

Mr. Ahmed Ziyen Academy

خبير ومستشار تعليمي للأنظمة الأمريكية

DSAT • ACT • EST • IELTS



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خبير ومستشار تعليمي للأمريكان دبلومه
DSAT, ACT, EST & IELTS Expert

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placement test

Reading and Writing

33 QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS

The questions in this section address a number of important reading and writing skills. Each question includes one or more passages, which may include a table or graph. Read each passage and question carefully, and then choose the best answer to the question based on the passage(s).

All questions in this section are multiple-choice with four answer choices. Each question has a single best answer.

1

The following text is adapted from Ida B. Wells's 1970 autobiography *A Crusade for Justice*. Mr. Watts is a reference to George Frederic Watts, an English painter.

[Manchester's] art galleries are so arranged that the name of every picture is plainly seen and one has no need of a catalogue to pick out the name and the artist. This is a convenience to the general public, which other art galleries, which shall be nameless, might copy to advantage. To her treasure of art Manchester has added Mr. Watts' latest picture, the Good Samaritan.

©1970 by the University of Chicago Press

As used in the text, what does the word "arranged" most nearly mean?

- A) Organized
- B) Ranked
- C) Scheduled
- D) Discussed

2

One challenge of generating electricity from ocean waves is that wave power isn't _____: it varies in unpredictable ways that pose technological and planning problems for electricity generation.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) accidental
- B) confident
- C) expensive
- D) consistent

3

Due to their often strange images, highly experimental syntax, and opaque subject matter, many of John Ashbery's poems can be quite difficult to _____ and thus are the object of heated debate among scholars.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) delegate
- B) compose
- C) interpret
- D) renounce

4

Diego Velázquez was the leading artist in the court of King Philip IV of Spain during the seventeenth century, but his influence was hardly _____ Spain: realist and impressionist painters around the world employed his techniques and echoed elements of his style.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) derived from
- B) recognized in
- C) confined to
- D) repressed by

5

Although science fiction was dominated mostly by white male authors when Octavia Butler, a Black woman, began writing, she did not view the genre as _____. Butler broke into the field with the publication of several short stories and her 1976 novel *Patternmaster*, and she later became the first science fiction writer to win a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) legitimate
- B) impenetrable
- C) compelling
- D) indecipherable

6

The following text is adapted from Cynthia Kadohata's 2004 novel *Kira-Kira*.

[Uncle Katsuhisa] was as loud as my father was quiet. Even when he wasn't talking, he made a lot of noise, clearing his throat and sniffing and tapping his fingers.

©2004 by Cynthia Kadohata

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence?

- A) It lists the kinds of topics Uncle Katsuhisa enjoys discussing.
- B) It suggests that Uncle Katsuhisa dislikes meeting new people.
- C) It contrasts Uncle Katsuhisa with the narrator's father.
- D) It describes a conversation between the narrator and the narrator's father.

7

Wakako Yamauchi is best known for *And the Soul Shall Dance*, her 1977 play about a Japanese American family in Southern California. The play is based on a short story Yamauchi had published three years earlier. Adapting the story wasn't easy. Theater relies on dialogue between characters, but the original story features little dialogue and instead describes its characters' silent thoughts. To transform the story into a play, Yamauchi created situations where characters reveal their thoughts by speaking them aloud during conversations with each other.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A) It offers information about how Yamauchi adapted her short story into a play.
- B) It argues that Yamauchi's play influenced later playwrights.
- C) It explains why Yamauchi's short story is better known than the play adaptation is.
- D) It describes how Yamauchi chose the actors who performed in the play.

8

In response to concerns that some recent financial crises were exacerbated by consumers misunderstanding risks associated with credit cards, loans, and other financial products, policymakers in many countries have instituted risk-disclosure requirements on sellers of those products. Enrique Seira et al. investigated a variety of risk-disclosure messages sent to thousands of credit card customers and found that the messages had only small and short-lived effects on behavior. Seira et al. asserted that such effects may nevertheless be worth pursuing, given the negligible cost of messaging.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A) It notes a factor that led Seira et al. to not dismiss risk-disclosure messaging altogether despite their evidence of its limited utility.
- B) It acknowledges a type of risk-disclosure messaging that Seira et al. may not have fully accounted for in their study.
- C) It describes a consideration that explains why Seira et al. recommended risk-disclosure messaging even though its effects may be small relative to its costs.
- D) It points out a circumstance that Seira et al. conceded may make risk-disclosure messaging more effective than their study suggests.

9

Text 1

When companies in the same industry propose merging with one another, they often claim that the merger will benefit consumers by increasing efficiency and therefore lowering prices. Economist Ying Fan investigated this notion in the context of the United States newspaper market. She modeled a hypothetical merger of Minneapolis-area newspapers and found that subscription prices would rise following a merger.

Text 2

Economists Dario Focarelli and Fabio Panetta have argued that research on the effect of mergers on prices has focused excessively on short-term effects, which tend to be adverse for consumers. Using the case of consumer banking in Italy, they show that over the long term (several years, in their study), the efficiency gains realized by merged companies do result in economic benefits for consumers.

Based on the texts, how would Focarelli and Panetta (Text 2) most likely respond to Fan's findings (Text 1)?

- A) They would recommend that Fan compare the near-term effect of a merger on subscription prices in the Minneapolis area with the effect of a merger in another newspaper market.
- B) They would argue that over the long term the expenses incurred by the merged newspaper company will also increase.
- C) They would encourage Fan to investigate whether the projected effect on subscription prices persists over an extended period.
- D) They would claim that mergers have a different effect on consumer prices in the newspaper industry than in most other industries.

10

Utah is home to Pando, a colony of about 47,000 quaking aspen trees that all share a single root system. Pando is one of the largest single organisms by mass on Earth, but ecologists are worried that its growth is declining in part because of grazing by animals. The ecologists say that strong fences could prevent deer from eating young trees and help Pando start thriving again.

According to the text, why are ecologists worried about Pando?

- A) It isn't growing at the same rate it used to.
- B) It isn't producing young trees anymore.
- C) It can't grow into new areas because it is blocked by fences.
- D) Its root system can't support many more new trees.

11

Recordings of Female Bottlenose Dolphins with Their Calves

Dolphin ID	Recording year
FB07	2012
FB25	1989
FB43	1992
FB79	2018

In a study of bottlenose dolphins, biologist Laela S. Sayigh and a team of researchers analyzed recordings of female bottlenose dolphins interacting with their calves.

According to the table, in which year was the dolphin with the ID FB43 recorded with her calf?

- A) 1999
- B) 2012
- C) 2020
- D) 1992

12

Maximum Height of Maple Trees When Fully Grown

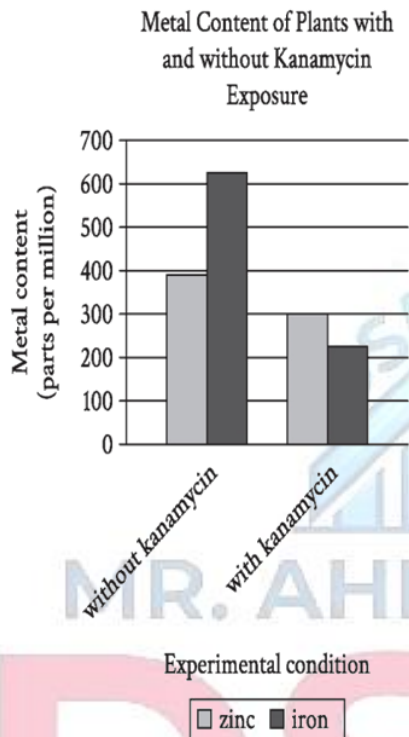
Tree type	Maximum height (feet)	Native to North America
Sugar maple	75	yes
Silver maple	70	yes
Red maple	60	yes
Japanese maple	25	no
Norway maple	50	no

For a school project, a forestry student needs to recommend a maple tree that is native to North America and won't grow more than 60 feet in height. Based on the characteristics of five common maple trees, she has decided to select a _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

- A) silver maple.
- B) sugar maple.
- C) red maple.
- D) Norway maple.

13



Many plants lose their leaf color when exposed to kanamycin, an antibiotic produced by some soil microorganisms. Spelman College biologist Mentewab Ayalew and her colleagues hypothesized that plants' response to kanamycin exposure involves altering their uptake of metals, such as iron and zinc. The researchers grew two groups of seedlings of the plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*, half of which were exposed to kanamycin and half of which were a control group without exposure to kanamycin, and measured the plants' metal content five days after germination.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that support Ayalew and her colleagues' hypothesis?

- A) The control plants contained higher levels of zinc than iron, but plants exposed to kanamycin contained higher levels of iron than zinc.
- B) Both groups of plants contained more than 200 parts per million of both iron and zinc.
- C) Zinc levels were around 300 parts per million in the control plants but nearly 400 parts per million in the plants exposed to kanamycin.
- D) The plants exposed to kanamycin showed lower levels of iron and zinc than the control plants did.

14

Average Number and Duration of Torpor Bouts and Arousal Episodes for Alaska Marmots and Arctic Ground Squirrels, 2008–2011

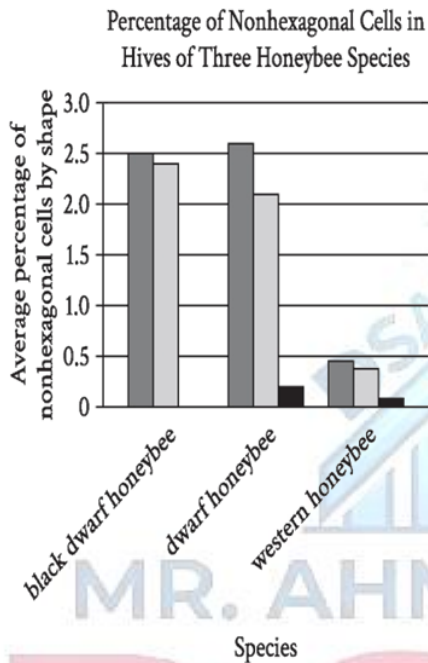
Feature	Alaska marmots	Arctic ground squirrels
torpor bouts	12	10.5
duration per bout	13.81 days	16.77 days
arousal episodes	11	9.5
duration per episode	21.2 hours	14.2 hours

When hibernating, Alaska marmots and Arctic ground squirrels enter a state called torpor, which minimizes the energy their bodies need to function. Often a hibernating animal will temporarily come out of torpor (called an arousal episode) and its metabolic rate will rise, burning more of the precious energy the animal needs to survive the winter. Alaska marmots hibernate in groups and therefore burn less energy keeping warm during these episodes than they would if they were alone. A researcher hypothesized that because Arctic ground squirrels hibernate alone, they would likely exhibit longer bouts of torpor and shorter arousal episodes than Alaska marmots.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the researcher's hypothesis?

- A) The Alaska marmots' arousal episodes lasted for days, while the Arctic ground squirrels' arousal episodes lasted less than a day.
- B) The Alaska marmots and the Arctic ground squirrels both maintained torpor for several consecutive days per bout, on average.
- C) The Alaska marmots had shorter torpor bouts and longer arousal episodes than the Arctic ground squirrels did.
- D) The Alaska marmots had more torpor bouts than arousal episodes, but their arousal episodes were much shorter than their torpor bouts.

15



Honeybee hives consist mainly of hexagonal (six-sided) units called cells, in which queens lay eggs. Hexagonal cells for eggs that develop into nonreproductive workers are smaller than those for eggs that develop into reproductive drones, though the size difference varies by species. Difference in cell size results in a construction problem—it's hard to neatly connect sections of small cells to sections of large cells—that worsens as the difference increases. To fill in gaps between the sections when building a hive, bees rely on cells that have more or fewer than six sides. A student studying beehive structure consults data on three species, concluding that _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the student's conclusion?

- A) cells for worker eggs are probably closer in size to cells for drone eggs in the hives of the western honeybee than in the hives of the dwarf honeybee and the black dwarf honeybee.
- B) both the western honeybee and the black dwarf honeybee probably reserve eight-sided cells for drone eggs, while the dwarf honeybee likely deposits drone eggs in seven-sided cells.
- C) the western honeybee probably relies on many more geometrical shapes when constructing cells than either the dwarf honeybee or the black dwarf honeybee does.
- D) the percentage of hexagonal cells is probably slightly lower in the hives of the western honeybee than in the hives of the dwarf honeybee and the black dwarf honeybee.

16

ALSOL is a microcredit program in Mexico that makes small loans to female entrepreneurs who lack the collateral and credit history to secure financing from conventional banks. Borrowers use their business proceeds to repay loans in equal weekly installments and incur no penalty for missed payments other than lack of access to larger loans. Economists Gustavo Barboza and Sandra Trejos analyzed ALSOL data and found that rural borrowers, who mostly make and sell handicrafts, miss payments more often than urban borrowers do, partly because they sell their goods less frequently than they could. Barboza and Trejos claim that this behavior reflects strategic decisions that enable rural women to increase their profits per unit sold.

Which finding, if true, would most directly support Barboza and Trejos's claim?

- A) Many marketplaces require entrepreneurs to pay marketplace operators a fixed percentage of each day's proceeds in exchange for permission to sell goods there.
- B) Rural entrepreneurs can typically sell their goods for higher prices in cities than in their home areas, but the number of people selling competing goods tends to be higher in cities.
- C) Due to the lower costs they incur, rural entrepreneurs tend to require smaller initial loans than urban entrepreneurs do.
- D) The cost to rural entrepreneurs to bring their goods to towns with marketplaces is high but largely independent of the number of goods they bring.

17

In documents called judicial opinions, judges explain the reasoning behind their legal rulings, and in those explanations they sometimes cite and discuss historical and contemporary philosophers. Legal scholar and philosopher Anita L. Allen argues that while judges are naturally inclined to mention philosophers whose views align with their own positions, the strongest judicial opinions consider and rebut potential objections; discussing philosophers whose views conflict with judges' views could therefore _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) allow judges to craft judicial opinions without needing to consult philosophical works.
- B) help judges improve the arguments they put forward in their judicial opinions.
- C) make judicial opinions more comprehensible to readers without legal or philosophical training.
- D) bring judicial opinions in line with views that are broadly held among philosophers.

18

Although military veterans make up a small proportion of the total population of the United States, they occupy a significantly higher proportion of the jobs in the civilian government. One possible explanation for this disproportionate representation is that military service familiarizes people with certain organizational structures that are also reflected in the civilian government bureaucracy, and this familiarity thus _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) makes civilian government jobs especially appealing to military veterans.
- B) alters the typical relationship between military service and subsequent career preferences.
- C) encourages nonveterans applying for civilian government jobs to consider military service instead.
- D) increases the number of civilian government jobs that require some amount of military experience to perform.

19

A member of the Cherokee Nation, Mary Golda Ross is renowned for her contributions to NASA's Planetary Flight Handbook, which _____ detailed mathematical guidance for missions to Mars and Venus.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) provided
- B) having provided
- C) to provide
- D) providing

20

The classic children's board game Chutes and Ladders is a version of an ancient Nepalese game, Paramapada Sopanapata. In both games, players encounter "good" or "bad" spaces while traveling along a path; landing on one of the good spaces _____ a player to skip ahead and arrive closer to the end goal.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) allows
- B) are allowing
- C) have allowed
- D) allow

21

In 1930, Japanese American artist Chiura Obata depicted the natural beauty of Yosemite National Park in two memorable woodcuts: *Evening at Carl Inn* and *Lake Basin in the High Sierra*. In 2019, _____ exhibited alongside 150 of Obata's other works in a single-artist show at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) it was
- B) they were
- C) this was
- D) some were