

GMAT Verbal Sample Question Paper 2 with Solutions

Time Allowed : 3 Hours	Maximum Marks : 100
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The GMAT exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes long (with one optional 10-minute break) and consists of 64 questions in total.
2. The GMAT exam is comprised of three sections:
3. Quantitative Reasoning: 21 questions, 45 minutes
4. Verbal Reasoning: 23 questions, 45 minutes
5. Data Insights: 20 questions, 45 minutes
6. You can answer the three sections in any order. As you move through a section, you can bookmark questions that you would like to review later.
7. When you have answered all questions in a section, you will proceed to the Question Review & Edit screen for that section.
8. If there is no time remaining in the section, you will NOT proceed to the Question Review & Edit screen and you will automatically be moved to your optional break screen or the next section (if you have already taken your optional break).
9. Each Question Review & Edit screen includes a numbered list of the questions in that section and indicates the questions you bookmarked.
10. Clicking a question number will take you to that specific question. You can review as many questions as you would like and can edit up to three (3) answers.

49. Which of the following best describes the purpose of the sentence in lines 10-15?

- (A) To show that economic signaling theory fails to explain a finding
- (B) To introduce a distinction not accounted for by economic signaling theory
- (C) To account for an exception to a generalization suggested by Marquardt and McGann
- (D) To explain why Marquardt and McGann's research was conducted
- (E) To offer an explanation for an observation reported by Marquardt and McGann

Correct Answer: (A) To show that economic signaling theory fails to explain a finding

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks for the function or purpose of a specific sentence within the larger argument of the passage. To answer it correctly, one must understand not only what the sentence says but also how it relates to the sentences before and after it. The options present various rhetorical functions: challenging a theory, introducing a new idea, explaining an exception, justifying research, or providing an explanation.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The question directs us to lines 10-15. Based on the options, the surrounding text likely discusses "economic signaling theory" and a specific "finding," possibly from research by "Marquardt and McGann" (mentioned in other options).

Let's analyze the chosen answer, (A):

- For option (A) to be correct, the passage would first have to introduce the economic signaling theory. This theory likely posits that consumers interpret expensive advertising as a "signal" of a manufacturer's confidence in their product's quality.
- Then, the passage would present a specific finding (e.g., consumers reacted in a certain way to an advertising campaign).
- The sentence in lines 10-15 would then explicitly state or strongly imply that this finding is inconsistent with, or cannot be explained by, the principles of economic signaling theory. For example, the sentence might say something like, "This result, however, runs counter to what signaling theory would predict..." or "Signaling theory alone cannot account for this perception..." This shows the theory's limitation or failure in this specific context, making (A) the correct purpose.

The other options are less likely given the typical structure of academic arguments. Option (E) suggests the sentence explains an observation, whereas (A) suggests it points out a failure to explain, which is a more critical and specific rhetorical move.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Without the passage, we infer based on the common structure of critical analysis texts. The sentence in lines 10-15 most likely serves to highlight a specific finding that presents a challenge to the established economic signaling theory, thereby setting the stage for an alternative explanation. Therefore, its purpose is to show that the theory fails to explain the finding.

Quick Tip

When a question asks for the "purpose" or "function" of a sentence, don't just focus on the sentence itself. Read the sentence before and the sentence after to understand its role in the author's line of reasoning. Look for transition words like "however," "therefore," "for example," or "in contrast."

50. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) present findings that contradict one explanation for the effects of a particular advertising practice
- (B) argue that theoretical explanations about the effects of a particular advertising practice are of limited value without empirical evidence
- (C) discuss how and why particular advertising practices may affect consumers' perceptions
- (D) contrast the research methods used in two different studies of a particular advertising practice
- (E) explain why a finding about consumer responses to a particular advertising practice was unexpected

Correct Answer: (C) discuss how and why particular advertising practices may affect consumers' perceptions

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a "main idea" or "primary purpose" question. It asks for the overall goal of the passage. The correct answer must encompass the entire scope of the text, not just one part of it. The options suggest the passage might be about contradicting a theory, advocating for empirical evidence, explaining a phenomenon, comparing research methods, or explaining an unexpected result.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Based on the collection of questions (49-52), the passage appears to revolve around advertising, consumer perception, economic signaling theory, and the research of Kirmani, Marquardt, and McGann.

- Question 49 mentions "economic signaling theory" and a "finding."
- Question 51 mentions "Kirmani's research" and "consumers' expectations about the quality of advertised products."
- Question 52 focuses on "Kirmani's third study" and black-and-white vs. color advertisements.

This collection of topics strongly suggests a broad discussion about advertising's impact on consumers. Let's evaluate the options:

- (A) is too narrow. While the passage might present contradictory findings (as suggested by Q49), its main goal is likely broader than just refutation.
- (B) is a general methodological argument. The passage seems more focused on the specific topic of advertising effects rather than making a general point about theory vs. evidence.
- (C) is broad and encompassing. It covers "how and why" (the mechanisms, including theories like signaling) "particular advertising practices" (like color vs. B&W ads) "affect consumers' perceptions" (the core topic). This seems to fit all the clues from the questions.

- (D) is too narrow. It focuses on research methods, but the other questions are about findings and their implications.
- (E) is also too narrow. Explaining one unexpected finding might be part of the passage, but likely not its entire purpose.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most comprehensive and fitting answer is (C). The passage as a whole appears to be an exploratory discussion that uses various theories and research studies to explain the complex relationship between advertising techniques and consumer psychology.

Quick Tip

To find the primary purpose, synthesize the first and last sentences of each paragraph. The main idea is usually a theme that runs through the entire text, not just a detail from one section. After reading, ask yourself, "What is the one main point the author wanted to convey?"

51. Kirmani’s research, as described in the passage, suggests which of the following regarding consumers’ expectations about the quality of advertised products?

- (A) Those expectations are likely to be highest if a manufacturer runs both black-and-white and color advertisements for the same product.
- (B) Those expectations can be shaped by the presence of color in an advertisement as well as by the frequency with which an advertisement appears.
- (C) Those expectations are usually high for frequently advertised new brands but not for frequently advertised familiar brands.
- (D) Those expectations are likely to be higher for products whose black-and-white advertisements are often repeated than for those whose color advertisements are less often repeated.
- (E) Those expectations are less definitively shaped by the manufacturer’s advertisements than by information that consumers gather from other sources.

Correct Answer: (B) Those expectations can be shaped by the presence of color in an advertisement as well as by the frequency with which an advertisement appears.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is an inference question based on a specific part of the passage—the description of "Kirmani’s research." The correct answer must be a conclusion that can be logically drawn from the information presented about this research, even if it’s not stated explicitly.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The question asks what Kirmani’s research suggests about consumer expectations. We need to

look for clues within this question and the related question (52).

- Question 52 refers to Kirmani’s ”third study” and distinguishes between ”black-and-white” and ”color” ads, as well as the concept of an ad being ”repeated... frequently.”
- This implies that Kirmani’s research explored multiple variables related to advertising. Specifically, it seems to have investigated the effects of (1) ad expenditure (signaled by color vs. black-and-white) and (2) ad frequency (repetition).

Let’s analyze the options based on these clues:

- (A) makes a very specific claim about using both types of ads, which may or may not be supported.
- (B) makes a general statement that consumer expectations are shaped by two key factors: the use of color (a signal of cost/effort) and frequency. This aligns perfectly with the clues that Kirmani’s studies dealt with both color/B&W and repetition. This is a well-supported, general conclusion.
- (C) introduces a new distinction (new vs. familiar brands) that is not hinted at in the other questions. It’s less likely to be the focus of Kirmani’s research as described.
- (D) draws a direct comparison between frequent B&W ads and infrequent color ads. While the research might support this, option (B) is a more fundamental and broader summary of the factors at play.
- (E) suggests that advertising is less important than other information sources. This would likely contradict the passage’s focus on the power of advertising signals.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Option (B) provides the most reasonable and comprehensive summary of the likely findings of Kirmani’s research as inferred from the context of the questions. The research appears to demonstrate that both the characteristics of an ad (like color) and its running schedule (frequency) are key inputs that consumers use to form judgments about product quality.

Quick Tip

For inference questions tied to a specific researcher or study, isolate all mentions of that study in the passage. The correct answer will be a logical extension of the described findings, not a random detail or an overly broad generalization.

52. Kirmani’s third study, as described in the passage, suggests which of the following conclusions about a black-and-white advertisement?

(A) It can be repeated more frequently than a comparable color advertisement could before consumers begin to suspect low manufacturer confidence in the quality of the advertised product.

- (B) It will have the greatest impact on consumers' perceptions of the quality of the advertised product if it appears during periods when a color version of the same advertisement is also being used.
- (C) It will attract more attention from readers of the print publication in which it appears if it is used only a few times.
- (D) It may be perceived by some consumers as more expensive than a comparable color advertisement.
- (E) It is likely to be perceived by consumers as a sign of higher manufacturer confidence in the quality of the advertised product than a comparable color advertisement would be.

Correct Answer: (A) It can be repeated more frequently than a comparable color advertisement could before consumers begin to suspect low manufacturer confidence in the quality of the advertised product.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is another inference question, but it's highly specific. It asks for a conclusion about black-and-white (B&W) ads that comes directly from "Kirmani's third study." The correct answer will likely involve a nuance or a comparison with color ads that was a key finding of that particular study.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

This question builds on the ideas from Q51. We know Kirmani's research deals with frequency and signals of ad cost (color vs. B&W). Economic signaling theory would suggest that higher cost (color) and higher frequency both signal higher quality. However, there might be a limit or a counter-intuitive effect. Let's analyze the options:

- (A) This option suggests a "diminishing returns" or even a negative effect of frequency. The idea is that too much repetition might make consumers suspicious. It further proposes that this suspicion threshold is different for B&W and color ads. Since B&W ads are cheaper, a manufacturer can run them more often before consumers think, "They are trying too hard; maybe the product is bad." This is a sophisticated and plausible finding for an advanced study.
- (B) This introduces a new variable (simultaneous use of color and B&W ads) not hinted at elsewhere.
- (C) This suggests that infrequent use is better for attention, which is a plausible advertising principle but may not relate to the perception of quality, the central theme.
- (D) This is illogical. A B&W ad is almost universally understood to be cheaper than a color ad. It's highly unlikely a study would find the opposite.
- (E) This directly contradicts the basic premise of signaling theory, which would state that the more expensive signal (color) implies higher confidence. A B&W ad would signal lower, not higher, confidence than a color ad.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Option (A) presents the most complex and nuanced research finding, which is typical for questions that refer to a specific "third study." It builds on the core concepts of signaling (cost) and frequency, but introduces a limiting condition (consumer suspicion), and shows how this condition applies differently to low-cost (B&W) and high-cost (color) signals. This is the most likely conclusion to be drawn from the study described.

Quick Tip

When a question refers to a specific study (e.g., "the third study"), look for a finding that is a refinement, a nuance, or even an exception to the general theory presented earlier in the passage. Authors often structure passages by presenting a general rule and then exploring its complexities through specific research examples.

53. The passage suggests that Kirmani would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements about consumers' perceptions of the relationship between the frequency with which a product is advertised and the product's quality?

- (A) Consumers' perceptions about the frequency with which an advertisement appears are their primary consideration when evaluating an advertisement's claims about product quality.
- (B) Because most consumers do not notice the frequency of advertisement, it has little impact on most consumers' expectations regarding product quality.
- (C) Consumers perceive frequency of advertisement as a signal about product quality only when the advertisement is for a product that is newly on the market.
- (D) The frequency of advertisement is not always perceived by consumers to indicate that manufacturers are highly confident about their products' quality.
- (E) Consumers who try a new product that has been frequently advertised are likely to perceive the advertisement's frequency as having been an accurate indicator of the product's quality.

Correct Answer: (D) The frequency of advertisement is not always perceived by consumers to indicate that manufacturers are highly confident about their products' quality.

Solution:**Step 1: Understanding the Concept:**

This question asks for an inference about Kirmani's view on the link between ad frequency and perceived product quality. We must synthesize the information suggested in the previous questions (especially Q52) to determine the most likely statement Kirmani would support. The key is to understand the nuances of the relationship, not just the basic theory.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

From the context of the preceding questions, Kirmani's research explores economic signaling theory, where advertising expenditure and frequency act as signals of a manufacturer's confidence. However, Q52 introduced a more complex finding from Kirmani's "third study": there's

a limit to how frequently an ad can be shown before consumers become suspicious.

Let's analyze the options based on this nuance:

- (A) This is too strong. Stating frequency is the "primary consideration" is an extreme claim that is unlikely to be supported. Consumers consider many factors.
- (B) This contradicts the premise of the entire passage, which is that consumers do use signals like frequency to judge quality.
- (C) This adds a limitation ("only when... newly on the market") that is not suggested elsewhere. The signaling effect of frequency is likely more general.
- (D) This option perfectly captures the nuanced finding. It states that frequency is not always a positive signal. This aligns with the idea from Q52 that excessive frequency can lead to suspicion about the manufacturer's confidence. A manufacturer who has to advertise too much might be perceived as desperate or as trying to compensate for a poor product. This makes the signal ambiguous in some cases.
- (E) This shifts the focus to post-purchase perception, which is beyond the scope of how advertising initially shapes expectations.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most accurate statement reflecting Kirmani's research is (D), as it acknowledges that the relationship between ad frequency and perceived quality is not linear or simple. High frequency can, under certain circumstances, cease to be a positive signal and may even become a negative one.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, be wary of absolute words like "always," "never," "only," or "primary." Nuanced statements using words like "not always," "can," or "suggests" are often more likely to be correct in passages discussing complex social or psychological phenomena.

54. The main purpose of the passage is to

- (A) propose an experiment
- (B) analyze a function
- (C) refute an argument
- (D) explain a contradiction
- (E) simulate a process

Correct Answer: (C) refute an argument

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a primary purpose question. Based on the vocabulary in the subsequent questions (Searle's reasoning, criticism, metaphor, syntactic vs. semantic), the passage is clearly engaged in a philosophical debate. The purpose is to determine the overall rhetorical goal of the text.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The questions refer to "Searle's reasoning," "Searle's criticism of the brain-as-computer metaphor," and the idea that "meaning and content cannot be reduced to algorithms." This indicates the passage is presenting Searle's philosophical position. Searle is famous for his "Chinese Room" argument, which aims to refute the claims of "strong AI"—the argument that a properly programmed computer can genuinely think and understand.

Therefore, the passage's main purpose is to explain and likely endorse Searle's refutation of the strong AI argument.

- (A) Proposing an experiment is a scientific goal, not a philosophical one.
- (B) Analyzing a function might be part of the passage, but it's too specific to be the main purpose.
- (C) Refuting an argument is the central activity of the passage. It lays out Searle's case against the argument that computers can think.
- (D) It's not explaining a contradiction, but rather creating a case against a specific claim.
- (E) The passage discusses simulation but does not perform one.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage is dedicated to presenting a detailed critique of a specific philosophical and scientific position (strong AI). Thus, its primary purpose is to refute an argument.

Quick Tip

When questions refer to a philosopher's "criticism" or "argument," the passage's main purpose is often to either explain that critique (refute an argument) or to critique the critique itself. Look at the overall tone to decide which it is.

55. Which of the following is most consistent with Searle's reasoning as presented in the passage?

- (A) Meaning and content cannot be reduced to algorithms.
- (B) The process of digestion can be simulated mechanically, but not on a computer.
- (C) Simulated thoughts and real thoughts are essentially similar because they are composed primarily of information.
- (D) A computer can use "causal powers" similar to those of the human brain when processing information.

(E) Computer simulations of the world can achieve the complexity of the brain's representations of the world.

Correct Answer: (A) Meaning and content cannot be reduced to algorithms.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks to identify the core principle of Searle's argument as it would be described in the passage. We need to find the statement that best summarizes his central claim about the difference between human minds and computers.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Searle's argument hinges on the distinction between syntax (formal symbol manipulation) and semantics (genuine understanding or meaning). Computers, he argues, are masters of syntax; they follow rules and algorithms to process information. However, they lack semantics; they have no understanding of what the symbols they manipulate actually mean.

- (A) This statement perfectly captures the essence of Searle's argument. "Algorithms" are the rules of syntax, while "meaning and content" refer to semantics. Searle's entire point is that the former can never produce the latter.
- (B) This misrepresents the analogy. Searle would agree that digestion can be simulated on a computer, but that the simulation is not real digestion.
- (C) This is the exact position that Searle argues against. He claims simulated thoughts and real thoughts are fundamentally different.
- (D) This is also the opposite of Searle's view. His claim is that only brains have the correct "causal powers" for consciousness, and computers lack them.
- (E) Searle's point is not about the complexity of the simulation but about its nature. Even a perfectly complex simulation of understanding is not real understanding.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The statement most consistent with Searle's reasoning is (A), as it articulates his fundamental division between algorithmic processing (syntax) and genuine understanding (semantics).

Quick Tip

In philosophy-based passages, identify the key dichotomy the philosopher is using. For Searle, it's syntax vs. semantics. The correct answer will almost always relate directly to this central distinction.

56. The author of the passage would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements about the simulation of organ functions?

- (A) An artificial device that achieves the functions of the stomach could be considered a valid model of the stomach.
- (B) Computer simulations of the brain are best used to crack the brain's codes of meaning and content.
- (C) Computer simulations of the brain challenge ideas that are fundamental to psychology and neuroscience.
- (D) Because the brain and the stomach both act as processors, they can best be simulated by mechanical devices.
- (E) The computer's limitations in simulating digestion suggest equal limitations in computer-simulated thinking.

Correct Answer: (E) The computer's limitations in simulating digestion suggest equal limitations in computer-simulated thinking.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks about the author's perspective on the analogy presented in the passage. The analogy compares the simulation of digestion with the simulation of thinking. We need to understand the logical point of this comparison.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The purpose of the digestion analogy in Searle's argument is to make the abstract concept of "simulation vs. reality" more concrete. The logic is as follows:

1. A computer can create a perfect simulation of digestion, modeling all the chemical processes.
2. However, no one would claim that the computer is actually digesting anything. The simulation lacks the real-world causal powers of a stomach.
3. By analogy, a computer can create a perfect simulation of thinking (e.g., passing the Turing test).
4. However, according to Searle, this simulation is not actual thinking because it lacks the brain's specific biological causal powers.

The author, by presenting this analogy, is using it to make a point.

- (E) This statement captures the precise logical function of the analogy. It transfers the clear limitation in the case of digestion (a simulation isn't the real thing) to the more controversial case of thinking. The author uses this analogy because they agree with its underlying logic.
- (A) This is tricky. Searle's point is about simulation, not functional replication. An artificial stomach that actually digests food would be a functional replication, not just a simulation. The author is focused on the limits of simulation.
- (B) This is the strong AI view that the passage is refuting.

- (C) While true, this is a very general statement and not the specific point of the digestion analogy.
- (D) The analogy is not about mechanical vs. computer simulation, but about simulation vs. reality.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The author uses the digestion analogy to illustrate a principle. The principle is that the inherent limitations of computer simulation in a physical process (digestion) apply equally to a mental process (thinking). Therefore, the author would agree with (E).

Quick Tip

When you encounter an analogy in a passage, ask yourself: "What is the point of this comparison?" The goal is to clarify an abstract idea by comparing it to a more concrete one. The correct answer will reflect the logical connection being made.

57. It can be inferred that the author of the passage believes that Searle's argument is flawed by its failure to

- (A) distinguish between syntactic and semantic operations
- (B) explain adequately how people, unlike computers, are able to understand meaning
- (C) provide concrete examples illustrating its claims about thinking
- (D) understand how computers use algorithms to process information
- (E) decipher the code that is transmitted from neuron to neuron in the brain

Correct Answer: (B) explain adequately how people, unlike computers, are able to understand meaning

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question implies that the author, while presenting Searle's argument, also sees a weakness or flaw in it. We must infer the nature of this flaw from the likely structure of a critical but fair academic passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

A common structure for a passage like this is to present a strong argument (Searle's) and then offer a nuanced critique. A major philosophical criticism leveled against Searle is that while he is effective at pointing out what computers can't do, his own positive explanation for human consciousness is vague. He attributes it to the "causal powers of the brain" but doesn't explain what these are in a scientifically satisfying way. He essentially replaces one mystery (how computers might think) with another (how brains think).

- (A) This is what Searle's argument does well, not what it fails to do. This is the core of his argument.

- (B) This accurately reflects the common criticism. Searle posits that humans understand meaning via the brain’s special “causal powers,” but he doesn’t provide a full, adequate explanation of how this mechanism works. An author presenting a balanced view would likely point this out as a limitation or flaw.
- (C) Searle’s “Chinese Room” thought experiment is a very famous concrete example, so this is incorrect.
- (D) Searle’s argument is predicated on a clear understanding of how computers use algorithms.
- (E) This is a task for neuroscience, not philosophy. Searle’s argument is at a different level of abstraction; he would argue that even if we deciphered the neural code, it wouldn’t change his logical point about syntax and semantics.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most probable flaw that the author would identify in Searle’s argument is its failure to provide a comprehensive and adequate explanation for the very phenomenon—human understanding—that he claims computers cannot achieve.

Quick Tip

When a passage explains an argument and a question asks for a flaw, consider what the argument asserts but doesn’t prove. Arguments are often strong in their critiques of others but weaker in their own positive claims.

58. From the passage, it can be inferred that the author would agree with Searle on which of the following points?

- (A) Computers operate by following algorithms.
- (B) The human brain can never fully understand its own functions.
- (C) The comparison of the brain to a machine is overly simplistic.
- (D) The most accurate models of physical processes are computer simulations.
- (E) Human thought and computer-simulated thought involve similar processes of representation.

Correct Answer: (A) Computers operate by following algorithms.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks for a point of agreement between the author and Searle. Even if the author is critical of Searle (as suggested in Q57), they must agree on the fundamental premises of the argument they are presenting. We are looking for the most basic, undisputed fact that forms the foundation of the discussion.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The entire debate about AI that Searle engages in starts from a shared understanding of what a computer is and does.

- (A) That computers operate by following algorithms (i.e., they are syntactic engines) is the starting premise for the entire argument. Both proponents and opponents of strong AI agree on this fact; they disagree on whether this algorithmic operation is sufficient for thought. The author must accept this premise to even begin explaining Searle's argument.
- (B) This is a very strong philosophical claim about the limits of knowledge, which the passage may not address at all.
- (C) While Searle certainly believes this, and the author might too, option (A) is a more fundamental and certain point of agreement. The author might believe the comparison is useful, even if ultimately flawed.
- (D) The passage uses the digestion simulation to show the inadequacy of computer simulations as models for reality, not their accuracy.
- (E) This is the strong AI position that Searle and the author are arguing against.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most foundational and undeniable point of agreement between any two parties in this debate, including the author and Searle, is the definition of how computers function. They operate on algorithms. This makes (A) the correct answer.

Quick Tip

To find a point of agreement, look for the most basic premise that is required to even start the argument. It's often a definitional or factual statement that both sides accept before they begin to disagree on its implications.

59. Which of the following most accurately represents Searle's criticism of the brain-as-computer metaphor, as that criticism is described in the passage?

- (A) The metaphor is not experimentally verifiable.
- (B) The metaphor does not take into account the unique powers of the brain.
- (C) The metaphor suggests that a brain's functions can be simulated as easily as those of a stomach.
- (D) The metaphor suggests that a computer can simulate the workings of the mind by using the codes of neural transmission.
- (E) The metaphor is unhelpful because both the brain and the computer process information.

Correct Answer: (B) The metaphor does not take into account the unique powers of the brain.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks for a summary of Searle’s main objection to the “brain-as-computer” metaphor. We need to find the option that best captures the essence of his critique.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Searle’s core criticism is that the metaphor is purely functional. It focuses on information processing (inputs and outputs) and ignores the underlying physical substance. For Searle, the substance matters immensely. He argues that the brain’s specific biological makeup gives it “causal powers” to produce consciousness and understanding, powers that the silicon and wires of a computer lack. The metaphor is bad because it implies that all you need for thought is the right program (software), regardless of the hardware it runs on. Searle says the hardware (the wet, biological brain) is crucial and unique.

- (A) Searle’s argument is philosophical and logical, not experimental, so verifiability is not his main criterion.
- (B) This is the most accurate summary. The “unique powers” are the semantic, conscious, and causal properties that Searle claims arise from the brain’s specific biology, which the computer metaphor completely ignores by focusing only on information processing.
- (C) This misuses the stomach analogy. The point is not about ease of simulation but about the difference between simulation and reality.
- (D) This is part of what the metaphor suggests, but it’s not Searle’s criticism of it. His criticism is why this suggestion is wrong.
- (E) This is the opposite of his view. The metaphor is tempting because they both process information, but he finds it unhelpful (and wrong) for deeper reasons—namely, that the brain does more than just process information; it understands.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Searle’s fundamental objection to the brain-as-computer metaphor is its failure to account for the specific, unique biological properties of the brain that he believes are necessary for genuine consciousness and understanding. Option (B) captures this idea perfectly.

Quick Tip

For questions asking to summarize a criticism, first identify what is being criticized (the metaphor). Then, ask why the person is criticizing it. The answer will be the fundamental difference the critic sees between the two things being compared.

60. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) explain why women reformers of the Progressive Era failed to achieve their goals
- (B) discuss the origins of child labor laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

- (C) compare the living conditions of working-class and middle-class women in the Progressive Era
- (D) discuss an oversight on the part of women reformers of the Progressive Era
- (E) revise a traditional view of the role played by women reformers in enacting Progressive Era reforms

Correct Answer: (D) discuss an oversight on the part of women reformers of the Progressive Era

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a primary purpose question, asking for the main goal of the passage. The correct answer will encapsulate the overall theme and scope of the text. We can infer the theme by looking at the language used across all the related questions (60-65).

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The questions repeatedly contrast "women reformers" (likely middle-class) with "working-class mothers." Questions 61, 63, and 64 all point towards a conflict, a "difference of opinion," or a "shortsighted" approach by the reformers. This suggests the passage is not simply praising the reformers but offering a more critical or nuanced perspective.

Let's analyze the options:

- (A) is too strong; the passage likely discusses a flaw or challenge, not necessarily a complete "failure to achieve their goals."
- (B) and (C) are too broad and descriptive. The questions suggest a specific argument or critique, not just a general discussion or comparison.
- (D) This option fits perfectly with the inferred theme. An "oversight" suggests the reformers missed something important—likely the economic perspective of the working class, which led to resistance against their efforts. This is a specific, critical point that could sustain an entire passage.
- (E) This is also a strong possibility. Discussing an "oversight" (D) is a way to "revise a traditional view" (E). However, (D) is more specific about the content of the revision. Passages often achieve a revision by focusing on a specific oversight. Given the other questions' focus on the conflict and the reformers' blind spot, (D) is a more direct description of the passage's main task.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The passage's primary focus appears to be on the specific blind spot or miscalculation of the Progressive Era women reformers in their campaign against child labor. Therefore, its main purpose is to discuss this oversight.

Quick Tip

For primary purpose questions, look for patterns in the vocabulary and focus of the other questions related to the same passage. Words like "oversight," "difference of opinion," and "shortsighted" strongly suggest a critical or analytical purpose rather than a purely descriptive one.

61. The view mentioned in line 17 of the passage refers to which of the following?

- (A) Some working-class mothers' resistance to the enforcement of child labor laws
- (B) Reformers' belief that child labor and industrial home work should be abolished
- (C) Reformers' opinions about how working-class families raised their children
- (D) Certain women historians' observation that there was a lack of consensus between women of different classes on the issue of child labor and industrial home work
- (E) Working-class families' fears about the adverse consequences that child labor laws would have on their ability to earn an adequate living

Correct Answer: (B) Reformers' belief that child labor and industrial home work should be abolished

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a contextual reference question. It asks to identify what "the view" refers to. To answer this, we need to reconstruct the likely flow of the argument around line 17, using clues from this question and question 62.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

Question 62 states that the author mentions "observations of women historians (lines 15-17)" to support an assertion made in the preceding sentence. The phrase "the view mentioned in line 17" is likely part of the author's introduction to the historians' observations. A common rhetorical structure is: "This view was flawed. Indeed, historians have shown [evidence of the flaw]." In this structure, "This view" refers to the idea that is being criticized.

The central conflict of the passage is the reformers' well-intentioned but flawed campaign. Therefore, "the view" is most likely the reformers' core belief that is being examined.

- (A) and (E) describe the working-class perspective, which is used as evidence against the view, not the view itself.
- (C) is too specific and judgmental; the core issue is policy, not parenting styles.
- (D) describes the historians' observation, but the phrase "the view" is what the historians are commenting on.
- (B) This perfectly represents the reformers' position. It is their firm belief that child labor should be abolished. The passage then likely goes on to critique this view as being an

”oversight” because it ignored the economic realities of the working class, a point supported by women historians.

Step 3: Final Answer:

”The view” in line 17 refers to the position held by the reformers, which the author is proceeding to critique. This position is the belief that child labor and industrial home work should be abolished.

Quick Tip

When a question asks what a phrase like ”this view” or ”this argument” refers to, look at the surrounding sentences. Often, the phrase points back to a position or idea that was just stated and is about to be challenged or analyzed.

62. The author of the passage mentions the observations of women historians (lines 15-17) most probably in order to

- (A) provide support for an assertion made in the preceding sentence (lines 10-12)
- (B) raise a question that is answered in the last sentence of the passage (lines 27-32)
- (C) introduce an opinion that challenges a statement made in the first sentence of the passage
- (D) offer an alternative view to the one attributed in the passage to working-class mothers
- (E) point out a contradiction inherent in the traditional view of child labor reform as it is presented in the passage

Correct Answer: (A) provide support for an assertion made in the preceding sentence (lines 10-12)

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks about the rhetorical function of a specific piece of evidence—the citation of ”women historians.” In academic writing, authors cite other scholars for specific reasons, most commonly to provide evidence for their own claims.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The question provides a strong structural clue by referencing the ”preceding sentence (lines 10-12).” This points to a very common and logical argumentative structure:

1. **Author’s Assertion (lines 10-12):** The author makes a claim, likely that the reformers’ efforts were met with resistance or that their view was myopic.
2. **Supporting Evidence (lines 15-17):** The author then backs up this claim with expert testimony, citing ”women historians” who have observed the class conflict or resistance.

This sequence of ”claim, then evidence” is fundamental to persuasive writing.

- (A) This option describes the "claim, then evidence" structure perfectly.
- (B) and (C) suggest a more complex, less direct rhetorical function. While possible, the direct support role is more probable.
- (D) The historians are likely cited to support the author's explanation of the working-class view, not to offer an alternative to it.
- (E) The historians' work is used to build the author's new argument, not just to point out a contradiction in an old one. Providing support for the author's own assertion is a more active and direct function.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The most logical reason for an author to introduce the findings of historians is to use them as evidence to bolster an argument they have just made. Therefore, the historians' observations are mentioned to support the assertion in the preceding sentence.

Quick Tip

In analytical passages, when an author cites an expert, a study, or a historical source, the most common purpose is to provide evidence for a point they have just made. Look for this "assertion-support" structure.

63. The passage suggests that which of the following was a reason for the difference of opinion between working-class mothers and women reformers on the issue of child labor?

- (A) Reformers' belief that industrial home work was preferable to child labor outside the home
- (B) Reformers' belief that child labor laws should pertain to working conditions but not to pay
- (C) Working-class mothers' resentment at reformers' attempts to interfere with their parenting
- (D) Working-class mothers' belief that child labor was an inhumane practice
- (E) Working-class families' need for every employable member of their families to earn money

Correct Answer: (E) Working-class families' need for every employable member of their families to earn money

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a detail/inference question asking for the root cause of the conflict between the two groups. Based on the overall theme of the passage, the conflict arises from the different life circumstances and priorities of the middle-class reformers and working-class mothers.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The central "oversight" of the reformers was their failure to grasp the economic situation of the poor. For the reformers, child labor was a moral issue about childhood, education, and

exploitation. For many working-class families, the small income a child could bring in was not a luxury but a necessity for survival—to pay for rent or food. Banning child labor, without providing an alternative source of income, would be an economic disaster for these families.

- (A) and (B) focus on specific policy details that may not be the core reason for the disagreement.
- (C) While some resentment might have existed, the fundamental reason for the conflict was more structural and economic than personal.
- (D) This is the reformers' belief, not the working-class mothers'. Many mothers likely agreed it was harsh but saw it as a necessary evil.
- (E) This option directly states the economic imperative that drove the working-class perspective. Their resistance to child labor laws stemmed from their desperate need for the income their children provided. This is the fundamental source of the "difference of opinion."

Step 3: Final Answer:

The core reason for the disagreement between the two groups was the clash between the reformers' moral stance and the working-class families' urgent economic needs.

Quick Tip

When a passage contrasts the perspectives of different social classes on a policy issue, look for an answer that reflects their differing economic realities and priorities. This is often the primary source of the conflict.

64. The author of the passage asserts which of the following about women reformers who tried to abolish child labor?

- (A) They alienated working-class mothers by attempting to enlist them in agitating for progressive causes.
- (B) They underestimated the prevalence of child labor among the working classes.
- (C) They were correct in their conviction that child labor was deplorable but shortsighted about the impact of child labor legislation on working-class families.
- (D) They were aggressive in their attempts to enforce child labor legislation, but were unable to prevent working-class families from circumventing them.
- (E) They were prevented by their nearly total disenfranchisement from making significant progress in child labor reform.

Correct Answer: (C) They were correct in their conviction that child labor was deplorable but shortsighted about the impact of child labor legislation on working-class families.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This question asks for the author’s overall assessment of the women reformers. A well-written historical analysis often avoids simple praise or condemnation, instead offering a nuanced judgment that acknowledges both strengths and weaknesses.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

The passage is critical of the reformers, but it’s unlikely to portray them as simply villainous. It presents their ”oversight.” This implies they had good intentions but a flawed understanding. The author’s position is likely to reflect this complexity.

- (A) and (D) describe specific actions but may not represent the author’s overall summary assertion.
- (B) It’s more likely they underestimated the necessity of child labor, not its prevalence.
- (C) This statement is perfectly balanced and nuanced. It gives the reformers credit for their moral position (”correct in their conviction that child labor was deplorable”) while also identifying their critical flaw (”but shortsighted about the impact”). This captures the essence of the ”oversight” that is the passage’s central theme.
- (E) This brings in the issue of suffrage (disenfranchisement), which might be historically relevant but is not suggested as the main focus by the other questions. The focus is on class conflict, not gender-based legal status.

Step 3: Final Answer:

The author’s assertion is a balanced critique: the reformers’ goals were noble, but their strategy was flawed because they failed to consider the unintended consequences of their proposed legislation on the families they meant to help.

Quick Tip

When a question asks for the author’s overall assertion about a historical group, look for the most balanced and nuanced option. Historical analysis often acknowledges good intentions while critiquing flawed methods or unforeseen consequences.

65. According to the passage, one of the most striking achievements of white middle-class women reformers during the Progressive Era was

- (A) gaining the right to vote in school elections
- (B) mobilizing working-class women in the fight against child labor
- (C) uniting women of different classes in grassroots activism
- (D) improving the economic conditions of working-class families
- (E) improving women’s and children’s working conditions

Correct Answer: (E) improving women’s and children’s working conditions

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:

This is a detail question that asks to identify a specific achievement of the reformers mentioned in the passage. Although the passage's main thrust is critical, it likely still acknowledges the reformers' actual accomplishments to provide a balanced account.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:

While the passage highlights a conflict between classes, it's set against the backdrop of the Progressive Era reform movement, which is historically known for making significant strides in labor reform. We must choose the option that is a historically accurate achievement and one that a passage of this nature would likely mention.

- (A) This is a specific aspect of the suffrage movement, not typically highlighted as the most striking achievement of labor reformers.
- (B) and (C) are directly contradicted by the passage's central theme, which is the lack of mobilization and unity across class lines on this issue.
- (D) While this might have been a long-term goal or side effect, the passage suggests their primary actions (banning child labor) could have immediately worsened the economic conditions of some families.
- (E) This is the quintessential achievement of Progressive Era labor reformers. They fought for and helped pass legislation that regulated hours, improved safety, and restricted child labor, thereby improving working conditions for women and children overall, even if their methods were flawed or met with resistance. This is a major, undeniable historical accomplishment that the author would likely concede.

Step 3: Final Answer:

Despite the passage's critique of their methods, the most significant and historically recognized achievement of these reformers, which would almost certainly be mentioned, was the tangible improvement of working conditions for women and children.

Quick Tip

Even when a passage is critical of a historical group's methods or oversights, it will often still acknowledge their major, widely recognized accomplishments. Use your background knowledge of the historical period to identify the most plausible achievement among the options.