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# GRE General Test

## Test Prep GRE-Test

**Version Demo**

**Total Demo Questions: 46**

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# Topic Break Down

| Topic | No. of Questions |
|---|---|
| Topic 1, Verbal Reasoning | 255 |
| Topic 2, Quantitative Reasoning | 238 |
| Topic 3, Mix Questions | 1 |
| Total | 494 |

QUESTION NO: 1

Researchers studying a desert shrub found that plants growing beneath partial shade produced fewer leaves than plants growing in full sun. Yet the shaded plants lost less water during the hottest hours of the day and survived prolonged drought at a higher rate. The researchers suggest that reduced leaf production may be part of a strategy that limits water loss rather than simply evidence of impaired growth.

Which of the following statements are consistent with the researchers' suggestion? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** Producing fewer leaves can reduce a plant's exposure to water loss.

**B.** A trait associated with slower visible growth can contribute to drought survival.

**C.** Leaf production has no effect on the growth of desert shrubs.

**D.** Partial shade prevents all water loss during periods of high temperature.

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

The researchers interpret reduced leaf production as potentially adaptive because fewer leaves can reduce the surface area from which water is lost. The higher drought-survival rate among shaded plants is consistent with the idea that conserving water can improve survival under arid conditions.

The passage does not show that leaf production is unrelated to growth, that every shaded plant survives drought, or that shade itself eliminates water loss. It instead proposes a particular trade-off between producing leaves and conserving water.

## QUESTION NO: 2

If 45 is 120% of a number, what is 80% of the same number?

**A.** 30

**B.** 32

**C.** 36

**D.** 38

**E.** 41

**ANSWER: A**

**Explanation:**

**30** is correct. Let the unknown number be *n*. The statement that 45 is 120% of the number translates to the equation 45 = 1.20*n*. Dividing by 1.20 gives *n* = 37.5. To find 80% of that same number, multiply 37.5 by 0.80: 37.5 × 0.80 = 30. Equivalently, this can be solved directly using proportional reasoning: 80% is two-thirds of 120%, so the requested value is two-thirds of 45, which is 30. This approach reflects the GRE Quantitative Reasoning emphasis on translating verbal statements into equations and applying arithmetic with percentages accurately. Percentages should be converted to decimal multipliers when forming equations: 120% becomes 1.20 and 80% becomes 0.80. For official information about the quantitative skills assessed on the GRE, see ETS GRE Quantitative Reasoning. ETS also provides an overview of the GRE General Test and its question formats at About the GRE General Test.

## QUESTION NO: 3

Some experts estimate that the recreational salmon fishery in British Columbia contributes more to the province's economy than the commercial salmon fishery does – a surprising statistic given the political _____ of the commercial fishery in the province. (Choose two.)

**A.** naïveté

**B.** prominence

**C.** supremacy

**D.** ingenuousness

**E.** salience

**F.** resurgence

**ANSWER: B E**

**Explanation:**

The correct completions are **prominence** and **salience**. The sentence calls the economic comparison “surprising” because the commercial salmon fishery has a highly visible and important role in provincial politics. *Prominence* means the state of being conspicuous, important, or widely recognized; “political prominence” therefore describes an industry that occupies a notable place in public and political life. *Salience* means particular noticeability or relevance, especially within a specific context. “Political salience” is a common and precise expression for the degree to which an issue is noticeable, significant, and likely to receive attention from political actors and the public. Either word creates the intended contrast: despite the commercial fishery’s high political profile, the recreational fishery may produce greater economic value. This is a GRE sentence-equivalence item, so the two correct choices must independently produce coherent sentences with closely matching meanings. Dictionary definitions support both senses: Merriam-Webster defines *prominence* in terms of being prominent or important, and defines *salient*, the adjective related to *salience*, as conspicuous or especially noteworthy. See Merriam-Webster: prominence and Merriam-Webster: salient.

## QUESTION NO: 4

A hockey team won 6 games and lost 8. What is the ratio of wins to number of games?

**A.** 6/8

**B.** 8/6

**C.** 3/7

**D.** 8/14

**E.** 6/7

**ANSWER: C**

**Explanation:**

The correct ratio is **3/7**. The phrase “number of games” refers to every game the team played, including both wins and losses. The team played 6 winning games plus 8 losing games, for a total of 14 games. Therefore, the ratio of wins to total games is 6 to 14, which can be written as the fraction 6/14. Simplifying this fraction by dividing both the numerator and denominator by their greatest common factor, 2, gives 3/7.

This is a standard ratio setup: identify the requested quantity first (wins) and place it over the full comparison quantity (all games played). Ratios may be expressed with a colon or as fractions, and equivalent ratios are obtained by dividing or multiplying both terms by the same nonzero number. The simplification from 6/14 to 3/7 preserves the same relationship while presenting it in lowest terms. This approach aligns with GRE quantitative reasoning expectations for interpreting word problems and applying arithmetic accurately. See the ETS GRE Quantitative Reasoning overview and Khan Academy’s ratios review.

## QUESTION NO: 5

Which of the following would be an appropriate unit to measure sugar for a cookie recipe?

**A.** liters

**B.** cups

**C.** quarts

**D.** kilograms

**E.** pounds

**ANSWER: B**

**Explanation:**

**cups** is the appropriate choice because cookie recipes commonly specify sugar by volume in cups. A cup is a standard customary cooking measure, and it gives home bakers a practical, repeatable way to portion ingredients such as granulated sugar, brown sugar, or powdered sugar when following a recipe. In U.S. recipe conventions, dry ingredients are often measured with dry measuring cups: the ingredient is placed into the cup and leveled to reach the specified amount. This makes cups especially familiar and useful for a basic cookie recipe.

It is important to use the same type of measuring system and technique intended by the recipe, since ingredient quantities affect sweetness, spread, texture, and structure. For example, packed brown sugar is generally measured by firmly pressing it into a measuring cup, while granulated sugar is usually leveled. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's cooking-measurement reference includes cup-based ingredient measures, and King Arthur Baking provides practical guidance on measuring ingredients accurately: USDA MyPlate Food Group Gallery and King Arthur Baking measuring guidance.

## QUESTION NO: 6

DIATRIBE : BITTERNESS

**A.** dictum : indolence

**B.** recapitulation : brevity

**C.** polemic : consonance

**D.** encomium : reproach

**E.** concordance : contrariety

**ANSWER: B**

**Explanation:**

The correct analogy is **recapitulation : brevity**. The relationship in the stem is one of a typical defining quality: a diatribe is a forceful verbal attack or denunciation, and bitterness is a characteristic tone or quality commonly conveyed by a diatribe. Likewise, a recapitulation is a concise restatement or summary of material already presented; brevity is therefore an inherent and expected quality of an effective recapitulation. In each pair, the second term names a salient characteristic of the communication identified by the first term, rather than its author, audience, subject, or consequence. The analogy works at the same level of abstraction because both terms describe a form of discourse and pair it with a quality that naturally characterizes that form. Dictionary definitions support these meanings: Merriam-Webster defines a diatribe as a "bitter and abusive speech or piece of writing," directly connecting it with bitterness, while its definition of recapitulation emphasizes a concise summary or restatement. See Merriam-Webster: diatribe and Merriam-Webster: recapitulation.

## QUESTION NO: 7

What Dr. Walther has shown is that many of the standard statistical techniques that are supposed to insure against _____ correlations are inadequate in this case. (Choose two.)

**A.** numerical

**B.** specious

**C.** elementary

**D.** paltry

**E.** quantifiable

**F.** spurious

**ANSWER: B F**

**Explanation:**

The correct completions are “specious” and “spurious.” The sentence concerns statistical techniques intended to protect researchers from correlations that appear meaningful but do not reflect a genuine relationship between the variables. A *spurious correlation* is an apparent association produced by coincidence, a confounding variable, or another misleading feature of the data rather than a causal or substantively valid connection. This is a standard term in statistics and research methods.

“Specious” likewise means plausible-looking or apparently sound but actually misleading or false. In this context, “specious correlations” describes correlations that may seem persuasive on the surface while lacking a valid underlying basis. The two words are sufficiently close in meaning and both fit the grammatical construction “insure against ___ correlations.” GRE Text Completion questions asking for two answers commonly use paired synonyms that independently create the same coherent meaning in the sentence. Dictionary definitions support these senses: Merriam-Webster: spurious defines the word as false or not genuine, and Merriam-Webster: specious describes something having a deceptive appearance of truth or genuineness.

**QUESTION NO: 8**

The recent birth of septuplets has spawned many newspaper articles presenting _____ accounts of medical problems associated with multiple births, _____ the initial heartwarming stories about the septuplets that dominated the press.

**A.** depressing . . minimizing

**B.** various . . contradicting

**C.** dispassionate . . obscuring

**D.** sobering . . counterbalancing

**E.** detailed . . substantiating

**ANSWER: D**

**Explanation:**

**sobering . . counterbalancing** correctly completes both parts of the sentence and preserves the intended relationship between the two kinds of press coverage. Accounts of medical problems arising from multiple births would naturally be “sobering”: they make readers more serious, cautious, or concerned after the initially cheerful coverage of the septuplets’ birth. The participle “counterbalancing” then precisely describes the function of those reports. Rather than merely adding unrelated details, the reports provide a corrective weight to the earlier heartwarming stories, giving the public a more complete and less one-sided picture of the event.

This is the sort of contextual relationship tested in GRE Text Completion questions: the sentence supplies a contrast between the optimistic emotional framing that first dominated the press and later reporting that introduces serious medical realities. The first word must characterize the tone of the newer accounts, while the second must express how those accounts relate to the earlier coverage. “Sobering” and “counterbalancing” work together logically and grammatically, creating a coherent contrast without claiming that the initial stories were false. ETS describes GRE Verbal Reasoning as assessing the ability to analyze relationships among components of a sentence and derive meaning from context. See the ETS GRE Verbal Reasoning overview.

## QUESTION NO: 9

In comparing two translations of an ancient poem, a critic notes that the first reproduces the poem's complex meter but omits several ambiguities present in the original language. The second uses less regular rhythm but preserves more of those ambiguities. The critic concludes that neither translation can be evaluated adequately by asking only which is more literal.

Which of the following claims are most strongly supported by the passage? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** A translation can preserve one important feature of a poem while sacrificing another.

**B.** Rhythm and ambiguity are both relevant to evaluating a poetic translation.

**C.** The second translation is unquestionably better than the first.

**D.** A translation that uses regular meter must eliminate ambiguity.

## ANSWER: A B

**Explanation:**

The critic identifies different features preserved by the two translations: the first retains complex meter, whereas the second retains more ambiguity. This contrast supports the conclusion that literalness, treated as a single standard, cannot adequately capture all relevant dimensions of translation.

The passage does not claim that either translation is superior overall, that meter is unimportant, or that ambiguity can never be translated. It emphasizes that different translations may preserve different aspects of an original work.

## QUESTION NO: 10

The spacecraft's considerable heft forces an unusually _____ route that meanders through the solar system and depends on the gravitational pull of three heavenly bodies. (Choose two.)

**A.** predetermined

**B.** circuitous

**C.** indirect

**D.** truncated

**E.** shortened

**F.** sequential

## ANSWER: B C

**Explanation:**

The correct pair is *circuitous* and *indirect*. The central contextual clue is that the route "meanders through the solar system" rather than proceeding straight to its destination. A *circuitous* course is a roundabout one, taking a longer or less direct path. An *indirect* route likewise reaches a destination by a nonstraight, intermediary path. These terms therefore produce essentially the same completed meaning, as required by a GRE sentence-equivalence item.

The reference to the spacecraft's "considerable heft" and its reliance on the gravitational pull of three heavenly bodies provides a concrete reason for such a path: a heavy craft may need gravity-assist maneuvers to gain speed or alter direction efficiently. Those maneuvers require traveling near planetary bodies instead of following the most direct trajectory. Thus, both *circuitous* and *indirect* accurately characterize the route described. Merriam-Webster defines *circuitous* as having a circular or winding course and defines *indirect* as not direct; see Merriam-Webster: circuitous and Merriam-Webster: indirect.

## QUESTION NO: 11

Although critics have often treated the painter's late canvases as evidence of an abrupt turn toward abstraction, the paintings retain the carefully observed architecture that structured her earlier work. Their buildings are simplified, but their proportions remain exact; their streets are emptied, but their vanishing points remain conspicuous. The late work therefore does not abandon representation so much as test how little descriptive detail is needed for a scene to remain recognizably spatial.

Which of the following are supported by the passage? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** The late canvases retain certain structural features of the painter's earlier work.

**B.** The painter uses reduced detail to investigate the conditions of spatial representation.

**C.** Most critics regard the late canvases as more successful than the earlier work.

**D.** The late canvases reject the use of linear perspective.

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

The passage states that the late canvases preserve "carefully observed architecture" and exact proportions, so they retain important representational features. It also explicitly characterizes the painter's experiment as testing the minimum descriptive detail necessary to preserve recognizable spatiality. The passage does not say that critics agree with the author's view, nor does it suggest that the late canvases lack perspective.

## QUESTION NO: 12

The table shows the results of a job-satisfaction survey completed by all employees of the five departments of Company X in 1997 and again in 1999. Each employee rated his or her job satisfaction with a whole number from 1 to 10, where 1 represented the least satisfaction and 10 represented the greatest satisfaction.

Job-Satisfaction Ratings at Company X, 1997 and 1999

| Department | 1997 | | 1999 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Employees | Mean Rating | Number of Employees | Mean Rating |
| Advertising | 30 | 8.0 | 40 | 8.4 |
| Management | 15 | 8.0 | 17 | 9.1 |
| Production | 39 | 6.9 | 50 | 7.1 |
| Research | 17 | 7.4 | 18 | 7.9 |
| Sales | 60 | 5.5 | 70 | 6.5 |

What was the median of the increases in the mean rating from 1997 to 1999 for the five departments?

**A.** 0.2

**B.** 0.3

**C.** 0.5

**D.** 0.7

**E.** 1.0

**ANSWER: C**

**Explanation:**

The correct answer is **0.5**. For each department, first determine the mean job-satisfaction rating in each year from the table. A department's mean is found by calculating the weighted average of its employees' ratings: multiply each rating by the number of employees who gave that rating, add those products, and divide by the department's total number of employees. Then subtract the 1997 mean from the 1999 mean for each of the five departments. These five results are the increases in mean rating, not the changes in total ratings or in the number of employees surveyed.

To find a median for five values, arrange the five increases from least to greatest and select the third value, since it has two values below it and two above it. The middle increase is **0.5**, so the median increase in mean rating across the five departments was 0.5 rating point. This uses the standard GRE quantitative-data interpretation process: calculate the requested derived values carefully, order them, and apply the definition of median to the ordered set. ETS describes the quantitative reasoning skills assessed on the GRE at GRE Quantitative Reasoning; its official overview of the General Test is available at About the GRE General Test.

## QUESTION NO: 13

Alaska's climate has been gradually warming over the past two decades, Over the same period the spruce-bark beetle has killed unprecedented millions of acres of Alaska's spruce trees. Clearly, this devastation is attributable to the warming trend: not only have the recent warm summers in Alaska halved the time it takes a beetle to develop from an egg. leading to a dramatic increase in the beetle's population, but _____.

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

**A.** warmer conditions have also increased the population of the spruce-bark beetle's main predator

**B.** warmer conditions might also mean that trees with a more southerly range than that of spruce trees will gradually expand their range northward

**C.** warmer conditions have also severely stressed spruce trees, making them more vulnerable to insect attack

**D.** it has also been impossible to use the most effective pesticide for combating the spruce-bark beetle, because that pesticide has harmful effects on birds and mammals

**E.** also the spruce-bark beetle tends to attack relatively young trees rather than mature or dying trees

## ANSWER: C

**Explanation:**

"warmer conditions have also severely stressed spruce trees, making them more vulnerable to insect attack" most logically completes the argument because it supplies a second, directly relevant causal connection between warming and extensive tree mortality. The argument already establishes one mechanism: warmer summers speed beetle development, allowing beetle populations to increase dramatically. This completion adds a complementary mechanism on the tree side of the interaction: climate-related stress reduces spruce trees' ability to resist or survive beetle attacks. Together, a larger beetle population and more susceptible host trees provide strong support for attributing the unprecedented scale of devastation to the warming trend.

This reasoning is consistent with forest-health research on spruce beetle outbreaks. The U.S. Forest Service explains that drought stress and warm conditions can weaken spruce defenses, while warmer temperatures can favor beetle development and survival, increasing outbreak risk. These linked effects make the stated completion a coherent continuation of the sentence's "not only … but …" structure and reinforce the conclusion that warming is responsible for the observed damage. See the U.S. Forest Service's spruce beetle information and the U.S. Forest Service research on climate and bark beetles.

## QUESTION NO: 14

Find 6 × 0 × 5.

**A.** 30

**B.** 11

**C.** 25

**D.** 0

**E.** 27

**ANSWER: D**

**Explanation:**

The correct answer is **0**. Multiplication has a zero property: whenever any factor in a product is zero, the entire product equals zero. Here, the factors are 6, 0, and 5. Multiplying 6 by 0 gives 0, and multiplying that result by 5 remains 0: 6 × 0 × 5 = 0 × 5 = 0. This rule applies regardless of the order of the factors or the sizes of the other numbers. For example, 0 × 100, 7 × 0, and 25 × 0 × 4 all have a product of zero. The calculation can also be viewed as six groups of zero, followed by multiplication by five; because there are no units in each group, the result remains no units. The zero property of multiplication is a fundamental arithmetic rule used when simplifying numerical and algebraic expressions. For a reference on the properties of zero in multiplication, see Khan Academy's multiplication review and OpenStax Prealgebra: Multiply and Divide Integers.

**QUESTION NO: 15**

FILL BLANK

The number of attendees at a certain annual conference is 256 this year and has always doubled every five years. How many people attended the conference 20 years ago?

Click on the answer box, then type in a number. Backspace to erase.

**A.** 16

**ANSWER: A**

**Explanation:**

The correct entry is 16. The statement that attendance has doubled every five years describes a repeated multiplicative pattern with a factor of 2 for each five-year interval. Twenty years contains four such intervals: from 20 years ago to 15 years ago, to 10 years ago, to 5 years ago, and then to this year. Moving backward reverses doubling, so the current attendance must be divided by 2 once per interval. Thus, the attendance 20 years ago was 256 ÷ 2 ÷ 2 ÷ 2 ÷ 2, or 256 ÷ $2^4$. Since $2^4$ equals 16, the calculation is 256 ÷ 16 = 16. This can also be checked in the forward direction: starting with 16 attendees, doubling four times gives 32, 64, 128, and finally 256 attendees this year. This is an application of exponential growth and inverse operations, both of which are useful for GRE quantitative comparison and numeric-entry questions. ETS's GRE mathematics materials discuss using arithmetic and algebraic reasoning in quantitative questions; see the GRE Math Conventions and the official GRE preparation resources.

**QUESTION NO: 16**

Which of the following fractions are correctly placed from the least in value to the greatest in value?

**A.** 1/4, 17/25, 3/4, 11/16

**B.** 17/25, 1/4, 11/16, 3/4

**C.** 1/4, 17/25, 11/16, 3/4

**D.** 1/4, 17/25, 3/4, 11/16

**E.** 3/4, 17/25, 11/16, 1/4

**ANSWER: C**

**Explanation:**

The correctly ordered sequence is **1/4, 17/25, 11/16, 3/4**. A reliable way to compare fractions with different denominators is to express each as a decimal or rewrite them using a common denominator. Converting to decimals gives 1/4 = 0.25, 17/25 = 0.68, 11/16 = 0.6875, and 3/4 = 0.75. These values increase in exactly the displayed order: 0.25 is less than 0.68; 0.68 is slightly less than 0.6875; and 0.6875 is less than 0.75. Therefore, the sequence proceeds strictly from the least value to the greatest value.

This result can also be checked without decimals. Since 17/25 and 11/16 are close in value, cross-multiply: 17 × 16 = 272 and 11 × 25 = 275. Because 272 is less than 275, 17/25 is less than 11/16. This confirms the critical middle comparison. For further guidance on comparing fractions, see Khan Academy: Comparing fractions with unlike denominators and Math Is Fun: Comparing Fractions.

## QUESTION NO: 17

In his splendid new biography of Flaubert, Frederick Brown deftly dismantles the most durable myth concerning the novelist – that Flaubert was miraculously transformed into a committed realist with the writing of Madame Bovary. Robert Baldick offers one version of the myth: “In his early works ... Flaubert tended to give free rein to his flamboyant imagination, but on the advice of his friends he later disciplined his romantic exuberance in an attempt to achieve total objectivity and a harmonious prose style.” The only problem with this account is that it doesn’t stand up to scrutiny. Flaubert followed the realism of Madame Bovary with the fantastical Salammbô, and paired “A Simple Heart” with his hothouse fantasy, “Hérodias.”

In the context of the passage, the reference to Baldick’s “version” serves to (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** flesh out a conventional view regarding Flaubert

**B.** present a framework for further research into Flaubert

**C.** offer a useful corrective to Brown’s approach to Flaubert

**D.** provide a specific formulation of the myth that Brown dismantles

## ANSWER: A D

**Explanation:**

The reference to Baldick’s “version” gives the reader a concrete, representative statement of the conventional belief about Flaubert: that his early work was romantically imaginative and that he later adopted a disciplined, objective realism. Thus, it fleshes out the prevailing view rather than merely naming it abstractly. The quoted formulation also specifically exemplifies the “durable myth” identified in the opening sentence, making clear exactly what Brown is said to dismantle. By supplying an influential critic’s compact account, the passage establishes the claim that is then tested against Flaubert’s later writing. The examples of *Salammbô* and “Hérodias” show the continuing presence of fantasy after *Madame Bovary*, so Baldick’s formulation functions as a particular expression of the oversimplified account under discussion. This is a standard reading-comprehension function: an author may cite a view in order to define precisely the received position that frames the subsequent analysis. For background on Flaubert’s works and their stylistic range, see Encyclopaedia Britannica’s biography of Gustave Flaubert and Project Gutenberg’s text of *Madame Bovary*.

## QUESTION NO: 18

FALLOW : PRODUCTIVITY

**A.** handsome : attraction

**B.** friendly : allegiance

**C.** bitter : taste

**D.** obscure : clarity

**E.** poisonous : protection

**ANSWER: E**

**Explanation:**

The correct relationship is expressed by **poisonous : protection**. To leave land fallow is to refrain from cultivating it for a period, commonly so that the soil can recover and support renewed or improved agricultural productivity. Thus, the first term identifies a condition or practice whose functional purpose is to preserve or restore the quality named by the second term. Merriam-Webster defines *fallow*, in its agricultural sense, as land that is usually cultivated but is allowed to lie idle during the growing season; this practice is associated with restoring soil condition and productive capacity. See Merriam-Webster's definition of fallow.

Likewise, poisonousness can function as a defensive trait: toxins deter, injure, or discourage predators, thereby providing protection to the organism possessing them. The relationship is therefore not merely that poison and protection can coexist, but that being poisonous serves the adaptive purpose of protection, matching the purpose-oriented connection in the prompt. The National Geographic Education resource on animal adaptations describes defensive adaptations as characteristics that help organisms avoid being eaten or otherwise harmed; toxins are a familiar form of such defense. See National Geographic Education on adaptations. Both pairs consequently connect a state or trait with the beneficial outcome it is intended or evolved to secure.

## QUESTION NO: 19

MACERATION : LIQUID

**A.** sublimation : gas

**B.** evaporation : humidity

**C.** trail : path

**D.** erosion : weather

**E.** decision : distraction

**ANSWER: D**

**Explanation:**

"erosion : weather" correctly mirrors the relationship in "MACERATION : LIQUID." Maceration is a process in which a material is softened, broken down, or separated through soaking in a liquid. Thus, the second term identifies the environmental medium or external agent through which the first process occurs. Merriam-Webster defines maceration as the act or process of causing something to soften or separate by steeping it in a liquid: Merriam-Webster: maceration.

Likewise, erosion is the gradual wearing away and removal of earth materials through external environmental forces. Weather-related conditions and agents, including rain, wind, ice, and temperature-driven processes, provide the natural forces that produce erosion. In the analogy, "weather" therefore serves the same broad role as "liquid": it is the surrounding condition or agent that brings about the named physical process. Britannica describes erosion as the removal of surface material by natural agents such as water, wind, and ice: Britannica: erosion. The pairing preserves the intended process-to-causative-medium relationship.

## QUESTION NO: 20

Fungi are a basic component of every ecosystem, and their importance cannot be _____, but mycologists generally lack an understanding of which fungi are present in oceans and what roles they play.

**A.** gainsaid

**B.** underestimated

**C.** calculated

**D.** disputed

**E.** exaggerated

**F.** matched

**ANSWER: B**

**Explanation:**

**underestimated** correctly completes the sentence because the phrase “cannot be underestimated” means that something is so important that people should not judge its significance as smaller than it truly is. The first clause makes a broad claim about fungi: they are fundamental components of ecosystems. Therefore, their ecological importance is substantial and must be fully recognized. The clause following “but” then supplies a meaningful contrast: although fungi are undeniably important overall, scientists still have limited knowledge of the particular fungal species living in oceans and the functions they perform there. This contrast distinguishes the established importance of fungi from the incomplete scientific understanding of marine fungi. Merriam-Webster defines *underestimate* as estimating something as being less than its actual size, value, or importance, which precisely fits the intended meaning here. The construction also reflects a common formal English idiom used to emphasize significance: “X cannot be underestimated.” For relevant background, fungi are recognized as major contributors to ecosystem processes, including decomposition and nutrient cycling. See Merriam-Webster’s definition of “underestimate” and the U.S. Forest Service overview of fungi.

## QUESTION NO: 21

For many years, historians explained the rapid expansion of the port city chiefly by citing its access to a navigable river. Recent archival work complicates that explanation. Several nearby settlements had comparable river access but grew slowly. The city in question, unlike those settlements, invested heavily in warehouses, standardized commercial contracts, and dredging. River access was thus an important condition for growth, but it was not by itself a sufficient explanation.

In the context of the passage, the recent archival work serves to (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** challenge the adequacy of an explanation based solely on river access

**B.** identify additional factors that may have contributed to the city’s growth

**C.** demonstrate that the city lacked access to a navigable river

**D.** establish that river access impeded commercial development

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

The archival work challenges a single-cause account by showing that comparable river access did not produce comparable growth in nearby settlements. It also directs attention to other differences, including investment in infrastructure and commercial institutions. The passage does not deny that river access mattered, and it does not claim that river access was harmful.

## QUESTION NO: 22

The _____ of governmental subsidies to obscure airports that are rarely used underscores the political difficulties of cutting funds from even the most unnecessary projects. (Choose two.)

**A.** paucity

**B.** effectiveness

**C.** durability

**D.** persistence

**E.** adequacy

**F.** dearth

**ANSWER: C D**

**Explanation:**

The correct completions are “durability” and “persistence.” The sentence emphasizes that subsidies for airports with little use continue despite being unnecessary, and that this continuing existence demonstrates how politically difficult it is to eliminate funding. “Persistence” directly denotes the quality of continuing steadily or stubbornly over time, which precisely captures subsidies that remain in place despite a strong rationale for ending them. Merriam-Webster’s definition of persistence includes continued existence or endurance, matching the sentence’s focus on funding that keeps going.

“Durability” also appropriately conveys the capacity to last or endure over time. Applied figuratively to governmental subsidies, it describes funding that has proved long-lasting and resistant to removal. This is the same central idea supplied by “persistence”: the subsidies survive over time, revealing the political obstacles to cutting them. Merriam-Webster’s definition of durability identifies the quality of lasting or enduring, which fits the context. Because the prompt asks for two answers, these synonymous words form the intended pair: each describes the sustained continuation of unnecessary subsidies.

**QUESTION NO: 23**

In the Old Southwest, only writers who showed exceptional _____ were likely to become widely known, because the region’s weak infrastructure inhibited the development of publishing beyond local newspapers that served small towns. (Choose two.)

**A.** prescience

**B.** foresightedness

**C.** optimism

**D.** resolve

**E.** patience

**F.** determination

**ANSWER: D F**

**Explanation:**

The correct completions are *resolve* and *determination*. The sentence establishes a significant practical obstacle: weak regional infrastructure meant that publishing was limited largely to small-town local newspapers. For a writer to become widely known despite that restriction, the writer would need extraordinary persistence and firmness of purpose to continue writing, seek audiences, and overcome the lack of established publishing channels. *Resolve* means a firm decision or unwavering purpose, while *determination* means the quality of continuing to pursue a goal despite difficulties. These words are therefore closely synonymous and each creates the intended meaning: exceptional perseverance was necessary for writers to gain broad recognition under adverse conditions. This is also the key structural feature of a GRE Text Completion “Choose two” question: the two selected answers should both fit the sentence and produce equivalent meanings. ETS describes Text Completion questions as requiring test takers to use the sentence’s context to select words that complete its meaning, including questions with multiple correct choices. See the ETS GRE Verbal Reasoning overview and the ETS GRE test-preparation materials.

**QUESTION NO: 24**

A political theorist argues that laws gain legitimacy not merely because they are enacted through an established procedure, but because citizens can understand the reasons offered in their defense. The theorist does not claim that every citizen will endorse every law. Rather, public justification requires that official reasons be accessible to those subject to the law, even when they ultimately disagree with it.

Which of the following are consistent with the theorist's position? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** A law may be legitimate even if some citizens reject it.

**B.** Following an established legislative procedure is not, by itself, enough to secure legitimacy.

**C.** Every citizen must participate directly in writing each law.

**D.** Public justification is impossible whenever citizens disagree about a law.

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

The theorist distinguishes public justification from unanimous approval. A law can therefore be legitimate even when some citizens disagree, provided that the reasons offered are accessible to them. The passage also makes procedural enactment insufficient by itself. It does not require that every citizen personally participate in drafting each law, nor does it hold that disagreement makes public justification impossible.

## QUESTION NO: 25

Salinger's Catcher in the Rye, having become a manifesto for psychopaths and potential miscreants, is viewed by many high-school administrators as too _____ to be suitable for teenage students.

**A.** austere

**B.** insipid

**C.** provocative

**D.** aberrant

**E.** progressive

**ANSWER: C**

**Explanation:**

The correct completion is *provocative*. In this context, "having become a manifesto for psychopaths and potential miscreants" supplies the crucial clue: the administrators are concerned that the novel may stimulate, incite, or encourage harmful antisocial behavior in susceptible readers. *Provocative* means tending to provoke a reaction, especially a strong reaction, and can describe material regarded as likely to arouse troubling ideas, emotions, or actions. Thus, saying the book is "too provocative" logically expresses the administrators' belief that it could exert an unsettling or dangerous influence on teenage students. The word also fits the grammar and tone of the sentence naturally: "too provocative to be suitable" identifies the particular perceived quality that makes the work inappropriate in these administrators' view. Merriam-Webster defines "provocative" as serving or tending to provoke, while Cambridge notes its use for something intended to cause thought, discussion, argument, or another reaction. These meanings align directly with the passage's emphasis on the book's alleged ability to inspire potential miscreants. See Merriam-Webster: provocative and Cambridge Dictionary: provocative.

## QUESTION NO: 26

Accounts of early opera performances – both of the performances themselves and of their social milieu – indicate that the origins of the genre were anything but _____; it began at the peak. (Choose two.)

**A.** lavish

**B.** disreputable

**C.** sumptuous

**D.** decadent

**E.** plebeian

**F.** humble

**ANSWER: E F**

**Explanation:**

The phrase “it began at the peak” establishes that opera originated in an elevated, prestigious social setting rather than developing gradually from ordinary or low-status beginnings. Therefore, *plebeian* and *humble* complete the sentence most precisely. “Plebeian” means common, belonging to the ordinary people rather than an aristocratic or elite class. “Humble” means modest, lowly, or lacking grandeur and status. The sentence’s reference to both the productions and their social milieu supports these choices: the earliest operas were associated with wealthy Italian courts, ceremonial occasions, and cultivated aristocratic patrons. Early works such as Jacopo Peri’s *Euridice* were performed in Florence in connection with major court celebrations, illustrating that the genre was born within an elite cultural environment. Thus, saying its origins were anything but plebeian or humble directly matches the contrast created by “began at the peak.” Historical overviews likewise describe opera’s late-sixteenth- and early-seventeenth-century emergence in Italian courtly circles; see Encyclopaedia Britannica’s overview of opera and The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s essay on opera in Italy.

## QUESTION NO: 27

Art realized that he had 2 more quarters than he had originally thought in his pocket. If all of the change in his pocket is quarters and it totals to $8.75, how many quarters did he originally think were in his pocket?

**A.** 27

**B.** 29

**C.** 31

**D.** 33

**E.** 35

**ANSWER: D**

**Explanation:**

**33** is correct. Each quarter is worth $0.25, so the actual number of quarters in the pocket can be found by dividing the total value by the value of one quarter: $8.75 ÷ $0.25 = 35 quarters. Art then realizes that this actual amount is 2 quarters more than the number he had originally believed he had. Therefore, subtract 2 from the actual count: 35 − 2 = 33. The question asks for the number he *originally thought* were in his pocket, not the number actually present. Thus, the original estimate was 33 quarters. This is a straightforward translation of the wording into arithmetic: determine the total number of equal-value coins from the dollar amount, then account for the stated difference between the actual count and the original count. GRE quantitative questions commonly assess this type of careful interpretation alongside basic arithmetic and unit conversion. ETS provides an overview of the quantitative reasoning skills measured on the GRE at GRE Quantitative Reasoning, and the official preparation materials are available through ETS GRE preparation resources.

## QUESTION NO: 28

The idea of religious music as being the artistically purest form of Black musical expression has deep roots: W. E.

B. Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, and Alain Locke are just a few prominent intellectuals who held the spirituals to be the pinnacle of Black art in the United States during the first part of the twentieth century, with Du Bois describing them as “the most beautiful expression of human experience. born this side of the seas ... the singular spiritual heritage of the nation and the greatest gift of the Negro people.”

The elevation of religious music to the epitome of authentic Black musicality speaks to a broader tendency noted by Karl Hagstrom Miller: the urge for critics and historians to describe Black music making in terms that are inherently collective. This has extended to nonmusical contexts, in which the call-and-response dynamic, the “ring shout.” and jazz-derived

metaphors of collective interaction have been highly influential in discussions of African American culture generally. While certainly useful, Miller points out that the abundance of metaphors about music making as a collective experience "has a tendency to trap individuals within a racial collectivity. naturalizing music as an outgrowth of one's life rather than a cultivated talent and obscuring the meaning and uses of art that falls outside of racially defined cultural borders." In other words, individuating traits such as technique, ambition, and stylistic diversity become subordinated to one's role within a group and his or her imagined obligations to that group.

It can be inferred that Miller would likely agree with which of the following statements regarding the "broader tendency"?

**A.** It made it more difficult for Black musicians to be evaluated as autonomous artists.

**B.** It made it easier for Black musicians to produce stylistic innovations.

**C.** It discouraged Black composers from incorporating elements from spirituals in their compositions.

**D.** It was a tendency that Du Bois and other prominent Black intellectuals resisted.

**E.** It made it more difficult for the influence of religious music to be fully appreciated in African American culture.

**ANSWER: A**

**Explanation:**

"It made it more difficult for Black musicians to be evaluated as autonomous artists." is correct because it directly synthesizes Miller's stated concern about collective descriptions of Black music. The passage explains that such descriptions can "trap individuals within a racial collectivity," treating music as a natural expression of racial identity rather than as the result of cultivated talent. Miller further notes that this framework can obscure art that crosses racially defined cultural borders. Together, these points indicate that a musician's individual technique, ambition, artistic choices, and stylistic range may receive less attention than perceived membership in, and obligations to, a racial group. Evaluating an artist autonomously means considering that person as a distinct creator whose work reflects individual development and choices; Miller's critique specifically identifies the pressure that can prevent this kind of evaluation. This is an inference question, so the answer need not repeat the passage word for word, but it must accurately restate its logical implication. ETS explains that Reading Comprehension questions assess the ability to identify relationships and draw supported conclusions from a passage; see the ETS Reading Comprehension overview and the GRE General Test content guide.

**QUESTION NO: 29**

In the United States, the development of sociology was not _____ controversies; rather, it emerged from social experience, hence the relatively _____ approach among American sociologists to identifying and solving social problems.

**A.** impeded by political . . academic

**B.** challenged by academic . . theoretical

**C.** hindered by petty . . controversial

**D.** stimulated by ideological . . empirical

**E.** sparked by social . . experimental

**ANSWER: D**

**Explanation:**

"stimulated by ideological . . empirical" correctly completes both parts of the sentence. The transition "rather" signals that American sociology's origin is being contrasted with an origin in ideology-driven controversy: instead, the discipline "emerged from social experience." Thus, "stimulated by ideological controversies" creates the intended contrast between abstract ideological debate and the practical conditions or observations that shaped the field's development in the United States. The word "hence" then introduces a consequence of that experiential origin. An empirical approach is one grounded in observation, evidence, and experience, so it follows naturally that sociologists whose discipline developed from social experience would tend toward an empirical method for recognizing and addressing social problems. This pairing also produces a coherent causal chain: a field formed through lived social conditions and observation would emphasize evidence-based inquiry rather than primarily speculative analysis. Recognizing transitions such as "rather" and "hence," and ensuring

that both blanks create one logically connected meaning, is a central sentence-equivalence and text-completion skill assessed in GRE Verbal Reasoning. See ETS's overview of GRE Verbal Reasoning and Merriam-Webster's definition of empirical.

## QUESTION NO: 30

Distribution P is given as {–2, 1, x}, where x is the median. Distribution Q is given as {x, 0, 3}, where x is the median.

| Column A | Column B |
| --- | --- |
| The standard deviation of Distribution P | The standard deviation of Distribution Q |

**A.** The quantity in Column A is greater;

**B.** The quantity in Column B is greater;

**C.** The quantities are equal;

**D.** The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

## ANSWER: D

**Explanation:**

The relationship cannot be determined from the information given. Since x is the median of distribution P, it must lie from −2 through 1. Since it is also the median of distribution Q, it must lie from 0 through 3. Thus, the shared value of x can be any value from 0 through 1.

For three values, comparing standard deviations can be done by comparing their variances, because standard deviation is the nonnegative square root of variance. The variance of distribution P minus the variance of distribution Q simplifies to (8x − 4)/9. This expression is negative when x is less than 1/2, zero when x equals 1/2, and positive when x is greater than 1/2. Therefore, depending on the permitted value selected for x, either distribution can have the greater standard deviation, or the standard deviations can be equal. The median conditions do not specify a unique value of x, so they do not establish one fixed comparison. This follows the GRE quantitative-comparison principle that the available information must determine a relationship in every allowable case. See the ETS GRE Quantitative Reasoning practice book and ETS Quantitative Reasoning content overview.

## QUESTION NO: 31

Observing responses to environmental threats, he contrasts planet fetishizers, who imagine a suddenly _____ humanity restoring Earth to its pristine state, with planet managers, who believe in the effectiveness of technological control. (Choose two.)

**A.** headstrong

**B.** penitent

**C.** recalcitrant

**D.** contrite

**E.** timorous

**F.** energized

## ANSWER: B D

**Explanation:**

The sentence portrays “planet fetishizers” as envisioning a moral transformation in which humanity recognizes the damage it has done to the environment and seeks to restore Earth to an earlier, unspoiled condition. That vision calls for words meaning remorseful or repentant. **penitent** means feeling or showing sorrow and regret for wrongdoing, especially with an implication of reform. A suddenly penitent humanity would therefore be one that has become conscious of its environmental harms and wants to make amends through restoration. **contrite** likewise means sincerely remorseful and regretful for one’s faults or offenses. A contrite humanity fits the same idea: people would acknowledge their culpability and turn toward repairing ecological damage. The contrast with “planet managers,” who emphasize technological control, reinforces that the first group is imagined as relying on an ethical or spiritual change in human attitudes rather than primarily on technical solutions. Because penitent and contrite are close synonyms and both precisely express remorse leading toward corrective action, they form the required pair. See the definitions of penitent and contrite.

## QUESTION NO: 32

A city introduced a fare-free bus route linking its central railway station to a university district. Ridership on the route rose substantially during the first year. Some officials cited this increase as proof that the program had reduced automobile use. However, the city did not collect information about how the new riders had previously traveled. Moreover, the first year of the program coincided with a reduction in parking spaces near the university.

Which of the following conclusions are warranted by the passage? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** The rise in bus ridership alone does not prove that automobile use declined.

**B.** The reduction in parking spaces may have contributed to the rise in bus ridership.

**C.** The fare-free route had no effect on transportation choices.

**D.** The reduction in parking spaces was the only cause of the rise in bus ridership.

## ANSWER: A B

**Explanation:**

The increase in bus ridership establishes that more trips were taken on the fare-free route, but it does not establish the former modes of travel of those riders. Some riders may have previously walked, cycled, used another bus, or made trips they would not otherwise have made. The simultaneous reduction in university parking also introduces another plausible factor that could have influenced travel behavior.

Accordingly, the passage supports the claim that the evidence is insufficient to demonstrate a reduction in automobile use and that the parking change complicates efforts to isolate the effect of the fare-free policy. It does not show that the policy had no effect on car use or that parking availability was the sole explanation for increased ridership.

## QUESTION NO: 33

Sarah needs to make a cake and some cookies. The cake requires 3/8 cup of sugar and the cookies require 3/5 cup of sugar. Sarah has 15/16 cups of sugar. Does she have enough sugar, or how much more does she need?

**A.** She has enough sugar.

**B.** She needs 1/8 of a cup of sugar.

**C.** She needs 3/80 of a cup of sugar.

**D.** She needs 4/19 of a cup of sugar.

**E.** She needs 1/9 of a cup of sugar.

## ANSWER: C

**Explanation:**

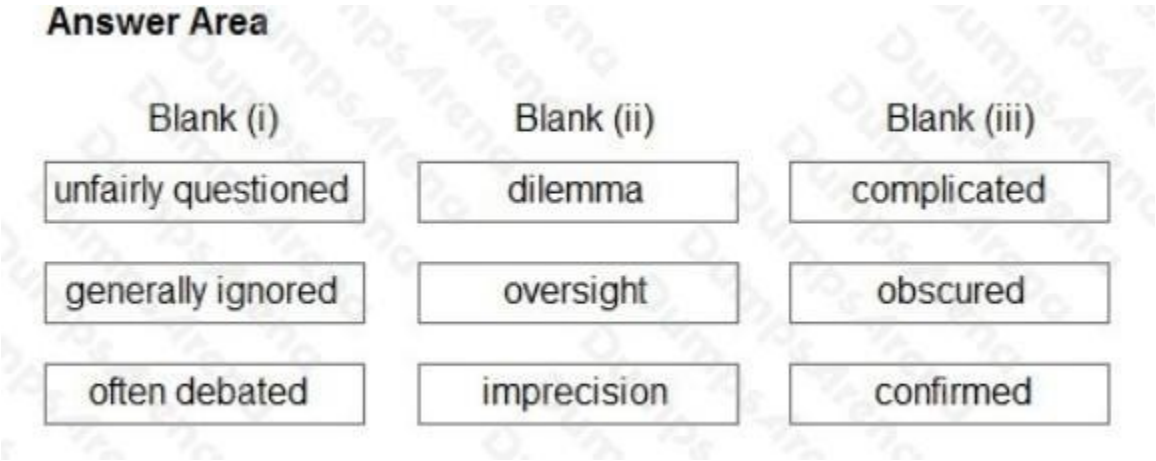
She needs 3/80 of a cup of sugar. To find the total amount required, first add the sugar needed for the cake and cookies: 3/8 + 3/5. A common denominator for 8 and 5 is 40, so 3/8 equals 15/40 and 3/5 equals 24/40. Together, the recipes require 39/40 cup of sugar. Sarah has 15/16 cup, which can be expressed with a denominator of 80: 15/16 = 75/80. The required amount is also 39/40 = 78/80. Subtracting the amount she has from the amount required gives 78/80 − 75/80 = 3/80. Therefore, her available sugar falls short by 3/80 cup. This approach follows the standard fraction procedure of rewriting fractions with a common denominator before adding or subtracting them. For a review of adding and subtracting unlike fractions, see Khan Academy. ETS also provides quantitative-reasoning preparation materials at GRE preparation resources.

## QUESTION NO: 34 - (HOTSPOT)

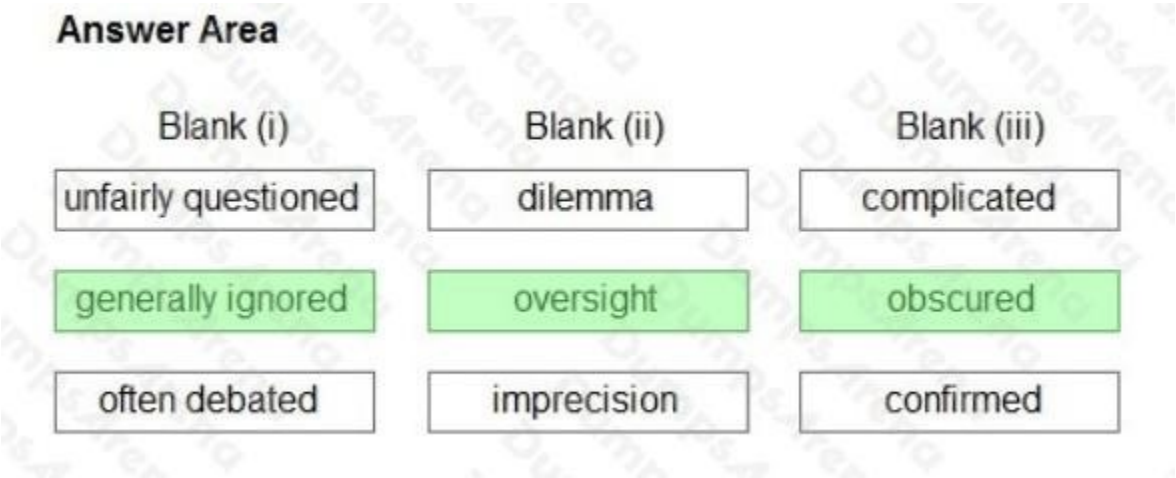
HOTSPOT

Scholars of early modern India's Mughal empire have (i) _____, the role Sanskrit, India's premier classical tongue played in Mughal political, intellectual, and literary activities. This (ii) _____ has (iii) _____, the Mughal emperors' close relationship with the Sanskrit culture.

**Hot Area:**




**ANSWER:**




**Explanation:**

The completed sentence should say that scholars have **generally ignored** Sanskrit's role in Mughal political, intellectual, and literary life. The adverb "generally" signals a broad scholarly tendency rather than a disagreement or a difficult choice. "Ignored" fits because the sentence is describing a subject that did in fact matter but has not received the attention it deserves. This creates a natural causal link to the next sentence: failure to notice or sufficiently consider an important subject is an **oversight**. An oversight is an omission caused by failing to notice, consider, or account for something, as

reflected in the definition from Merriam-Webster. Here, the overlooked role of Sanskrit is exactly the omission under discussion.

That oversight has **obscured** the Mughal emperors' close relationship with Sanskrit culture. "Obscured" means made less clear, less visible, or harder to recognize. The scholars' neglect did not necessarily erase the historical relationship itself; instead, it prevented that relationship from being fully seen and understood in historical scholarship. This use precisely preserves the distinction between the historical reality—the emperors' close relationship with Sanskrit culture—and the way that reality has been represented or understood by later scholars. The verb's sense of concealing or making unclear is consistent with the definition provided by Cambridge Dictionary.

Together, the completed wording presents a coherent scholarly claim: inadequate attention to Sanskrit has led historians to miss the full extent of its connection to Mughal imperial culture. The sequence moves logically from neglect, to the resulting omission in scholarship, to the historical relationship becoming less apparent. This progression supplies both the grammatical fit and the intended meaning of the passage.

## QUESTION NO: 35

Find the square of 25/9.

**A.** 5/3

**B.** 3/5

**C.** 7 58/81

**D.** 15/2

**E.** 650/81

## ANSWER: C

**Explanation:**

The correct answer is **7 58/81**. To square a fraction, square its numerator and denominator separately: $(25/9)^2 = 25^2/9^2 = 625/81$. Because 625 is greater than 81, this improper fraction can be written as a mixed number. Dividing 625 by 81 gives a whole-number quotient of 7, since $81 \times 7 = 567$. The remainder is $625 - 567 = 58$, so $625/81 = 7\ 58/81$. The fractional part is already in simplest form because 58 and 81 have no common factor greater than 1. This calculation follows the standard exponent rule for quotients: when an entire fraction is raised to a power, both the numerator and denominator receive that exponent. In this case, squaring preserves the positive value of the fraction and produces an exact result rather than an approximation. For a review of exponent rules involving fractions, see Khan Academy's exponent-properties review. The GRE Quantitative Reasoning section assesses foundational arithmetic skills such as operations with fractions; see the ETS Quantitative Reasoning overview.

## QUESTION NO: 36

RUNT : SIBLING

**A.** athlete : league

**B.** spade : suit

**C.** veneer : shield

**D.** penny : currency

**E.** peephole : window

## ANSWER: D

**Explanation:**

**penny : currency** is correct because it preserves the intended relationship of a comparatively smallest member within a broader class. A runt is the notably smallest or weakest young animal in a litter, among animals that are siblings because they share the same parents. Likewise, a penny is the lowest-denomination standard unit of U.S. currency. The analogy depends on recognizing the distinctive “smallest member” characteristic rather than merely a loose category relationship. In modern U.S. monetary usage, the penny represents one cent, which is the smallest denomination of circulating U.S. coinage and is part of the nation’s currency system. The U.S. Mint identifies the penny as the one-cent coin and provides its specifications and current role in circulation. This makes “penny : currency” the closest parallel to “runt : sibling”: each first term identifies an especially small member considered in relation to a broader set. See the United States Mint’s coin specifications and the Britannica Dictionary definition of “runt”.

## QUESTION NO: 37

There have been numerous well-documented extinctions of indigenous species caused by the introduction of nonindigenous predators and pathogens. However, surprisingly few extinctions of indigenous species can be attributed to competition from introduced species. For example, during the past 400 years, 4.000 plant species have been introduced into North America, and these nonindigenous plants currently account for nearly 20 percent of North America’s plant species. Yet no evidence exists that any indigenous North American plant species became extinct as a result of competition from introduced plant species. The scarcity of documented extinctions caused by competition from new species could mean that such extinctions take longer to occur than scientists initially believed or, alternatively, that extinctions are rarely caused by competition from nonindigenous species.

The author introduces statistics about North America’s nonindigenous plant species primarily in order to

**A.** undermine a proposed explanation for the absence of any evidence for the occurrence of a particular phenomenon

**B.** contrast the effect of introduced plant species in North America with the effect that introduced animal species have had

**C.** suggest that North America’s indigenous plants are a domain in which there has been ample scope for a particular effect to have occurred

**D.** emphasize how much the ecology of North America has been affected over the past 400 years by the introduction of nonindigenous species

**E.** substantiate a claim about the overall effect that the introduction of nonindigenous species tends to have on indigenous populations

## ANSWER: C

**Explanation:**

The statistics are used to show that North America has had substantial exposure to introduced plant competitors: thousands of nonindigenous plant species have arrived over four centuries, and they make up a large share of the continent’s plant life. This establishes that there has been ample opportunity for competition from introduced plants to eliminate indigenous plants if such competitive extinctions commonly occurred or happened quickly. The author then notes the striking absence of evidence that an indigenous North American plant has become extinct because of that competition. Thus, the numerical details do not merely describe ecological change; they create the factual setting needed to assess the proposed phenomenon. A large number of introduced species, a meaningful proportion of the flora, and a long period of time together make North America an appropriate domain in which competitive extinctions could reasonably have been expected to appear. This is a GRE Reading Comprehension function question: the relevant task is to identify how evidence supports the argument’s inference, rather than to select a statement that simply repeats a detail. ETS describes GRE Verbal Reasoning questions as testing the ability to analyze and evaluate written material in context; see ETS GRE Verbal Reasoning and ETS GRE practice materials.

## QUESTION NO: 38

In a study of several marshes, ecologists found that sites with the greatest variety of plant species did not always support the greatest number of insect species. However, marshes containing a mixture of plant heights and growth forms consistently supported more insect species than marshes whose vegetation, though equally diverse in species, was structurally uniform. The researchers infer that vegetation structure affects the availability of shelter and feeding sites.

Which of the following statements are most strongly supported by the passage? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** Plant-species diversity alone does not determine insect-species diversity in the marshes studied.

**B.** Variation in the physical structure of vegetation may promote insect diversity.

**C.** Every marsh with many plant species has few insect species.

**D.** Insect activity is the primary cause of differences in plant growth forms.

**E.** A particular plant species is required to sustain a diverse insect population.

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

The passage distinguishes plant-species diversity from vegetation structure. Since equally diverse sites differed in insect diversity according to structural variation, plant diversity alone is not sufficient to predict insect diversity. The researchers also infer that structurally varied vegetation influences shelter and feeding opportunities. The study does not establish that any one plant species is necessary or that insects cause variation in plant height.

## QUESTION NO: 39

Despite relying on the well-to-do for commissions, the portrait painter was no sycophant: he did not _____ when it came to depicting his patrons' wrinkles, blemishes, or self-satisfied expressions. (Choose two.)

**A.** demur

**B.** dissimulate

**C.** exaggerate

**D.** hyperbolize

**E.** excel

**F.** scruple

**ANSWER: B F**

**Explanation:**

The sentence establishes that the painter depended financially on wealthy patrons but was "no sycophant," meaning that he did not flatter them ingratiatingly. His willingness to portray wrinkles, blemishes, and smug expressions indicates that he neither concealed the unflattering truth nor hesitated out of concern for offending the subjects. "Dissimulate" correctly fits because it means to disguise or conceal one's true character, feelings, or facts. In the context of portraiture, the painter did not dissimulate by hiding the visible imperfections and expressions of his patrons; he represented them candidly. Merriam-Webster defines *dissimulate* as concealing or disguising one's true nature or feelings: Merriam-Webster: dissimulate.

"Scruple" also fits the grammar and meaning of the blank. As a verb, to scruple means to hesitate or raise an objection because of moral, prudential, or personal concerns. The painter did not scruple when rendering unattractive details, so he did not hold back merely to protect the feelings of the people who paid him. This directness is precisely what the contrast with "no sycophant" requires. See Merriam-Webster: scruple for the verb's sense of hesitating or having qualms.

## QUESTION NO: 40

Although some scholars have attributed the popularity of a nineteenth-century travel narrative to its descriptions of remote landscapes, the book's earliest reviewers devoted equal attention to its detailed accounts of trade routes, lodging prices, and local customs. Later editions retained these practical details even as editors shortened many of the landscape descriptions. The narrative appears to have appealed not only to readers seeking imaginative escape but also to readers considering travel themselves.

Which of the following statements are supported by the passage? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** The narrative included information of practical use to prospective travelers.

**B.** The appeal of the narrative cannot be explained solely by its landscape descriptions.

**C.** Most readers purchased the narrative in order to plan journeys.

**D.** The practical details in the narrative were demonstrated to be accurate by early reviewers.

**ANSWER: A B**

**Explanation:**

The passage supports the view that the narrative had an appeal broader than scenic description alone. Early reviewers discussed both its landscapes and its practical information, and later editors preserved practical material while reducing some descriptive passages. Those details support the inference that readers could value the work as a useful source of travel-related information.

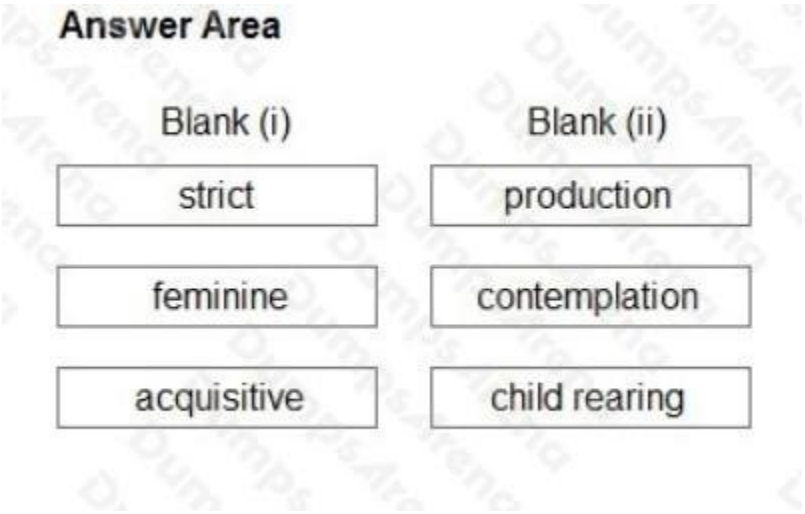
The passage does not establish that all readers intended to travel, that the practical information was fully accurate, or that later editors considered landscape descriptions unimportant.

## QUESTION NO: 41 - (HOTSPOT)

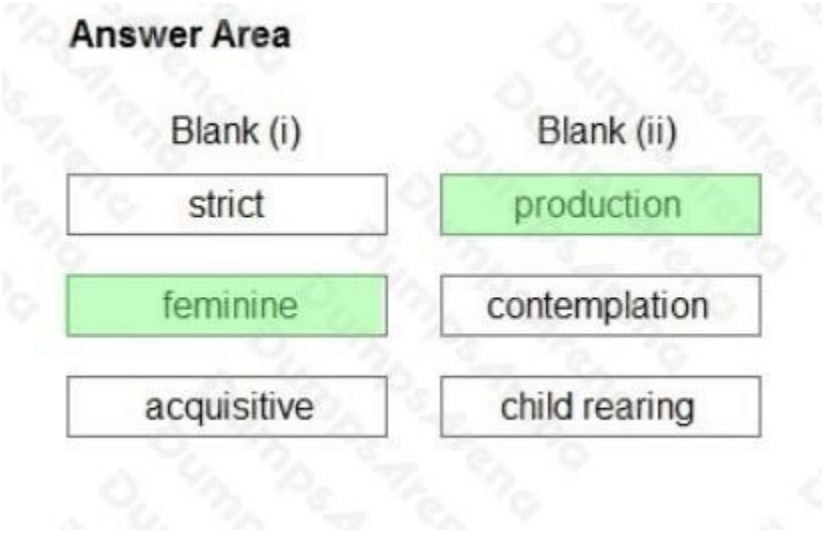
HOTSPOT

The nineteenth-century periodical The Farmer's Wife positioned the farm woman as a consumer, as evidenced by its echoing the (i) _____ sensibilities of consumer-oriented magazines such as Ladies' Home Journal, but in reality the farm woman was often engaged in (ii) _____ as much as in consumption, planting and harvesting alongside other workers in the field.

**Hot Area:**




**ANSWER:**




**Explanation:**

The sentence sets up a contrast between how *The Farmer's Wife* portrayed farm women and what their work actually involved. For the first blank, "feminine" naturally describes the sensibilities associated with consumer-oriented magazines such as *Ladies' Home Journal*. The word points to a style of presentation that treats women as a particular audience with interests, tastes, and domestic identities shaped by popular magazine culture. Thus, the periodical could position the farm woman as a consumer by adopting a feminine tone and outlook familiar from magazines directed toward women.

For the second blank, "production" is supported directly by the concrete activities named after the blank: farm women were "planting and harvesting alongside other workers in the field." Planting and harvesting create agricultural goods, so they are productive labor. The phrase "as much as in consumption" makes the intended contrast especially clear: although the magazine's portrayal emphasized buying and consumer identity, the historical reality included active participation in producing the farm's output. Together, "feminine" and "production" preserve the sentence's contrast between a consumer-oriented cultural image and the material agricultural labor performed by farm women. This use of contextual contrast is a central skill in GRE Text Completion questions; ETS describes the task as selecting words that create a coherent and meaningful completed text in its Verbal Reasoning overview.

## QUESTION NO: 42

A manufacturer replaced a metal component in one of its appliances with a lighter composite material. Laboratory tests showed that the revised appliance used less energy during operation. Consumer reports, however, indicated that some users replaced the composite component more often than they had replaced the metal one. The manufacturer argues that the redesign is environmentally beneficial because lower energy use reduces emissions associated with electricity generation.

Which of the following considerations would be relevant to evaluating the manufacturer's environmental claim? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** The environmental effects of manufacturing and disposing of replacement composite components.

**B.** The extent to which reduced operating energy offsets emissions associated with more frequent replacement.

**C.** Whether consumers prefer the appearance of the composite component.

**D.** Whether the revised appliance sells for a higher retail price.

## ANSWER: A B

**Explanation:**

To evaluate the overall environmental effect of the redesign, it is necessary to consider more than energy consumption during operation. If the composite component requires more frequent replacement, the environmental costs of producing, transporting, and disposing of additional components may affect the overall result. It is also relevant to compare the emissions avoided through lower electricity use with the emissions generated across the replacement component's life cycle.

The color preferences of consumers and the appliance's retail price may matter commercially, but they do not directly bear on the stated environmental claim.

## QUESTION NO: 43

RITE : CEREMONY

**A.** magnitude : size

**B.** affliction : blessing

**C.** clamor : silence

**D.** pall : clarity

**E.** agitation : calm

## ANSWER: A

**Explanation:**

The correct answer is **magnitude : size** because it reproduces the relationship of near-synonymy in the stem. A rite is a formal or prescribed act, especially one associated with religious or ceremonial observance; a ceremony is a formal occasion or set of ritual actions. Thus, a rite can accurately be described as a ceremony, with both words referring to formal observances. Merriam-Webster defines “rite” as a prescribed form or manner governing the words or actions for a ceremony, while its definition of “ceremony” includes a formal act or series of acts prescribed by ritual or custom. See Merriam-Webster: rite and Merriam-Webster: ceremony. Similarly, magnitude means greatness of size, extent, or importance, and size refers to physical dimensions or extent. In the intended analogy relationship, “magnitude” and “size” are closely equivalent terms, just as “rite” and “ceremony” are closely equivalent terms. The pair therefore preserves both the direction and the semantic relationship required by the analogy.

## QUESTION NO: 44

Even though no other urban center on Earth thrived for so long, the ancient Mesopotamian city of Uruk remains _____ in comparison with its more famous neighbor, Babylon. (Choose two.)

**A.** prominent

**B.** obscure

**C.** unknown

**D.** ornate

**E.** popular

**F.** prosperous

## ANSWER: B C

**Explanation:**

The sentence sets up a contrast between Uruk’s extraordinary historical importance and its comparatively limited modern fame. The concessive phrase “Even though no other urban center on Earth thrived for so long” emphasizes that Uruk was a major, enduring city; the word “remains” then signals that, despite this significance, it receives less recognition than Babylon. Both “obscure” and “unknown” express this relative lack of public familiarity. In this context, “unknown” is not an absolute claim that no one knows of Uruk; rather, it means much less widely known when placed beside the exceptionally famous Babylon. That relative use is common in GRE sentence-equivalence questions, where two answers must produce equivalent overall meanings and fit the sentence’s logic. Uruk was one of ancient Mesopotamia’s earliest and most influential cities, associated with early urbanization and writing, while Babylon has a particularly prominent place in historical and cultural

memory. Background on Uruk is available from Encyclopaedia Britannica's Uruk entry, and Babylon's historical prominence is described in Britannica's Babylon entry.

## QUESTION NO: 45

Employees of a discount appliance store receive an additional 20% off of the lowest price on an item. If an employee purchases a dishwasher during a 15% off sale, how much will he pay if the dishwasher originally cost $450?

**A.** $280.90

**B.** $287

**C.** $292.50

**D.** $306

**E.** $333.89

## ANSWER: D

**Explanation:**

The correct answer is **$306**. The 15% sale discount is applied first to the dishwasher's original $450 price. Fifteen percent of $450 is $67.50, so the sale price—the lowest price available to the public—is $382.50. The employee then receives an additional 20% discount on that reduced price, rather than a 20% discount on the original price. Twenty percent of $382.50 is $76.50. Subtracting this employee discount from the sale price gives $382.50 − $76.50 = $306.

Equivalently, successive discounts can be calculated by multiplying the remaining-price percentages: after a 15% reduction, 85% of the original price remains; after an additional 20% reduction, 80% of that sale price remains. Thus the employee pays $450 × 0.85 × 0.80 = $306. This is a standard percent-change calculation: consecutive percentage discounts are applied sequentially, because each later percentage uses the current reduced amount as its base. For a review of percentage concepts and successive changes, see ETS GRE Quantitative Reasoning and Khan Academy's percentage review.

## QUESTION NO: 46

When a museum replaced lengthy wall labels with short labels that posed questions rather than supplied interpretations, visitors spent more time in the galleries. Some commentators concluded that the questions caused visitors to look more closely at the art. Yet the revised labels were also printed in larger type and placed at eye level, whereas the earlier labels had often been difficult to read. The increase in viewing time therefore cannot be attributed confidently to the wording of the labels alone.

Which of the following, if true, would most help determine whether the questions themselves increased viewing time? (Choose all that apply.)

**A.** Whether visitors spend more time with question labels than with declarative labels of the same length, type size, and placement

**B.** Whether shortening labels without changing their declarative wording increases viewing time when type size and placement are held constant

**C.** Whether visitors to the museum generally prefer paintings to sculptures

**D.** Whether the new labels cost more to print than the old labels

**E.** Whether the museum added new works to its collection during the same year

## ANSWER: A B

**Explanation:**

A useful investigation would hold label placement and readability constant while varying only wording. Comparing question labels with declarative labels in the same format would isolate wording. Likewise, comparing short labels with and without questions when both use identical type size and placement would help identify the effect of questions. Information about visitors’ preferred artists or the cost of printing labels would not resolve the causal uncertainty described in the passage.