

GMAT Verbal Practice Paper 1 Question Paper with Solutions

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| 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.

Q1. The capacity of embryonic stem cells to develop into most types of human tissue, which makes them potentially valuable for medical applications, but the genetic program that underlies this quality is not yet known.

- (A) tissue, which makes them
- (B) tissue makes them
- (C) tissues, which make them
- (D) tissue, making them
- (E) tissue make it

Correct Answer: (A) tissue, which makes them

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the sentence structure.

The sentence describes embryonic stem cells and their potential. The phrase “which makes them” modifies the noun “tissue,” meaning “tissue” is singular. Thus, we need to use the singular form “tissue” and the correct relative clause.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) tissue, which makes them: Correct. “Tissue” is singular and is followed by the relative clause “which makes them.” This maintains proper subject-verb agreement.
- (B) tissue makes them: Incorrect. The clause is incomplete and disrupts the meaning.
- (C) tissues, which make them: Incorrect. “Tissues” is plural, which is inconsistent with the singular subject.
- (D) tissue, making them: Incorrect. The participial phrase “making them” does not fit smoothly in this sentence structure.
- (E) tissue make it: Incorrect. The verb “make” is not appropriate with a singular subject “tissue.”

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A) tissue, which makes them.

Final Answer:

(A) tissue, which makes them.

Quick Tip

When using relative clauses, ensure subject-verb agreement is maintained, especially with singular or plural nouns.

Q2. By the mid-1700s, when it began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, the French government had fully realized that the success of its state building projects depended on the welfare of its people.

- (A) By the mid-1700s, when it began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, the French government had fully realized

- (B) Until the mid-1700s, when it had begun a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, the French government had fully realized
- (C) By the mid-1700s the French government began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, when it fully realized
- (D) The French government began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague by the mid-1700s, fully realizing
- (E) When the French government began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, it fully realized by the mid-1700s

Correct Answer: (A) By the mid-1700s, when it began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, the French government had fully realized

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the correct time sequence.

The action of the French government realizing its needs occurred before the concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, as indicated by the past perfect tense “had fully realized.” The sentence structure requires clarity in presenting this sequence.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) By the mid-1700s, when it began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, the French government had fully realized: Correct. This sentence clearly establishes the sequence of actions, with the realization coming before the effort to prevent famine and plague.
- (B) Until the mid-1700s, when it had begun a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, the French government had fully realized: Incorrect. The use of “Until” is inconsistent with the intended meaning, as it implies the effort started only at that time, which is not accurate.
- (C) By the mid-1700s the French government began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, when it fully realized: Incorrect. The placement of “when it fully realized” creates a confusing timeline.
- (D) The French government began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague by the mid-1700s, fully realizing: Incorrect. The participle “fully realizing” creates an awkward structure.
- (E) When the French government began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, it fully realized by the mid-1700s: Incorrect. The clause “it fully realized by the mid-1700s” is poorly constructed.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A) By the mid-1700s, when it began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, the French government had fully realized.

Final Answer:

(A) By the mid-1700s, when it began a concerted effort to prevent famine and plague, the French government had fully realized

Quick Tip

Ensure proper use of tenses to maintain the correct timeline of events, particularly with the past perfect tense when discussing actions that occurred before others.

Q3. Replete with bloody revenge, disasters (both deserved and undeserved) and agonizing moral dilemmas, the plots of tragedies also involve dramatic irony, where the audience recognizes the facts before they are recognized by the play's characters themselves.

- (A) they are recognized by the play's characters themselves
- (B) the play's characters recognize the facts
- (C) these facts are recognized by the play's characters
- (D) being recognized by the play's characters
- (E) the play's characters themselves do

Correct Answer: (B) the play's characters recognize the facts

Solution:

Step 1: Analyzing the structure of the sentence.

The sentence describes a situation where the audience recognizes the facts of the plot before the characters do. This requires a construction that emphasizes the characters' recognition of the facts in a straightforward and active manner.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) they are recognized by the play's characters themselves: Incorrect. The passive voice here makes the sentence unnecessarily complicated.
- (B) the play's characters recognize the facts: Correct. This option uses the active voice and maintains clarity by indicating that the characters themselves recognize the facts.
- (C) these facts are recognized by the play's characters: Incorrect. While it is grammatically correct, the passive voice weakens the clarity and flow of the sentence.
- (D) being recognized by the play's characters: Incorrect. The phrase "being recognized" creates an awkward construction and doesn't fit smoothly into the sentence.
- (E) the play's characters themselves do: Incorrect. The phrasing is redundant and confusing. The sentence already conveys the point that the characters recognize the facts.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B) the play's characters recognize the facts.

Final Answer:

(B) the play's characters recognize the facts.

Quick Tip

When constructing sentences with active and passive voices, prefer the active voice for clearer, more direct statements.

Q4. Female sparrows and immatures are quite nondescript compared to the adult male sparrow's distinctive and conspicuous markings: a black bib, a gray cap, and white lines trailing down from the mouth.

- (A) the adult male sparrow's
- (B) those of adult males, their

- (C) the adult male, which has
- (D) adult males' markings
- (E) adult males, whose

Correct Answer: (A) the adult male sparrow's

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the subject of comparison.

The sentence compares female sparrows and immatures to adult male sparrows based on their markings. The comparison involves possession of the distinctive markings by the adult male sparrow. The possessive form is required here.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) the adult male sparrow's: Correct. This option correctly uses the possessive form "adult male sparrow's" to indicate that the markings belong to the adult male sparrow.
- (B) those of adult males, their: Incorrect. This structure is awkward and creates ambiguity.
- (C) the adult male, which has: Incorrect. The phrase "which has" creates unnecessary complexity and is less fluid.
- (D) adult males' markings: Incorrect. While this could work, it sounds less precise compared to (A). The possessive "sparrow's" is more appropriate here.
- (E) adult males, whose: Incorrect. This option uses an incomplete clause and is grammatically awkward.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A) the adult male sparrow's.

Final Answer:

(A) the adult male sparrow's.

Quick Tip

Use the possessive form to indicate ownership or characteristics attributed to a specific subject, especially when comparing traits.

Q5. Perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting, the blossoming of that nation's classical period cannot be better represented than by the Sinhala Avadana frieze.

(A) Perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting, the blossoming of that nation's classical period cannot be better represented than by the Sinhala Avadana frieze.

(B) The Sinhala Avadana frieze is perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting, the blossoming of that nation's classical period cannot be better represented than by it.

(C) Representing the blossoming of India's classical period better than any other composition, the Sinhala Avadana frieze, which in the history of Indian painting is perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition.

(D) The blossoming of India's classical period cannot be better represented than by the Sinhala Avadana frieze, perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting.

(E) The blossoming of India's classical period cannot better represent what is perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting: the Sinhala Avadana frieze.

Correct Answer: (D) The blossoming of India's classical period cannot be better represented than by the Sinhala Avadana frieze, perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting.

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the proper structure of the sentence.

The sentence compares the blossoming of India's classical period to the Sinhala Avadana frieze, which is described as representing the period's boldest and most grandiose composition. Option (D) correctly structures the sentence, maintaining clarity and coherence without redundancy.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) Perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting, the blossoming of that nation's classical period cannot be better represented than by the Sinhala Avadana frieze: Incorrect. This option has a misplaced modifier, making the sentence slightly awkward and unclear.

- (B) The Sinhala Avadana frieze is perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting, the blossoming of that nation's classical period cannot be better represented than by it: Incorrect. The sentence is too convoluted, especially with the shift in focus between the frieze and the blossoming.

- (C) Representing the blossoming of India's classical period better than any other composition, the Sinhala Avadana frieze, which in the history of Indian painting is perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition: Incorrect. This sentence ends abruptly and lacks a complete clause, making it grammatically incomplete.

- (D) The blossoming of India's classical period cannot be better represented than by the Sinhala Avadana frieze, perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting: Correct. This option presents a coherent and grammatically correct sentence, providing a clear comparison between the blossoming of the period and the frieze.

- (E) The blossoming of India's classical period cannot better represent what is perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting: the Sinhala Avadana frieze: Incorrect. The phrasing of this option is awkward and less direct compared to option (D).

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (D) The blossoming of India's classical period cannot be better represented than by the Sinhala Avadana frieze, perhaps the boldest and most grandiose composition in the history of Indian painting.

Final Answer:

(D) The blossoming of India's classical period cannot be better represented than by the Sinhala Avadana

Quick Tip

When constructing complex sentences, ensure the modifiers are placed correctly to avoid confusion and ensure clarity in comparisons.

Critical reasoning

Q1. Struthers College has built its reputation for academic excellence largely on significant contributions from wealthy alumni who are avid fans of the school's football team. Although the team has won more national championships over the years than any other team in its division, this year it did not even win the division title, and so Struthers College can expect to see a decline in alumni contributions next year. The above argument relies on which of the following assumptions about Struthers College?

- (A) The college's reputation for academic excellence depends on the performance of its football team.
- (B) Contributions from alumni are needed for the college to produce a winning football team.
- (C) Struthers alumni contributions depend to an extent on a winning record by the college's football team.
- (D) The college's football team will continue its losing streak next year.
- (E) As a group, the college's alumni will have at least as much discretionary money to give away next year as this year.

Correct Answer: (C) Struthers alumni contributions depend to an extent on a winning record by the college's football team.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Argument.

The argument suggests that a decline in the football team's performance will lead to a decrease in alumni contributions. This implies that alumni contributions are related to the team's performance, specifically its record. The assumption is that alumni are more likely to contribute if the team is successful.

Step 2: Analysis of Options.

- (A) The college's reputation for academic excellence depends on the performance of its football team: Incorrect. The argument does not say that academic excellence itself depends on the football team's performance, only that alumni contributions are linked to the team's success.
- (B) Contributions from alumni are needed for the college to produce a winning football team: Incorrect. The argument focuses on alumni contributions decreasing due to poor performance, but it does not suggest that these contributions are necessary for the team's success.
- (C) Struthers alumni contributions depend to an extent on a winning record by the college's football team: Correct. This option directly addresses the assumption that alumni contributions are tied to the football team's performance, which is central to the argument.
- (D) The college's football team will continue its losing streak next year: Incorrect. The argument does not assume this, only that the team's performance this year has led to a decline in alumni contributions. It does not predict next year's performance.

- (E) As a group, the college's alumni will have at least as much discretionary money to give away next year as this year: Incorrect. The argument does not assume that the amount of money alumni have available will remain the same; it focuses on the link between contributions and team performance.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C) Struthers alumni contributions depend to an extent on a winning record by the college's football team.

Final Answer:

(C) Struthers alumni contributions depend to an extent on a winning record by the college's football team

Quick Tip

Always look for the assumption that ties together the argument's premises. In this case, it's the link between alumni contributions and the football team's performance.

Q2. Recent dental research shows that bacteria around the gum line produces a substance that in sufficient amounts can induce preterm labor in pregnant women and can cause heart disease by clogging arteries. Both medical outcomes add to payouts by health insurers to medical-service providers. The bacteria is best removed by a dentist or trained hygienist during a routine cleaning. One health insurer has calculated that it can reduce its payouts by reimbursing subscribers who are either pregnant or at high risk of developing heart disease for the cost of one professional dental cleaning per year. Which of the following, if true, most strongly supports the assertion that the insurer's payouts to medical-service providers will decrease if it implements the reimbursement plan described above?

- (A) Dental-hygiene regimens such as brushing or flossing can slow the accumulation of the bacteria-produced substance.
- (B) Individuals are generally less likely to postpone or forego inexpensive or free dental procedures than expensive ones.
- (C) Pregnant women typically crave sugary foods, which are proven to contribute to tooth decay.
- (D) The risk of developing heart disease is greater for individuals with a family history of heart disease than for those with no such history.
- (E) The dental health of pregnant women and heart-disease patients, as a group, is similar to that of the general population.

Correct Answer: (A) Dental-hygiene regimens such as brushing or flossing can slow the accumulation of the bacteria-produced substance.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the argument.

The insurer expects to reduce its payouts by reimbursing subscribers for dental cleanings. This will be effective only if regular dental hygiene prevents the accumulation of bacteria, which would reduce the associated health risks.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) Dental-hygiene regimens such as brushing or flossing can slow the accumulation of the bacteria-produced substance: Correct. This option supports the idea that maintaining oral hygiene can reduce the buildup of bacteria, thereby preventing medical conditions that lead to higher insurance payouts.
- (B) Individuals are generally less likely to postpone or forego inexpensive or free dental procedures than expensive ones: Incorrect. This doesn't directly address the issue of how dental cleanings affect the insurer's costs.
- (C) Pregnant women typically crave sugary foods, which are proven to contribute to tooth decay: Incorrect. While this might explain a risk factor for dental issues, it does not support the assertion about reduced insurance payouts due to preventive care.
- (D) The risk of developing heart disease is greater for individuals with a family history of heart disease than for those with no such history: Incorrect. This option is irrelevant to the issue of dental hygiene and its effect on insurance payouts.
- (E) The dental health of pregnant women and heart-disease patients, as a group, is similar to that of the general population: Incorrect. This does not suggest that improving dental hygiene will reduce the insurer's payouts.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A) Dental-hygiene regimens such as brushing or flossing can slow the accumulation of the bacteria-produced substance.

Final Answer:

(A) Dental-hygiene regimens such as brushing or flossing can slow the accumulation of the bacteria-produced substance.

Quick Tip

Preventive health measures, such as dental hygiene, can help reduce long-term medical costs by mitigating underlying health risks.

Q3. Diane: As we both know, the population of this country is aging. Elderly people generally prefer not to live in harsh climates characterized by extreme temperatures. Accordingly, in this country's coastal regions, where the climate is generally most temperate, the population is likely to grow, while other regions are likely to suffer population declines. Paul: I disagree. With few exceptions, regions where the climate is harsh are characterized by comparatively low living costs, a compelling factor for retired people with little savings and on fixed incomes. Which of the following is the most likely point of disagreement between Diane and Paul?

- (A) The reason for the population shift toward coastal areas and away from other regions.
- (B) Whether the country's current decline in overall population will continue into the foreseeable future.
- (C) Why older individuals are likely to move to certain regions rather than others.
- (D) Why coastal regions are likely to experience population growth while other regions will suffer population declines.

(E) Whether the country's coastal regions are likely to be populated primarily by retirees.

Correct Answer: (D) Why coastal regions are likely to experience population growth while other regions will suffer population declines.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the argument.

Diane argues that coastal regions will see population growth due to their temperate climate, while Paul argues that harsh climates with lower living costs may be more appealing to retirees. Their disagreement hinges on the factors that will influence population shifts.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) The reason for the population shift toward coastal areas and away from other regions: Incorrect. While this is a part of the discussion, the disagreement is more about why the regions will experience growth or decline.
- (B) Whether the country's current decline in overall population will continue into the foreseeable future: Incorrect. This is not directly addressed in the conversation.
- (C) Why older individuals are likely to move to certain regions rather than others: Incorrect. While Diane and Paul both discuss migration patterns, the point of disagreement is specifically about which regions will experience growth or decline.
- (D) Why coastal regions are likely to experience population growth while other regions will suffer population declines: Correct. This is the core of their disagreement — Diane believes climate is the main factor, while Paul believes the cost of living is more important.
- (E) Whether the country's coastal regions are likely to be populated primarily by retirees: Incorrect. This is not the primary focus of their disagreement.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (D) Why coastal regions are likely to experience population growth while other regions will suffer population declines.

Final Answer:

(D) Why coastal regions are likely to experience population growth while other regions will suffer population declines.

Quick Tip

When identifying points of disagreement, focus on the core reason each party holds their view and how they interpret the same situation differently.

Q4. An avid television viewer is statistically more likely to take sleeping pills at bedtime than a person who enjoys listening to classical music but does not watch television as a habit. Clearly, listening to classical music just before bedtime contributes to a more restful night's sleep, whereas watching television before bedtime has the opposite effect. Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the above argument?

(A) Reading a book before bedtime contributes to restful sleep more than listening to music does.

- (B) People who enjoy classical music typically like to read just before bedtime.
- (C) Sleeplessness is more common among people who watch late-night television than among people who do not.
- (D) Engaging in a bedtime activity that is mentally stimulating often interferes with a person's ability to fall asleep.
- (E) A silent environment is less conducive to restful sleep than an environment with calming ambient sounds.

Correct Answer: (D) Engaging in a bedtime activity that is mentally stimulating often interferes with a person's ability to fall asleep.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the argument.

The argument suggests that television watching leads to less restful sleep compared to listening to classical music. The conclusion assumes that television is the key factor in poor sleep.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) Reading a book before bedtime contributes to restful sleep more than listening to music does: Incorrect. This option introduces reading but does not address the issue of television affecting sleep.
- (B) People who enjoy classical music typically like to read just before bedtime: Incorrect. This option does not weaken the argument, as it does not address the issue of television.
- (C) Sleeplessness is more common among people who watch late-night television than among people who do not: Incorrect. This does not directly weaken the argument because it does not explain why television viewing would specifically cause poor sleep.
- (D) Engaging in a bedtime activity that is mentally stimulating often interferes with a person's ability to fall asleep: Correct. If television is mentally stimulating and interferes with sleep, this could explain why it leads to the need for sleeping pills, thus weakening the argument.
- (E) A silent environment is less conducive to restful sleep than an environment with calming ambient sounds: Incorrect. This is unrelated to the issue of television and classical music affecting sleep quality.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (D) Engaging in a bedtime activity that is mentally stimulating often interferes with a person's ability to fall asleep.

Final Answer:

(D) Engaging in a bedtime activity that is mentally stimulating often interferes with a person's ability to

Quick Tip

When evaluating weakening arguments, look for evidence that explains the cause of the problem presented in the conclusion.

Q5. Last year, seniors at Jasper County’s public high schools performed worse on standardized college-entrance exams than their peers at Nesbit County’s public high schools. In recent years, more and more Jasper County residents have been enrolling their children in private high schools, where the teacher-to-student ratio is traditionally lower than in public schools, and enrollment in Jasper County’s public high schools has dwindled as a result. Based only on the information above, parents residing in Jasper County and concerned about their child’s academic future should pursue which of the following courses of action?

- (A) Enroll their child in one of Jasper County’s public schools.
- (B) Stay in Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school.
- (C) Provide home schooling for their child rather than enrolling the child in either a public or private school.
- (D) Move away from Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school.
- (E) Move to Nesbit County and enroll their child in that county’s public schools.

Correct Answer: (B) Stay in Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the argument.

The argument suggests that enrollment in private schools is increasing due to poor performance at public schools. It implies that parents who are concerned about their child’s academic future should consider enrolling them in private schools to ensure better outcomes.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) Enroll their child in one of Jasper County’s public schools: Incorrect. The argument points out that public schools are performing worse on exams, making this option less favorable for parents concerned about academic outcomes.
- (B) Stay in Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school: Correct. This option addresses the growing trend of private school enrollment as a response to lower performance in public schools.
- (C) Provide home schooling for their child rather than enrolling the child in either a public or private school: Incorrect. The argument does not suggest homeschooling as a solution, and private schools are presented as a better alternative.
- (D) Move away from Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school: Incorrect. There is no evidence that moving away from the county will improve the child’s academic outcomes more than enrolling in a private school in Jasper County.
- (E) Move to Nesbit County and enroll their child in that county’s public schools: Incorrect. Although Nesbit County’s public schools perform better, the argument suggests that enrolling in private schools may be a better option for concerned parents.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B) Stay in Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school.

Final Answer:

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|---|
| (B) Stay in Jasper County and enroll their child in a private school. |
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Quick Tip

When faced with a problem involving decisions about education, evaluate the evidence presented for alternative options and choose the one that best aligns with the goals outlined in the argument.

Reading comprehension

Passage:

Influenced by Evangelical attitudes, art and literature of the nineteenth century were expected to contribute to moral education. Running afoul of that expectation was the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (PRB), which invited the vituperations of reviewers of its day. Being "retrogressive" in a progressive era may be a serious fault, according to Charles Dickens' rhetoric about the art of John Millais; but being "fleshly" and "aesthetic" in an age of moral earnestness may be worse, as D. G. Rossetti, another PRB ringleader, discovered when poet and critic Robert Buchanan attacked him and his work in "The Fleshly School of Poetry" (1871).

However much the PRB had offended the establishment, most of the brothers had insisted on the importance of the arts as moral guides. Yet Rossetti had expressed doubts about art designed to be morally uplifting: the painter-hero of his short story "Hand and Soul" (1850) tries through art to inspire "moral greatness," only to witness his frescoes of Peace spattered by blood shed in a vendetta. And, privileging form at the expense of meaningful content and animal passion at the expense of conventional morality, the poems and Rossetti himself, Buchanan wrote, were "never spiritual, never tender, always self-conscious and aesthetic."

Q1. According to the passage, Rossetti's poems

- (A) were criticized by reviewers as not progressive enough
- (B) violated certain aesthetic ideals through their portrayals of violence
- (C) suggested that Rossetti had rejected the themes of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood
- (D) came under attack for their emphasis on conventional morality rather than meaningful content
- (E) were criticized for focusing too much on aestheticism rather than spiritual and tender themes

Correct Answer: (E) were criticized for focusing too much on aestheticism rather than spiritual and tender themes

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses the criticisms of Rossetti's work by the critic Robert Buchanan. Buchanan specifically criticizes Rossetti's poems for being "never spiritual, never tender, always self-conscious and aesthetic." This suggests that Buchanan found Rossetti's works overly focused on aestheticism rather than deeper, more meaningful content.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) were criticized by reviewers as not progressive enough: Incorrect. The passage discusses Rossetti's works being criticized for their aestheticism, not for being unprogressive.

- (B) violated certain aesthetic ideals through their portrayals of violence: Incorrect. While Buchanan criticizes the lack of spiritual depth in Rossetti’s work, the passage does not highlight the portrayal of violence as the main issue.
- (C) suggested that Rossetti had rejected the themes of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood: Incorrect. The passage does not discuss Rossetti rejecting Pre-Raphaelite themes; it focuses more on his aestheticism.
- (D) came under attack for their emphasis on conventional morality rather than meaningful content: Incorrect. The passage suggests that Rossetti’s works emphasized form over meaningful content, but the issue was more about lack of spiritual and tender themes, not conventional morality.
- (E) were criticized for focusing too much on aestheticism rather than spiritual and tender themes: Correct. Buchanan criticized Rossetti’s works for being ”always self-conscious and aesthetic,” lacking spiritual and tender qualities. This matches the answer choice (E).

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E) were criticized for focusing too much on aestheticism rather than spiritual and tender themes.

Final Answer:

(E) were criticized for focusing too much on aestheticism rather than spiritual and tender themes.

Quick Tip

When answering reading comprehension questions, focus on specific phrases or terms from the passage that are emphasized, such as the critique of ”aestheticism” in this case.

Passage: The levels of dissolved oxygen in the world’s ocean waters are declining precipitously. Just like humans, fish need oxygen to survive, and so in ocean areas experiencing significant levels of oxygen scarcity, or hypoxia, fish populations are plummeting. Although some hypoxic areas, called “dead zones,” occur naturally, hypoxia in coastal areas and inland waters is caused mainly by agricultural run-off and by discharge of industrial waste waters. More than one-hundred permanent dead zones, many covering thousands of square miles, exist worldwide today. Since reproductive success is the most critical factor in the sustainability of any species, the extent of this threat to marine life and genetic diversity can hardly be overstated. After several months in hypoxic waters, female fish produce fewer eggs. Moreover, hypoxic conditions serve to alter the normal ratio between two particular hormones manufactured during the embryonic stage when a fish’s gender is determined. During gestation and under these conditions, the mother produces more testosterone (and less estradiol), which inhibits the development of female reproductive organs and other female characteristics in the embryo, while promoting the development of male traits.

Q2. The author would probably view the developments discussed in the passage as

- (A) unsurprising
- (B) puzzling
- (C) alarming

- (D) encouraging
- (E) unexpected

Correct Answer: (C) alarming

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses the declining levels of dissolved oxygen in the world's oceans, which are causing fish populations to suffer. The author describes the impact of hypoxic conditions, where fish produce fewer eggs, and how these conditions affect the development of fish embryos, especially in determining gender. The author stresses the importance of reproductive success to marine life and genetic diversity, indicating the threat is serious.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) unsurprising: Incorrect. The passage presents a troubling development, which would likely be viewed as alarming, not unsurprising.
- (B) puzzling: Incorrect. The developments are not described as confusing or unexpected but as a serious and concerning issue.
- (C) alarming: Correct. The passage highlights a significant threat to marine life and genetic diversity, making this an alarming situation.
- (D) encouraging: Incorrect. The passage describes negative consequences, not something encouraging.
- (E) unexpected: Incorrect. While the effects are concerning, the passage does not indicate that they are surprising or unexpected.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (C) alarming.

Final Answer:

(C) alarming.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the tone of the passage. If the author highlights a serious threat or negative development, the correct answer is likely to reflect concern or alarm.

Q3. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?

- (A) Why are Fish Gender Ratios Changing so Rapidly?
- (B) Dead Zones: Their Causes and Consequences
- (C) A Prescription for Reversing Hypoxia Levels
- (D) Dangers of Artificial Waste-water Runoff
- (E) What Causes Birth Defects in Salt-water Fish?

Correct Answer: (B) Dead Zones: Their Causes and Consequences

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage focuses on the decline of oxygen levels in the oceans, the creation of "dead zones" where oxygen levels are too low for most marine life, and the impact these conditions have on fish reproduction. The passage discusses the causes (agricultural run-off and industrial waste) and consequences (fewer eggs, altered gender ratios) of these "dead zones."

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) Why are Fish Gender Ratios Changing so Rapidly?: Incorrect. While the passage discusses gender ratios, it is not the main focus of the passage, which deals more broadly with dead zones and their consequences.
- (B) Dead Zones: Their Causes and Consequences: Correct. This is the best title, as the passage addresses both the causes and the consequences of dead zones.
- (C) A Prescription for Reversing Hypoxia Levels: Incorrect. The passage does not suggest a solution to reversing hypoxia; it describes the effects of low oxygen levels.
- (D) Dangers of Artificial Waste-water Runoff: Incorrect. While waste-water runoff is mentioned, it is not the sole focus of the passage.
- (E) What Causes Birth Defects in Salt-water Fish?: Incorrect. The passage does not specifically discuss birth defects, though it does discuss reproductive issues in fish.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (B) Dead Zones: Their Causes and Consequences.

Final Answer:

(B) Dead Zones: Their Causes and Consequences.

Quick Tip

When choosing a title for a passage, look for the main focus and theme. Titles should reflect the most significant points discussed in the passage.

Passage:

The encounter that a portrait records is most tangibly the sitting itself, which may be brief or extended, collegial or confrontational. Renowned photographer Cartier-Bresson has expressed his passion for portrait photography by characterizing it as "a duel without rules, a delicate rape." Such metaphors contrast quite sharply with Richard Avedon's conception of a sitting. While Cartier-Bresson reveals himself as an interloper and opportunist, Avedon confesses — perhaps uncomfortably — to a role as diagnostician and (by implication) psychic healer: not as someone who necessarily transforms his subjects, but as someone who reveals their essential nature. Both photographers, however, agree that the fundamental dynamic in this process lies squarely in the hands of the artist. A quite-different paradigm has its roots not in confrontation or consultation but in active collaboration between the artist and sitter. This very different kind of relationship was formulated most vividly by William Hazlitt in his essay entitled "On Sitting for One's Picture" (1823). To Hazlitt, the "bond of connection" between painter and sitter is most like the relationship between two lovers. Hazlitt fleshes out his thesis by recalling the career of Sir Joshua Reynolds. According to Hazlitt, Reynolds's sitters were meant to enjoy an atmosphere that was both comfortable for them and conducive to the

enterprise of the portrait painter, who was simultaneously their host and their contractual employee. In the case of artists like Reynolds, no fundamental difference exists between the artist's studio and all those other rooms in which the sitters spin out the days of their lives. The act of entering Reynolds's studio — this social and aesthetic encounter — did not necessarily transform those who sat for him. Collaboration in portraiture such as Reynolds's is based on the sitter's comfort and security as well as on his or her desire to experiment with something new; and it is in this "creation of another self," as Hazlitt put it, that the painter's subjects may properly see themselves for the first time.

Q4. Which of the following best characterizes a Cartier-Bresson portrait sitting?

- (A) an awkward exchange
- (B) a diagnostic session with the artist
- (C) an intimate collaboration between artist and subject
- (D) a confrontation between the artist and subject
- (E) an exercise in artistic control by the artist

Correct Answer: (E) an exercise in artistic control by the artist

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage describes Cartier-Bresson's view of portrait sittings as a "duel without rules," emphasizing that the artist has control over the process. This suggests that Cartier-Bresson sees himself as the one guiding and shaping the portrait experience.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) an awkward exchange: Incorrect. The passage does not suggest that Cartier-Bresson views the encounter as awkward but rather as a controlled experience.
- (B) a diagnostic session with the artist: Incorrect. The passage does not suggest that the session is for diagnosing the subject but rather for revealing the subject's nature through the artist's perspective.
- (C) an intimate collaboration between artist and subject: Incorrect. While collaboration is mentioned in the context of other photographers, Cartier-Bresson sees himself as an interloper rather than a collaborator.
- (D) a confrontation between the artist and subject: Incorrect. The passage does not describe the sitting as confrontational but rather as controlled by the artist, more like a duel than a confrontation.
- (E) an exercise in artistic control by the artist: Correct. This aligns with Cartier-Bresson's description of the process as a duel with no rules, highlighting the artist's control over the encounter.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (E) an exercise in artistic control by the artist.

Final Answer:

(E) an exercise in artistic control by the artist.

Quick Tip

When identifying key characteristics in a passage, focus on the words and metaphors used by the author to describe the relationship between the artist and subject.

Q5. Based on the passage information, with which of the following statements would both Avedon and Reynolds most likely agree?

- (A) Control of the portrait-sitting experience should lie with the artist.
- (B) A portrait is most likely to reveal the subject's true self when the sitting takes place in a setting familiar to the subject.
- (C) During portrait sittings, subjects often enjoy revealing secrets about themselves to the artist.
- (D) Paying an artist for a portrait of oneself undermines the mutual trust needed for a successful outcome.
- (E) A person can gain new insight into himself or herself by sitting for a portrait.

Correct Answer: (A) Control of the portrait-sitting experience should lie with the artist.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the passage.

The passage discusses how both Avedon and Reynolds view the role of the artist in a portrait sitting. Avedon sees himself as an interloper, while Reynolds emphasizes the importance of the artist's control in creating the portrait. This suggests that both would likely agree that the artist should control the process.

Step 2: Analysis of options.

- (A) Control of the portrait-sitting experience should lie with the artist: Correct. Both Avedon and Reynolds emphasize the importance of the artist's control in the sitting. Avedon admits his role as an interloper and opportunist, while Reynolds believes the artist should guide the process.
- (B) A portrait is most likely to reveal the subject's true self when the sitting takes place in a setting familiar to the subject: Incorrect. This statement is more aligned with Hazlitt's view, not Avedon and Reynolds, who focus on the artist's control over the setting.
- (C) During portrait sittings, subjects often enjoy revealing secrets about themselves to the artist: Incorrect. The passage does not suggest that subjects often reveal secrets; it focuses on the dynamic between the artist and subject.
- (D) Paying an artist for a portrait of oneself undermines the mutual trust needed for a successful outcome: Incorrect. The passage does not suggest that paying an artist undermines trust but rather discusses the artist's role in guiding the process.
- (E) A person can gain new insight into himself or herself by sitting for a portrait: Incorrect. While this may be true in some cases, it is not a viewpoint expressed by either Avedon or Reynolds in the passage.

Step 3: Conclusion.

The correct answer is (A) Control of the portrait-sitting experience should lie with the artist.

Final Answer:

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| (A) Control of the portrait-sitting experience should lie with the artist. |
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Quick Tip

When answering questions based on a passage, pay attention to the overall perspective shared by the individuals discussed, particularly in their approach to the topic.
