocal abolitionist like Bruce.'*

The first sentence states what was uncommon for supporters of the Underground Railroad: being secretive. The second sentence then describes what was common instead: being vocal about their abolitionist views. This creates a relationship of contrast, where the second sentence clarifies the first by presenting the more frequent or typical situation.

The transition '**More often**,' (D) perfectly captures this relationship by indicating that being a vocal abolitionist was the more common scenario, directly contrasting with the 'rare' secrecy mentioned in the previous sentence.

Question 4

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "A learner completes a task with the assistance of a more knowledgeable other, such as a teacher or peer"
- "the learner internalizes the skill and can perform the task independently"

These two clauses describe a **sequential relationship**—the second action happens *after* the first action in time. First, the learner completes a task with help, and then, at a later point, the learner can perform the task alone. This temporal sequence requires a **sequential transition** to show the progression from one step to the next.

(D) "**subsequently**" is the correct answer because it indicates that the second event follows the first event in time, which perfectly captures the progression from guided practice to independent mastery that Vygotsky's concept describes.

Question 5

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "Many historical analyses focus on ignorance as a simple lack of knowledge."
- "a study by Robert Proctor and Londa Schiebinger argued that ignorance can be actively constructed for political or commercial gain."

These two clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first clause describes the traditional view that ignorance is merely "a simple lack of knowledge," while the second clause introduces a different perspective—that ignorance can be "actively constructed" as a deliberate tool.

This relationship requires an **adversative transition** to signal the shift from one viewpoint to another. The correct answer is **(A) however**, which effectively introduces this contrast and indicates that the 2008 study challenged or departed from the traditional understanding described in the first sentence.

Question 6

Correct Answer: B

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "For decades, it was assumed that heat always diffused through a material from hot to cold."

- "researchers led by a team including Zhang, X. found strong evidence for heat moving as a wave, a phenomenon known as second sound, in graphite."

These two clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first clause describes the long-held assumption that heat moves in one specific way (diffusion from hot to cold). The second clause introduces new research findings that demonstrate a *different* behavior of heat—moving as a wave.

Since we need to show this contrast between the old assumption and the new discovery, we require an **adversative transition**. Choice **(B)**

"However" is the correct answer because it effectively signals this shift from the conventional understanding to the unexpected research findings.

Question 7

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'researchers found a broad pattern of valence-dependent mutation in which negative adjectives saw a faster rate of cognate replacement... than other words.'
- 'the adjective "illegal" would be expected to mutate faster than the noun "crisis."'

These clauses present a causal relationship. The first sentence describes a general scientific finding or rule: negative adjectives undergo mutation faster than other types of words. The second sentence applies this general rule to a specific scenario involving the words "illegal" (a negative adjective) and "crisis" (a noun).

Because the second sentence describes a logical consequence or a prediction based on the evidence provided in the first sentence, we need a causal transition. **(A) Thus**, is the correct answer as it signals that the second statement follows logically from the first.

Question 8

Correct Answer: C

Look at the clauses on both sides of the blank:

- 'The khar, which is written as a circular hieroglyph with horizontal lines running across it, and the heseb, which is written as a hieroglyph that looks like an X, were ancient Egyptian units of measurement'
- 'Used to record volume and area, respectively, the khar and heseb have since fallen out of use.'

The first clause is an independent clause because it has a subject ('The khar... and the heseb') and a verb ('were') and can stand alone as a complete sentence. The second clause is also an independent clause; although it starts with 'Used', this word acts as a modifier for the main part of the clause, which has its own subject ('the khar and heseb') and verb ('have since fallen').

In the SAT, to separate two independent clauses, we must use a period, a semicolon, or a comma followed by a FANBOYS conjunction. In this case, a period is used. Therefore, (C) is the correct answer.

Question 9

Correct Answer: B

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "He posited that these norms were essential for maintaining social order and cohesion within a group."
- "Sumner also identified a distinct category of norms, mores, which are more strictly enforced moral standards that are often codified into law."

The first clause discusses folkways as informal, routine conventions that maintain social order. The second clause introduces a *different* category of norms—mores—which are **more strictly enforced** and often codified into law, contrasting with the informal nature of folkways.

These clauses present contrasting ideas: folkways are *informal* conventions, while mores are *strictly enforced* moral standards. This contrast requires an **adversative transition**.

(B) "However" is the correct answer because it appropriately signals this contrast between the two different types of social norms.

Question 10

Correct Answer: B

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'In hindsight, given the ideas about the natural world circulating among British scientists in the 1800s, the theory of natural selection was an obvious next step.'

- 'It may not have been a coincidence... that Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace arrived at the concept independently.'

The first clause establishes a reason or cause: the intellectual climate made the theory of natural selection an inevitable development. The second clause presents the logical consequence or effect of this situation: it's not surprising that two different people came up with the idea at the same time. This is a cause-and-effect relationship.

The transition "then" is used here to signal a logical conclusion or result. Because the theory was an "obvious next step," it follows logically that its independent discovery by two people was not a coincidence. Therefore, (B) is the correct answer.

Question 11

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "He was seeking the specific shape a ramp must have for a ball to travel

between two points in the shortest possible time."

- "the solution is widely recognized not as a straight line or an arc of a circle, but as a cycloid curve."

The first clause describes what Bernoulli was looking for in 1696—the shape that would allow the fastest descent. The second clause reveals what the answer turned out to be, which contradicts common intuition (it's neither a straight line nor a circular arc, but a cycloid curve).

These clauses present contrasting ideas. The first sets up an expectation or challenge from the past, while the second reveals an unexpected or counterintuitive result. This relationship requires an **adversative transition**.

(A) however is the correct answer because it appropriately signals this contrast between the historical challenge and the surprising nature of its solution.

Question 12

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'In a 2022 analysis of 200 terms, researchers found a broad pattern of valence-dependent mutation in which negative adjectives saw a faster rate of cognate replacement—the rate at which a word will be replaced over time with a noncognate form—than other words.'

- 'the adjective "illegal" would be expected to mutate faster than the noun "crisis."

The first clause establishes a general finding: negative adjectives tend to be replaced more quickly than other words. The second clause provides a specific example or a logical consequence of this finding, comparing the negative adjective "illegal" to the noun "crisis." This creates a cause-and-effect relationship, where the general rule (cause) leads to a specific prediction (effect).

A causal transition is needed to show this relationship. "Thus" indicates that the second statement is a logical conclusion or result of the first. Therefore, (A) is the correct answer.

Question 13

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "In the eighteenth century, mathematician Joseph-Louis Lagrange theorized the existence of gravitationally stable locations in a two-body system, which he termed libration points."
- "these areas, now known as Lagrange points, have become critical for deploying satellites and space telescopes that require a fixed position relative to the Earth-Sun system."

The first clause establishes that Lagrange theorized about these points in the eighteenth century. The second clause discusses how these points are used in modern space technology. This represents a **sequential relationship**—the second clause describes what happened *after* Lagrange's initial theory.

(A) "**Subsequently**" is a sequential transition that means "afterward" or "following in time." It perfectly captures the temporal progression from Lagrange's eighteenth-century theory to the modern application of these points in space technology.

The correct answer is (A).

Question 14

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "The philosophical concept of solipsism posits that only one's own mind is sure to exist, and anything outside of one's own mind is uncertain."
- "some interpretations suggest this extends to the denial of an external reality independent of one's consciousness, according to philosopher George Berkeley."

These two clauses have an **additive relationship**. The first clause introduces the basic definition of solipsism, while the second clause *expands* on this concept by providing additional information about more extreme interpretations of the philosophy.

The second clause is not giving an example, showing a result, or restating the first clause—it is simply adding more information about solipsism by discussing further interpretations of the concept.

(A) "Furthermore" is the correct answer because it is an expanding additive transition that appropriately signals the addition of supplementary information to build upon the initial definition provided.

Question 15

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- 'While other even-toed ungulate species, such as the water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), are among the most populous animal species on earth, the Przewalski's gazelle (*Procapra przewalskii*) has a total population between 700 and 800 individuals'
- 'fulfilling one of the criteria required for a species to be considered endangered.'

In this sentence, the first part is a complete independent clause. The second part, beginning with the present participle "fulfilling," is a dependent participial phrase that modifies or provides more information about the preceding statement regarding the gazelle's low population.

According to the rules of punctuation, a comma should be used to separate an independent clause from a following participial phrase when that phrase functions as an extension of the clause. Choice **(D)** correctly uses a comma to link these two parts, maintaining the grammatical flow and logical connection between the population count and the status of being endangered.

Question 16

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "In an article on monetary policy, he argued that once a statistical measure is targeted, it loses its value as a reliable indicator."
- "he formulated what is now known as Goodhart's law, the principle that when a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure."

The second clause essentially restates the idea presented in the first clause using different words. The first clause explains Goodhart's argument about statistical measures losing reliability when targeted, while the second clause names this argument as "Goodhart's law" and rephrases the same concept.

This relationship calls for an **emphasizing additive transition** that signals the writer is restating or clarifying the previous point in different terms.

(A) "In other words" is the correct answer because it explicitly indicates that what follows is a restatement or rephrasing of the preceding idea. It's the perfect transition when you want to express the same concept using alternative language or terminology.

Question 17

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "They exposed male mice to the scent of acetophenone, a chemical with a sweet, almond-like smell, while simultaneously giving them a mild foot shock. The mice quickly learned to fear the smell."

- "Dias and Ressler found that the offspring of these mice, and even the next generation, showed an increased sensitivity and fear response to the same scent, despite never having been exposed to it themselves."

The first clause describes how the researchers conditioned male mice to fear a specific scent. The second clause presents the result of this experiment: the offspring inherited this fear response. This is a clear **cause-and-effect relationship**—the conditioning of the parent mice *caused* the fear response in subsequent generations.

Since we need a **causal transition** to connect these two clauses, **(A) "Consequently"** is the correct answer. This transition appropriately signals that what follows is a direct result or consequence of the experiment described in the previous sentences.

Question 18

Correct Answer: D

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "The tendency for consumers to value a product less when it is presented as part of a larger, less valuable package is a curious phenomenon."

- "this 'less-is-better' effect suggests that the perceived value of a superior item can be diminished when bundled with an inferior one."

The first clause introduces a general phenomenon about consumer behavior. The second clause provides a **specific name and explanation** for that exact phenomenon—it's essentially restating and clarifying what was just mentioned.

This represents an **exemplifying relationship**, where the second clause specifies or clarifies the concept introduced in the first clause. The "less-is-better" effect is not an additional point, a contrast, or a result—it's a *specific*

identification of the phenomenon just described.

(D) "Specifically," is the correct answer because it appropriately signals that the writer is now providing the specific term and detailed explanation for the curious phenomenon mentioned in the previous sentence.

Question 19

Correct Answer: A

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "Artist Patricia Piccinini's sculptures, like *The Young Family*, vividly embody this by presenting hybrid, transgenic creatures that evoke empathy."
- "Renaissance humanism, exemplified by Leonardo da Vinci's *Vitruvian Man*, placed the human form at the very center of the universe, celebrating its perfection and rationality."

These two clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first clause describes post-humanist art that challenges human exceptionalism through hybrid creatures, while the second clause describes Renaissance humanism that celebrates human centrality and perfection. These are opposing worldviews, which means we need an **adversative transition**.

(A) "On the other hand" is the correct answer because it effectively signals this contrast between the two different philosophical perspectives. It introduces the Renaissance humanist view as a counterpoint to the post-humanist approach described in the previous sentence, highlighting the "starkly different worldview" mentioned at the end of the passage.

Question 20

Correct Answer: C

As always, remember to identify the clauses that the transition connects:

- "The initial discovery of the exoplanet *55 Cancri e* in 2004 by a team led by Barbara McArthur suggested it was a gas giant with a substantial atmosphere."
- "subsequent observations revealed a much denser 'super-Earth' with a surface that could be covered in graphite and diamond, a stark contrast to the initial interpretation of its composition."

These two clauses present **contrasting ideas**. The first clause describes the initial interpretation of the exoplanet as a gas giant with a substantial atmosphere. The second clause presents later findings that contradicted this initial understanding, revealing it to be a much denser super-Earth with a completely different composition.

Since the relationship between these clauses is **adversative** (presenting contrasting or opposing information), we need an adversative transition. Among the choices, only **(C) "However"** serves this purpose, appropriately signaling the shift from the initial discovery to the contradictory subsequent observations.

(C) is the correct answer.