

GMAT Verbal Practise Question Paper 8 with Solutions

Time Allowed : 2 hours 15 minutes

Maximum Marks : 100

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.

”Darwinism’s Effect on Science” by Matthew Miner (2014)

For much of the history of human thought, the sciences have studied subjects that seemed to be eternal and unchanging. Even the basic laws of the Nile’s flooding were investigated in the hopes of finding never-altering laws. Similarly, the scientific investigations of the ancient Near East and Greece into the regular laws of the stars ultimately looked for constant patterns. This overall pattern of scientific reasoning has left deep marks on the minds of almost all thinkers and found its apotheosis in modern physics. From the time of the early renaissance to the nineteenth century, physics represented the ultimate expression of scientific investigation for almost all thinkers. Its static laws appeared to be the unchanging principles of all motion and life on earth. By the nineteenth century, it had appeared that only a few details had to be ”cleared up” before all science was basically known.

In many ways, this situation changed dramatically with the arrival of Darwinism. It would change even more dramatically in early twentieth-century physics as well. Darwin's theories of evolution challenged many aspects of the "static" worldview. Even those who did not believe that a divine being created an unchanging world were shaken by the new vistas opened up to science by his studies. It had been a long-accepted inheritance of Western culture to believe that the species of living organisms were unchanging in nature. Though there might be many different kinds of creatures, the kinds themselves were not believed to change. The thesis of a universal morphing of types shattered this cosmology, replacing the old world-view with a totally new one. Among the things that had to change in light of Darwin's work was the very view of science held by most people.

1. According to the passage, what is the source of modern science?

- (A) Greek astronomy
- (B) None of the other answers
- (C) Egyptian mathematics
- (D) Renaissance scientists
- (E) Renaissance humanists

Correct Answer: (A) Greek astronomy

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the source of "modern science" as described in the passage. We need to analyze the first paragraph, which discusses the historical development of scientific thought leading to modern science (specifically, pre-Darwinian modern physics).

Step 2: Analyzing the Passage

The first paragraph states: "Similarly, the scientific investigations of the ancient Near East and Greece into the regular laws of the stars ultimately looked for constant patterns. This overall pattern of scientific reasoning has left deep marks on the minds of almost all thinkers and found its apotheosis in modern physics."

This text explicitly links the pattern of looking for constant laws, exemplified by the investigations in ancient Greece (Greek astronomy), to the development of modern physics, which the passage calls the "apotheosis" or culmination of this type of scientific reasoning.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

(A) **Greek astronomy:** The passage directly mentions "scientific investigations of... Greece into the regular laws of the stars" as an example of the pattern that led to modern physics. This is a strong candidate.

(C) **Egyptian mathematics:** The passage mentions investigating the "laws of the Nile's flooding," which is related to Egypt, but not specifically Egyptian mathematics as a source for the entire framework of modern science.

(D) **Renaissance scientists:** The passage states that from the Renaissance onward, physics was the "ultimate expression of scientific investigation," but it describes this as a continuation

of the older pattern, not the ultimate source of the pattern itself.

(E) **Renaissance humanists:** This is not mentioned in the passage.

(B) **None of the other answers:** Since Greek astronomy is presented as a key example of the historical pattern that culminated in modern science (as defined in the paragraph), this option is incorrect.

Step 4: Final Answer

The passage traces the origin of the scientific mindset that dominated up to the 19th century back to ancient investigations looking for constant patterns, with Greek astronomy being a specific example given. Therefore, it is the most appropriate answer based on the text.

Quick Tip

In reading comprehension, questions about the "source" or "origin" often require you to trace an idea back to its earliest mention in the text's historical account. Look for phrases like "similarly," "this pattern," or "found its apotheosis in" to see how ideas are linked through time.

2. Which of the following gives the best example of the "static worldview" discussed in the second paragraph?

(A) "In many ways, this situation changed dramatically with the arrival of Darwinism."

(B) "The thesis of a universal morphing of types shattered this cosmology, replacing the old world-view with a totally new one."

(C) "Among the things that had to change in light of Darwin's work was the very view of science held by most people."

(D) "Even those who did not believe that a divine being created an unchanging world were shaken by the new vistas opened up to science by his studies."

(E) "Though there might be many different kinds of creatures, the kinds themselves were not believed to change."

Correct Answer: (E) "Though there might be many different kinds of creatures, the kinds themselves were not believed to change."

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the best example of the "static worldview" from the given quotes. A "static worldview" is a perspective that things are fixed, stable, and unchanging. We need to find the option that directly describes this belief.

Step 2: Analyzing the Options in Context

The second paragraph introduces Darwinism as a challenge to the "static worldview." Let's examine each option:

- (A) This sentence describes the **change** from the static worldview, not the worldview itself.
- (B) This sentence describes how Darwin’s thesis **destroyed** the old worldview, not what the old worldview was.
- (C) This sentence describes a **consequence** of Darwin’s work, a change in the view of science.
- (D) This sentence describes the **reaction** to the new ideas that challenged the static worldview.
- (E) This sentence provides a clear and direct definition of the static worldview in a biological context. It states the belief that ”the kinds themselves were not believed to change.” This is the essence of a static, or unchanging, view of nature.

Step 3: Final Answer

Option (E) is the only choice that explicitly defines the core belief of the ”static worldview” as discussed in the passage—the idea that species are immutable. The other options all discuss the arrival of Darwinism and its effects, rather than defining the preceding belief system.

Quick Tip

For questions asking for an ”example” or ”definition” of a concept from a passage, look for the sentence that states the concept’s meaning most directly. Incorrect options often describe the cause, effect, or reaction related to the concept, rather than the concept itself.

3. Consider the underlined sentence. What was the new ”cosmology” that arose after Darwin’s day?

Underlined Sentence: ”The thesis of a universal morphing of types shattered this cosmology, replacing the old world-view with a totally new one.”

- (A) A completely areligious outlook on life.
- (B) The view of the world as an unchanging whole to be investigated by science.
- (C) The belief that history was an important but secondary aspect of scientific studies.
- (D) None of the other answers
- (E) The view of the world as a changing reality with its own historical nature.

Correct Answer: (E) The view of the world as a changing reality with its own historical nature.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to define the ”new cosmology” that replaced the old one, according to the passage. The underlined sentence tells us that Darwin’s ”thesis of a universal morphing of types” is what created this new worldview.

Step 2: Analyzing the Key Phrase

The key phrase is ”universal morphing of types.”

- "Morphing" means changing form or structure.
- "Universal" implies this is a fundamental principle.
- "Types" refers to the kinds of creatures or species.

So, the new idea is that species universally change over time. This introduces the concepts of change, development, and history into the very fabric of nature.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

(A) **A completely areligious outlook on life:** The passage mentions that even non-believers were "shaken," but it doesn't claim the new view was necessarily "completely areligious." This is too strong a claim.

(B) **The view of the world as an unchanging whole:** This describes the **old** cosmology that was shattered, not the new one.

(C) **The belief that history was an important but secondary aspect:** The new view would suggest history is a **primary** aspect of biology, not secondary.

(E) **The view of the world as a changing reality with its own historical nature:** This perfectly captures the essence of a "universal morphing of types." It is a view where reality is not static but is constantly changing and has a history of its own development.

Step 4: Final Answer

The new cosmology introduced by Darwin was one of dynamism and change. The idea of evolution or "morphing of types" means that the world has a historical nature and is not fixed. Option (E) accurately describes this new worldview.

Quick Tip

When a question refers to a specific sentence, analyze the key terms within that sentence. The answer is often a paraphrase or logical extension of those key terms. Here, "universal morphing of types" directly translates to a "changing reality with its own historical nature."

4. Given Darwin's statements, which of the following should be expected?

- (A) Humanity as it is today has reached its fixed state.
- (B) There were no dogs at one time in the earth's history.
- (C) Although we do not train bears as pets today, we may well in years to come.
- (D) Ancient physics was completely worthless.
- (E) Human beings will likely all die in a massive nuclear war.

Correct Answer: (B) There were no dogs at one time in the earth's history.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for a logical consequence or expectation based on Darwin's theories as pre-

sented in the passage. The core of Darwin's theory mentioned is the "universal morphing of types," meaning species change and evolve over time.

Step 2: Applying Darwin's Theory to the Options

(A) **Humanity as it is today has reached its fixed state:** This contradicts Darwin's theory. Evolution is an ongoing process, so it's unlikely any species, including humans, has reached a final, "fixed" state.

(B) **There were no dogs at one time in the earth's history:** This is a direct consequence of evolution. If species "morph" over time, then the modern dog breed did not always exist. It must have evolved from an ancestral species (like wolves). Therefore, going back far enough in Earth's history, there would have been a time before dogs existed. This aligns perfectly with Darwin's theory.

(C) **Although we do not train bears as pets today, we may well in years to come:** This is a statement about human culture and behavior, not about biological evolution in the Darwinian sense. It is speculative and not a direct expectation from Darwin's biological principles.

(D) **Ancient physics was completely worthless:** The passage presents ancient physics as a highly developed system ("apotheosis"), not as worthless. Darwin's work challenged its worldview but didn't invalidate its achievements within its own framework.

(E) **Human beings will likely all die in a massive nuclear war:** This is a prediction about a future event that has no connection to the principles of biological evolution described in the passage.

Step 3: Final Answer

The only statement that is a direct and logical expectation from the principle of species evolution ("morphing of types") is that any given modern species did not exist for the entirety of Earth's history. Thus, there was a time before dogs existed.

Quick Tip

For "inference" or "expectation" questions, take the central idea from the passage (here, evolution means species change over time) and apply it as a rule to each option. Eliminate options that contradict the rule, are irrelevant to it, or make unsupported leaps of logic.

5. Which of the following provides an example of the main idea asserted in the first paragraph?

- (A) Religion constantly wanes with the rise of science.
- (B) The interest in science only arises once agriculture reaches a certain point of fixity.
- (C) The fluctuation of coloration within a species is rather minimal.
- (D) None of the other answers
- (E) The Pythagorean theorem is based upon the constant relationship of the sides of a right triangle to its hypotenuse.

Correct Answer: (E) The Pythagorean theorem is based upon the constant relationship of the sides of a right triangle to its hypotenuse.

Solution:

Step 1: Identifying the Main Idea of the First Paragraph

The central theme of the first paragraph is that, for most of history, science focused on discovering "eternal and unchanging" subjects, "never-altering laws," and "constant patterns." Modern physics (up to the 19th century) is presented as the ultimate expression of this search for "static laws."

Step 2: Evaluating the Options as Examples

(A) **Religion constantly wanes with the rise of science:** This topic is not discussed in the first paragraph at all.

(B) **The interest in science only arises once agriculture...:** The passage mentions the Nile's flooding as an example of a phenomenon studied for its laws, but it does not claim this is the sole trigger for scientific interest. This is a misinterpretation.

(C) **The fluctuation of coloration within a species...:** This relates to biology and variation, which is the subject of the **second** paragraph concerning Darwinism. The first paragraph's examples are from physics and astronomy.

(E) **The Pythagorean theorem is based upon the constant relationship...:** The Pythagorean theorem ($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$) is a perfect example of a "never-altering law" and a "constant pattern." It is a mathematical principle that is considered eternal and unchanging within its framework. This aligns perfectly with the main idea of the first paragraph.

Step 3: Final Answer

The Pythagorean theorem exemplifies the search for unchanging, static laws that the first paragraph describes as the dominant mode of scientific inquiry before Darwin. It is a constant relationship that holds true universally, fitting the description of the science of that era.

Quick Tip

When asked for an example of a main idea, first summarize the idea in your own words (e.g., "science looked for unchanging rules"). Then, test each option against your summary. The correct answer will be a specific case that fits the general principle described.

Adapted from Jack London's *The Road* (1907)

Barring accidents, a good hobo, with youth and agility, can hold a train down despite all the efforts of the train-crew to "ditch" him—given, of course, nighttime as an essential condition. When such a hobo, under such conditions, makes up his mind that he is going to hold her down, either he does hold her down, or chance trips him up. There is no legitimate way, short of murder, whereby the train-crew can ditch him. That train-crews have not stopped short of murder is a current belief in the tramp world. Not having had that particular experience in my

tramp days I cannot vouch for it personally.

But this I have heard of the "bad" roads. When a tramp has "gone underneath," on the rods, and the train is in motion, there is apparently no way of dislodging him until the train stops. The tramp, snugly ensconced inside the truck, with the four wheels and all the framework around him, has the "cinch" on the crew—or so he thinks, until some day he rides the rods on a bad road. A bad road is usually one on which a short time previously one or several trainmen have been killed by tramps. Heaven pity the tramp who is caught "underneath" on such a road—for caught he is, though the train be going sixty miles an hour.

The "shack" (brakeman) takes a coupling-pin and a length of bell-cord to the platform in front of the truck in which the tramp is riding. The shack fastens the coupling-pin to the bell-cord, drops the former down between the platforms, and pays out the latter. The coupling-pin strikes the ties between the rails, rebounds against the bottom of the car, and again strikes the ties. The shack plays it back and forth, now to this side, now to the other, lets it out a bit and hauls it in a bit, giving his weapon opportunity for every variety of impact and rebound. Every blow of that flying coupling-pin is freighted with death, and at sixty miles an hour it beats a veritable tattoo of death. The next day the remains of that tramp are gathered up along the right of way, and a line in the local paper mentions the unknown man, undoubtedly a tramp, assumably drunk, who had probably fallen asleep on the track.

6. Given the author's description of the train crew's behavior, which of the following is an analogous behavior?

- (A) A football coach who advises his own players to seriously injure the opposing players.
- (B) A ship captain who allows a stowaway to fall off the deck through the normal actions of the working of the ship.
- (C) A school principal who makes many students drop out of school due to excessively harsh rules.
- (D) A senator who ignores his constituents' needs for his own profit.
- (E) An airline pilot who forces a rowdy passenger off of the plane before take-off.

Correct Answer: (A) A football coach who advises his own players to seriously injure the opposing players.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for an analogy to the train crew's behavior. To find the correct analogy, we must first analyze the key elements of the crew's actions as described in the passage.

Step 2: Analyzing the Train Crew's Behavior

The passage describes the brakeman ("shack") actively and deliberately using a coupling-pin on a cord as a weapon to kill the tramp hiding underneath the train. Key elements are:

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- **Intentional Harm:** The action is not accidental; it is a calculated act of violence intended to cause death ("Every blow...is freighted with death").
- **Abuse of Position:** The crew is in a position of power and authority over the operation of the train, and they use this position to commit murder.
- **Deception/Plausible Deniability:** The result is later reported as an accident (a drunk tramp falling asleep), hiding the true nature of the act.
- **Retaliation/Vindictiveness:** The passage implies this happens on "bad roads" where trainmen have previously been killed by tramps, suggesting a motive of revenge.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

(A) **A football coach who advises his own players to seriously injure the opposing players:** This is a strong analogy. The coach is in a position of authority and is instructing subordinates to commit a violent act that goes far beyond the rules of the game, with the intent to cause serious harm. This mirrors the crew's intentional, malicious violence.

(B) **A ship captain who allows a stowaway to fall...:** This describes passive negligence ("allows... to fall") due to "normal actions." The train crew's action is actively and intentionally violent.

(C) **A school principal with excessively harsh rules:** This may be an abuse of power, but it does not typically involve direct, intentional, physical violence aimed at killing someone.

(D) **A senator who ignores his constituents' needs...:** This is an act of selfish neglect, not direct physical violence.

(E) **An airline pilot who forces a rowdy passenger off the plane...:** This is a legitimate action taken to ensure safety and is within the pilot's authority. The train crew's action is illegitimate murder.

Step 4: Final Answer

The football coach's behavior is the most analogous because it involves a person in authority directing others to commit a deliberate act of serious physical harm against another person, breaking established rules in a malicious way.

Quick Tip

When solving analogy questions, break down the original situation into its core components (e.g., intent, action, power dynamic, outcome). Then, evaluate each option to see which one matches the most components. The key here is the active, malicious, and violent intent.

7. The author ends the passage by noting the newspaper says the man fell asleep in order to

- (A) convince the reader that trains are an incredibly dangerous form of transportation
- (B) show how little people care about tramps
- (C) indicate the dangers of sleeping on train tracks

- (D) show sympathy with the train crew that finds a man under the train
- (E) mock the hobo who gets "caught" under a train

Correct Answer: (B) show how little people care about tramps

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

This question asks about the author's purpose for including the detail about the newspaper report at the very end of the passage. We need to consider the contrast between what the author described and what the newspaper reported.

Step 2: Analyzing the Author's Narrative vs. the Newspaper Report

The author provides a graphic, detailed account of a deliberate and brutal murder. The reader knows exactly how the tramp died.

The newspaper, however, reports the death as a mundane accident: "...mentions the unknown man, undoubtedly a tramp, assumably drunk, who had probably fallen asleep on the track."

The contrast is stark. The truth (murder) is replaced by a dismissive explanation based on stereotypes (tramps are drunks who cause their own misfortune).

Step 3: Determining the Author's Purpose

The author uses this contrast ironically to make a social commentary. The newspaper's account shows that society at large, represented by the press, does not value the life of a tramp. His death is not investigated or given a second thought; it is written off with a convenient and prejudiced explanation. This highlights a deep-seated societal indifference.

(A) While trains can be dangerous, the author's point is not about transportation safety in general, but about a specific act of murder.

(B) This aligns perfectly. The lazy, stereotypical reporting reveals a lack of concern for the tramp's life and dignity.

(C) The danger is not sleeping on the tracks, as the reader knows the tramp was killed while riding the rods. The newspaper account is false.

(D) The newspaper report absolves the train crew of any wrongdoing, but the author's purpose is not to generate sympathy for them, but to criticize the system that allows their actions to go unnoticed.

(E) The author's tone is tragic and critical, not mocking towards the hobo.

Step 4: Final Answer

By showing the gap between the horrific reality and the indifferent public account, the author effectively demonstrates how little society cares about the fate of marginalized individuals like tramps.

Quick Tip

Pay close attention to the end of a passage. Authors often place key ideas or ironic twists there to leave a lasting impression. When you see a stark contrast between the narrative you've read and the "official" account presented, the author is likely making a point about societal values, hypocrisy, or indifference.

8. If the author included the perspective of the train crew, what effect would that have on the overall perspective of the passage?

- (A) It would create confusion over the actual circumstances of a hobo's death.
- (B) It would portray the train crew as malicious and vindictive.
- (C) It would portray the hobos in a less favorable light.
- (D) It would make the local newspapers look more untrustworthy.
- (E) It would make train crews much less sympathetic to the reader.

Correct Answer: (C) It would portray the hobos in a less favorable light.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

This is a hypothetical question asking how the passage's overall perspective would change if a new point of view—that of the train crew—were added.

Step 2: Analyzing the Current Perspective

The passage is told from a perspective that is knowledgeable about and somewhat sympathetic to the hobo world. It portrays the train crew as murderers and the hobo as a victim of their brutality. The crew is already shown to be completely unsympathetic.

Step 3: Hypothesizing the Train Crew's Perspective

If the author were to include the crew's perspective, it would most likely be to provide a motive or justification for their violent actions. The passage already hints at this: "A bad road is usually one on which a short time previously one or several trainmen have been killed by tramps." The crew's perspective would likely elaborate on this danger, framing hobos not as victims but as a dangerous menace who have killed their colleagues. They might express fear, anger, or a desire for revenge.

Step 4: Evaluating the Effect

- (A) It would not create confusion about the death; it would provide context for the murder.
- (B) The passage already portrays them this way. Their perspective would aim to justify this malice, not simply restate it.
- (C) By presenting hobos as violent and dangerous killers of trainmen, the crew's perspective would challenge the reader's sympathy for them and portray them in a much less favorable light. This is the most significant change that would occur.
- (D) The newspaper already seems untrustworthy; this wouldn't change.

(E) The crew is already depicted as murderers, so it's difficult for them to become "much less sympathetic." Hearing their motive might make them more understandable (though not justifiable), but the primary shift in perception would be towards the hobos.

Step 5: Final Answer

Adding the train crew's point of view would introduce the idea that hobos are also perpetrators of violence, thus complicating the simple victim narrative and portraying hobos in a less favorable light.

Quick Tip

For questions that ask you to consider an alternative perspective, think about what that perspective would add. A new point of view is usually included to provide motivation, justification, or a counter-argument. Consider how this new information would challenge the established narrative and the reader's sympathies.

9. What can be inferred about the position of the average newspaper reporter regarding hobos?

- (A) They believe train crews should be prosecuted when they harm hoboes.
- (B) They see hoboes as a quintessential part of American society.
- (C) They view the hobo lifestyle as a romantic endeavor.
- (D) They generally look down on the hobo lifestyle.
- (E) They believe hoboes should be protected by new governmental regulations.

Correct Answer: (D) They generally look down on the hobo lifestyle.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks us to infer the attitude or position of newspaper reporters towards hobos, based on the evidence presented in the passage.

Step 2: Analyzing the Evidence

The only evidence we have is the description of the newspaper report at the end of the passage: "a line in the local paper mentions the unknown man, undoubtedly a tramp, assumably drunk, who had probably fallen asleep on the track."

Let's break down the language used:

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- **"undoubtedly a tramp"**: This presents the man's social status as his most defining and certain characteristic.

- **”assumably drunk”**: This is a negative stereotype applied without any evidence. The reporter assumes the tramp was drunk, which fits a prejudiced view of this group.
- **”probably fallen asleep on the track”**: This is a lazy explanation that closes the case without any need for investigation. It blames the victim for his own death.

Step 3: Making an Inference

The reporter’s language is dismissive, stereotypical, and prejudiced. It shows a complete lack of curiosity about the truth and a disregard for the victim as an individual. This attitude is born from a negative social position that looks down on hobos as unimportant and probably deserving of their fate.

- (A) The report does the opposite; it implicitly absolves the train crew.
- (B) The report treats the tramp as an anonymous outcast, not a quintessential part of society.
- (C) The language is derogatory, not romantic.
- (D) This is the most accurate inference. The use of stereotypes and the dismissive tone indicate a condescending and negative view.
- (E) There is no indication of any desire to protect hobos; the tone is one of indifference.

Step 4: Final Answer

The language of the newspaper report strongly suggests that the reporter, and by extension the society they represent, generally looks down on the hobo lifestyle.

Quick Tip

Inference questions require you to look beyond the literal text. Pay close attention to word choice (diction) and tone. Words like ”undoubtedly,” ”assumably,” and ”probably” can reveal the author’s (or a character’s) biases and assumptions.

Adapted from ”Humming-Birds: As Illustrating the Luxuriance of Tropical Nature” in *Tropical Nature, and Other Essays* by Alfred Russel Wallace (1878)

The food of hummingbirds has been a matter of much controversy. All the early writers down to Buffon believed that they lived solely on the nectar of flowers, but since that time, every close observer of their habits maintains that they feed largely, and in some cases wholly, on insects. Azara observed them on the La Plata in winter taking insects out of the webs of spiders at a time and place where there were no flowers. Bullock, in Mexico, declares that he saw them catch small butterflies, and that he found many kinds of insects in their stomachs. Waterton made a similar statement. Hundreds and perhaps thousands of specimens have since been dissected by collecting naturalists, and in almost every instance their stomachs have been found full of insects, sometimes, but not generally, mixed with a proportion of honey.

Many of them in fact may be seen catching gnats and other small insects just like fly-catchers, sitting on a dead twig over water, darting off for a time in the air, and then returning to the twig. Others come out just at dusk, and remain on the wing, now stationary, now darting about with the greatest rapidity, imitating in a limited space the evolutions of the goatsuckers,

and evidently for the same end and purpose. Mr. Gosse also remarks, "All the hummingbirds have more or less the habit, when in flight, of pausing in the air and throwing the body and tail into rapid and odd contortions. This is most observable in the Polytmus, from the effect that such motions have on the long feathers of the tail. That the object of these quick turns is the capture of insects, I am sure, having watched one thus engaged pretty close to me."

10. What can we infer from the underlined sentence, "Many [hummingbirds] in fact may be seen catching gnats and other small insects just like fly-catchers, sitting on a dead twig over water, darting off for a time in the air, and then returning to the twig"?

- (A) Some hummingbirds live in the desert.
- (B) All hummingbirds live in the desert.
- (C) Gnats are rarely found near bodies of water.
- (D) All hummingbirds live near bodies of water.
- (E) Some hummingbirds live near bodies of water.

Correct Answer: (E) Some hummingbirds live near bodies of water.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for a logical inference based solely on the provided underlined sentence. An inference is a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning.

Step 2: Analyzing the Underlined Sentence

The key phrases in the sentence are:

- "**Many of them...**": This is a crucial quantifier. It means a large number, but not necessarily all. Therefore, any conclusion we draw should apply to "some" or "many," but not "all" hummingbirds.
- "**...sitting on a dead twig over water...**": This phrase explicitly describes the location where these hummingbirds are observed. They are seen hunting in a habitat that is "over water."
- "**...catching gnats and other small insects...**": This detail reinforces the habitat, as gnats are insects commonly found in swarms near water.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

- (A) **Some hummingbirds live in the desert.:** The sentence places them "over water," which is the opposite of a typical desert environment. This is not a supported inference.
- (B) **All hummingbirds live in the desert.:** This is incorrect for the same reason as (A), and also because the word "Many" does not allow for a conclusion about "All" hummingbirds.
- (C) **Gnats are rarely found near bodies of water.:** The sentence implies the opposite. Hummingbirds are catching gnats "over water," suggesting that is where gnats are found. This statement is factually incorrect and not supported by the text.
- (D) **All hummingbirds live near bodies of water.:** This is an overstatement. The sentence uses the word "Many," which means we cannot infer this behavior for "All" hummingbirds.

(E) **Some hummingbirds live near bodies of water.:** This is the most accurate inference. The word "Many" directly supports the conclusion that at least "some" hummingbirds exhibit this behavior, and the phrase "over water" confirms that their habitat is near bodies of water.

Step 4: Final Answer

The sentence states that "Many" hummingbirds are seen "over water." This directly supports the inference that "Some" hummingbirds live near bodies of water.

Quick Tip

In inference questions, pay close attention to quantifiers like "all," "some," "many," and "none." A common trap is to choose an answer that makes a broader claim (e.g., about "all") than the text supports (which might only mention "some" or "many").

11. What do Azara, Bullock, and Waterton have in common?

- (A) They are all types of hummingbirds.
- (B) They are all critics of the writer and disagree with his theory.
- (C) They are all types of birds that eat insects.
- (D) They are all scientists who think hummingbirds eat insects.
- (E) They are all scientists who think hummingbirds eat flower nectar.

Correct Answer: (D) They are all scientists who think hummingbirds eat insects.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the shared characteristic or belief of three individuals mentioned in the passage: Azara, Bullock, and Waterton.

Step 2: Locating and Analyzing the Mentions in the Text

We need to find each name in the passage and see what they are cited for:

- **Azara:** "Azara observed them on the La Plata in winter taking insects out of the webs of spiders..."

- **Bullock:** "Bullock, in Mexico, declares that he saw them catch small butterflies, and that he found many kinds of insects in their stomachs."

- **Waterton:** "Waterton made a similar statement."

The passage groups these three together as "close observers" and "naturalists" whose findings support the central argument: that hummingbirds eat insects.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

(A) **They are all types of hummingbirds.:** Incorrect. They are clearly identified as people who observed hummingbirds.

(B) **They are all critics of the writer...:** Incorrect. The writer uses their observations as

evidence to support his own argument. They are his allies, not his critics.

(C) **They are all types of birds that eat insects.**: Incorrect. They are people.

(D) **They are all scientists who think hummingbirds eat insects.**: Correct. All three are presented as observers (scientists/naturalists) who provided direct evidence that hummingbirds consume insects.

(E) **They are all scientists who think hummingbirds eat flower nectar.**: Incorrect. They are cited specifically to contradict the old theory that hummingbirds eat only nectar.

Step 4: Final Answer

The passage explicitly uses the observations of Azara, Bullock, and Waterton to build the case that hummingbirds eat insects. This is the common thread that links them.

Quick Tip

When a passage lists several names in succession, it's usually to provide a series of examples or supporting authorities for a single point. Identify that central point, and you will find what the named individuals have in common.

12. Which of the following does the author contrast in this passage?

- (A) Hummingbirds with long tails and hummingbirds with short tails
- (B) The results of feeding a hummingbird insects and the results of feeding a hummingbird flower nectar
- (C) The author's opinion about what hummingbirds eat and Mr. Gosse's opinion about what hummingbirds eat
- (D) Hummingbirds that eat flower nectar and hummingbirds that eat insects
- (E) The beliefs of historical scientists and the beliefs of scientists of the author's time

Correct Answer: (E) The beliefs of historical scientists and the beliefs of scientists of the author's time

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify the main contrast or central conflict presented in the passage. We need to look at the overall structure of the author's argument.

Step 2: Analyzing the Structure of the Passage

The passage begins by stating, "The food of hummingbirds has been a matter of much controversy." This immediately sets up a contrast. The author then outlines the two sides of this controversy:

- **The Old Belief:** "All the early writers down to Buffon believed that they lived solely on the nectar of flowers..." This represents the historical scientific view.

- **The New Belief:** "...but since that time, every close observer of their habits maintains that

they feed largely... on insects.” This represents the modern (at the time of writing) scientific view, which the author supports with evidence from Azara, Bullock, Waterton, and Gosse. The entire passage is structured to contrast this old, outdated belief with the new, evidence-based understanding.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

(A) **Hummingbirds with long tails and short tails:** This is a minor detail mentioned in Mr. Gosse’s observation and is not the main contrast of the passage.

(B) **The results of feeding...:** The passage describes observations in the wild and dissections, not controlled feeding experiments.

(C) **The author’s opinion and Mr. Gosse’s opinion:** Mr. Gosse is used as supporting evidence for the author’s opinion. There is no contrast between them; they are in agreement.

(D) **Hummingbirds that eat flower nectar and... that eat insects:** The passage argues that the same hummingbirds eat both (or primarily insects), not that there are two different types of hummingbirds with different diets. The contrast is about the belief regarding their diet.

(E) **The beliefs of historical scientists...and...scientists of the author’s time:** This accurately describes the core structure of the argument. The author contrasts the “early writers” with the “close observers since that time.”

Step 4: Final Answer

The central theme of the passage is the evolution of scientific thought regarding the hummingbird’s diet, contrasting the historical belief (nectar only) with the contemporary belief (largely insects).

Quick Tip

To find the main contrast in a passage, look at the opening sentences. Authors often introduce the central conflict or debate early on. Phrases like “a matter of much controversy,” “on the one hand,” or “however” are strong indicators of a contrasting structure.

Adapted from “Introductory Remarks” in *The Interpretation of Dreams* by Sigmund Freud (trans. 1913)

In attempting to discuss the interpretation of dreams, I do not believe that I have overstepped the bounds of neuropathological interest. For, when investigated psychologically, the dream proves to be the first link in a chain of abnormal psychic structures whose other links—the hysterical phobia, the obsession, and the delusion—must interest the physician for practical reasons. The dream can lay no claim to a corresponding practical significance; however, its theoretical value is very great, and one who cannot explain the origin of the content of dreams will strive in vain to understand phobias, obsessive and delusional ideas, and likewise their therapeutic importance.

While this relationship makes our subject important, it is responsible also for the deficiencies

in this work. The surfaces of fracture, which will be frequently discussed, correspond to many points of contact where the problem of dream formation informs more comprehensive problems of psychopathology which cannot be discussed here. These larger issues will be elaborated upon in the future.

Peculiarities in the material I have used to elucidate the interpretation of dreams have rendered this publication difficult. The work itself will demonstrate why all dreams related in scientific literature or collected by others had to remain useless for my purpose. In choosing my examples, I had to limit myself to considering my own dreams and those of my patients who were under psychoanalytic treatment. I was restrained from utilizing material derived from my patients' dreams by the fact that during their treatment, the dream processes were subjected to an undesirable complication—the intermixture of neurotic characters. On the other hand, in discussing my own dreams, I was obliged to expose more of the intimacies of my psychic life than I should like, more so than generally falls to the task of an author who is not a poet but an investigator of nature. This was painful, but unavoidable; I had to put up with the inevitable in order to demonstrate the truth of my psychological results at all. To be sure, I disguised some of my indiscretions through omissions and substitutions, though I feel that these detract from the value of the examples in which they appear. I can only express the hope that the reader of this work, putting himself in my difficult position, will show patience, and also that anyone inclined to take offense at any of the reported dreams will concede freedom of thought at least to the dream life.

13. The author of this passage is most interested in _____.

- (A) the workings of the human mind
- (B) the ability of certain dreams to foreshadow future events
- (C) the similarities between human brains and the brains of other mammals
- (D) the physical structure of the brain
- (E) the role of criticism in science

Correct Answer: (A) the workings of the human mind

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks for the author's primary area of interest based on the content of the passage.

Step 2: Analyzing the Passage for Key Themes

The author, Sigmund Freud, repeatedly focuses on psychological and psychic phenomena. Key phrases include:

- "interpretation of dreams"
- "investigated psychologically"
- "abnormal psychic structures"
- "hysterical phobia, the obsession, and the delusion"
- "problems of psychopathology"
- "intimacies of my psychic life"

- "my psychological results"

The entire text is dedicated to explaining his method for studying dreams as a window into deeper psychological processes.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

(A) **the workings of the human mind:** This is a broad but accurate summary of the author's focus. All the specific topics he mentions (dreams, phobias, delusions, psychic life) are components of the mind's workings.

(B) **the ability of certain dreams to foreshadow future events:** This is a mystical or prophetic view of dreams. Freud's approach is explicitly scientific and psychological, concerned with the origin and meaning of dreams, not their ability to predict the future.

(C) **the similarities between human brains and the brains of other mammals:** This is a topic of comparative anatomy or biology, which is never mentioned.

(D) **the physical structure of the brain:** While Freud mentions "neuropathological interest," he immediately pivots to a "psychological" investigation. His focus is on the abstract "psychic structures," not the physical brain tissue.

(E) **the role of criticism in science:** Freud expresses hope that readers will be patient and not take offense, but this is a secondary concern. His main interest is the subject of his investigation, not the process of scientific critique itself.

Step 4: Final Answer

The author's consistent use of terms related to psychology, psychic phenomena, and mental states clearly indicates his primary interest is in the workings of the human mind.

Quick Tip

To determine an author's main interest, create a mental list of the key terms and subjects they discuss. The correct answer will be the one that best encapsulates this list. Look for the overarching theme, not just minor details.

14. When he uses the underlined phrase "the inevitable," the author is referring to _____.

(A) the discomfort that everyone feels when discussing dreams with other people

(B) the idea that all dreams contain significant meaning

(C) the scorn of many important psychologists upon his publication of his work on dreams

(D) the fact that he had to publish some of his own dreams, which made him uncomfortable

(E) the gradual loss of detail in what one can remember about a dream

Correct Answer: (D) the fact that he had to publish some of his own dreams, which made him uncomfortable

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

The question asks to identify what the author means by "the inevitable." We must analyze the context in which this phrase appears.

Step 2: Analyzing the Context

The phrase appears in this sequence of sentences:

1. "On the other hand, in discussing my own dreams, I was obliged to expose more of the intimacies of my psychic life than I should like..."
2. "This was painful, but unavoidable; I had to put up with the inevitable in order to demonstrate the truth of my psychological results at all."

The word "This" at the start of the second sentence refers back to the action described in the first sentence. The author states that exposing the "intimacies of my psychic life" (by publishing his own dreams) was "painful, but unavoidable." "The inevitable," therefore, is this unavoidable necessity of self-exposure.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

(A) **the discomfort that everyone feels...**: This is too general. The author is referring to his own specific, profound discomfort as a scientific investigator exposing his private life as data.

(B) **the idea that all dreams contain significant meaning**: This is the author's thesis, not the painful, unavoidable method he had to employ.

(C) **the scorn of many important psychologists...**: He anticipates criticism, but "the inevitable" refers to an action he had to take, not the reaction of others.

(D) **the fact that he had to publish some of his own dreams, which made him uncomfortable**: This perfectly matches the context. The act of publishing his own dreams was the "painful, but unavoidable" thing he had to do.

(E) **the gradual loss of detail...**: This is a feature of dreams but is not what the author is discussing in this specific part of the text.

Step 4: Final Answer

"The inevitable" refers directly to the necessity, as described in the preceding sentence, of exposing his own intimate psychic life through the publication of his dreams, a process he found painful.

Quick Tip

When a question asks about the meaning of a pronoun ("this," "that") or a referential phrase ("the inevitable," "this situation"), always look at the sentence immediately before it. The answer is almost always found in that preceding context.

15. Based on the way in which the underlined word "informs" is used in the passage, the author is using it to mean _____.

(A) influences

- (B) tells
- (C) requires
- (D) solves
- (E) ignores

Correct Answer: (A) influences

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Question

This is a vocabulary-in-context question. We need to determine the meaning of the word "informs" as it is used in the specific sentence from the passage.

Step 2: Analyzing the Sentence

The sentence is: "...the problem of dream formation informs more comprehensive problems of psychopathology which cannot be discussed here."

Let's break down the relationship described. There is a specific problem ("dream formation") and a broader set of problems ("psychopathology"). The sentence says the specific problem "informs" the broader ones. This suggests that understanding dream formation gives shape, character, or insight into the larger field of psychopathology. It has a foundational or influential relationship with it.

Step 3: Evaluating the Options

(A) **influences:** This is a strong synonym. The study of dream formation influences the understanding of more comprehensive problems. It shapes how they are viewed.

(B) **tells:** This is too simple and direct. "Informs" here has a deeper meaning of shaping or structuring, not just conveying facts.

(C) **requires:** This changes the meaning. The larger problems don't require the smaller one in this context.

(D) **solves:** This is incorrect. The passage states the larger issues "cannot be discussed here," implying they are far from solved.

(E) **ignores:** This is the opposite of the intended meaning.

Step 4: Final Answer

In this academic context, "to inform" means to give character or essence to something, or to be a formative principle of it. The best synonym among the choices is "influences," as the understanding of dreams shapes and has a significant bearing on the understanding of broader psychopathology.

Quick Tip

When you encounter a common word used in an unfamiliar way, especially in academic or older texts, it's likely being used with a more formal or archaic definition. Think about the relationship between the ideas in the sentence. Does one thing cause, shape, contradict, or explain the other? This will help you choose the best synonym.

