# The S A T®

Assistive Technology Compatible Test Form

## Practice Test 5

#### Answers and explanations for section 1, Reading Test

##### Explanation for question 1.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. The passage begins with the main character, Lymie, sitting in a restaurant and reading a history book. Paragraph 1 describes the book in front of him (“Blank pages front and back were filled in with maps, drawings, dates, comic cartoons, and organs of the body,” the first part of sentence 6 of paragraph 1). Paragraph 2 reveals what Lymie is reading about (the Peace of Paris and the Congress of Vienna) and suggests his intense concentration on the book (“sometimes he swallowed whole the food that he had no idea he was eating,” sentence 2 of paragraph 2). In paragraph 3, the focus of the passage shifts to a description and discussion of others in the restaurant, namely “A party of four, two men and two women . . .” (sentence 1 of paragraph 3).

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not provide observations made by other characters, only offering Lymie’s and the narrator’s observations. Choice B is incorrect because the beginning of the passage focuses on Lymie as he reads by himself and the end of the passage focuses on the arrival of Lymie’s father, with whom Lymie’s relationship seems somewhat strained. Choice C is incorrect because the setting is described in the beginning of paragraph 1 but is never the main focus of the passage.

##### Explanation for question 2.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. The main purpose of paragraph 1 is to establish the passage’s setting by describing a place and an object. The place is the Alcazar Restaurant, which is described as being “long and narrow” and decorated with “*art moderne*,” murals, and plants (sentences 2 and 3 of paragraph 1), and the object is the history book Lymie is reading.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because rather than establishing what Lymie does every night, paragraph 1 describes what Lymie is doing onone night. Choice B is incorrect because nothing in paragraph 1 indicates when the passage takes place, as the details provided (such as the restaurant and the book) are not specific to one era. Choice D is incorrect because nothing in paragraph 1 clearly foreshadows a later event.

##### Explanation for question 3.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. The passage states that “when Lymie put down his fork and began to count . . . the waitress, whose name was Irma, thought he was through eating and tried to take his plate away” (sentence 6 of paragraph 2). It is reasonable to assume that Irma thinks Lymie is finished eating because he is no longer holding his fork.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because Lymie has already been reading his book while eating for some time before Irma thinks he is finished eating. Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn’t state that Lymie’s plate is empty, and the fact that Lymie stops Irma from taking his plate suggests that it is not empty. Choice D is incorrect because the passage gives no indication that Lymie asks Irma to clear the table.

##### Explanation for question 4.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. The passage makes it clear that Lymie finds the party of four who enter the restaurant to be loud and bothersome, as their entrance means he is no longer able to concentrate on his book: “They laughed more than there seemed any occasion for . . . and their laughter was too loud. But it was the women’s voices . . . which caused Lymie to skim over two whole pages without knowing what was on them” (sentences 5 and 6 of paragraph 3).

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because sentence 6 of paragraph 3 makes clear that Lymie is annoyed by the party of four, not that he finds their presence refreshing (choice B), thinks they resemble the people he is reading about (choice C), or thinks they represent glamour and youth (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 5.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. Question 4 asks about Lymie’s impression of the party of four who enter the restaurant, with the correct answer being that he finds them noisy and distracting. This is supported in sentence 6 of paragraph 3: “But it was the women’s voices, the terrible not quite sober pitch of the women’s voices which caused Lymie to skim over two whole pages without knowing what was on them.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 4 about Lymie’s impression of the party of four who enter the restaurant. Rather than showing that Lymie finds the group of strangers noisy and distracting, the sentences simply describe how two of the four people look (choices A and B) and indicate what Lymie does when his father joins him in the restaurant (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 6.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. In the passage, Lymie closes his book only after “a coat that he recognized as his father’s was hung on the hook next to his chair” (the last part of sentence 9 of paragraph 3). It is Lymie’s father’s arrival that causes him to close the book.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because sentences 9 and 10 of paragraph 3 of the passage clearly establish that Lymie closes his book because his father has arrived, not that he does so because the party of four is too loud (choice B), because he has finished reading a section of the book (choice C), or because he is getting ready to leave (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 7.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. In sentences 2 through 5 of paragraph 4, the narrator describes Mr. Peters as “gray” and balding, noting that he has “lost weight” and his color is “poor.” This description suggests Mr. Peters is aging and losing strength and vigor.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the description of Mr. Peters in sentences 2 through 5 of paragraph 4 suggests he is a person who is wan and losing vitality, not someone who is healthy and in good shape (choice A), angry and intimidating (choice B), or emotionally anxious (choice C).

##### Explanation for question 8.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. In paragraph 5 of the passage, Mr. Peters is described as being unaware “that there had been any change” in his appearance since he was younger (sentence 1 of paragraph 5). Later in paragraph 5, the passage states that “the young man” Mr. Peters once was “had never for one second deserted” him (sentence 4 of paragraph 5). The main idea of paragraph 5 is that Mr. Peters still thinks of himself as young, or at least acts as if he is a younger version of himself.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because Mr. Peters is spending time with Lymie, his son, and there is no indication that he generally does not spend time with his family. Choice C is incorrect because although there are brief mentions of a diamond ring and manicured fingers, paragraph 5 focuses on Mr. Peters’s overall appearance, not on his awareness of status symbols. Choice D is incorrect because paragraph 5 clearly states that Mr. Peters is “not aware that there had been any change” and thinks of himself as young.

##### Explanation for question 9.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. In sentence 2 of paragraph 5, Mr. Peters is described as having “straightened his tie self‑consciously” and gestured with a menu “so that the two women at the next table would notice the diamond ring on the fourth finger of his right hand.” Mr. Peters’s actions are those of someone who wants to attract attention and be noticed.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the idea Mr. Peters wants to attract attention to himself. Choices A and C address Mr. Peters’s view of himself. Choice D indicates that Mr. Peters’s view of himself affects his behavior but does not reveal that he acts in a way meant to draw attention.

##### Explanation for question 10.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. Sentence 5 of paragraph 5 of the passage states that Mr. Peters’s mischaracterization of himself makes him act in ways that are not “becoming” for a man of his age. In this context, “becoming” suggests behavior that is appropriate or fitting.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of describing one’s behavior, “becoming” means appropriate or fitting, not becoming known (choice A), becoming more advanced (choice C), or simply occurring (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 11.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. In Passage 1, Beecher makes the point that even if women in her society are perceived as being inferior to men, they are still able to effect considerable influence on that society: “But while woman holds a subordinate relation in society to the other sex, it is not because it was designed that her duties or her influence should be any the less important, or all‑pervading” (sentence 3 of paragraph 1 of Passage 1).

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because Beecher describes the dynamic between men and women in terms of the way they can change society, not in terms of security and physical safety. Choice C is incorrect because even though Beecher implies that women have fewer rights in society than men do, she doesn’t say that women have fewer responsibilities. Choice D is incorrect because Beecher does not assert that women are superior to men.

##### Explanation for question 12.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. Question 11 asks what point Beecher makes regarding the relationship between men and women in her society, with the answer being that women are considered inferior but can still have influence. This is supported in sentence 3 of paragraph 1 of Passage 1: “But while woman holds a subordinate relation in society to the other sex, it is not because it was designed that her duties or her influence should be any the less important, or all‑pervading.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 11 about the point Beecher makes regarding the relationship between men and women in her society. Instead, they describe ways men can affect society (choices B and C) and explain how certain actions undertaken by a woman can be viewed negatively (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 13.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. In paragraph 3, Beecher suggests that women can be “so much respected, esteemed and loved” by those around them that men will accede to their wishes: “then, the fathers, the husbands, and the sons, will find an influence thrown around them, to which they will yield not only willingly but proudly. . . .” These sentences show that Beecher believes women can influence society by influencing the men around them; in other words, women have an indirect influence on public life.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because sentence 3 of paragraph 3 of Passage 1 makes it clear that Beecher believes women do have an effect on society, even if it is an indirect effect. Beecher does not indicate that women’s effect on public life is ignored because most men are not interested (choice A), unnecessary because men do not need help governing society (choice C), or merely symbolic because women tend to be idealistic (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 14.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. Regarding the dynamic of men and women in society, Beecher says that one sex is given “the subordinate station” while the other is given the “superior” station (sentence 1 of paragraph 1 of Passage 1). In the context of how one gender exists in comparison to the other, the word “station” suggests a standing or rank.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of the relative standing of men and women in Beecher’s society, the word “station” suggests a standing or rank, not a physical location or area (choices A, B, and C).

##### Explanation for question 15.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. When describing how men and women can influence society, Beecher says the ways they can do so “should be altogether different and peculiar” (the last part of sentence 4 of paragraph 1 of Passage 1). In the context of the “altogether different” ways men and women can influence society, the word “peculiar” implies being unique or distinctive.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in the context of the “altogether different” ways men and women can influence society, the word “peculiar” suggests something unique or distinctive, not something unusual and odd (choice A), unexpected (choice B), or rare (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 16.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. In Passage 2, Grimké makes the main point that people have rights because they are human, not because of their gender or race. This is clear in the first part of sentence 1 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2, when Grimké states that “human beings have rights, because they are moralbeings: the rights of all men grow out of their moral nature” and sentence 3 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2, when Grimké writes, “Now if rights are founded in the nature of our moral being, then the mere circumstance of sex does not give to man higher rights and responsibilities, than to woman.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because Grimké primarily emphasizes that all men and women inherently have the same rights (“rights are founded in the nature of our moral being,” the first part of sentence 3 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2). Her central claim is not that men and women need to work together to change society (choice B), that moral rights are the distinguishing characteristic separating humans from animals (choice C), or that there should be equal opportunities for men and women to advance and succeed.

##### Explanation for question 17.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. In Passage 2, Grimké makes the point that human rights are not fleeting or changeable but things that remain, regardless of the circumstances, because they are tied to humans’ moral nature. She emphasizes that human rights exist even if societal laws attempt to contradict or override them, citing slavery as an example: “These rights may be wrested from the slave, but they cannot be alienated: his title to himself is as perfect now, as is that of Lyman Beecher: it is stamped on his moral being, and is, like it, imperishable” (sentence 2 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2).

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A and D are incorrect because in Passage 2, Grimké makes the point that human rights are inherent and unchanging, not that they are viewed differently in different societies (choice A) or that they have changed and developed over time (choice D). Choice C is incorrect because Grimké doesn’t describe a clash between human rights and moral responsibilities; instead, she says that humans have rights “because they are moral beings” (the first part of sentence 1 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2).

##### Explanation for question 18.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. Question 17 asks what point Grimké makes about human rights in Passage 2, with the answer being that they exist and have moral authority whether or not they are established by societal law. This is supported in sentence 2 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2: “These rights may be wrested from the slave, but they cannot be alienated: his title to himself is as perfect now, as is that of Lyman Beecher: it is stamped on his moral being, and is, like it, imperishable.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 17 about the point Grimké makes about human rights in Passage 2. Instead, they explain the source of all people’s human rights (choice A), indicate what would happen if rights were determined by gender (choice C), and discuss why gender is irrelevant to rights (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 19.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. In Passage 1, Beecher asserts that men and women naturally have different positions in society: “Heaven has appointed to one sex the superior, and to the other the subordinate station” (the first part of sentence 1 of paragraph 1 of Passage 1). She goes on to argue that a woman should act within her subordinate role to influence men but should not “exert coercive influences” that would put her “out of her appropriate sphere” (the last part of sentence 1 of paragraph 4 of Passage 1). In Passage 2, Grimké takes issue with the idea that men and women have different rights and roles. She asserts that as moral beings all people have the same inherent rights and states that “the mere circumstance of sex does not give to man higher rights and responsibilities, than to woman” (the last part sentence 3 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2).

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because Passage 2 does not discuss the practical difficulties of something that is proposed in Passage 1 but rather argues against the main point of Passage 1. Choice C is incorrect because Passage 2 does not provide historical context for the view expressed in Passage 1; the passages were published at around the same time and both discuss contemporary society. Choice D is incorrect because Passage 2 does not elaborate on implications found in Passage 1 as much as it disputes the ideas explicitly expressed in Passage 1.

##### Explanation for question 20.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. While Beecher and Grimké clearly disagree regarding a woman’s role in society, the passages suggest that both authors share the belief that women do have moral duties and responsibilities in society. In Passage 1, Beecher writes that “while woman holds a subordinate relation in society to the other sex, it is not because it was designed that her duties or her influence should be any the less important, or all‑pervading” (sentence 3 of paragraph 1 of Passage 1). She suggests that women do have an obligation to use their influence to bring about beneficial changes in society. In Passage 2, Grimké asserts that all people “are moral beings” (the first part of sentence 1 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2) and that both men and women have “rights and responsibilities” (the last part of sentence 3 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2). She concludes that “whatever it is morally right for man to do, it is morally right for woman to do” (the first part of sentence 2 of paragraph 3 of Passage 2).

**Incorrect answer**

Choice B is incorrect because neither author suggests that when men work to bring about political changes, they often do so out of consideration for others rather than considerations for themselves. Choice C is incorrect because neither passage discusses the value given to women’s ethical obligations, although both authors suggest that women do have ethical and moral obligations. Choice D is incorrect because in Passage 1 Beecher argues that women should avoid direct political activism, cautioning against actions that would put them outside their “appropriate sphere” (the last part of sentence 1 of paragraph 4 of Passage 1).

##### Explanation for question 21.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. In sentence 3 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2, Grimké writes, “Now if rights are founded in the nature of our moral being, then the mere circumstance of sex does not give to man higher rights and responsibilities, than to woman.” In other words, gender does not make men’s rights and duties superior to women’s. Beecher, on the other hand, begins Passage 1 by stating that “heaven has appointed to one sex the superior, and to the other the subordinate station,” suggesting that men and women have fundamentally different natures. Therefore, Beecher most likely would have disagreed with Grimké’s assertion.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A and B are incorrect because Beecher fundamentally disagrees with Grimké regarding the basic nature and societal roles of men and women, making it very unlikely that she would have viewed Grimké’s statement in sentence 3 of paragraph 2 of Passage 2 with either sympathy or agreement. Choice C is incorrect because Beecher wouldn’t necessarily have been dismayed by Grimké’s belief as much as she would have simply disagreed with it, and she does not indicate that the role of women in society is more difficult to play than is that of men.

##### Explanation for question 22.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. In sentence 2 of paragraph 2, the passage states that industrial agriculture has become “incredibly efficient on a simple land to food basis.” In this context, “simple” suggests something basic or straightforward.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of a land to food dynamic, the word “simple” suggests something basic or straightforward, not something humble (choice B), something without any decoration or ornamentation (choice C), or something that requires little effort (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 23.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. The passage clearly states that conventional agriculture is very efficient, especially when compared to organic farming: “organic farming yields 25% fewer crops on average than conventional agriculture” (the last part of sentence 1 of paragraph 4) and in a study “organic farming delivered a lower yield for every crop type” (sentence 2 of paragraph 5). It can therefore be understood from the passage that conventional agriculture does a good job maximizing the output of the land that is farmed.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the passage states how efficient conventional agriculture is in regard to the amount of food it can produce but does not indicate that it produces a significantly wide variety of fruits and vegetables. Choice C is incorrect because even if the passage does say that each American farmer can produce crops to feed “over 155 people worldwide” (the last part of sentence 3 of paragraph 2), it never claims that conventional agriculture can satisfactorily feed everyone in the world. Choice D is incorrect because the passage states that conventional agriculture uses a great deal of nitrogen, not that it changes the need for nitrogen in plant growth one way or the other.

##### Explanation for question 24.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. The passage makes it clear that “most environmentalists” (sentence 1 of paragraph 3) believe conventional agriculture produces food that is not as healthy as food produced through organic farming and that it is more harmful to the environment than organic farming is: many environmentalists “have embraced organic food as better for the planet—and healthier and tastier, too—than the stuff produced by agricultural corporations” (sentence 2 of paragraph 3).

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they are not supported by the passage. The passage never states that many environmentalists believe that conventional farming reduces the need to convert wilderness to farmland (choice B), is in any way good for the environment (choice C), or protects wildlife habitats (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 25.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. Question 24 asks how environmentalists perceive conventional agriculture, with the answer being that they believe it produces a product that is less healthy and more environmentally destructive than that produced by organic farming. This is supported in sentence 2 of paragraph 3: “They have embraced organic food as better for the planet—and healthier and tastier, too—than the stuff produced by agricultural corporations.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 24 about how environmentalists perceive the efforts of conventional agriculture. Although the sentence in choice A does touch on environmentalists’ views, it indicates only that most environmentalists don’t view conventional agriculture’s ability to “produce more food on less land” (the last part of sentence 5 of paragraph 2) as beneficial to the environment. Choice C is incorrect because this sentence addresses environmentalists’ view of the environmental effects of conventional and organic farming but not the taste or nutritional value of the food produced. Choice D is incorrect because this sentence focuses on a drawback to organic farming.

##### Explanation for question 26.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. The passage makes it clear that while both conventional and organic farming need nitrogen for plant growth, conventional farming uses synthetic fertilizers and organic does not: “Conventional agriculture makes use of 171 million metric tons of synthetic fertilizer each year, and all that nitrogen enables much faster plant growth than the slower release of nitrogen from the compost or cover crops used in organic farming” (sentence 2 of paragraph 6).

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not state that conventional and organic farming are equally sustainable and does state that organic farming needs “more land” to produce “fewer crops” (the first part of sentence 2 of paragraph 4) but does not indicate that it always requires dramatically more land. Choice B is incorrect because the passage does not state that organic farming uses artificial chemicals. Choice D is incorrect because the passage mentions nitrogen runoff only as a product of conventional farming, not organic farming, and does not indicate that only the nitrogen in conventional fertilizers is dangerous.

##### Explanation for question 27.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. Question 26 asks about the relationship between conventional agriculture and organic farming, with the answer being that unlike organic farms, conventional farms use synthetic fertilizers. This is supported in sentence 2 of paragraph 6: “Conventional agriculture makes use of 171 million metric tons of synthetic fertilizer each year, and all that nitrogen enables much faster plant growth than the slower release of nitrogen from the compost or cover crops used in organic farming.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 26 about the relationship between conventional and organic farming, instead describing the efficiency only of conventional agriculture (choice A), discussing one perceived positive aspect of conventional agriculture (choice B), and highlighting a drawback of organic farming (choice C).

##### Explanation for question 28.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. The passage states that the authors of the study comparing conventional and organic farming have come to the conclusion that an “ideal global agriculture system” would “borrow the best from both systems” (sentence 2 of paragraph 8). The quote from Jonathan Foley in sentences 1 through 3 of paragraph 9 and sentence 1 of paragraph 10 indicates that this ideal system would take into consideration many different factors, including the nutrition and calories offered by specific types of foods as well as different geographic, economic, and social needs.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A and D are incorrect because the passage makes it clear that the “ideal global agriculture system” would give consideration to multiple factors, not that it would focus mainly on productivity (choice A) or nutritional value (choice D). Choice C is incorrect because Foley states that the ideal system would take economics into consideration but does not indicate that farmers’ economic interests would be weighed against consumers’ needs.

##### Explanation for question 29.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. The passage states that conventional agriculture can be superior to organic farming in terms of producing “sheer calories” (the first part of sentence 3 of paragraph 9). In this context, “sheer” most nearly means pure; the passage is referring to the pure number of calories delivered by foods.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of discussing the calories foods can provide, “sheer” suggests the pure number of calories. Also, it does not make sense to say that calories can be seen through (choice A), are somehow sudden or happen unexpectedly (choice B), or are at a very sharp angle (choice C).

##### Explanation for question 30.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. Figure 1 shows that the organic yield as a percentage of conventional yield is similar for cereals and all crops, with both yielding roughly 75%.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because figure 1 shows that the organic yield as a percentage of conventional yield is higher for fruits (just under 100%) than for vegetables (just under 70%). Choice C is incorrect because figure 1 shows there were only 28 observations for oilseed crops. Choice D is incorrect because figure 1 shows that the organic yield as a percentage of conventional yield is higher for oilseed crops (approximately 90%) than for vegetables (just under 70%).

##### Explanation for question 31.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. Each organically grown species represented in figure 2 produces a smaller yield than its conventional counterparts. All of the organically grown species are within a range of approximately 60% to 90% of the conventional yield.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because figure 2 shows that soybeans have the highest yield (approximately 90%), not the lowest. Choice B is incorrect because figure 2 shows that organically grown barley and maize are produced at a lower yield than the conventionally grown species (just below 70% and just below 90%, respectively), not a comparable one. Choice C is incorrect because figure 2 shows that soybeans, not tomatoes, have the highest yield of the organically grown species.

##### Explanation for question 32.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. The majority of the passage focuses on the experiment concerning “how much the crowd influences the individual, and whether it can be controlled from outside” (sentence 7 of paragraph 4). After explaining the experiment and the results it produced, the passage moves on to consider questions raised by the results, such as whether the findings are site specific or “true in general” (the last part of sentence 2 of paragraph 8), why different findings are observed, and whether companies can “boost their products by manipulating online ratings on a massive scale” (sentence 1 of paragraph 9).

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not conclude by explaining the practical ways the experiment’s findings have been applied but rather by considering questions the findings raise. Choices C and D are incorrect because the passage does not indicate that there were any flaws in the experiment’s findings and does not include statements from anyone who disputes the findings.

##### Explanation for question 33.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. The author of the passage suggests that a group of people can be “wiser” and more effective than a single person at assessing a quantitative answer, or a measurement, versus producing a valid qualitative judgement, or a judgment of the quality of something. This is most clear in sentence 3 of paragraph 2, which states that when guessing a bull’s weight or how many gumballs are in a jar, “your guess is probably going to be far from the mark, whereas the average of many people’s choices is remarkably close to the true number.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because sentence 3 of paragraph 2 indicates that the author believes that crowds may be more effective than individuals when arriving at quantitative answers rather than qualitative results. Nothing in the passage suggests that the author believes that crowds are better at starting disagreements than studying an issue in depth (choice A), supporting ideas rather than challenging them (choice B), or ranking opinions rather than coming up with new ideas (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 34.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. Question 33 asks what the author of the passage suggests about the wisdom of crowds, with the answer being that crowds can be more effective at producing quantitative answers than qualitative results. This is supported in sentence 3 of paragraph 2: when it comes to guessing a bull’s weight or how many gumballs are in a jar, “your guess is probably going to be far from the mark, whereas the average of many people’s choices is remarkably close to the true number.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 33 about the author’s belief about when the wisdom of a crowd is effective. Instead, they simply state that crowds are sometimes wiser than individuals, without explaining when (choice A), put forth a theory held by someone other than the author (choice C), and explain how hypotheses about the wisdom of crowds could be tested (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 35.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. In the passage, the author explains that those who are skeptical of the theory that “measuring the aggregate of people’s opinions produces a stable, reliable value” (the last part of sentence 2 of paragraph 3) believe that “people’s opinions are easily swayed by those of others” (sentence 3 of paragraph 3). This idea is best supported in sentence 2 of paragraph 6, which describes a finding from a study of opinions in crowds: “Comments that received fake positive votes from the researchers were 32% more likely to receive more positive votes compared with a control, the team reports.” In other words, people were more likely to give a positive vote when they thought other people had given positive votes.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not provide support for the skeptics’ idea that people’s opinions are easily influenced by the thoughts of others. Instead, they cite findings concerning people giving ratings differentfrom those already given (choices B and C) and share an observation that the degree to which others can be influenced depends in part on the context of the situation (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 36.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. One question Watts asks in regard to the experiment is whether the results would hold true on a larger scale. The passage quotes him in sentence 2 of paragraph 8: “‘[But] one question is whether the positive [herding] bias is specific to this site’ or true in general.” Doing the experiment again but collecting ratings on multiple websites would address Watts’s question, as it would show whether or not the same results occur on other sites.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect. Providing fewer fake positive comments during the experiment (choice A), requiring users to be registered on the website (choice C), or telling users that their answers will be studied (choice D) are actions that likely would affect the results of the experiment involving users voting on comments about stories on one news website, but they would not address Watts’s questions about whether the study would produce the same results on otherwebsites or why different categories of news items had different effects on the news website.

##### Explanation for question 37.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. In sentence 1 of paragraph 9 the author asks, “Will companies be able to boost their products by manipulating online ratings on a massive scale?” In the context of selling products by manipulating user reviews, “boost” most nearly means promote.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in the context of selling products by manipulating user reviews, the word “boost” refers to promoting the products, not making them larger or bigger (choice A), faster (choice B), or safe (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 38.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. In sentence 1 of paragraph 9 the author asks, “Will companies be able to boost their products by manipulating online ratings on a massive scale?” In the context of selling products by manipulating user reviews on a massive scale, the word “scale” most nearly means level or size.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of selling products by manipulating user reviews, a massive “scale” refers to a great level or size, not to a payment (choice B), an interval or space between things (choice C), or a plan (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 39.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. The figure shows that while the mean score of the control comments in the politics category is below 2.0, the artificially up‑voted mean score for that category is exactly 2.5.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the artificially up‑voted mean score of comments in the business category is higher than 3.0. Choice C is incorrect because the artificially up‑voted mean score of comments in the fun category is less than 2.5. Choice D is incorrect because the artificially up‑voted mean score of the comments in the general news category is just over 2.0.

##### Explanation for question 40.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. The figure shows that the mean score for both control comments and artificially up‑voted comments in the general news category is just above 2.0.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the mean score for the control comments in the culture and society category is a little below 2.5 while the mean score for the artificially up‑voted comments is over 3.0. Choice B is incorrect because the mean score for the control comments in the information technology category is a little above 1.5 while the mean score for the artificially up‑voted comments is above 2.0. Choice C is incorrect because the mean score for the control comments in the fun category is exactly 2.0 while the mean score for the artificially up‑voted comments is nearly 2.5.

##### Explanation for question 41.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. In the passage Watts notes that “the category of the news items . . . had a strong effect on how much people could be manipulated” (sentence 3 of paragraph 8). That idea is directly supported by the data in the figure, which show that the difference in mean score between the control comments and the artificially up‑voted comments varies by subject (for example, in the general news category there is virtually no difference between the mean scores of the two types of comments, while for the business category there is almost a 1.0‑point difference between the mean scores).

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A and B are incorrect because the figure provides no data for artificially down‑voted comments or negative social influence. Choice C is incorrect because the figure applies only to one context (mean score of control comments versus mean score of artificially up‑voted comments on the news site); there is no way to tell what patterns would be observed in other contexts.

##### Explanation for question 42.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. According to the passage, Maguire found that taxi drivers’ hippocampi are “7 percent larger than normal,” which is evidence that “way‑finding around London had physically altered the gross structure of their brains” (sentences 3 and 4 of paragraph 1). In sentences 2 and 3 of paragraph 2, the passage indicates that this finding challenges an earlier consensus: “It had long been thought that the adult brain was incapable of spawning new neurons—that . . . the brain’s basic anatomical structure was more or less static. Maguire’s study suggested the old inherited wisdom was simply not true.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the passage does not indicate that Maguire used a new method in her study or that her findings demonstrate the validity of a method. Choice B is incorrect because sentences 2 and 3 of paragraph 2 show that Maguire’s findings disprove a popular viewpoint, not that they support one. Choice D is incorrect because although Maguire’s findings call into question a previous idea, there is no indication that they challenge the authenticity of any previous data.

##### Explanation for question 43.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. Question 42 asks about the significance of Maguire’s findings, with the answer being that her findings call into question a previous belief. This is supported in sentences 2 and 3 of paragraph 2: “It had long been thought that the adult brain was incapable of spawning new neurons—that . . . the brain’s basic anatomical structure was more or less static. Maguire’s study suggested the old inherited wisdom was simply not true.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 42 about the significance of Maguire’s findings. Choices A and B are incorrect because these sentences present Maguire’s observation and her conclusion but do not indicate that her findings call into question a previous belief. Choice C is incorrect because this sentence simply explains one capability of the human brain.

##### Explanation for question 44.

**Correct answer**

Choice D is the best answer. In the last part of sentence 2 of paragraph 2, the passage discusses the “brain’s basic anatomical structure.” In this context, the word “basic” most nearly means fundamental.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of discussing the brain’s structure, the word “basic” most nearly means fundamental, not first (choice A), uncomplicated (choice B), or required (choice C).

##### Explanation for question 45.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. The purpose of Maguire’s study of the mental athletes was to try to determine what it is that makes them so good at memorization, and in particular if they have structurally different brains than people without such extraordinary memorization skills or if they have normal brain structures but use them in unusual ways. This is supported in sentence 3 of paragraph 3, which states that Maguire and her team “wanted to find out if the memorizers’ brains were—like the London cabbies’—structurally different from the rest of ours, or if they were somehow just making better use of memory abilities that we all possess.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the study was an attempt to compare the brains of mental athletes to the brains of the general population, not to compare the use of different brain structures in memorization and navigation. Choices B and D are incorrect because the passage make it clear that it was not known if mental athletes have unusual brain structures; finding out if they do was actually one of the goals of the study.

##### Explanation for question 46.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. Question 45 asks what Maguire’s study of mental athletes attempted to answer, with the answer being the question of whether it is brain structure or an unusual use of the brain that gives certain people extraordinary memorization skills. This is supported in sentence 3 of paragraph 3: “They wanted to find out if the memorizers’ brains were—like the London cabbies’—structurally different from the rest of ours, or if they were somehow just making better use of memory abilities that we all possess.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 45 about what Maguire’s study of mental athletes was investigating. Instead they simply identify the subject of the study (choice A), explain what the study involved (choice C), and state a finding concerning the cognitive ability of the mental athletes (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 47.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. In the first part of sentence 1 of paragraph 4, the passage describes part of Maguire’s study by stating that “the researchers put both the mental athletes and a group of matched control subjects into M R I scanners.” In the context of a study that has two groups of subjects, the word “matched” suggests subjects that are similar or comparable.

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of a study with two groups of subjects, the word “matched” suggests subjects that are similar or comparable, not ones that are exactly the same (choice B), ones that are recognizably different (choice C), or ones that are rivals (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 48.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. The main purpose of paragraph 5 is to relate what Maguire discovered about the mental athletes, namely that their brain structures are not different from those of the control group but that the mental athletes use their brains differently: “there was one telling difference . . . regions of the brain that were less active in the control subjects seemed to be working in overdrive for the mental athletes.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because paragraph 5 does not mention the taxi drivers or the study involving them. Choice B is incorrect because paragraph 5 describes some of the unexpected results of Maguire’s study but does not address the possible reasons for those results. Choice D is incorrect because paragraph 5 describes only Maguire’s findings, not her methods.

##### Explanation for question 49.

**Correct answer**

Choice C is the best answer. The passage indicates that Maguire’s second study revealed that people in the control group don’t have different brain structures than the mental athletes but that they use their brains differently. In particular, the two groups use different pathways in the brain: “regions of the brain that were less active in the control subjects seemed to be working in overdrive for the mental athletes” (sentence 2 of paragraph 5).

**Incorrect answer**

Choices A and D are incorrect because the passage states that there was only “one telling difference between the brains of the mental athletes and the control subjects” (the first part of sentence 1 of paragraph 5); there is no indication that the control group showed less total brain activity or had smaller hippocampal regions. Choice B is incorrect because the passage mentions only the general cognitive ability of the mental athletes, noting that their scores were “within the normal range” (the last part of sentence 5 of paragraph 4).

##### Explanation for question 50.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. After establishing in sentence 4 of paragraph 4 that the brains of the control group and the mental athletes seemed to be “indistinguishable,” the passage suggests that the reason mental athletes are so good at memorization is that they use parts of their brains that most other people don’t use when memorizing: “Surprisingly, when the mental athletes were learning new information, they were engaging several regions of the brain known to be involved in two specific tasks: visual memory and spatial navigation, including the same right posterior hippocampal region that the London cabbies had enlarged with all their daily way‑finding” (sentence 1 of paragraph 6).

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B and C are incorrect because the passage explains that the mental athletes were converting information into images, not abstract symbols or numerical lists. Choice D is incorrect because it is not supported by the passage, as the author discusses the mental athletes’ actions while memorizing but not any brain exercises the mental athletes regularly do.

##### Explanation for question 51.

**Correct answer**

Choice A is the best answer. Question 50 asks what the passage suggests about the mental athletes’ success with memorization, with the answer being that they use parts of the brain that most other people don’t use when memorizing. This is supported in sentence 1 of paragraph 6: “Surprisingly, when the mental athletes were learning new information, they were engaging several regions of the brain known to be involved in two specific tasks: visual memory and spatial navigation, including the same right posterior hippocampal region that the London cabbies had enlarged with all their daily way‑finding.”

**Incorrect answer**

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the sentences cited do not support the answer to question 50 about what the passage suggests about the mental athletes’ success with memorization. Instead, they acknowledge that Maguire’s findings seem odd (choice B), describe how Maguire first responded to the results (choice C), and explain things that don’t account for the mental athletes’ ability (choice D).

##### Explanation for question 52.

**Correct answer**

Choice B is the best answer. According to the passage, Maguire’s study revealed that the mental athletes were using the same parts of the brain for memorization as were the London cabbies from the first study, a result that was initially puzzling. The questions in sentences 3 and 4 of paragraph 6 highlight and expand on that result, making it clear that it is surprising to find that the mental athletes use images to remember numbers or use a part of the brain associated with navigation when trying to remember shapes. Although it became clear how the mental athletes were memorizing things, it was not clear why they were doing it that way.

**Incorrect answer**

Choice A is incorrect because the questions in sentences 3 and 4 of paragraph 6 seem to reflect additional questions Maguire and others had based on their result and do not suggest that Maguire’s conclusions may not be reliable. Choice C is incorrect because the passage makes no mention of any earlier studies of the phenomenon of using images to remember numbers or to use a part of the brain associated with navigation when trying to remember shapes. Choice D is incorrect because the questions in sentences 3 and 4 of paragraph 6 specifically address Maguire’s two studies but not her earlier work.