

PREP2012 PACK 1

阅读部分 带解释

共 75 题

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-001-01 VRC00009-01 Medium

The modern multinational corporation is described as having originated when the owner-managers of nineteenth-century British firms carrying on international trade were replaced by teams of salaried managers organized into hierarchies. Increases in the volume of transactions in such firms are commonly believed to have necessitated this structural change. Nineteenth-century inventions the steamship and the telegraph, by facilitating coordination of managerial activities, are described as key factors. Sixteenth- and seventeenth-century chartered trading companies, despite the international scope of their activities, are usually considered irrelevant to this discussion: the volume of their transactions is assumed to have been too low and the communications and transport of their day too primitive to make comparisons with modern multinationals interesting.

In reality, however, early trading companies successfully purchased and outfitted ships, built and operated offices and warehouses, manufactured trade goods for use abroad, maintained trading posts and production facilities overseas, procured goods for import, and sold those goods both at home and in other countries. The large volume of transactions associated with these activities seems to have necessitated hierarchical management structures well before the advent of modern communications and transportation. For example, in the Hudson's Bay Company, each trading outpost was managed by a salaried agent, who carried out the trade with the Native Americans, managed day-to-day operations, and oversaw the post's workers and servants. One chief agent, answerable to the Court of Directors in London through the correspondence committee, was appointed with control over all of the agents on the bay.

The early trading companies did differ strikingly from modern multinationals in many respects. They depended heavily on the national governments of their home countries and thus characteristically acted abroad to promote national interests. Their top managers were typically owners with a substantial minority share, whereas senior managers' holdings in modern multinationals are usually insignificant. They operated in a preindustrial world, grafting a system of capitalist international trade onto a pre-modern system of artisan and peasant production. Despite these differences, however, early trading companies organized effectively in remarkably modern ways and merit further study as analogues of more modern structures.

The author's main point is that

- A. modern multinationals originated in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries with the establishment of chartered trading companies
- B. the success of early chartered trading companies, like that of modern multinationals, depended primarily on their ability to carry out complex operations
- C. early chartered trading companies should be more seriously considered by scholars studying the origins of modern multinationals
- D. scholars are quite mistaken concerning the origins of modern multinationals

- E. the management structures of early chartered trading companies are fundamentally the same as those of modern multinationals

Main idea

To understand the main point of the whole passage, review what the author does in each paragraph. The first paragraph presents the general view that the conditions in which early trading companies operated were too primitive to make a comparison to modern multinational corporations interesting. The second paragraph corrects this impression by citing their complex activities, and the third paragraph, after reminding the reader of important differences between them, closes by saying that early trading companies merit further study as analogues of more modern structures (final line of the passage). The author's main point is to show that an interesting comparison between early trading companies and modern multinational companies exists and deserves further study.

- A. Early trading companies share similarities with modern multinational companies but are not credited with having originated them.
- B. Early trading companies are compared to modern companies on the basis of their complex activities, but their success is not discussed.
- C. **Correct.** An interesting comparison between early trading companies and modern multinational companies may be drawn and should be further studied.
- D. The author does not say that the general view is mistaken, only that a comparison of early and modern companies deserves further study.
- E. Early trading companies had hierarchical management structures (second sentence of the second paragraph), but the author does not say they were the same as those in modern companies.

The Correct Answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-001-02 VRC00009-02 Medium

It can be inferred from the passage that the author would characterize the activities engaged in by early chartered trading companies as being

- A. complex enough in scope to require a substantial amount of planning and coordination on the part of management
- B. too simple to be considered similar to those of a modern multinational corporation
- C. as intricate as those carried out by the largest multinational corporations today
- D. often unprofitable due to slow communications and unreliable means of transportation
- E. hampered by the political demands imposed on them by the governments of their home countries

Inference

To discover what the author believes about the activities of early trading companies, look at the beginning of the second paragraph. The previous paragraph had ended with the prevailing dismissal of these companies as unimportant. The author begins the second paragraph with a transitional expression, in reality, however, to emphasize a contrasting point of view. The first sentence lists an impressive array of complex activities, and in the next sentence the author notes that the large volume of transactions associated with these activities seems to have necessitated hierarchical management structures. The author believes the complex activities of the early companies required a multi-leveled management structure to oversee them.

- A. **Correct.** The activities of early trading companies were so complex that they required hierarchical management structures to oversee them (second sentence of the second paragraph).
- B. This is the prevailing view rather than the author's view.
- C. The author demonstrates their complexity, but does not claim they are as intricate as those of modern multinational corporations.
- D. The large volume of transactions suggests they were profitable, but the author's focus is on the complexity of the activities rather than on their outcomes.
- E. The author shows they depended heavily on the governments of their counties (second sentence of the final paragraph), but does not imply they were hampered by politics.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-001-03 VRC00009-03 Hard

The author the various activities of early chartered trading companies in order to

- A. analyze the various ways in which these activities contributed to changes in management structure in such companies
- B. demonstrate that the volume of business transactions of such companies exceeded that of earlier firms
- C. refute the view that the volume of business undertaken by such companies was relatively low
- D. emphasize the international scope of these companies' operations
- E. support the argument that such firms coordinated such activities by using available means of communication and transport

Logical structure

To find the purpose of the list in the first sentence of the second paragraph, look at the context that surrounds it. The previous paragraph closes with the point of view, not shared by the author, that the volume of transactions of these early companies is assumed to be low. The author immediately contradicts this evaluation and counters it by listing the activities the trading companies actually engaged in, noting the large volume of transactions associated with these activities. Thus, the author includes this list in order to attack the common assumption that the volume of business transactions was low.

- A. Management structures were necessary to oversee the activities, but the passage does not mention specific ways in which the activities contributed to changes.
- B. No comparison to earlier firms is made.
- C. **Correct.** The first sentence contradicts the statement in the previous paragraph that the volume of transactions was low.
- D. The international scope of the activities is not in question in the passage and does not need to be defended.
- E. The list is included to argue against a common assumption, not to argue for a position that this passage does not call into question.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-001-04 VRC00009-04 Medium

With which of the following generalizations regarding management structures would the author of the passage most probably agree?

- A. Hierarchical management structures are the most efficient management structures possible in a modern context.
- B. Firms that routinely have a high volume of business transactions find it necessary to adopt hierarchical management structures.
- C. Hierarchical management structures cannot be successfully implemented without modern communications and transportation.
- D. Modern multinational firms with a relatively small volume of business transactions usually do not have hierarchically organized management structures.
- E. Companies that adopt hierarchical management structures usually do so in order to facilitate expansion into foreign trade.

Application

Consider what the author says about hierarchical management structures in the second paragraph in order to find a statement (independent of the passage) with which the author would agree. After listing activities of the early trading companies, the author says in the second sentence of the second paragraph: The large volume of transactions associated with these activities seems to have necessitated hierarchical management structures. Thus, it is that the author would agree that, in general, firms with large volumes of transactions must have hierarchical management structures.

- A. Since the passage does not discuss hierarchical management as the most efficient possible in a modern context, there is no evidence that the author would agree.
- B. **Correct.** The author would agree that firms with large volumes of transactions need hierarchical management structures.
- C. This statement is explicitly contradicted in the second sentence of the second paragraph.
- D. The passage links hierarchical management with a high volume of business but provides no evidence about a low volume of business.
- E. The high volume of transactions, rather than trade, necessitates hierarchical management.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-001-05 VRC00009-05 Medium

The passage suggests that modern multinationals differ from early chartered trading companies in that

- A. the top managers of modern multinationals own stock in their own companies rather than simply receiving a salary
- B. modern multinationals depend on a system of capitalist international trade rather than on less modern trading systems
- C. modern multinationals have operations in a number of different foreign countries rather than merely in one or two
- D. the operations of modern multinationals are highly profitable despite the more stringent environmental and safety regulations of modern governments
- E. the overseas operations of modern multinationals are not governed by the national interests of their home countries

Logical structure

To answer this question, examine how the author uses this reference. It occurs in the next-to-last sentence of the passage as the last of three examples that show the differences between early trading companies and modern multinational companies. The trading companies operated in a preindustrial world, dependent on a premodern system of artisan and peasant production. With this example, the author is showing one of the differences between early and modern companies.

- A. The author does not show that artisan and peasant production systems were unhampered by primitive communication and transport.
- B. This reference points to a dissimilarity, not a similarity.
- C. The passage does not show artisan and peasant production as a positive achievement.
- D. The author does not link artisan and peasant production with management hierarchies.
- E. **Correct.** The author uses the example of artisan and peasant production systems to illustrate one of the differences between early and modern companies.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-002-01 VRC07544-01 Hard

A meteor stream is composed of dust particles that have been ejected from a parent comet at a variety of velocities. These particles follow the same orbit as the parent comet, but due to their differing velocities they slowly gain on or fall behind the disintegrating comet until a shroud of dust surrounds the entire cometary orbit. Astronomers have hypothesized that a meteor stream should broaden with time as the dust particles' individual orbits are perturbed by planetary gravitational fields. A recent computer-modeling experiment tested this hypothesis by tracking the influence of planetary gravitation over a projected 5,000-year period on the position of a group of hypothetical dust particles. In the model, the particles were randomly distributed throughout a computer simulation of the orbit of an actual meteor stream, the Geminid. The researcher found, as expected, that the computer-model stream broadened with time. Conventional theories, however, predicted that the distribution of particles would be increasingly dense toward the center of a meteor stream. Surprisingly, the computer-model meteor stream gradually came to resemble a thick-walled, hollow pipe.

Whenever the Earth passes through a meteor stream, a meteor shower occurs. Moving at over 1,500,000 miles per day around its orbit, the Earth would take, on average, just over a day to cross the hollow, computer-model Geminid stream if the stream were 5,000 years old. Two brief periods of peak meteor activity during the shower would be observed, one as the Earth entered the thick-walled "pipe" and one as it exited. There is no reason why the Earth should always pass through the stream's exact center, so the time interval between the two bursts of activity would vary from one year to the next.

Has the predicted twin-peaked activity been observed for the actual yearly Geminid meteor shower? The Geminid data between 1970 and 1979 show just such a bifurcation, a secondary burst of meteor activity being clearly visible at an average of 19 hours (1,200,000 miles) after the first burst. The time intervals between the bursts suggest the actual Geminid stream is about 3,000 years old.

The author states that the research described in the first paragraph was undertaken in order to

- A. determine the age of an actual meteor stream
- B. identify the various structural features of meteor streams
- C. explore the nature of a particularly interesting meteor stream
- D. test the hypothesis that meteor streams become broader as they age
- E. show that a computer model could help in explaining actual astronomical data

Supporting ideas

The question tells the reader where to look and what to look for: an explicit statement in the first paragraph about why the computer model was constructed. The third and fourth sentences of the first paragraph provide the reference needed to answer this question. Astronomers hypothesized that a meteor stream should broaden with time... A recent computer-mode/in experiment tested this hypothesis. Thus, the research was conducted in order to test the hypothesis that meteor streams broaden with age.

- A. The last paragraph shows that the approximate age of the Geminid meteor stream was determined as a result of the research, but it was not the reason the research was undertaken in the first place.
- B. The computer model came up with an unexpected finding about the structure of meteor streams; however, the research was undertaken not to identify the structure of the meteor streams, but to determine if they broaden over time.
- C. The purpose of the research was to test a general hypothesis about all meteor streams, not to explore one meteor stream in particular.
- D. **Correct.** The purpose of the research is explicitly stated in the first paragraph: to test the hypothesis that meteor streams broaden as they age.
- E. Although the computer model did explain actual data, the purpose of the research was not to show the computer's usefulness, but rather to test the astronomers' hypothesis.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-002-02 VRC07544-02 Hard

It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following would most probably be observed during the Earth's passage through a meteor stream if the conventional theories mentioned in the highlighted text were correct?

- A. Meteor activity would gradually increase to a single, intense peak, and then gradually decline.
- B. Meteor activity would be steady throughout the period of the meteor shower.
- C. Meteor activity would rise to a peak at the beginning and at the end of the meteor shower.
- D. Random bursts of very high meteor activity would be interspersed with periods of very activity.
- E. In years in which the Earth passed through only the outer areas of a meteor stream, meteor activity would be absent.

Inference

An inference is drawn from stated information. Begin by looking at the information about conventional theories in the sentence containing the highlighted text. Conventional theories held that the distribution of particles would be increasingly dense toward the center of the meteor stream. If the conventional theories were true, it could be inferred that there would be one intense period of activity as the Earth passed through the dense center of the meteor stream. The computer model showed instead that meteor stream resembled a thick-walled, hollow pipe. The next-to-last sentence of the second paragraph explains that, according to the computer model's prediction, Earth would experience two periods of meteor activity as it passed through the meteor stream, one as it entered the "pipe" and one as it exited. Observation of the Geminid meteor shower shows just such a bifurcation.

- A. **Correct.** Since the conventional theories predicted an increasingly dense center, Earth would experience a gradual increase of meteor activity, an intense peak at dense center, then a gradual decrease.
- B. For meteor activity to be steady, the distribution of dust particles would have to be more or less the same across the stream, not increasingly dense toward the center.
- C. C This bifurcated meteor activity was predicted by the computer model, not by conventional theories.
- D. D Conventional theories propose a dense center, which is not a structure that would result in such erratic meteor activity.

- E. E A meteor shower always occurs when Earth passes through a meteor stream (See the first sentence of the second paragraph).

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-002-03 VRC07544-03 Hard

According to the passage, why do the dust particles in a meteor stream eventually surround a comet's original orbit?

- A. They are ejected by the comet at differing velocities.
- B. Their orbits are uncontrolled by planetary gravitational fields.
- C. They become part of the meteor stream at different times.
- D. Their velocity slows over time.
- E. Their ejection velocity is slower than that of the comet.

Supporting ideas

This question asks for information stated in the passage. The first paragraph describes the composition and behavior of meteor streams. The dust particles that make up the meteor stream are ejected from the comet at a variety of velocities. Eventually, a shroud of dust surrounds the entire cometary orbit because of the differing velocities of these dust particles.

- A. **Correct.** The first two sentences of the passage show that, due to their differing velocities, the dust particles eventually surround the comet's orbit.
- B. The first two sentences of the passage explain that the dust particles' orbits are dislocated by, and thus under the control of, planetary gravitational fields.
- C. The passage does not indicate that the dust particles join the meteor stream at different times.
- D. The passage gives no evidence that the velocity of the dust particles slows.
- E. The passage does not say that the ejection velocity is slower than the comet's velocity.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-002-04 VRC07544-04 Hard

The passage suggests that which of the following is a prediction concerning meteor streams that can be derived from both the conventional theories mentioned in the highlighted text and the new computer derived theory?

- A. Dust particles in a meteor stream will usually be distributed evenly throughout any cross section of the stream.
- B. The orbits of most meteor streams should cross the orbit of the Earth at some point and give rise to a meteor shower.
- C. Over time the distribution of dust in a meteor stream will usually become denser at the outside edges of the stream than at the center.
- D. Meteor showers caused by older meteor streams should be, on average, longer in duration than those caused by very young meteor streams.
- E. The individual dust particles in older meteor streams should be, on average, smaller than those that compose younger meteor streams.

Inference

The question's use of the word suggests means that the answer depends on making an inference. The third sentence of the passage states the hypothesis that a meteor stream should broaden with time; this hypothesis is consistent with both conventional and computer-derived theories regarding the nature of the center of the meteor stream. Thus, the broader the meteor stream is, the older it is. The first sentence of the second paragraph states that meteor showers occur whenever Earth passes through a meteor stream. It can be inferred that if the meteor stream is older and broader, Earth will experience longer periods of meteor showers as it passes through this broad stream than it would if the meteor stream were younger and therefore less broad.

- A. Conventional theories predict a dense center, and the computer model predicts a pipe-like structure; neither theory is consistent with an even distribution of dust particles.
- B. Neither theory makes predictions about the orbits of most meteor streams.
- C. Conventional theories predict a dense center, not a dense exterior.
- D. **Correct.** Both theories contend that meteor streams broaden over time. An older, broader meteor stream means that Earth will experience longer meteor showers from start to finish than it would if it were to pass through a younger, narrower meteor stream.

E. The passage does not discuss the size of individual dust particles.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-002-05 VRC07544-05 Medium

Which of the following is an assumption underlying the last sentence of the passage?

- A. In each of the years between 1970 and 1979, the Earth took exactly 19 hours to cross the Geminid meteor stream.
- B. The comet associated with the Geminid meteor stream has totally disintegrated.
- C. The Geminid meteor stream should continue to exist for at least 5,000 years.
- D. The Geminid meteor stream has not broadened as rapidly as the conventional theories would have predicted.
- E. The computer—model Geminid meteor stream provides an accurate representation of the development of the actual Geminid stream.

Logical structure

The last sentence establishes the approximate date of the Geminid meteor stream. How is this date determined? The computer model shows that the Earth would cross the meteor stream in a little more than 24 hours if the stream were 5,000 years old (second sentence of the second paragraph). One decade's data show that the Earth crossed the meteor stream in an average of 19 hours (second sentence of the final paragraph). The conclusion that the stream is about 3,000 years old assumes that the computer model is accurate.

- A. The data provide an average time, not an exact time for each year.
- B. The passage does not mention the comet associated with the meteor stream.
- C. The passage does not predict the longevity of the meteor stream.
- D. The computer model confirmed the hypothesis about broadening over time proposed by conventional theories; to do this, it projected a 5,000-year period, but that does not mean that astronomers expected the actual stream to be older or broader than it was.
- E. **Correct.** The assumption is that the computer model accurately represents the development of the actual Geminid meteor stream.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-003-01 VRC07619-01 Medium

Two recent publications offer different assessments of the career of the famous British nurse Florence Nightingale. A book by Anne Summers seeks to debunk the idealizations and present a reality at odds with Nightingale's heroic reputation. According to Summers, Nightingale's importance during the Crimean War has been exaggerated: not until near the war's end did she become supervisor of the female nurses. Additionally, Summers writes that the contribution of the nurses to the relief of the wounded was at best marginal. The prevailing problems of military medicine were caused by army organizational practices, and the addition of a few nurses to the medical staff could be no more than symbolic. Nightingale's place in the national pantheon, Summers asserts, is largely due to the propagandistic efforts of contemporary newspaper reporters.

By contrast, the editors of a new volume of Nightingale's letters view Nightingale as a person who significantly influenced not only her own age but also subsequent generations. They highlight her ongoing efforts to reform sanitary conditions after the war. For example, when she learned that peacetime living conditions in British barracks were so horrible that the death rate of enlisted men far exceeded that of neighboring civilian populations, she succeeded in persuading the government to establish a Royal Commission on the Health of the Army. She used sums raised through public contributions to found a nurses' training hospital in London. Even in administrative matters, the editors assert, her practical intelligence was formidable: as recently as 1947 the British Army's medical services were still using the cost-accounting system she had devised in the 1860's.

I believe that the evidence of her letters supports continued respect for Nightingale's brilliance and creativity. When counseling a village schoolmaster to encourage children to use their faculties of observation, she sounds like a modern educator. Her insistence on classifying the problems of the needy in order to devise appropriate treatments is similar to the approach of modern social workers. In sum, although Nightingale may not have achieved all of her goals during the Crimean War, her breadth of vision and ability to realize ambitious projects have earned her an eminent place among the ranks of social pioneers.

The passage is primarily concerned with evaluating

- A. the importance of Florence Nightingale's innovations in the field of nursing
- B. contrasting approaches to the writing of historical biography
- C. contradictory accounts of Florence Nightingale's historical significance
- D. the quality of health care in nineteenth century England
- E. the effect of the Crimean War on developments in the field of health care

Main idea

Consider the passage as a whole to answer this question. The author begins by announcing that two recent works about Florence Nightingale offer different assessments of her career and then summarizes those accounts. One book seeks to debunk her reputation and historical significance, while the other promotes her significance to not only her own age but also subsequent generations. In the final paragraph, the author takes a position synthesizing the two views.

- A. Nightingale's involvement in nursing is discussed, but not her nursing innovations.
- B. The passage concerns two books about an historical figure, not the writing of historical biography.
- C. **Correct.** The passage focuses on two books with different assessments of Nightingale's significance.
- D. The passage refers to some specific health care problems during and after the Crimean War, but it does not evaluate the general of health care over the course of the nineteenth century.
- E. No such effects are discussed in the passage.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-003-02 VRC07619-02 Hard

According to the passage, the editors of Nightingale's letters credit her with contributing to which of the following?

- A. Improvement of the survival rate for soldiers in British Army hospitals during the Crimean War
- B. The development of a nurses' training curriculum that was far in advance of its day
- C. The increase in the number of women doctors practicing in British Army hospitals
- D. Establishment of the first facility for training nurses at a major British university
- E. The creation of an organization for monitoring the peacetime living conditions of British soldiers

Supporting ideas

This question asks the reader to find specific information that is explicitly stated. In the second paragraph, the author lists the achievements the editors of Nightingale's letters attribute to her. Among them is her work to improve sanitary conditions. When she learned how bad the peacetime living conditions of British soldiers were, she persuaded the government to establish a Royal Commission on the Health of the Army.

- A. The passage discusses Nightingale's work after the war, but the survival rate during the war is not mentioned.
- B. Nightingale founded a nurses' training hospital (mentioned in the next-to-last sentence of the second paragraph), but its curriculum is not examined.
- C. No information is given about women doctors.
- D. The passage does not discuss whether the nurses' training hospital that Nightingale founded was the first of its kind or whether it was at a major British university.
- E. **Correct.** Nightingale persuaded the government to create a commission overseeing British soldiers' conditions.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-003-03 VRC07619-03 Easy

In the last paragraph, the author is primarily concerned with

- A. summarizing the arguments about Nightingale presented in the first two paragraphs
- B. refuting the view of Nightingale's career presented in the preceding paragraph
- C. analyzing the weaknesses of the evidence presented elsewhere in the passage
- D. citing evidence to support a view of Nightingale's career
- E. correcting a factual error occurring in one of the works under review

Main idea

The author begins the last paragraph in the first person, I believe, in order to take a position on Nightingale's historical significance. With one concession to Summers' work, the author uses the letters as evidence of Nightingale's extraordinary abilities. The author believes that Nightingale's work has earned her a respected place in history.

- A. Beginning with I believe shows that the author intends to do more than simply summarize.
- B. The author largely supports the view of Nightingale presented in the second paragraph.
- C. The last paragraph does analyze weak evidence, but its purpose is to state a position.
- D. **Correct.** The author cites evidence in Nightingale's letters and actions that support a highly favorable view of her career.
- E. No such correction appears in the final paragraph.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-003-04 VRC07619-04 Easy

The passage suggests which of the following about Nightingale's relationship with the British public of her day?

- A. She was highly respected, her projects receiving popular and governmental support.
- B. She encountered resistance both from the army establishment and the general public.
- C. She was supported by the working classes and opposed by the wealthier classes.
- D. She was supported by the military establishment but had to fight the governmental bureaucrat.
- E. After initially being received with enthusiasm, she was quickly forgotten.

Inference

An inference is drawn from stated information. This question asks the reader to gather the hints appearing throughout the passage about Nightingale's relationship with her public. Nightingale was idealized and had a heroic reputation (second sentence of the first paragraph); she occupied a place in the national pantheon (final sentence of the first paragraph). Moreover her projects were successful: she persuaded the government to establish a health commission and the public to fund a nurses' training hospital. The logical inference from the information given is that Nightingale was respected by the British public.

- A. **Correct.** Her heroic reputation implies that she was widely respected. Her success with both the government and the public allowed her projects to be realized.
- B. The passage shows no evidence of resistance either from the army or from the public; indeed, the public contributed to her causes.
- C. The passage does not divide her supporters from her detractors along class lines.
- D. The passage does not mention either military support or government resistance.
- E. She was not quickly forgotten, since the author refers to her as the famous British nurse who has earned an eminent place among the ranks of social pioneers.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-003-05 VRC07619-05 Medium

With which of the following statements regarding the differing interpretations of Nightingale's importance would the author most

- A. Summers misunderstood both the importance of Nightingale's achievements during the Crimean War and her subsequent influence on British policy.
- B. The editors of Nightingale's letters made some valid points about her practical achievements, but they still exaggerated her influence on subsequent generations.
- C. Although Summers' account of Nightingale's role in the Crimean War may be accurate; she ignored evidence of Nightingale's subsequent achievement that suggests that her reputation as an eminent social reformer is well deserved.
- D. The editors of Nightingale's letters mistakenly propagated the outdated idealization of Nightingale that only impedes attempts to arrive at a balanced assessment of her true role.
- E. The evidence of Nightingale's Letters supports Summers' conclusions both about Nightingale's activities and about her influence.

Application

Examine the final paragraph; the author's opinion of both accounts of Nightingale's work appears there. Summers' work claims that Nightingale's importance during the Crimean War was exaggerated, and the author concedes in the final sentence of the passage that Nightingale may not have achieved all her goals during the Crimean War. However, the author believes that Nightingale's breadth of vision and her accomplishment of ambitious projects earn her an eminent place among the ranks of social pioneers.

- A. The author at least partly concedes Summers' point about Nightingale's achievements during the Crimean War, but does not discuss Summers' treatment of Nightingale after the war.
- B. The author believes the betters should establish continued respect for Nightingale's brilliance and creativity.
- C. **Correct.** The author acknowledges the point Summers makes about Nightingale's contribution during the war but finds evidence in the letters and in Nightingale's accomplishments after the war to support a highly favorable view of her work. It is reasonable to infer that the author would agree that Summers ignored this important evidence.
- D. The author believes that the letters illustrate Nightingale's brilliance and creativity and that Nightingale herself has earned an eminent place among social pioneers. These

positions are not consistent with agreeing that the editors idealized Nightingale and prevented a just assessment of her work.

E. The evidence of the Letters supports just the reverse, brilliance and creativity.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-004-01 VRC000108-01 Medium

Customer loyalty programs are attempts to bond customers to a company and its products and services by offering incentives— such as airline frequent flyer programs or special credit cards with valuable benefits—to loyal customers. In support of loyalty programs, companies often invoke the “80/20” principle, which states that about 80 percent of revenue typically comes from only about 20 percent of customers. However, this profitable 20 percent are not necessarily loyal buyers, especially in the sense of exclusive loyalty. Studies have demonstrated that only about 10 percent of buyers for many types of frequently purchased consumer goods are 100 percent loyal to a particular brand over a one-year period. Moreover, 100-percent-loyal buyers tend to be light buyers of the product or service. “Divided loyalty” better describes actual consumer behavior, since customers typically vary the brands they buy. The reasons for this behavior are fairly straightforward: people buy different brands for different occasions or for variety, or a brand may be the only one in stock or may offer better value because of a special deal. Most buyers who change brands are not lost forever; usually, they are heavy consumers who simply prefer to buy a number of brands. Such multiband loyalty means that one company's most profitable customers will probably be its competitors’ most profitable customers as well.

Still, advocates of loyalty programs contend that such programs are beneficial because the costs of serving highly loyal customers are lower, and because such loyal customers are less price sensitive than other customers. It is true that when there are start-up costs, such as credit checks, involved in serving a new customer, the costs exceed those of serving a repeat customer. However, it is not at all clear why the costs of serving a highly loyal customer should in principle be different from those of serving any other type of repeat customer. The key variables driving cost are size and type of order, special versus standard order, and so on, not high-loyalty versus divided-loyalty customers. As for price sensitivity, highly loyal customers may in fact come to expect a price discount as a reward for their loyalty.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. question the notion that customer loyalty programs are beneficial
- B. examine the reasons why many customers buy multiple brands of products
- C. propose some possible alternatives to customer loyalty programs
- D. demonstrate that most customers are not completely loyal to any one brand of product or service
- E. compare the benefits of customer loyalty programs with those of other types of purchase incentive programs

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. In general, the passage explains the rationale behind customer loyalty programs, then goes on to raise points that suggest customer loyalty programs may not be worth their cost.

- A. **Correct.** The passage raises questions about whether customer loyalty programs serve their intended purpose: to bond customers to a company and its products and services.
- B. The passage explains why many customers buy multiple brands of products, but it does so in service to the main purpose of criticizing the wisdom behind customer loyalty programs.
- C. The passage does not propose any alternative to customer loyalty programs, other than to suggest implicitly that doing away with such programs might be a wiser course of action for companies.
- D. The passage describes most consumers as varying the brands they buy, but the author uses this information as a way of criticizing loyalty programs.
- E. The passage does not discuss any purchase incentive program other than loyalty programs.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-004-02 VRC000108-02 Easy

The passage mentions each of the following as a potential reason for customers' divided loyalty EXCEPT

- A. a particular brand may be the only one available
- B. a particular brand may be offered at a discount
- C. customers will often buy multiple brands out of a desire for variety
- D. customers will often buy an unfamiliar brand when it is new on the market
- E. customers will often buy certain brands for certain occasions

Supporting ideas

This question depends on recognizing what the passage states explicitly about why customers make decisions about which brands of products to purchase. The reasons for this are given in the passage following the statement that consumer behavior can be described by the phrase divided loyalty.

- A. The passage states, a brand may be the only one in stock.
- B. The passage states that a brand may offer better value because of a special deal.
- C. The passage states that people buy different brands for variety.
- D. **Correct.** The passage does not specifically mention brands that are new to the market—although this is a plausible reason why a customer might buy an unfamiliar brand.
- E. The passage states, people buy different brands for different occasion

The correct answer is D

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-004-03 VRC000108-03 Easy

According to the passage, advocates of customer loyalty programs claim which of the following about highly loyal customers?

- A. They often expect price discounts as a reward for their loyalty to a product.
- B. They can be served at lower expense to a company than can nonloyal customers.
- C. They tend to be light but predictable buyers of the product or service in question.
- D. They are to try out new brands or products that appear on the market.
- E. They are difficult to differentiate statistically from other types of repeat customers.

Supporting ideas

This question depends on identifying the passage's explicit account of the position taken by advocates of customer loyalty programs. According to the second paragraph, they hold that the costs of serving highly loyal customers are lower than the costs of serving other customers.

- A. The passage argues that loyal customers' expectation of price discounts may be an unfortunate consequence of loyalty programs, not that advocates of such programs believe that these customers expect such discounts.
- B. **Correct.** The passage states that advocates contend that -a company's costs are lower when serving highly loyal customers than when serving other customers.
- C. According to the first paragraph of the passage, the most loyal buyers of a particular product tend to be light buyers of that product. The passage uses this fact as part of an argument against loyalty programs' efficacy.
- D. The passage does not discuss consumers' response to new brands or products.
- E. Advocates of loyalty programs would be unlikely to claim that highly loyal customers cannot be distinguished from other types of repeat customers, for loyalty programs depend on just this kind of differentiation to reward highly loyal customers over others.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-004-04 VRC000108-04 Easy

The passage suggests that companies that invoke the "80/20" principle in support of customer loyalty programs which of the following

- A. A well-designed customer loyalty program can increase the number of a company's loyal customers by as much as 80 percent.
- B. About 20 percent of any given company's most profitable customers are likely to be its competitors' most profitable customers as well.
- C. It is unreasonable to expect more than 20 percent of customers to be 100 percent loyal to any particular brand of product.
- D. Even "loyal" customers cannot reasonably be expected to stick to one particular brand of product more than 80 percent of the time.
- E. A relatively small number of loyal customers is responsible for about 80 percent of a company's profits.

Inference

This question depends on understanding how the passage defines the "80/20" principle and how companies that want to justify their loyalty programs use that principle. According to the passage, the "80/20" principle refers to where companies obtain their revenue: i.e., 80 percent of revenue typically comes from only about 20 percent of customers. The companies using this principle to justify their loyalty programs are, presumably, interested in rewarding the 20 percent of customers who provide the bulk of their revenue.

- A. The passage does not discuss companies' use of loyalty programs to increase the number of loyal customers they have; rather, according to the passage, they wish to use loyalty programs as a way to reward customers who are already loyal.
- B. While the passage suggests that the same customers who are most profitable for one company will most be profitable for its competitors as well, this is not the belief that prompts companies to invoke the "80/20" principle to support customer loyalty programs.
- C. This might superficially seem to be supported by the observation (mentioned in the first paragraph) that studies have demonstrated that that only about 10 percent of buyers for many types of frequently purchased consumer goods are 100 percent loyal to a particular brand over a one-year period. But even if the companies referred to in this question are aware of, and accept, this finding, it does not follow that they that no brand of any

product should be expected to have 100 percent loyalty from more than 20 percent of customers.

- D. The passage claims that most consumers are not completely loyal to a particular brand. But the number eighty in "80/20" refers, in the passage, to the percentage of companies' revenue that their most loyal customers provide.
- E. **Correct.** This is an accurate restatement of the "80/20" principle: that 20 percent of customers provide 80 percent of a company's revenue. Companies invoking this principle in support of their loyalty programs do so in order to justify offering incentives to their most profitable customers.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-004-05 VRC000108-05 Medium

The second paragraph functions primarily to

- A. propose solutions to certain problems inherent in customer loyalty programs
- B. emphasize certain risks inherent in customer loyalty programs
- C. address certain contentions put forth by advocates of customer loyalty programs
- D. defend certain specific aspects of customer loyalty programs against criticism
- E. reconcile competing viewpoints regarding the of customer loyalty programs

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding how the second paragraph functions in the context of the passage as a whole. While the first paragraph deals with what actually constitutes loyal customer behavior, the second paragraph addresses, and attempts to undermine, the arguments made in favor of customer loyalty programs.

- A. The second paragraph is concerned with pointing out problems with customer loyalty programs, not with proposing solutions to those problems.
- B. The second paragraph concludes by identifying a particular downside of customer loyalty programs: that they may cause loyal customers to expect price discounts. The rest of the paragraph, however, discusses not risks of such programs, but questions about whether it is less costly to serve loyal customers than it is to serve other customers.
- C. **Correct.** The second paragraph addresses two contentions in particular: first, that the costs of serving loyal customers are lower than the costs of serving other customers, and second, that loyal customers are less price sensitive than other customers.
- D. The second paragraph criticizes customer loyalty programs; it does not defend such programs.
- E. The second paragraph does not attempt to reconcile competing viewpoints; rather, it counters the arguments made by advocates of customer loyalty programs.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-004-06 VRC000108-07 Medium

The author of the passage suggests that which of the following is most likely to be true of a customer who is exclusively loyal to a particular brand of product?

- A. The customer probably began buying that brand of product only within the past year.
- B. The customer is probably among the most profitable customers for the company that manufactures that brand of product.
- C. The customer is probably not a heavy consumer of that particular type of product.
- D. The customer is probably a loyal customer when purchasing other types of products as well.
- E. The customer probably sampled numerous brands of that type of product before becoming loyal to a particular brand.

Application

This question requires understanding the passage's explanation of loyal customer behavior. According to the passage, exclusively loyal customers constitute only about 10 percent of buyers for many types of frequently purchased consumer goods, and they are apt to be light buyers of a particular brand or product.

- A. The passage states, Studies have demonstrated that only about 10 percent of buyers are 100 percent loyal to a particular brand over a one-year period. This reference to a one-year period means not that buyers began buying the product within a particular year, but that they were exclusively loyal over the one-year period that was studied.
- B. According to the passage, the most profitable customers for a company are likely to be its competitors' most profitable customers too; such customers are thus not exclusively loyal to a particular brand.
- C. **Correct.** The passage states, 100-percent-loyal buyers tend to be light buyers of the products to which they are so loyal. Thus a customer who is exclusively loyal to a particular brand of product is probably not a heavy consumer of that type of product.
- D. The passage provides little evidence to suggest that customers who are exclusively loyal to a particular brand with respect to one type of product are exclusively loyal to any particular brand of another type of product. This might be the case, but the author does not suggest that it is so.

- E. While it might be the case that customers sample many brands before giving their loyalty to one in particular, the passage does not address the question of how customers develop their loyalty to particular brands.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-005-01 VRC000361-01 Medium

Many managers are influenced by dangerous myths about pay that lead to counterproductive decisions about how their companies compensate employees. One such myth is that labor rates, the rate per hour paid to workers, are identical with labor costs, the money spent on labor in relation to the productivity of the labor force. This myth leads to the assumption that a company can simply lower its labor costs by cutting wages. But labor costs and labor rates are not in fact the same: one company could pay its workers considerably more than another and yet have lower labor costs if that company's productivity were higher due to the talent of its workforce, the efficiency of its work processes, or other factors. The confusion of costs with rates persists partly because labor rates are a convenient target for managers who want to make an impact on their company's budgets. Because labor rates are highly visible, managers can easily compare their company's rates with those of competitors. Furthermore, labor rates often appear to be a company's most malleable financial variable: cutting wages appears an easier way to control costs than such options as reconfiguring work processes or altering product design.

The myth that labor rates and labor costs are equivalent is supported by business journalists, who frequently confound the two. For example, prominent business journals often remark on the "high" cost of German labor, citing as evidence the average amount paid to German workers. The myth is also perpetuated by the compensation consulting industry, which has its own incentive to keep such myths alive. First, although some of these consulting firms have recently broadened their practices beyond the area of compensation, their mainstay continues to be advising companies on changing their compensation practices. Suggesting that a company's performance can be improved in some other way than by altering its pay system may be empirically correct but contrary to the consultants' interests. Furthermore, changes to the compensation system may appear to be simpler to implement than changes to other aspects of an organization, so managers are more likely to find such advice from consultants palatable. Finally, to the extent that changes in compensation create new problems, the consultants will continue to have work solving the problems that result from their advice.

The author of the passage mentions business journals (see highlighted text) primarily in order to

- A. demonstrate how a particular kind of evidence can be used to support two different conclusions
- B. cast doubt on a particular view about the average amount paid to German workers
- C. suggest that business journalists may have a vested interest in perpetuating a particular view
- D. identify one source of support for a view common among business managers

- E. indicate a way in which a particular myth could be dispelled

Evaluation

This question requires understanding the function of the author's reference to business journals at the beginning of the second paragraph. The author claims that business journalists support the myth of the equivalency of labor rates and labor costs; as evidence of this support, the author cites business journals' tendency to say that because German workers earn a high average rate of pay, this means that German labor costs are high.

- A. The author mentions business journals to show that a particular kind of evidence—that German workers earn a high average rate of pay—is used to support one (erroneous) conclusion: that labor rates and labor costs are equivalent.
- B. The author does not question the amount paid to German workers; rather, the author questions the idea that German labor costs are high.
- C. The author suggests not that business journalists have a vested interest in perpetuating the myth that labor costs and labor rates are equivalent, but rather that compensation consultants have a vested interest in perpetuating this myth.
- D. **Correct.** The author is attempting to explain why managers are influenced by myths about pay, in particular the myth that labor rates and labor costs are identical. The author says that business journalists and journals support this myth.
- E. The author implicitly suggests that if business journals were to stop equating labor rates with labor costs, they might be able to dispel the myth that such rates and costs are identical. To make such an implicit suggestion is not, however, the primary purpose of the author's reference to business journals.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-005-02 VRC000361-02 Easy

According to the passage, which of the following is true about changes to a company's compensation system?

- A. They are often implemented in conjunction with a company's efforts to reconfigure its work processes.
- B. They have been advocated by prominent business journals as the most direct way for a company to bring about changes in its labor costs.
- C. They are more likely to result in an increase in labor costs than they are to bring about competitive advantages for the company.
- D. They sometimes result in significant cost savings but are likely to create labor-relations problems for the company.
- E. They may seem to managers to be relatively easy to implement compared with other kinds of changes managers might consider.

Supporting ideas

This question depends on recognizing what the passage states about changes in compensation, or labor rates. The passage states that cutting wages appears to managers to be an easy way of controlling costs, easier than, for example, changing work processes or products themselves. Further, it states that managers are likely to take compensation consultants' advice regarding changes in compensation systems, for such changes appear simpler to implement than other sorts of changes.

- A. The passage states that companies often make changes to their compensation system because they seem to be an easier way of controlling costs than are other changes —such as reconfiguring work processes. Thus, companies would be to implement these sorts of changes together.
- B. In the second paragraph, the author discusses the way in which compensation consultants, not business journals, advocate changes to companies' compensation systems.
- C. The passage suggests that changes to a company's compensation system may not bring about competitive advantages for a company, for those advantages depend more on labor costs than labor rates. But the passage does not suggest that such changes are likely to result in an increase in labor costs.
- D. While this is most likely the case, the passage does not discuss labor relations.

- E. **Correct.** According to the passage, managers are to regard compensation changes as easier to implement than, say, changes to processes or products.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-005-03 VRC000361-04 Easy

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. describe a common practice used by managers to control labor costs
- B. examine the relation between labor costs and other costs incurred by businesses
- C. explain why labor rates are a more significant factor than labor costs for most businesses
- D. identify a common misperception held by managers and point out some of the reasons for its persistence
- E. distinguish between a factor that companies can easily control and another that is more difficult to change

Main idea

This question depends on grasping the passage as a whole. It begins by suggesting that managers are inappropriately influenced by a particular myth: that labor rates and labor costs are the same thing. The bulk of the passage then explains why this myth is inaccurate (labor costs include more factors) and why managers persist in clinging to it (cutting labor rates is easier than making other types of changes; business journalists confuse labor rates and costs; compensation consultants often recommend altering pay systems).

- A. The passage makes the point that managers often altering compensation systems in order to control labor costs, but it goes on to explain why this practice is misguided; describe a common practice does not capture the approach taken in the passage.
- B. The passage does not discuss business costs other than labor costs.
- C. The passage explains that labor costs should be considered more significant than labor rates, not the other way around.
- D. Correct. The passage argues that many managers mistakenly equate labor rates and labor costs. It goes on to explain that managers make this equation for many reasons: they believe that labor rates are easily changed; journalists make the same equation; and compensation consultants make recommendations regarding wage changes that seem easy to implement.
- E. The passage does make a distinction between labor rates, which are easy to change, and work processes and product design, which are more difficult to change. Making this distinction, however, is not the primary purpose of the passage.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-005-04 VRC000361-05 Medium

It can be inferred from the passage that the author would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements about compensation?

- A. A company's labor costs are not affected by the efficiency of its work processes.
- B. High labor rates are not necessarily inconsistent with the goals of companies that want to reduce costs.
- C. It is more difficult for managers to compare their companies' labor rates with those of competitors than to compare labor costs.
- D. A company whose labor rates are high is unlikely to have lower labor costs than other companies.
- E. Managers often use information about competitors' labor costs to calculate those companies' labor rates.

Inference

This question depends on understanding the author's overall points about compensation (labor rates) and its relation to labor costs. The author makes clear that compensation is only one element of labor costs, which also have to do with workforce talent, work-process efficiency, product design, and other factors. Managers may focus on labor rates rather than labor costs because labor rates are easily identifiable numbers that can be compared across companies.

- A. The author explicitly identifies work-process efficiency as one of the factors that is likely to affect a company's labor costs.
- B. **Correct.** The author states that companies often reduce labor rates because doing so seems like an easy way to control costs, and the author argues that this strategy may not achieve the desired effect. The author also identifies other strategies for lowering costs and suggests that a company that followed these other strategies might be able to reduce costs considerably while maintaining high labor rates.
- C. The author states that comparing labor rates is easy, because such rates are highly visible; it is comparing labor costs that is difficult.
- D. The author states clearly that a company with high labor rates could easily have lower labor costs than a company with lower labor rates, for labor rates are only one factor in a company's labor costs.

- E. The author suggests that managers are much more to have information about competitors labor rates, because such rates are highly visible, than they are to have information about competitors' labor costs. Thus managers are more likely to use labor rates to calculate competitors' labor costs than the other way around.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-005-05 VRC000361-06 Medium

The passage suggests that the "myth" mentioned in the highlighted text persists partly because

- A. managers find it easier to compare their companies' labor rates with those of competitors than to compare labor costs
- B. managers tend to assume that labor rates affect their companies' budgets less than they actually do
- C. managers tend to that labor rates can have an impact on the efficiency of their companies' work processes
- D. the average amount paid to workers differs significantly from one country to another
- E. many companies fail to rely on compensation consultants when making decisions about labor rates

Inference

This question depends on identifying the support the author gives for the persistence of the myth of labor rates being identical to labor costs. The author gives several reasons for this persistence, most of which are related to the seeming simplicity of labor rates (as opposed to labor costs, which must take into account several factors).

- A. **Correct.** One reason the myth persists, the passage suggests, is that managers are able to use labor rates as a sort of shorthand for comparisons with competitors. Comparisons of actual labor costs would involve the consideration of several other issues that influence labor force productivity.
- B. The passage suggests that managers assume that labor rates affect their companies' budgets more, not less, than they actually do: managers assume that by lowering labor rates, they will make the desired impact on budgets.
- C. In the passage, the author indicates that managers often make changes to labor rates instead of attempting to improve the efficiency of work processes, not that they those labor-rate changes could have an effect on process efficiency.
- D. Based on the passage, the myth persists not because labor rates differ among countries, but rather because business journalists misidentify differences in labor rates as differences in labor costs and because compensation consultants foster the myth.

- E. The passage suggests that companies rely too heavily on compensation consultants when making decisions about labor rates; the advice of such consultants, the passage indicates, helps to perpetuate the myth that labor rates and labor costs are equivalent.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-006-01 VRC000400-01 Hard

Why firms adhere to or deviate from their strategic plans is poorly understood. However, theory and limited research suggest that the process through which such plans emerge may play a part. In particular, top management decision-sharing—consensus-oriented, team-based decision-making—may increase the likelihood that firms will adhere to their plans, because those involved in the decision-making may be more committed to the chosen course of action, thereby increasing the likelihood that organizations will subsequently adhere to their plans.

However, the relationship between top management decision sharing and adherence to plans may be affected by a strategic mission (its fundamental approach to increasing sales revenue and market share, and generating cash flow and short-term profits). At one end of the strategic mission continuum, "build" strategies are pursued when a firm desires to increase its market share and is to sacrifice short-term profits to do so. At the other end, "harvest" strategies are used when a firm is to sacrifice market share for short-term profitability and maximization. Research and theory suggest that top management decision-sharing may have a more positive relationship with adherence to plans among firms with harvest strategies than among firms with build strategies. In a study of strategic practices in several large firms, managers in harvest strategy scenarios were more able to adhere to their business plans. As one of the managers in the study explained it, this is partly because "typically all a manager has to do [when implementing a harvest strategy] is that which was done last year." Additionally, managers under harvest strategies may have fewer strategic options than do those under build strategies; it may therefore be easier to reach agreement on a particular course of action through decision-sharing, which will in turn tend to promote adherence to plans. Conversely, in a "build" strategy scenario, individual leadership, rather than decision-sharing, may promote adherence to plans. Build strategies—which typically require leaders with strong personal visions for a future, rather than the negotiated compromise of the team-based decision—may be most closely adhered to when implemented in the context of a clear strategic vision of an individual leader, rather than through the practice of decision-sharing.

Which of the following best describes the function of the first sentence (see highlighted text) of the second paragraph of the passage?

- A. To answer a question posed in the first sentence of the passage about why firms adopt particular strategic missions
- B. To refute an argument made in the first paragraph about how top management decision-making affects whether firms will adhere to their strategic plans
- C. To provide evidence supporting a theory introduced in the first paragraph about what makes firms adhere to or deviate from their strategic plans

- D. To an assertion made in the preceding sentence about how top management decision-making affects the likelihood that firms will adhere to their strategic plans
- E. To explain a distinction relied on in the second paragraph regarding two different kinds of strategic missions

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding how the first sentence of the second paragraph relates to other parts of the passage. The sentence explains that how decision-sharing affects adherence to strategic plans may be complicated by a strategic mission. It then goes on to define strategic mission.

- A. The question alluded to in the first sentence of the passage is about why firms choose to follow or not follow their strategic plans, not why firms adopt particular strategic missions.
- B. The first sentence of the second paragraph complicates, rather than refutes, the argument made in the first paragraph by suggesting that a strategic mission must be considered.
- C. The first sentence of the second paragraph provides no evidence to support the idea that particular kinds of decision-making affect adherence to specific plans; instead, it offers a suggestion about how that idea may be more complicated than the first paragraph suggests.
- D. **Correct.** The assertion in the final sentence of the first paragraph claims that decision-sharing is to increase adherence to a strategic plan. But this claim is by the highlighted sentence, which indicates that the connection between decision-sharing and plan adherence may be affected by another factor, the strategic mission.
- E. The first sentence of the second paragraph explains what a strategic mission is; it is the second and third sentences of the second paragraph that explain the distinction between "build" and "harvest" strategic missions.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-006-02 VRC000400-03 Easy

It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following firms would be the most to adhere to its strategic plans?

- A. One that is pursuing a build strategy and whose strategic plans were developed through the process of decision sharing
- B. One that is pursuing a harvest strategy and whose strategic plans were developed through the process of decision-sharing
- C. One that is pursuing a harvest strategy and whose strategic plans were developed by an individual leader with a strong personal vision for the future
- D. One that does not fluctuate between builds and harvest strategies
- E. One that has a long—established practice of top management decision-sharing

Application

This question depends on being able to synthesize and apply the passage's assertions regarding how decision-sharing and a strategic mission affect its adherence to a strategic plan. First, the passage suggests that decision-sharing makes adherence more likely. Next, the passage considers how the strategic mission affects adherence: firms with harvest strategies that use decision sharing are more likely to adhere to plans, while firms with build strategies may adhere to plans more closely if those plans emanate primarily from the leader's vision for the

- A. According to the passage, build strategies usually require strong individual leadership rather than decision-sharing.
- B. **Correct.** A firm that pursues a harvest strategy, under which strategic plans are easier to develop using decision sharing, is likely to adhere to a plan developed in that way.
- C. The passage suggests that with harvest strategies, decision-sharing promotes adherence to strategic plans more effectively than does decision-making by an individual leader and that the latter is more compatible with build strategies. Thus, there is reason to doubt that the combination of harvest strategy and individual decision making would maximize a firm's adherence to the new vision.
- D. According to the passage, firms that use harvest strategies are more likely to adhere to their strategic plans—but because the firm in this option may be sticking to either a harvest strategy or a build strategy, there is no way to determine its likelihood of adhering to its strategic plans.

- E. While the first paragraph of the passage indicates that top management decision-sharing increases the likelihood of a firm's adherence to its strategic plans, the second paragraph explains that the type of strategic mission a firm may have has a strong effect on its strategic-plan adherence as well. Thus in the absence of information about the strategic mission, the likelihood of its adhering to its strategic plans cannot be determined.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-006-03 VRC000400-04 Easy

The author includes the quotation in the highlighted text of the passage most probably in order to

- A. lend support to the claim that firms utilizing harvest strategies may be more to adhere to their strategic plans
- B. suggest a reason that many managers of large firms prefer harvest strategies to build strategies
- C. provide an example of a firm that adhered to its strategic plan because of the degree of its managers' commitment
- D. demonstrate that managers implementing harvest strategies generally have better strategic options than do managers implementing build strategies
- E. give an example of a large firm that successfully implemented a harvest strategy

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding how the quotation applies to the author's argument about strategic plans. The quotation, from a manager participating in a study of strategic practices, indicates that a manager using a harvest strategy basically repeats what has been done in the past. The author offers this statement as a partial reason for why managers using harvest strategies are more able to adhere to their business plans.

- A. **Correct.** A strategic plan that involves repeating past actions, as a harvest strategy does, is to be relatively easy to implement; therefore, this supports the idea that utilizing harvest strategies promotes adherence to strategic plans.
- B. While it may be reasonably inferred from the quotation that managers prefer harvest strategies to build strategies, the author does not use this idea in the passage. The author is concerned not with managers' preferred approaches to strategic missions but with the likelihood of their adherence to strategic plans.
- C. The quotation does not actually give an example of a firm; the quoted manager is making a general point about what managers typically do.
- D. The author makes the point that managers using harvest strategies have fewer options than do managers using build strategies, but the author does not evaluate the worth of those options.

- E. The quotation does not provide an example of a firm of any size; the manager who is quoted describes what typically happens when managers use a harvest strategy.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-006-04 VRC000400-06 Easy

According to the theory and research discussed in the first paragraph of the passage, which of the following may be true of firms that use teams to develop their strategic plans?

- A. They are more to pursue build strategies rather than harvest strategies.
- B. They are less likely to have a well-defined strategic mission than are firms with individual leaders.
- C. They are less to deviate from their strategic plans because team members may be more committed to the plans.
- D. They generally follow a similar pattern in alternating efforts to increase revenues and market share with efforts to generate short-term profits.
- E. They are less likely to adhere to their strategic plans because they tend to lack a clear strategic vision.

Supporting ideas

This question depends on isolating and identifying the first paragraph's information about team-based development of strategic plans. The paragraph states clearly that theory and research, though limited, suggests that team-based decision making increases the likelihood of firms adhering to their strategic plans. This is because people involved in decision-making tend to be committed to the decisions they reach.

- A. The theory and research discussed in the first paragraph do not address build strategies or harvest strategies; those are strategic-mission approaches that are discussed in the second paragraph.
- B. The first paragraph deals not with the extent to which a strategic mission is well-defined, but rather with the likelihood that firms will adhere to their strategic plans.
- C. **Correct.** The first paragraph's account of theory and research indicates that commitment to strategic plans arises from team participation in the decision-making process.
- D. The passage discusses revenue and market share in the second paragraph, not the first, and it does not discuss alternating efforts.
- E. The first paragraph does not address the clarity of firms' strategic vision.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-006-05 VRC000400-07 Hard

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. identify some of the obstacles that make it difficult for firms to adhere to their strategic business plans
- B. compare two different theories concerning why firms adhere to or deviate from their strategic plans
- C. evaluate the utility of top management decision-sharing as a method of implementing the strategic mission of a business
- D. discuss the respective advantages and disadvantages of build and harvest strategies among several large firms
- E. examine some of the factors that may affect whether or not firms adhere to their strategic plans

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. Its first sentence indicates its primary concern: the reasons for firms' adherence to, or deviation from, their strategic plans. These reasons are poorly understood, but the passage attempts to make some of them clearer.

- A. The passage does not explicitly discuss specific obstacles to adherence to strategic plans. It is easily inferable from the passage that, for example, a failure to engage in decision-sharing could be an obstacle to plan adherence, but identifying this and other possible obstacles is not the primary purpose of the passage.
- B. The first paragraph identifies decision-sharing as a factor in whether businesses will adhere to their strategic plans, and the second paragraph complicates decision-sharing's role by bringing build and harvest strategic missions into the discussion. Thus the passage does not compare two different theories, but rather explores in greater depth the complexity of a single theory.
- C. While the role of decision-sharing in implementing build or harvest strategic missions is discussed in the passage, the main focus of the passage is the effect of such decision sharing (and such strategic missions) on firms' adherence to their strategic plans.
- D. The passage discusses build and harvest strategies not in order to assess their advantages and disadvantages for particular firms (none of which are mentioned in the

passage), but to explain the role these strategies may play in affecting firms' likelihood of adhering to their strategic plans.

- E. **Correct.** From the first sentence on, the passage is concerned with whether, and why, firms are more or less likely to adhere to their strategic plans.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-007-01 VRC000416-01 Medium

Years before the advent of plate tectonics—the widely accepted theory, developed in the mid-1960s, that holds that the major features of Earth's surface are created by the horizontal motions of Earth's outer shell, or lithosphere—a similar theory was rejected by the geological community. In 1912, Alfred Wegener proposed, in a widely debated theory that came to be called continental drift, that Earth's continents were mobile. To most geologists today, Wegener's *The Origin of Continents and Oceans* appears an impressive and prescient document, containing several of the essential presumptions underlying plate tectonics theory: the horizontal mobility of pieces of Earth's crust; the essential difference between oceanic and continental crust; and a causal connection between horizontal displacements and the formation of mountain chains. Yet despite the considerable overlap between Wegener's concepts and the later widely embraced plate tectonics theory, and despite the fact that continental drift theory presented a possible solution to the problem of the origin of mountains at a time when existing explanations were seriously in doubt, in its day Wegener's theory was rejected by the vast majority of geologists.

Most geologists and many historians today believe that Wegener's theory was rejected because of its lack of an adequate mechanical basis. Stephen Jay Gould, for example, argues that continental drift theory was rejected because it did not explain how continents could move through an apparently oceanic floor. However, as Anthony Hallam has pointed out, many scientific phenomena, such as the ice ages, have been accepted before they could be fully explained. The most likely cause for the rejection of continental drift—a cause that has been largely ignored because we consider Wegener's theory to have been validated by the theory of plate tectonics—is the nature of the evidence that was put forward to support it. Most of Wegener's evidence consisted of homologies—similarities of patterns and forms based on direct observations of rocks in the field, supported by the use of hammers, hand lenses, and field notebooks. In contrast, the data supporting plate tectonics were impressively geophysical—instrumental] determinations of the physical properties of Earth garnered through the use of seismographs, magnetometers, and computers.

It can be inferred from the passage that geologists today would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements about Wegener's *The Origin of Continents and Oceans*?

- A. It was a worthy scientific effort that was ahead of its time.
- B. It was based on evidence that was later disproved.
- C. It was directly responsible for the acceptance of the theory of plate tectonics.
- D. It has been disproved by continental drift theory.
- E. It misrepresented how horizontal displacements cause the formation of mountain chains.

Inference

This question depends on understanding the passage's placement of *The Origin of Continents and Oceans* in the context of current geological thought regarding its arguments. The passage states clearly that most geologists today find Wegener's work prescient. They may argue about why Wegener's theory was not accepted at the time he proposed it, but the theory itself they find impressive, for it prefigures the now-accepted theory of plate tectonics.

- A. **Correct.** Because Wegener's work is so closely related to plate tectonics, most geologists today would likely agree that it was ahead of its time.
- B. The passage suggests that geologists of Wegener's time found Wegener's evidence unimpressive, not that the evidence was disproved. Today's geologists would not necessarily find the evidence impressive, but they would most likely not agree that it has been disproved. According to the passage, Wegener's theory was rejected; only after plate tectonics was accepted, the passage suggests, did geologists go back to Wegener's work and realize the similarities between the two theories.
- C. According to the passage, Wegener's *The Origin of Continents and Oceans* is about continental drift theory, which makes it that geologists would agree that Wegener's work was disproved by continental-drift theory.
- D. The passage states that Wegener's theory and plate tectonics share an underlying presumption about the existence of a causal connection between horizontal displacements and the formation of mountain chains; since today's geologists generally accept the theory of plate tectonics; they would be unlikely to agree that Wegener's work misrepresented this idea.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-007-02 VRC000416-02 Medium

The author of the passage suggests that the most likely explanation for the geological community's response to continental drift theory in its day was that the theory

- A. was in conflict with certain aspects of plate tectonics theory
- B. failed to account for how mountains were formed
- C. did not adequately explain how continents moved through the ocean floor
- D. was contradicted by the geophysical data of the time
- E. was based on a kind of evidence that was considered insufficiently convincing

Inference

This question depends on understanding what the passage conveys both about the content and the reception of continental drift theory when it was proposed. The first paragraph of the passage discusses the theory's content, and the second paragraph offers reasons for its rejection by the geological community of that time. The most cause of that rejection, according to the passage, is that the evidence Wegener relied on was not impressive enough, unlike the kind of evidence later used to support plate tectonics.

- A. Plate tectonics theory was developed long after continental drift theory, so the geological community of the time could not have found the two theories to be in conflict.
- B. The passage states that continental drift theory posited a cause of mountain-chain formation: these chains were formed by horizontal displacements.
- C. According to the passage, Stephen Jay Gould has proposed that this lack of explanation explains why continental drift theory was rejected. The passage goes on to say, however, that a lack of an explanation for a particular component of a theory did not doom other theories to rejection; the more likely reason for continental drift's rejection has to do with the kind of evidence Wegener used to support it.
- D. The passage suggests that when Wegener proposed continental drift theory, there were no compelling geophysical data available; such data were available only later, when plate tectonics was proposed.
- E. **Correct.** The latter part of the passage explains that the likely explanation for continental drift's rejection is that the homologies he used to support it were not the kind of evidence that geologists of the time would have found convincing.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-007-03 VRC000416-03 Hard

The author of the passage refers to the “considerable overlap” (see highlighted text) between continental drift theory and plate tectonics theory most probably in order to

- A. suggest that plate tectonics theory is derived from Wegener's work
- B. introduce a discussion comparing the elements of the two theories
- C. examine the question of whether continental drift theory was innovative in its time
- D. provide a reason why it might seem surprising that continental drift theory was not more widely embraced by geologists
- E. cite an explanation that has been frequently offered for Wegener's high standing among geologists today

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding the author's reasons for including the comparison between Wegener's theory and plate tectonics. The author proposes that the overlap between the theories is interesting because Wegener's theory was not accepted in its day, while plate tectonics has now been widely accepted—that is, Wegener was in many respects right all along.

- A. The author makes clear that plate tectonics was not derived from Wegener's work; rather, geologists who today accept the theory of plate tectonics note that Wegener's work, although rejected in its day, turns out to have been similar to plate tectonics.
- B. The author refers to the considerable overlap between the theories after, not before, a comparison of their elements.
- C. The author establishes earlier in the paragraph that continental drift theory was innovative; the sentence in which the phrase considerable overlap appears is offering an explanation for why the theory's rejection in its day is
- D. **Correct.** The sentence in which the phrase considerable overlap is used provides two reasons why it is surprising that Wegener's theory was rejected by geologists of its day: first, that many of Wegener's ideas were, in fact, correct—as we now know from their overlap with plate tectonics—and second, that Wegener explained a possible solution to a problem.
- E. While the overlap between continental drift theory and plate tectonics could be used to explain why Wegener is held in relatively high esteem by geologists today, the structure

of the sentence in which this overlap is mentioned suggests the author's puzzlement about why Wegener's work on continental drift was rejected by his contemporaries.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-007-04 VRC000416-04 Hard

The author cites Hallam (see highlighted text) on the ice ages primarily in order to

- A. provide an example of a geologic phenomenon whose precise causes are not understood by geologists today
- B. criticize the geological community for an apparent lack of consistency in its responses to new theories
- C. offer evidence held to undermine a common view of why Wegener's theory was not accepted in its day
- D. give an example of a modern scientist who believes that Wegener's theory was rejected because it failed to adequately explain the mechanical basis of continental drift
- E. support Gould's rationale for why Wegener's theory was rejected by most geologists in the early twentieth century

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding both Hallam's point about ice ages and the use to which the author puts that point. Hallam's contention is that scientists may accept that certain phenomena occurred before they are able to explain the exact mechanisms by which they occurred. The author uses this idea to undermine Gould's contention that the reason for the rejection of Wegener's theory was that Wegener did not explain the mechanism by which continental drift occurred—that is, why would geologists have rejected Wegener's theory for lacking such an explanation when they accepted other theories that lacked such explanations?

- A. Whether ice ages are actually understood by geologists today is not a point of concern in the passage; what is important is that scientists accept phenomena before they have been explained.
- B. The author relies on the idea that the geological community is consistent in its responses to new theories by using Hallam's statement to suggest that the geological community would have been unlikely to have dismissed Wegener's theory merely for its lack of a complete explanation.
- C. **Correct.** The author takes Hallam's evidence to undermine the commonly held idea that Wegener's theory was rejected because it failed to show the mechanics of continental drift.

- D. Hallam's point regarding ice ages is used to counter the idea that Wegener's theory was rejected because it lacked a particular mechanical explanation. Halima clearly does not believe that such a lack is why Wegener's theory was rejected.
- E. Hallam's point is used to counter, not support, Gould's rationale for why Wegener's theory was rejected.

The Correct Answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-007-05 VRC000416-05 Medium

The author of the passage discusses the “essential presumptions” (see highlighted text) of The Origin of Continents and Oceans most in order to

- A. indicate features of Wegener's theory that caused it to be doubted in its day
- B. show why Wegener's theory is now regarded as prescient
- C. indicate differences between plate tectonics and the theory of continental drift
- D. cite features of the theory of continental drift for which no evidence was available in Wegener's day
- E. point out aspects of Wegener's theory that were accepted well before the advent of plate tectonics

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding the context in which the author explains the essential presumptions of The Origin of Continents and Oceans. The author is identifying similarities between the presumptions of Wegener's theory and those of the now-accepted theory of plate tectonics.

- A. The author proposes near the end of the passage that Wegener's theory was doubted in its day because of the type of evidence it relied on, not because of any presumptions that Wegener made.
- B. **Correct.** The essential presumptions of five Origin of Continents and Oceans to which the author refers are those that also underlie plate tectonics theory; that the two theories share so many elements is why today's geologists consider Wegener's theory prescient.
- C. The essential presumptions referred to by the author are not differences but are elements that plate tectonics and continental drift have in common.
- D. The passage makes clear that Wegener gave evidence for his theory, but that the evidence was deemed unconvincing by geologists of his day.
- E. The passage suggests that Wegener's theory, when it was proposed, was rejected in its entirety, not just in part.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-008-01 VRC000460-01 Medium

Over the last 150 years, large stretches of salmon habitat have been eliminated by human activity: mining, livestock grazing, timber harvesting, and agriculture as well as recreational and urban development. The numerical effect is obvious: there are fewer salmon in degraded regions than in pristine ones; however, habitat loss also has the potential to reduce genetic diversity. This is most evident in cases where it results in the extinction of entire salmon populations. Indeed, most analysts believe that some kind of environmental degradation underlies the demise of many extinct salmon populations. Although some rivers have been recolonized, the unique genes of the original populations have been lost.

Large-scale disturbances in one locale also have the potential to alter the genetic structure of populations in neighboring areas, even if those areas have pristine habitats. Why? Although the homing instinct of salmon to their natal stream is strong, a fraction of the fish returning from the sea (rarely more than 15 percent) stray and spawn in nearby streams. Low levels of straying are crucial, since the process provides a source of novel genes and a mechanism by which a location can be repopulated should the fish there disappear. Yet high rates of straying can be problematic because misdirected fish may interbreed with the existing stock to such a degree that any local adaptations that are present become diluted. Straying rates remain relatively low when environmental conditions are stable, but can increase dramatically when streams suffer severe disturbance. The 1980 volcanic eruption of Mount Saint Helens, for example, sent mud and debris into several tributaries of the Columbia River. For the next couple of years, steelhead trout (a species included among the salmon) returning from the sea to spawn were forced to find alternative streams. As a consequence, their rates of straying, initially 16 percent, rose to more than 40 percent overall.

Although no one has quantified changes in the rate of straying as a result of the disturbances caused by humans, there is no reason to suspect that the effect would be qualitatively different than what was seen in the aftermath of the Mount Saint Helens eruption. Such a dramatic increase in straying from damaged areas to more pristine streams results in substantial gene flow, which can in turn lower the overall fitness of subsequent generations.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. argue against a conventional explanation for the extinction of certain salmon populations and suggest an alternative
- B. correct a common misunderstanding about the behavior of salmon in response to environmental degradation caused by human activity
- C. compare the effects of human activity on salmon populations with the effects of natural disturbances on salmon populations
- D. differentiate the particular effects of various human activities on salmon habitats

- E. describe how environmental degradation can cause changes in salmon populations that extend beyond a numerical reduction

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole and determining what is its primary purpose. The first paragraph explains that while the numerical effects of habitat damage are obvious, the loss of genetic diversity is also a problem. The rest of the passage explains how the loss of genetic diversity may come about.

- A. The passage offers only one explanation for the extinction of salmon populations: environmental degradation.
- B. The passage does not suggest that there is a misunderstanding about how salmon respond to environmental degradation of any cause; rather, the passage simply explains that response.
- C. The passage uses the effects of natural disturbances on the straying rate of salmon populations to suggest that human activity is likely to have a similar effect; it cannot actually compare the effects because, as it states, there are no data on the straying rates that result from human disturbances.
- D. While the passage begins with a list of human activities that affect salmon habitats, it does not differentiate among the effects of these activities.
- E. Correct. The passage explains the repercussions of environmental degradation on salmon populations apart from mere reduction in numbers.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-008-02 VRC000460-02 Hard

It can be inferred from the passage that the occasional failure of some salmon to return to their natal streams in order to spawn provides a mechanism by which

- A. pristine streams that are near polluted streams become polluted themselves
- B. the particular adaptations of a polluted streams salmon population can be preserved without dilution
- C. the number of salmon in pristine habitats decreases relative to the number in polluted streams
- D. an environmentally degraded stream could be recolonized by new salmon populations should the stream recover
- E. the extinction of the salmon populations that spawn in polluted streams is accelerated

Inference

This question depends on understanding the reason why a low level of salmon straying is important. According to the passage, such straying provides a mechanism for repopulating the location from which the salmon have strayed, if the fish in that location disappear.

- A. The passage does not discuss how pollution may spread from one habitat to another.
- B. The passage states that genetic dilution is a problem in situations of high rates of straying, not when straying is merely occasional.
- C. In a straying situation, the number of salmon in a polluted stream would be reduced, while the number in the more pristine habitat to which those salmon stray would increase.
- D. **Correct.** Environmental degradation is a plausible reason why the fish in a particular stream would disappear; straying provides a mechanism by which such a stream could be repopulated.
- E. The passage suggests that high levels of straying, not occasional straying would be likely to accelerate the extinction of certain salmon populations.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-008-03 VRC000460-03 Medium

According to the passage, human activity has had which of the following effects on salmon populations?

- A. An increase in the size of salmon populations in some previously polluted rivers
- B. A in the number of salmon in some rivers
- C. A decrease in the number of straying salmon in some rivers
- D. A decrease in the gene flow between salmon populations that spawn in polluted streams and populations that spawn in pristine streams
- E. A decline in the vulnerability of some salmon populations to the effects of naturally occurring habitat destruction

Supporting idea

This question depends on identifying what the passage states explicitly about the effect of human activity on salmon populations. The first paragraph of the passage identifies the human activities that are likely to have effects on salmon. It then states that there are fewer salmon in regions that have been affected by these activities than there are in unaffected regions.

- A. While humans may have been able to clean up some rivers and encourage salmon to return to them, the passage does not discuss such efforts.
- B. **Correct.** According to the passage, there are fewer salmon in areas that have been degraded by human activity.
- C. The passage implies that human activity is more to increase than to decrease the number of straying salmon.
- D. The passage suggests that human activity is likely to increase the gene flow between salmon populations and thus decrease their genetic diversity.
- E. The passage does not discuss how human activity may affect salmon vulnerability to naturally occurring habitat destruction.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-008-04 VRC000460-05 Hard

The author's argument that increased straying can "lower the overall fitness of subsequent generations" (see highlighted text) is based on which of the following assumptions?

- A. A disturbance of salmonid spawning streams caused by human activity could increase the straying rate of affected salmonid populations as much as the aftermath of the Mount Saint Helens eruption did.
- B. In the streams in which the straying salmonid spawn, these straying salmonid would amount to no more than 40 percent of the total spawning population.
- C. Salmonid in some streams benefit from particular local adaptations.
- D. Nonenvironmental factors have no effect on salmonid straying rates.
- E. At least some of the streams in which straying salmonid would spawn are pristine, affected by neither natural nor artificial disturbances.

Inference

This question depends on recognizing what constitutes fitness in a generation of salmon, and how a high straying rate can affect that fitness. The author states in the second paragraph that what is problematic about high straying rates is that adaptations of the local population may be diluted. If there were no benefit to local adaptations, then their dilution would not be a problem.

- A. The passage suggests that this may be the case, but this particular argument does not depend on assuming that it is true; human activity need not be present for salmon's genetic fitness to be affected.
- B. The author's argument does not depend on assuming that the straying salmonid are limited to a particular percentage.
- C. **Correct.** The author assumes that salmon benefit from their local adaptations, which makes the dilution of those adaptations a lowering of the salmon's overall fitness.
- D. The author's argument is not concerned with Nonenvironmental factors.
- E. While this may very well be true, the author does not base the argument about how high straying rates may lower the fitness of generations of salmon on the state of the streams to which some salmon stray.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-008-05 VRC000460-07 Hard

Which of the following does the author mention as support for the view that environmental disturbances caused by human activity could increase straying rates?

- A. The existence of salmon populations in rivers where the elimination of salmon habitat by human activity had previously made the fish extinct
- B. The results of studies measuring the impact on straying rates of habitat loss caused by human activity
- C. The potential for disturbances in one environment to cause the introduction of novel genes into salmon populations in neighboring areas
- D. The weaknesses in the view that the extinction of entire salmon populations is the only mechanism by which human destruction of salmon habitat reduces genetic diversity in salmon
- E. The absence of any reason for believing that disturbances brought about by human activity would differ in their effects from comparable disturbances brought about by natural causes

Supporting idea

This question depends on identifying what the author says explicitly to strengthen the claim that human-caused environmental disturbances could increase straying rates. The author deals with the connection between human activity and straying rates in the third paragraph, stating that there is no reason to suspect that human activity's effect would be qualitatively different from the effect observed after Mount Saint Helens erupted.

- A. The author indicates that low levels of salmon straying could result in salmon populations reestablishing themselves in habitats from which fish have disappeared (for whatever reason), but this is not offered as support for human-caused degradation leading to increased straying rates.
- B. The author states that no one has quantified the changes in straying rates that might result from human activity.
- C. The author mentions that novel genes are introduced as a result of straying, but this does not support any connection between human-caused environmental disturbances and straying rates.
- D. The author makes clear in the second paragraph that this view is weak by establishing that the extinction of entire salmon populations is not the only way in which human (or

any other kind of) destruction of salmon habitat reduces salmon genetic diversity. Increases in straying rates reduce genetic diversity as well. However, the weakness of the idea does not support any connection between human-caused environmental disturbances and increased straying rates.

- E. **Correct.** The author compares the effect of the Mount Saint Helens eruption—that is, a natural cause—to the effect of human-caused damage and says that there is no reason to think these effects would be qualitatively different.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-009-01 VRC000630-01 Easy

The sloth bear, an insect-eating animal native to Nepal, exhibits only one behavior that is truly distinct from that of other bear species: the females carry their cubs (at least part-time) until the cubs are about nine months old, even though the cubs can walk on their own at six months. Cub-carrying also occurs among some other myrmecophagous (ant-eating) mammals; therefore, one explanation is that cub-carrying is necessitated by myrmecophagy, since myrmecophagy entails a low metabolic rate and high energy expenditure in walking between food patches. However, although polar bears' locomotion is similarly inefficient, polar bear cubs walk along with their mother. Furthermore, the daily movements of sloth bears and American black bears—which are similar in size to sloth bears and have similar-sized home ranges—reveal similar travel rates and distances, suggesting that if black bear cubs are able to keep up with their mother, so too should sloth bear cubs.

An alternative explanation is defense from predation. Black bear cubs use trees for defense, whereas brown bears and polar bears, which regularly inhabit treeless environments, rely on aggression to protect their cubs. Like brown bears and polar bears (and unlike other myrmecophagous mammals, which are noted for their passivity), sloth bears are easily provoked to aggression. Sloth bears also have relatively large canine teeth, which appear to be more functional for fighting than for foraging. Like brown bears and polar bears, sloth bears may have evolved in an environment with few trees. They are especially attracted to food rich grasslands; although few types of grassland persist today on the Indian subcontinent, this type of habitat was once widespread there. Grasslands support high densities of tigers, which fight and sometimes kill sloth bears; sloth bears also coexist with and have been killed by tree-climbing leopards, and are often confronted and chased by rhinoceroses and elephants, which can topple trees. Collectively these factors probably selected against tree climbing as a defensive strategy for sloth bear cubs. Because sloth bears are smaller than brown and polar bears and are under greater threat from dangerous animals, they may have adopted the extra precaution of carrying their cubs. Although cub carrying may also be adaptive for myrmecophagous foraging, the behavior of sloth bear cubs, which on their mother's back at the first sign of danger, suggests that predation was a key stimulus.

The author mentions rhinoceroses and elephants (see highlighted text) primarily in order to

- A. explain why sloth bears are not successful foragers in grassland habitats
- B. identify the predators that have had the most influence on the behavior of sloth bears
- C. suggest a possible reason that sloth bear cubs do not use tree-climbing as a defense
- D. provide examples of predators that were once widespread across the Indian subcontinent
- E. defend the assertion that sloth bears are under greater threat from dangerous animals than are other bear species

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding the context in which the author refers to rhinoceroses and elephants. In the second paragraph of the passage, the author is discussing sloth bears' cub-carrying as a defense against predation. Rhinoceroses and elephants are among their potential predators, and these animals, according to the author, are known to topple trees. This, along with the ability of leopards, another predator, to climb trees, would make tree-climbing an ineffective defense against predation.

- A. The author does not suggest that sloth bears are not successful foragers in grasslands, as the author points out, such areas are food-rich.
- B. The author mentions several predators but does not suggest that any are more influential on sloth bears' behavior than others.
- C. **Correct.** The author states that rhinoceroses and elephants can topple trees; this is part of the author's explanation of why tree-climbing would be an ineffective defense for sloth bears and their cubs.
- D. The author states that grassland habitats were once widespread on the Indian subcontinent and mentions that tigers are often found in such environments; rhinoceroses and elephants, on the other hand, are not mentioned as grassland inhabitants.
- E. The author merely asserts, and does not argue for, the claim that sloth bears are under greater threat from dangerous animals than other bear species. It is true that the author indicates that sloth bears are threatened by rhinoceroses and elephants, but this is offered in support of a different position.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-009-02 VRC000630-02 Easy

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the author's argument in the highlighted text?

- A. Cub-carrying behavior has been observed in many non-myrmecophagous mammals.
- B. Many of the largest myrmecophagous mammals do not typically exhibit cub-carrying behavior.
- C. Some sloth bears have home ranges that are smaller in size than the average home ranges of black bears.
- D. The locomotion of black bears is significantly more efficient than the locomotion of sloth bears.
- E. The habitat of black bears consists of terrain that is significantly more varied than that of the habitat of sloth bears.

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding that the author's argument, that sloth bears' myrmecophagy is not what prompts their cub-carrying, relies in part on the idea that sloth bears can move as other bears do. The similarity between black bears' movements and sloth bears' movements suggests that sloth bears can in fact move as other bears do. Identifying a plausible way in which sloth bears' movements are more difficult than black bears' movements would weaken this argument.

- A. That cub-carrying behavior occurs in non myrmecophagous mammals supports the author's argument that it is not sloth bears' myrmecophagy that prompts their cub-carrying.
- B. That some myrmecophagous mammals do not exhibit cub-carrying behavior supports the author's argument that it is not myrmecophagy that causes sloth bears' cub-carrying.
- C. Sloth bear cubs that travel through smaller home ranges than black bear cubs do would most have an easier time keeping up with their mothers; thus this supports, rather than undermines, the author's argument.
- D. **Correct.** The author states that sloth bears and black bears engage in similar daily movements, with similar travel rates and distances, so if black bear cubs can keep up with their mother, sloth bears cubs should be able to as well. But if sloth bear locomotion is less efficient than black bear locomotion—which would be due to sloth bears' myrmecophagy—sloth bear cubs might not be able to keep up.

- E. If sloth bears do not traverse as varied a habitat as black bears do, it would most be even easier for sloth bear cubs to keep up with their mother than it is for black bear cubs to keep up. Thus this strengthens, rather than weakens, the author's argument.

The Correct Answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-009-03 VRC000630-03 Easy

Which of the following is mentioned in the passage as a way in which brown bears and sloth bears are similar?

- A. They tend to become aggressive when provoked.
- B. They live almost exclusively in treeless environments.
- C. They are preyed upon by animals that can climb or topple trees.
- D. They are inefficient in their locomotion.
- E. They have relatively large canine teeth.

Supporting idea

This question depends on recognizing what the passage states about brown bears in relation to sloth bears. In the second paragraph, the author states directly that brown bears, polar bears, and sloth bears are easily provoked to aggression.

- A. **Correct.** That both brown bears and sloth bears are easily provoked to aggression is stated directly in the passage.
- B. The author notes early in the second paragraph that brown bears and polar bears inhabit treeless environments, but mentions later that sloth bears coexist with animals that climb trees. The author also states that brown bears and sloth bears may both have evolved in treeless environments, but this fact does not indicate that these animals currently live in treeless environments.
- C. The author states that brown bears live in treeless environments; thus it is unlikely that brown bears, sloth bears, are preyed upon by animals that or topple trees.
- D. The passage does not refer to the efficiency of brown bears' locomotion.
- E. While it may be inferred from the passage that brown bears have large canine teeth, this is not mentioned in the passage.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-009-04 VRC000630-04 Easy

The author mentions which of the following as evidence for the view that cub-carrying behavior among sloth bears functions primarily as a defense from predation?

- A. The relative passivity of sloth bears in comparison with other species of bears
- B. The age at which sloth bear cubs can defend themselves from predators
- C. The unsuitability of cub-carrying for myrmecophagous foraging
- D. The behavior of sloth bear cubs when they first perceive danger
- E. The inefficient locomotion of sloth bears and other myrmecophagous animals

Supporting idea

This question depends on recognizing what evidence the author brings directly to bear on the question of cub-carrying as a predation defense. At the end of the passage, the author restates cub-carrying's relationship with myrmecophagy, but also states that sloth bear cubs' climbing on their mother's back when threatened suggests that predation was also a cause of the cub-carrying behavior.

- A. The author states that sloth bears are as aggressive as brown bears and polar bears.
- B. The author does not identify the age at which sloth bear cubs are able to defend themselves from predators.
- C. The author states that some myrmecophagous mammals carry their cubs, which suggests that cub-carrying is in fact suited for myrmecophagous foraging.
- D. **Correct.** The author uses the fact that sloth bear cubs climb on their mother's back at the first sign of danger as support for the view that cub-carrying is a defense against predation.
- E. In the first paragraph, the author indicates that some people have appealed to sloth bears' inefficient locomotion to support the idea that myrmecophagy prompts cub-carrying behavior; there is no indication that the bears' inefficient locomotion supports the idea that their cub-carrying is a defense from predation.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-009-05 VRC000630-06 Easy

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. trace the development of a particular behavioral characteristic of the sloth bear
- B. explore possible explanations for a particular behavioral characteristic of the sloth bear
- C. compare the defensive strategies of sloth bear cubs to the defensive strategies of cubs of other bear species
- D. describe how certain behavioral characteristics of the sloth bear differ from those of other myrmecophagous mammals
- E. provide an alternative to a generally accepted explanation of a particular behavioral characteristic of myrmecophagous mammals

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole and determining what is its primary purpose. The first sentence states that the sloth bear's cub-carrying distinguishes it from other bears; the passage then delves into explanations for why cub-carrying occurs, settling on defense against predation (coupled, perhaps, with its usefulness in myrmecophagous foraging) as the best explanation.

- A. Although the passage mentions evolutionary pressure on the sloth bear, it does so mainly in the service of explaining why the sloth bear does not engage in tree-climbing as a defense against predators.
- B. **Correct.** The passage seeks to provide an explanation for why sloth bears engage in cub-carrying.
- C. The passage does not discuss the defensive strategies of the cubs of bear species other than the sloth bear.
- D. The author identifies some behavioral differences between sloth bears and other myrmecophagous mammals but does so in the service of explaining why sloth bears engage in cub-carrying while other bear species do not.
- E. The passage does not indicate whether either of the explanations it offers for sloth bears' cub-carrying has been generally accepted.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-010-01 VRC000069-01 Medium

Many scholars have theorized that economic development, particularly industrialization and urbanization, contributes to the growth of participatory democracy; according to this theory, it would seem logical that women would both demand and gain suffrage in ever greater numbers whenever economic development expanded their economic opportunities. However, the economic development theory is inadequate to explain certain historical facts about the implementation of women's suffrage. For example, why was women's suffrage, instituted nationally in the United States in 1920, not instituted nationally in Switzerland until the 1970s? Industrialization was well advanced in both countries by 1920: over 33 percent of American workers were employed in various industries, as compared to 44 percent of Swiss workers. Granted, Switzerland and the United States diverged in the degree to which the expansion of industry coincided with the degree of urbanization: only 29 percent of the Swiss population lived in cities of 10,000 or more inhabitants by 1920. However, urbanization cannot fully explain women's suffrage. Within the United States prior to 1920, for example, only less urbanized states had granted women suffrage. Similarly, less urbanized countries such as Cambodia and Ghana had voting rights for women long before Switzerland did. It is true that Switzerland's urbanized cantons (political subdivisions) generally enacted women's suffrage legislation earlier than did rural cantons.

However, these cantons often shared other characteristics— similar linguistic backgrounds and strong leftist parties—that may help to explain this phenomenon.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. contrast two explanations for the implementation of women's suffrage
- B. demonstrate that one factor contributes more than another factor to the implementation of women's suffrage
- C. discuss the applicability of a theory for explaining the implementation of women's suffrage
- D. clarify certain assumptions underlying a particular theory about the implementation of women's suffrage
- E. explain how a particular historical occurrence was causally connected to the implementation of women's suffrage

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole and determining what is its primary purpose. The first sentence describes the economic development theory as an explanation for women's suffrage, and the rest of the passage gives reasons to that that

theory does not explain why women's suffrage took so long to be implemented in Switzerland.

- A. The passage does not offer two explanations for the implementation of women's suffrage; instead, it examines one explanation in detail.
- B. The passage argues against the idea that one factor— here, economic development—contributes more than another factor to the implementation of women's suffrage.
- C. **Correct.** The passage considers whether the economic development theory is a sufficient explanation for the implementation of women's suffrage in various countries.
- D. The passage suggests, in explaining what the economic development theory is, that it assumes that women would ask for and receive suffrage when their economic opportunities expand. The passage's primary concern, however, is not the clarification of this assumption, but an investigation of whether it actually explains the implementation of women's suffrage.
- E. The passage discusses the historical occurrence of urbanization but questions whether it was in fact causally connected to the implementation of women's suffrage.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-010-02 VRC000069-02 Medium

According to the passage, the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text assert which of the following about the growth of participatory democracy within a particular nation?

- A. It is not necessarily correlated with increasing income and opportunities for women in that nation.
- B. It is not necessarily related to the implementation of women's suffrage within that nation.
- C. It cannot adequately explain the nation's level of economic development.
- D. It tends to be encouraged by the occurrence of industrialization in that nation.
- E. It is to increase with the growth of leftist parties in that nation.

Supporting idea

This question depends on understanding what the author states explicitly about the economic development theory. Scholars assert that economic development—the important parts of which in this context are industrialization and urbanization—encourages the growth of participatory democracy. This theory suggests that when industrialization and urbanization occur in a nation, participatory democracy expands there.

- A. According to the passage, the economic development theory, to which the scholars mentioned in the highlighted text subscribe, economic development expands women's economic opportunities, which then logically prompts women to demand and gain suffrage.
- B. The passage suggests that the economic development theory holds that there is a link between the growth of participatory democracy and women's suffrage.
- C. The economic development theory suggests that a nation's economic development explains the growth of participatory democracy in that nation, not the other way around; nevertheless, the passage does not say that scholars who embrace the economic development theory say that the growth of participatory democracy cannot explain economic development.
- D. **Correct.** According to the passage, the scholars mentioned assert, as part of the economic development theory, that industrialization contributes to the growth of participatory democracy.
- E. The author mentions leftist parties in the final sentence of the passage but does not connect them to scholars who embrace the economic development theory.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-010-03 VRC000069-05 Easy

The passage suggests which of the following about states in the United States prior to 1920?

- A. The states that were not highly urbanized were slow to grant women's suffrage.
- B. The states that were highly urbanized were the most influential in determining national policies regarding suffrage.
- C. The most highly urbanized states were more likely to have strong leftist parties.
- D. The most highly urbanized states were not necessarily the most industrialized ones.
- E. The most highly urbanized states had not yet granted women's suffrage.

Inference

This question depends on understanding and interpreting the context in which the author mentions individual states in the United States. As part of an explanation of why urbanization cannot fully explain women's suffrage, the author says that prior to 1920, only the nation's less urbanized states had implemented women's suffrage. Thus it can be inferred that more-urbanized states had not granted women the right to vote prior to 1920.

- A. The passage states directly that less urbanized states were the only states to have granted women's suffrage prior to 1920 and says nothing to indicate that they were slow in granting suffrage.
- B. Although prior to 1920 only less urbanized states in the United States had granted women suffrage and nationally women were not granted suffrage there until 1920, this does not mean that highly urbanized states were the most influential. It could be, for instance, that only some and not all the less urbanized states had granted women suffrage prior to 1920 and that those states were at least as influential in determining national policies regarding suffrage.
- C. The passage's only mention of leftist parties is of leftist parties in Switzerland; it says nothing about leftist parties in the United States.
- D. The passage is fully compatible with the denial of this claim.
- E. **Correct.** The passage states that prior to 1920, only less urbanized states had granted women suffrage, thus suggesting that the most highly urbanized states had not yet done so.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-010-04 VRC000069-06 Medium

The passage states which Of the following about Switzerland's urbanized cantons?

- A. These cantons shared characteristics other than urbanization that may have contributed to their implementation of women's suffrage.
- B. These cantons tended to be more politically divided than were rural cantons.
- C. These cantons shared with certain rural cantons characteristics such as similar linguistic backgrounds and strong leftist parties.
- D. The populations of these cantons shared similar views because urbanization furthered the diffusion of ideas among them.
- E. These cantons were comparable to the most highly urbanized states in the United States in their stance toward the implementation of women's suffrage.

Supporting idea

This question depends on identifying explicit statements in the passage regarding Switzerland's urbanized cantons. According to the passage, they enacted women's suffrage legislation earlier than rural cantons did. Further, they shared certain characteristics, such as similar linguistic backgrounds and strong leftist parties. These characteristics, the passage states, may help explain why women were granted suffrage in these cantons.

- A. **Correct.** The passage states explicitly that the characteristics of shared linguistic backgrounds and strong leftist parties may help to explain why Switzerland's urbanized cantons implemented women's suffrage earlier than rural cantons did.
- B. The passage does not state that Switzerland's urbanized cantons were more politically divided than rural cantons were.
- C. The passage states that Switzerland's urbanized cantons shared these characteristics with one another, not that they shared these characteristics with rural cantons.
- D. While it may be the case that urbanization furthered the diffusion of ideas within urbanized cantons, the passage does not assert this, nor does it imply that it is true.
- E. According to the passage, the situation in Switzerland was the reverse of that in the United States: in the United States, less urbanized states granted women suffrage before more-urbanized states did; whereas in Switzerland, urbanized cantons took the lead in implementing women's suffrage.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-010-05 VRC000069-07 Medium

The passage suggests which of the following about urbanization in Switzerland and the United States by 1920?

- A. A greater percentage of Swiss industrial workers than American industrial workers [wed in urban areas.
- B. There were more cities of 10,000 or more inhabitants in Switzerland than there were in the United States.
- C. Swiss workers Irving in urban areas were more likely to be employed in industry than were American workers living in urban areas.
- D. Urbanized areas of Switzerland were more likely than similar areas in the United States to have strong leftist parties.
- E. A greater percentage of the United States population than the Swiss population lived in urban areas.

Inference

This question depends on recognizing the implication of the passage's statement that Switzerland and the United States diverged in the degree to which industrial expansion coincided with urbanization: the passage states that by 1920, only 29 percent of the Swiss population lived in urban areas, thus suggesting that in the United States, the figure was higher.

- A. The passage states that a greater percentage of Swiss workers than American workers were employed in industry by 1920 but goes on to say that the two nations diverged in terms of urbanization. Thus it is that a smaller percentage of Swiss industrial workers than American workers [wed in urban areas.
- B. The passage suggests that a smaller percentage of the Swiss population than of the US population lived in cities of 10,000 or more inhabitants by 1920. Thus it is likely that the US had more such cities.
- C. While the passage provides independent information about the percentage of workers employed in industry in each country and the percentage of the population living in larger cities, there is no way to connect this information to draw conclusions about the likelihood of workers in urban areas in either country to be employed in industry.

- D. The passage gives no information about leftist parties in the United States and thus gives no basis on which to make a comparison of the relative strength of leftist parties in urbanized area of Switzerland with such parties in urbanized areas of the United States.
- E. **Correct.** The implication of the use of the word only in the passage to describe the percentage of Swiss who in urban areas suggests that a greater percentage of the US population lived in such areas.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-011-01 VRC000098-02 Easy

White tigers are neither a species nor a subspecies, but appear as a result of a recessive trait that rarely occurs in the wild. In the 1950s many zoos deliberately and indiscriminately bred white tigers, but more recently, concerns about the desirability of preserving a trait that presumably hinders tigers' to survive in the wild, and recognition that inbreeding could lead to genetic defects, have caused most 2005 to such practices. However, some 200 managers argue that the popularity of white tigers provides income important to the survival of zoo sponsored scientific and conservation programs. They also point out that most of the white tigers captured in the wild were adults, proving that their coloration does not hinder their survival ability.

Opponents of white-tiger breeding programs argue that white tigers are merely Indian tigers—a subspecies well represented in both zoos and the wild—and that zoos should focus their tiger management efforts on preserving subspecies whose existence is threatened, thus preventing the Chinese and Indochinese tiger subspecies from joining the Javan, Balinese, and Caspian subspecies in extinction. Alternatively, zoos could mingle the subspecies and manage all tigers in captivity as one species. Although subspecies differences would be lost, this strategy would be advantageous because fewer animals would be necessary to maintain the genetic diversity of tigers in captivity, making scarce zoo resources available for housing other endangered felines.

The passage suggests that, compared with other tiger subspecies, the Indian tiger is

- A. less threatened by extinction
- B. less readily bred in captivity less
- C. likely to survive in the wild
- D. more likely to be bred indiscriminately
- E. more popular with 200 visitors

Inference

This question depends on understanding the passage's reference to Indian tigers in the first sentence of the second paragraph. This sentence identifies Indian tigers as a tiger subspecies that is well represented in zoos and in the wild and suggests that this subspecies is, compared to the Chinese and Indochinese tigers that the author goes on to mention, in relatively less danger of joining certain subspecies that are extinct.

- A. **Correct.** The passage states that opponents of programs that focus on breeding white tigers—which are a special strain of the Indian subspecies—believe that 2005 should instead focus on preserving subspecies whose existence is more threatened by extinction,

such as the Chinese and Indochinese subspecies. Thus, the passage suggests that compared to other subspecies, the Indian tiger is less threatened by extinction.

- B. That zoos were able to breed white tigers, which are Indian tigers, suggests that this subspecies is not difficult to breed in captivity.
- C. The passage states that Indian tigers are well represented in the wild, which suggests that they are more to survive there than are other tiger subspecies.
- D. According to the passage, while white Indian tigers were once bred indiscriminately, this practice has been abolished by most 2005. Furthermore, the passage says nothing about whether Indian tigers in general are or ever have been bred indiscriminately. Thus, there is no basis for concluding that Indian tigers are now bred any more or less indiscriminately than other tiger subspecies are.
- E. The passage suggests that white Indian tigers are popular with ZOO visitors, but it gives no indication that Indian tigers in general are any more popular with 200 visitors than are tigers of other subspecies.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-011-02 VRC000098-03 Easy

The "Opponents of white—tiger breeding programs" mentioned in the highlighted text advocate that zoos use their resources to

- A. promote public awareness of environmental threats to tiger habitats
- B. allow zoos to house enough tigers to ensure genetic diversity among Indian tigers
- C. study ways to increase the survival rates of white tigers in the wild
- D. investigate ways of maintaining the white tigers already in zoos
- E. preserve tiger subspecies that may be endangered

Supporting idea

This question depends on reading closely the sentence in which the opponents of white-tiger breeding programs are mentioned. According to the sentence, these opponents argue that zoos should focus not on breeding white tigers, but rather on preserving subspecies whose existence is threatened.

- A. While opponents of white-tiger breeding programs might favor zoos' promoting public awareness of threats to tiger habitats, the passage does not provide any information about this.
- B. According to the passage, the opponents of white-tiger breeding programs believe that Indian tigers are well represented in zoos and in the wild already.
- C. Opponents of white-tiger breeding programs are concerned with preserving such tiger subspecies as the Chinese and Indochinese tiger, not with increasing the survival rate of a subset of Indian tigers.
- D. While opponents of white-tiger breeding programs most favor treating zoos' white tigers well, the passage offers no information on this point.
- E. **Correct.** The opponents of white-tiger breeding programs want zoos to focus their management of tigers on subspecies whose existence is threatened.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-011-03 VRC000098-05 Easy

Which of the following best describes the function of the last sentence in the first paragraph of the passage (see highlighted text)?

- A. To emphasize the importance of white tigers as source of ZOO income
- B. To point out the advantages to white tigers of fiving in the wild
- C. To provide evidence counter to an argument against the breeding of white tigers
- D. To suggest that white tigers [wing in the wild are less to face extinction than tigers fiving in zoos
- E. To suggest that white tigers are not endangered

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding why the author chose to include the idea that white tigers are able to survive in the wild. Earlier in the passage, concerns were expressed about the practice of breeding white tigers, e.g., that preserving a trait may hinder tigers' survival in the wild. The final sentence of the first paragraph outlines a response given by certain zoo managers to those concerns.

- A. The second to last sentence in the first paragraph functions to emphasize the importance of white tigers as sources of 200 income, while the last sentence of the paragraph is part of the zoo managers' argument for why they should be allowed to continue breeding white tigers to provide such income.
- B. While the sentence indicates that white tigers can survive in the wild, it does not indicate that white tigers that do so have particular advantages.
- C. **Correct.** That white tigers can survive in the wild weakens the argument that they are curiosities whose whiteness hinders their ability to survive and that they thus should not be bred for this trait.
- D. This sentence does not provide any information about whether white tigers in the wild are more or less vulnerable to extinction than are those in zoos.
- E. That white tigers can to adulthood in the wild, as this sentence makes clear, does not give any information about whether white tigers are endangered.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-011-04 VRC000098-06 Easy

The author of the passage suggests that if all tigers in captivity were managed as one species, then zoos would be able to

- A. use their resources to preserve a variety of other felines
- B. increase public interest in tigers and thus attract more visitors and income
- C. provide better habitats for tigers than they currently do
- D. prevent the extinction of existing tiger subspecies
- E. continue breeding white tigers

Inference

This question depends on understanding what the author indicates would result from zoos' mingling of tiger subspecies. Genetic diversity could be maintained with fewer tigers, the author reports, and this would free up resources so that zoos could care for other kinds of endangered felines.

- A. **Correct.** According to the author, managing tigers as a single species would mean needing to house fewer tigers, and housing fewer tigers would in turn mean that zoos could use the newly available resources to preserve a wider variety of felines.
- B. The author does not indicate that mingling tiger subspecies would increase public interest in tigers.
- C. The author suggests that managing tigers as one species would mean needing fewer tigers in captivity; while this would make more resources available to zoos, which could choose to improve tiger habitats, the author states that such resources would be available for housing other endangered felines—that is, not tigers.
- D. The author states that if captive tigers were managed as one species, then subspecies differences would be lost. This could, in effect, hasten the extinction of tiger subspecies.
- E. Because white tigers are the result of a recessive trait and are a subset of a particular subspecies, mingling the subspecies and managing all tigers as one species is incompatible with a continuing program of breeding white tigers.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-012-01 VRC000139-01 Medium

Quantum theory, although of tremendous scientific value, has nevertheless prompted debate among physicists. The debate arose because quantum theory addresses the peculiar properties of minute objects such as photons and electrons. While one type of experiment shows that these objects behave like particles, with well-defined trajectories through space, another demonstrates that, on the contrary, they behave waves, their peaks and troughs producing characteristic "interference" effects. However, scientists have failed to devise an experiment to demonstrate both behaviors simultaneously.

In the 1920s, two alternate interpretations of quantum theory attempted to resolve this apparently contradictory wave-particle duality. Physicist Niels Bohr argued that wave-particle properties are not contradictory, but complementary. Contrary to our intuition that an object continues to exist in some determined form even though we cannot perceive it, he concluded that the physical of a quantum object is actually undetermined before the object is observed via experiment.

Physicist Werner Heisenberg's "uncertainty principle," by contrast, postulated that we cannot precisely determine two complementary properties, such as position and momentum, of a quantum object simultaneously: if we measure an object's position with absolute certainty, then there is an infinite uncertainty in its momentum, and vice versa. He concluded that although we are limited in our ability to measure objects at the atomic and subatomic levels, their position and momentum are nonetheless defined all along.

Which of the following does the passage mention as providing evidence of the dual nature of quantum objects?

- A. Scientists' inability to measure the position and momentum of quantum objects simultaneously
- B. Scientists' inability to measure the momentum of quantum objects with certainty
- C. The similarities in the appearance of particles and waves
- D. The tendency of quantum objects to exhibit well-defined trajectories only at either extremely high or extremely low speeds
- E. The behavior of quantum objects as either particles or waves depending on the type of experiment that is performed

Supporting ideas

This question depends on identifying what the passage states directly in support of the finding that quantum objects exhibit a dual nature. The first paragraph explains that the debate about these objects arose because of the properties they displayed in different

experiments: one type showed that they behaved like particles; another type showed that they behaved waves.

- A. This describes Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, which does not provide evidence of the dual nature of quantum objects, but rather seeks to explain that dual nature.
- B. According to Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, quantum objects' momentum cannot be measured with certainty if their position is determined with certainty. This is part of Heisenberg's attempt to explain the dual nature of quantum objects.
- C. The passage does not say that particles and waves are similar.
- D. The passage does not discuss the speed of quantum objects.
- E. **Correct.** Experiments showing that quantum objects can behave as either particles or waves suggested that quantum objects have a dual nature.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-012-02 VRC000139-02 Hard

It can be inferred from the passage that if scientists were able to measure the position and momentum of quantum objects precisely and simultaneously, then the

- A. theory that the dual properties of quantum objects are complementary would be proven
- B. basic postulate of the uncertainty principle would be refuted
- C. distinction between particle behavior and wave behavior would cease to exist
- D. debate about quantum theory among physicists would be unchanged
- E. trajectories of quantum objects through space would be more difficult to predict

Application

This question depends on understanding how the passage uses the concepts of position and momentum. They are discussed in the context of the uncertainty principle. According to Heisenberg, position and momentum are complementary properties of quantum objects that cannot be determined precisely and simultaneously.

- A. The passage does not dispute the view, which it attributes to Heisenberg, that the dual properties are both complementary and unable to be measured simultaneously. Thus, it tends to conflict with, rather than support, the inference that an ability to simultaneously measure these properties would prove them to be complementary.
- B. **Correct.** According to the passage, Heisenberg postulates in the uncertainty principle that the position and momentum of quantum objects cannot be measured precisely and simultaneously. Thus, doing so would refute this principle.
- C. The passage supports the inference that if scientists were to become able to measure both of these things simultaneously, they would need to reevaluate the relationship between wave behavior and particle behavior among quantum objects. However, the passage provides no grounds for thinking that this would invalidate the more general distinction between particle behavior and wave behavior, as, for example, among non-quantum objects.
- D. The debate would most change, in that the uncertainty principle would need to be reevaluated as an explanation for observations of quantum objects.
- E. The passage provides no basis for inferring this; in fact, it is consistent with the common-sense assumption that the simultaneous availability of more information about

an object's position and momentum should make its trajectory easier, not harder, to predict.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-012-03 VRC000139-03 Easy

All of the following are mentioned in the passage as possible characteristics of quantum objects EXCEPT

- A. a minute size
- B. momentum
- C. position in space
- D. sporadic movement
- E. wave-like behavior

Supporting ideas

This question depends on recognizing what the passage does and does not state explicitly about quantum objects. According to the passage, they are minute objects that can behave like either particles or waves, and they possess such properties as position and momentum.

- A. The passage states that quantum objects are minute, and offers photons and electrons as examples.
- B. Heisenberg's uncertainty principle relies on quantum objects' having complementary properties, one pair of which is position and momentum.
- C. Position (in space) and momentum are a pair of complementary properties of quantum objects mentioned in the context of the discussion of Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.
- D. **Correct.** The passage does not say that quantum objects move sporadically (that is, only occasionally or irregularly). In fact, it does not mention any way in which quantum objects move.
- E. According to the passage, some experiments performed on quantum objects have demonstrated that they behave waves.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-012-04 VRC000139-04 Medium

Which of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine Bohr's conclusion about the physical reality of a quantum object?

- A. The physical properties of particles and waves are inherently complementary.
- B. Human intuition is not a factor in the interpretation of scientific data about quantum objects.
- C. Results of experiments on quantum objects are sometimes influenced by the expectations of the experimenters.
- D. The technology used in research on quantum objects has made tremendous advances since the 1920s.
- E. Quantum objects possess distinct, continuously existing physical forms that do not depend on the experiments used to measure them.

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding Bohr's conclusion, as it is presented in the passage, and identifying a way in which it might be weakened. Bohr maintained that although our intuition tells us that all objects persist in a determined form, quantum objects do not; only when they are observed in an experiment do they have a determinate physical reality. Any finding that suggests that quantum objects do persist in a determined form would undermine this conclusion.

- A. According to the passage, Bohr argued that wave and particle properties are complementary, so this would support, rather than undermine, his conclusion.
- B. The passage suggests that Bohr's conclusion is contrary to our intuition about some types of objects, so if human intuition were not a factor in interpreting data about quantum objects, that conclusion might seem less paradoxical, but it would not be undermined thereby.
- C. Bohr's conclusion is that experimental observation itself determines the physical reality of quantum objects, so it would not undermine his conclusion if experimental results were at least sometimes influenced by experimenters' expectations.
- D. The mere fact that the relevant technology had advanced would not tell us whether the research conducted with such technology would tend to support or undermine Bohr's conclusion.

- E. **Correct.** The passage states that Bohr concluded that experimental observation causes quantum objects to be what they are. If quantum objects possess physical forms outside of experimental observation, then Bohr's conclusion is incorrect.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-012-05 VRC000139-05 Easy

Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?

- A. A thesis is introduced and then amended.
- B. Arguments are presented, weighed, and then reconciled.
- C. A problem is described and different interpretations intended to resolve the problem are presented.
- D. Hypotheses are analyzed, their premises are refuted, and alternatives are suggested to replace the hypotheses.
- E. A theory is advanced, opposing evidence is considered, and the theory is abandoned.

Evaluation

This question depends on recognizing the progression of ideas in the passage. First, the passage explains that quantum theory has prompted a debate among physicists. Next, it indicates that two interpretations (Bohr's and Heisenberg's) have attempted to resolve this debate. It then describes each of those explanations.

- A. The thesis of the passage is that quantum theory has prompted debate among physicists; this thesis is not amended at any point in the passage.
- B. The passage does not reconcile the two interpretations of quantum theory that it presents.
- C. **Correct.** The passage describes the problem presented by the conflicting results of experiments on quantum objects, then offers two interpretations of these results.
- D. The passage does not refute the premises of the hypotheses it presents.
- E. The passage offers a basic explanation of quantum theory, but neither considers evidence opposing it nor abandons it

The Correct Answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-012-06 VRC000139-06 Easy

The passage suggests that the debate among physicists mentioned in the first sentence has arisen in part because

- A. the rapid movement of quantum objects poses an insurmountable obstacle to precise measurement
- B. scientists have been unable to devise a single experiment that reveals both particle and wave properties of quantum objects simultaneously
- C. the controversial nature of quantum theory has made it for scientists to agree on what evidence is acceptable
- D. division among physicists has resulted in the design of experiments that produce unintelligible experimental results
- E. research efforts have been undermined by irreconcilable contradictions between equally compelling interpretations of quantum theory

Inference

This question depends on understanding the connection between the first sentence of the first paragraph and the rest of the paragraph. The debate among physicists arose, the second sentence states, as a result of the peculiar properties of quantum objects. Among those peculiar properties, the rest of the paragraph goes on to explain, are quantum objects' behavior as particles and waves, depending on the type of experiment used to study them. Finally, the paragraph notes that scientists have not been able to demonstrate both behaviors simultaneously in a single experiment. This leaves them without an answer for, and thus debating, quantum objects' puzzling duality.

- A. The rapidity with which quantum objects move is not an issue in the passage.
- B. **Correct.** The passage implies, in the first paragraph, that physicists' inability to demonstrate simultaneously the particle and wave properties of quantum objects is part of what has given rise to their debate about quantum theory.
- C. The passage discusses differing views regarding what conclusions the evidence supports, but it does not address the question of whether they disagree about what evidence would be acceptable.
- D. According to the passage, scientists find the properties of quantum objects, as revealed by experiments, peculiar, but they do not find those experimental results unintelligible.

- E. The passage does not indicate that research efforts have been undermined by the competing interpretations of quantum theory.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-013-01 VRC000226-01 Hard

Anthropologists studying the Hopi people of the southwestern United States often characterize Hopi society between 1680 and 1880 as surprisingly stable, considering that it was a period of diminution in population and pressure from contact with outside groups, factors that might be expected to cause significant changes in Hopi social arrangements.

The Hopis' retention of their distinctive sociocultural system has been attributed to the Hopi religious elite's determined efforts to preserve their religion and way of life, and also to a geographical isolation greater than that of many other Native American groups, an isolation that limited both cultural contact and exposure to European diseases. But equally important to Hopi cultural persistence may have been an inherent in their social system that may have allowed preservation of traditions even as the Hopis accommodated themselves to change. For example, the system of matrilineal clans was maintained throughout this period, even though some clans merged to form larger groups while others divided into smaller descent groups. Furthermore, although traditionally members of particular Hopi clans appear to have exclusively controlled particular ceremonies, a clan's control of a ceremony might shift to another clan if the first became too small to manage the responsibility. Village leadership positions traditionally restricted to members of one clan might be similarly extended to members of other clans, and women might assume such positions under certain unusual conditions.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about the Hopis' geographic situation between 1680 and 1880?

- A. It prevented the Hopis from experiencing a diminution in population.
- B. It helped to promote within their social system.
- C. It limited but did not eliminate contact with other cultural groups.
- D. It reinforced the religious elite's determination to resist cultural change.
- E. It tended to limit contact between certain Hopi clans.

Inference

This question depends on connecting information from the first and second paragraphs of the passage to make an inference. The first paragraph states that between 1680 and 1880, Hopi society was under pressure from contact with outsiders. The second paragraph notes that Hopis were geographically isolated in such a way that their cultural contact with other groups was limited.

- A. The first paragraph states that the period between 1680 and 1880 was a time of diminution in population for the Hopi people.

- B. While the passage discusses the Hopi social system's flexibility, it does not attribute that flexibility to the people's geographical situation.
- C. **Correct.** According to the passage, the Hopi were under pressure from outside groups, but their contact with such groups was limited by their geographical isolation.
- D. The passage cites the religious elite's efforts to preserve Hopi culture and the Hopi people's geographical isolation as separate factors contributing to the stability of Hopi society; it does not connect the two.
- E. The passage suggests that Hopi clans were closely connected, even to the extent of merging together or shifting responsibilities from one clan to another.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-013-02 VRC000226-02 Medium

The author of the passage mentions the control of ceremonies by particular Hopi clans most in order to

- A. provide an example of the way in which the religious elite protected their position within Hopi society
- B. note an exception to a larger pattern evident in many Native American cultures
- C. explain the connection in Hopi culture between regions and political leadership
- D. illustrate how the Hopis combined flexibility with tradition
- E. cite evidence that counters a common misconception about the structure of Hopi society

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding what point the author is supporting by referring to control of ceremonies by certain Hopi clans. The author explains that while particular ceremonies were controlled exclusively by certain clans, this control could shift to another clan if necessitated by population changes. This is part of the evidence the author uses to support the idea that Hopi cultural traditions persisted because of the Hopis' social flexibility.

- A. The author claims in the passage that the Hopi religious elite fought to preserve their religion and way of life but does not address the question of whether they protected their position in relation to other parts of Hopi society.
- B. While the Hopis may have differed from other Native American groups in the way in which they controlled ceremonies, the author does not comment upon other Native American cultures' approaches to ceremonies.
- C. The author does not discuss the connection between religious and political leadership in Hopi culture.
- D. **Correct.** That ceremonial control could pass from clan to clan, as the author mentions, suggests that the Hopis' flexibility enabled them to maintain their ceremonial traditions.
- E. The author does not suggest in the passage that there are particular misconceptions about Hopi society that need to be countered.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-013-03 VRC000226-04 Medium

The passage suggests that sociocultural change in Hopi society between 1680 and 1880 was

- A. initiated primarily by contact with other cultural groups
- B. greater than that experienced by many other Native American peoples during that period
- C. less pronounced than might be expected, given the demographic conditions and external pressures during that period
- D. less pronounced than it had been previously because of diminution in the Hopi population occurring after 1680
- E. accelerated by the particular geographic circumstances of the Hopis

Inference

This question depends on understanding the first paragraph's assessment of the rate of change in Hopi society. The first sentence states that anthropologists characterize the society as surprisingly stable, particularly given that their population was decreasing and they were under pressure from outside groups. Under these conditions, the passage suggests, the rate of change might have been expected to be far greater than it was.

- A. The passage suggests that the changes undergone by Hopi society were attributable to both contact with other groups and diminution in population; it does not indicate that either of these pressures was greater than the other.
- B. The passage indicates that the Hopis' geographical isolation helped limit the amount of change that they underwent during this period. It also says that many other Native American groups were not as geographically isolated as the Hopis. This suggests that many of the other groups most likely experienced greater change than the Hopis did.
- C. **Correct.** The passage suggests that anthropologists find Hopi society to have been surprisingly stable during this time period, given the demographic and external pressures on the population.
- D. The passage provides no information about changes in Hopi society prior to 1680.
- E. The passage suggests that the Hopis' geographic circumstances slowed the sociocultural change in their society, for they were geographically more isolated than other Native American groups were.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-013-04 VRC000226-06 Hard

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. reassessing a phenomenon in light of new findings
- B. assessing the relative importance of two factors underlying a phenomenon
- C. examining the assumptions underlying an interpretation of a phenomenon
- D. expanding on an explanation of a phenomenon
- E. contrasting two methods for evaluating a phenomenon

Main idea

This question depends on understanding the passage as a whole. It begins by noting that anthropologists find the stability of Hopi culture during a certain period surprising. It states that this stability has been attributed to two factors (the efforts of the Hopi religious elite and the Hopis' cultural isolation), which it then explains further by discussing ways in which the Hopis integrated flexibility and tradition.

- A. The passage does not suggest that any of the observations it contains are new.
- B. The passage discusses several factors underlying Hopi cultural stability and suggests that they are equally important; its primary concern, however, is not arriving at this assessment of equal importance, but rather explaining the factors.
- C. The passage does not discuss the assumptions that underlie the interpretation of Hopi culture as stable.
- D. **Correct.** The passage's primary concern is elaborating on how Hopi cultural stability can be explained partly by the Hopis' social flexibility, which enabled them to preserve their cultural traditions.
- E. The passage does not discuss differences between methods. The only contrast offered in the passage is the implicit contrast between the cultural change that might have been expected in Hopi society and that society's actual cultural stability

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-013-05 VRC000226-07 Hard

The author of the passage would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements about the explanation outlined in the highlighted text?

- A. It fails to take into account the effect of geographical circumstances on Hopi culture.
- B. It correctly emphasizes the role of the religious elite in maintaining the system of matrilineal clans.
- C. It represents a misreading of Hopi culture because it fails to take into account the actual differences that existed among the various Hopi clans.
- D. It underestimates the effect on Hopi cultural development of contact with other cultural groups.
- E. It is correct but may be insufficient in itself to explain Hopi sociocultural persistence.

Inference

This question depends on understanding the author's stance toward the explanation offered at the beginning of the second paragraph. The author clearly endorses this explanation for Hopi cultural stability during the period in question; the author goes on, however, to state that the flexibility of the Hopi social system was most equally important.

- A. The explanation directly addresses the geographical isolation of the Hopi people on Hopi cultural persistence.
- B. The explanation referred to does not connect the role of the religious elite with the system of matrilineal clans.
- C. The author suggests that the explanation is accurate, not that it is a misreading of Hopi culture.
- D. The author indicates endorsement of the notion that the Hopis' contact with other cultural groups was limited; thus the author would most likely not agree that this explanation underestimates the effect on Hopi culture of such contact.
- E. **Correct.** The author goes on to discuss the importance of Hopi social flexibility, suggesting that the explanation referred to in the question, while accurate, is not sufficient.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-014-01 VRC000289-01 Easy

In *Forces of Production*, David Noble examines the transformation of the machine-tool industry as the industry moved from reliance on skilled artisans to automation. Noble writes from a Marxist perspective, and his central argument is that management, in its decisions to automate, conspired against labor: the power that the skilled machinists wielded in the industry was intolerable to management. Noble fails to substantiate this claim, although his argument is impressive when he applies the Marxist concept of "de-skilling"—the use of technology to replace skilled the automation of the machine-tool industry. In automating, the industry moved to computer-based, digitalized "numerical control" (N/C) technology, rather than to artisan generated "record-playback" (R/P) technology.

Although both systems reduced reliance on skilled labor, Noble clearly prefers R/P, with its inherent acknowledgment of workers' skills: unlike N/C, its programs were produced not by engineers at their computers, but by skilled machinists, who recorded their own movements to "teach" machines to duplicate those movements. However, Noble's only evidence of conspiracy is that, although the two approaches were roughly equal in technical merit, management chose N/C. From this he concludes that automation is undertaken not because efficiency demands it or scientific advances allow it. but because it is a tool in the ceaseless war of capitalists against labor.

According to information in the passage, the term refers to the

- A. loss of skills that are lost to industry when skilled workers are replaced by unskilled laborers
- B. substitution of mechanized processes for labor formerly performed by skilled workers
- C. labor theory that automation is technologically comparable to skilled labor
- D. process by which skilled machinists "teach" machines to perform certain tasks
- E. exclusion of skilled workers from participation in the development of automated technology

Supporting ideas

This question depends on recognizing the definition offered in the passage for "de-skilling". The passage identifies this as a Marxist concept used in Noble's work. According to the passage, it refers to the use of technology to replace skilled labor.

- A. The passage does not discuss unskilled laborers.
- B. **Correct.** As stated in the passage, "de-skilling" involves using technology in the place of skilled workers.

-
- C. According to the passage, the concept of "de-skilling" is a concept from Marxist theory; it is not itself a labor theory.
 - D. The passage indicates that skilled workers "teaching" machines to duplicate their movements is known as "record-playback" technology. It does not suggest that this is equivalent to "de-skilling."
 - E. The passage suggests that Noble considers this type of exclusion to be a factor that contributed, in a particular context, to "de-skilling," but it does not indicate that "deskilling," in general, consists in such exclusion.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-014-02 VRC000289-02 Medium

The passage suggests which of the following about NJC automation in the machine-tool industry?

- A. It displaced fewer skilled workers than automation did.
- B. It could have been implemented either by experienced machinists or by computer engineers.
- C. It was designed without the active involvement of skilled machinists.
- D. It was more difficult to design than automation was.
- E. It was technically superior to automation.

Inference

This question depends on extrapolating from the passage's statements regarding N/C automation. The first paragraph defines N/C as computer-based, digitalized technology and suggests that it was not artisan generated. The second paragraph suggests that N/C's programs were produced by "engineers at their computers" rather than by skilled machinists.

- A. According to the passage, both systems reduced industry's need for skilled labor. Further, automation required skilled workers to "teach" their movements to machines, while N/C did not require these workers. Thus it is plausible that N/C displaced more, not fewer, skilled workers than R/P.
- B. The passage makes clear that computer engineers were needed to implement N/C.
- C. **Correct.** In the passage, one of Noble's complaints is that R/P, in which skilled machinists would teach machines their movements, was not preferred to N/C, which the passage suggests used no skilled machinists.
- D. The passage does not suggest anything about the relative difficulty of and design.
- E. The passage states explicitly that the two approaches are roughly equal in technical merit.

The correct answer is C.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-014-03 VRC000289-04 Hard

Which of the following best characterizes Forces of Production as it is described in the passage?

- A. A comparison of two interpretations of how a particular industry evolved
- B. An examination of the origin of a particular concept in industrial economics
- C. A study that points out the weakness of a particular interpretation of an industrial phenomenon
- D. A history of a particular industry from an ideological point of view
- E. An attempt to relate an industrial phenomenon in one industry to a similar phenomenon in another industry

Inference

This question depends on understanding the first paragraph's account of Forces of Production's main topic and its approach to that topic. According to the passage, the book recounts from a Marxist perspective the machine-tool industry's movement from skilled labor to automation.

- A. The passage does not directly address the issue of whether Noble compares two interpretations. It suggests that the only interpretation offered in Forces of Production of how the machine-tool industry evolved is Noble's own.
- B. According to the passage, Noble applies the concept of "de-skilling" to the machine-tool industry's automation; the passage does not tell whether he examines the origin of that concept. It provides no reason to suppose that, even if he does examine the origin, his doing so is a focal point of the book.
- C. This describes the passage itself (which points out a weakness of Noble's Marxist critique) more accurately than it does Forces of Production. The passage does not address the issue of whether Noble points out weaknesses in any interpretation.
- D. **Correct.** Forces of Production is, according to the passage, a history of the machine-tool industry related from a Marxist point of view.
- E. The passage mentions only that Noble's book is concerned with the machine-tool industry. It does not indicate whether the book compares that industry to others, but suggests that it focuses only on the one industry.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-014-04 VRC000289-05 Medium

The author of the passage commends Noble's book for which of the following?

- A. Concentrating on skilled as opposed to unskilled workers in its discussion of the machine-tool industry
- B. Offering a generalization about the motives behind the machine-tool industry's decision to automate
- C. Making an essential distinction between two kinds of technology employed in the machine-tool industry
- D. Calling into question the notion that managers conspired against labor in the automation of the machine-tool industry
- E. Applying the concept of de-skilling to the machine-tool industry

Supporting ideas

This question depends on isolating from the passage author's critique the element for which the author finds Noble's book praiseworthy. The author finds Noble's main claim, regarding management's conspiring against labor, unsubstantiated. However, the passage states that Noble's work is impressive in its application of a particular Marxist concept, to the machine-tool industry's automation.

- A. The passage does not address unskilled workers.
- B. The passage explicitly criticizes Noble's generalization about the motives behind managements' decision to automate, calling it unsubstantiated.
- C. The author neither commends nor criticizes this element of Noble's book; it is presented as simply a factual distinction.
- D. It is the author of the passage, rather than Noble, who implicitly questions the idea that management conspired against labor. The author suggests that the evidence Noble offers of this conspiracy is insufficient.
- E. **Correct.** The author praises Noble for using the Marxist concept of de-skilling to describe how technology replaced skilled labor in the machine-tool industry.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-015-01 VRC000405-03 Hard

According to a theory advanced by researcher Paul Martin, the wave of species extinctions that occurred in North America about 11,000 years ago, at the end of the Pleistocene era, can be directly attributed to the arrival of humans, i.e., the Paleoindians, who were ancestors of modern Native Americans. However, anthropologist Shepard Krech points out that large animal species vanished even in areas where there is no evidence to demonstrate that Paleoindians hunted them. Nor were extinctions confined to large animals: small animals, plants, and insects disappeared, presumably not all through human consumption. Krech also contradicts Martin's exclusion of climatic change as an explanation by asserting that widespread climatic change did indeed occur at the end of the Pleistocene. Still, Krech attributes secondary if not primary responsibility for the extinctions to the Paleoindians, arguing that humans have produced local extinctions elsewhere. But, according to historian Richard White, even the attribution of secondary responsibility may not be supported by the evidence. White observes that Martin's thesis depends on coinciding dates for the arrival of humans and the decline of large animal species, and Krech, though aware that the dates are controversial, does not challenge them; yet recent archaeological discoveries are providing evidence that the date of human arrival was much earlier than 11,000 years ago.

Which of the following, if true, would most weaken Krech's objections to Martin's theory?

- A. Further studies showing that the climatic change that occurred at the end of the Pleistocene era was even more severe and widespread than was previously believed
- B. New discoveries indicating that Paleoindians made use of the small animals, plants, and insects that became extinct
- C. Additional evidence indicating that widespread climatic change occurred not only at the end of the Pleistocene era but also in previous and subsequent eras
- D. Researchers' discoveries that many more species became extinct in North America at the end of the Pleistocene era than was previously believed
- E. New discoveries establishing that both the arrival of humans in North America and the wave of Pleistocene extinctions took place much earlier than 11,000 years ago

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding both Martin's theory and the basis on which Krech objects to that theory. The passage indicates that Martin's theory is that the arrival of humans in North America caused the species extinctions that occurred at the end of the Pleistocene era (11,000 years ago). Krech counters this by pointing out that large species vanished in areas where Paleoindians may not even have hunted and that species of small animals, plants, and insects disappeared as well. Further, Krech asserts that climate change,

which Martin dismisses as a cause of the extinctions, occurred at around the same time as the extinctions.

- A. If the climate change that is supposed to have occurred at the end of the Pleistocene actually did occur, and if it were particularly severe, Krech's suggestion that such change contributed to the species extinctions would be strengthened, not weakened.
- B. **Correct.** One of Krech's objections to Martin's theory is that species other than the large animals that humans were likely to have hunted also became extinct. If, however, Paleoindians used small animals, plants, and insects, then this element of Krech's objections would be weakened.
- C. If widespread climatic changes occurring at other times were almost never accompanied by extinctions, one aspect of Krech's reasoning—his suggestion of an alternative hypothesis to account for the Pleistocene extinctions—would be somewhat weakened. However, the mere fact that changes have occurred at some other times in Earth's history has no effect on Krech's position.
- D. If more species became extinct than was previously believed, Martin's theory would be weakened further, for as Krech suggests, Martin's theory has difficulty accounting for all the species extinctions currently believed to have taken place.
- E. Krech's objections to Martin's theory do not involve, as the passage indicates in its last sentence, disputing the concurrence of humans' arrival and the wave of extinctions, so if both of these events occurred earlier, Krech's objections would not be affected.

The correct answer is B.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-015-02 VRC000405-04 Medium

The passage suggests that Krech would be most likely to agree with a theory of the Pleistocene species extinctions that

- A. included climate change as one of the causes of the extinctions
- B. incorporated a revised date for human arrival in North America
- C. eliminated the Paleoindians as a factor in the extinctions
- D. identified a single cause for the extinctions
- E. emphasized the role of hunting in causing most species extinctions

Inference

This question depends on extrapolating from Krech's objections, as they are presented in the passage, to what Krech would accept as an explanation for the Pleistocene extinctions. According to the passage, Krech argues against Martin's dismissal of climate change as a cause; Krech also, however, preserves the idea that humans may have contributed to the extinctions as a secondary cause. The passage then refers to White's work to indicate that Krech does not dispute Martin's assumptions about when humans arrived in North America. Thus a theory that Krech would agree with would be one that did not contradict any of these basic ideas.

- A. **Correct.** The passage suggests that Krech is opposed to Martin's exclusion of climate change as a cause of the extinctions, so Krech would most likely endorse a theory that included climate change as one such cause.
- B. The passage states that Krech does not challenge Martin's dates, despite the fact that recent archaeological evidence suggests that they may need to be revised. Thus, it provides no reason to suppose that Krech would be especially to agree with such a revision.
- C. According to the passage, Krech holds that the Paleoindians contributed to the extinctions, even if they were not the primary cause.
- D. Based on the passage, Krech holds that at least two factors contributed to the extinctions: change and humans.
- E. While Krech argues that humans have produced some species extinctions (presumably through hunting) and probably played a role in the particular extinctions in question,

there is no suggestion in the passage that he believes this to be a cause of most extinction.

The correct answer is A.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-015-03 VRC000405-05 Medium

In the last sentence of the passage, the author refers to “recent archaeological discoveries” (see highlighted text) most probably in order to

- A. refute White's suggestion that neither Martin nor Krech adequately account for Paleoindians' contributions to the Pleistocene extinctions
- B. cast doubt on the possibility that a more definitive theory regarding the causes of the Pleistocene extinctions may be forthcoming
- C. suggest that Martin's, and White's theories regarding the Pleistocene extinctions are all open to question
- D. call attention to the most controversial aspect of all the current theories regarding the Pleistocene extinctions
- E. provide support for White's questioning of both Martin's and Krech's positions regarding the role of Paleoindians in the Pleistocene extinctions

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding the content of the recent archaeological discoveries to which the author refers and then connecting those discoveries to White's argument. The discoveries indicate that humans arrived earlier than 11,000 years ago—that is, than the Pleistocene extinctions are presumed to have occurred. Martin attributes those extinctions directly to humans' arrival, and Krech suggests that their arrival, while not a primary cause of the extinctions, is a secondary cause. White, however, says that even Krech's position may not be well-founded—and the new discoveries cited in the passage support White's stance.

- A. White does not suggest that Martin and Koch fail to account for Paleoindians' contribution to the extinctions; instead, he suggests that they both give too much weight to the Paleoindians.
- B. The recent discoveries do not cast doubt on the idea that a more definitive theory could be established; rather, they indicate that such a theory is more likely to be developed, because the evidence supporting it will be more reliable.
- C. The passage treats the recent discoveries, which support White's position, as suggesting that White is correct to dispute Martin's and Krech's theories.
- D. The passage provides no basis for inferences about current theories beyond those specifically mentioned and no information about what might be the most controversial part of all such theories. The dispute between Martin and Krech suggests that the role of

climate change in the Pleistocene extinctions may be the most controversial aspect of those particular theories.

- E. **Correct.** The author uses the recent archaeological discoveries about humans' arrival date to support White's suggestion that attributing any responsibility for the Pleistocene extinctions to humans may be inappropriate.

The correct answer is E.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-015-04 VRC000405-06 Easy

The passage mentions the extinction of species other than large animals (see highlighted text) most probably in order to

- A. suggest that the Paleoindians were responsible for more extinctions than Martin's theory assumes
- B. provide support for the speculation that humans arrived in North America significantly earlier than the end of the Pleistocene era
- C. point out the only area in which Martin, Krech, and White agree concerning the circumstances of the Pleistocene extinctions
- D. cite additional evidence tending to support Krech's conclusions about the role of humans in the Pleistocene extinctions
- E. raise a question about the logical consistency of Krech's view of Martin's theory

Evaluation

This question depends on understanding the context in which the author mentions extinctions other than those of large animals. This follows the description of Krech's objection to Martin's theory that humans are directly responsible for the Pleistocene extinctions. That other species, ones that humans did not consume, also became extinct helps bolster Krech's case that humans were not primarily responsible.

- A. That species other than large animals disappeared—and the passage notes that these species' extinctions were most likely not due to human consumption—is used to support Krech's view that humans were responsible for fewer, not more, extinctions than Martin's theory assumes.
- B. The idea that humans arrived in North America earlier than the end of the Pleistocene era is brought up at the end of the passage; this information is not used to support that idea.
- C. While it might be the case the Martin, Krech, and White agree that the extinctions were not confined to large animals, the passage's mention of this fact does not serve to indicate such agreement.
- D. **Correct.** This evidence supports Krech's conclusion that humans were not primarily responsible for the extinctions.
- E. This information does not raise any questions about Krech's logic; rather, it reinforces Krech's view.

The correct answer is D.

PREP2012-Pack1-RC-015-05 VRC000405-07 Hard

Which of the following is true about Martin's theory, as that theory is described in the passage?

- A. It assumes that the Paleoindians were primarily dependent on hunting for survival.
- B. It denies that the Pleistocene species extinctions were caused by climate change.
- C. It uses as evidence the fact that humans have produced local extinctions in other situations.
- D. It attempts to address the controversy over the date of human arrival in North America.
- E. It admits the possibility that factors other than the arrival of humans played a role in the Pleistocene extinctions.

Supporting ideas

This question depends on recognizing what is explicitly stated in the passage with regard to Martin's theory. As presented in the passage, Martin's theory is that the arrival of humans in North America at the end of the Pleistocene era caused the species extinctions that occurred at that time. Further, when discussing Krech's objections to Martin's theory, the author indicates that Martin excludes climate change as an explanation for the Pleistocene extinctions.

- A. While the passage suggests that Martin's theory assumes that Paleoindians hunted, it does not indicate whether this activity was their primary means of obtaining food.
- B. **Correct.** According to the passage, Martin's theory involves denying that change played a role in the species extinctions.
- C. In the passage, it is Krech, not Martin, who is described as using as evidence the fact that humans have produced local extinctions elsewhere.
- D. The passage suggests that both Martin and Krech accept without question that humans arrived in North America at about the end of the Pleistocene era.
- E. The passage states that Martin's theory is that the species extinctions can be directly attributed to the arrival of humans.

The correct answer is B.

