

College Admission

*PSAT
PSAT/NMSQT Exam*

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Question: 1

Beowulf is an epic poem that is important because it is often viewed as the first significant work of English literature. Although it was first written in AD 700, it is thought to be even hundreds of years older than that. It is believed that the story of Beowulf was told for centuries before it ever made its way on to paper. It is still taught today in various schools and universities.

Beowulf is a significant poem because

- A. it was first written down in AD 700.
- B. it was told for centuries before it was written down.
- C. it is still taught today in academic settings.
- D. It is the first important work of English literature.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The work is important because "it is often viewed as the first significant work of English literature."

Question: 2

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

- A. caused this economic crisis.
- B. caused this economic crisis?
- C. caused this economic crisis:
- D. caused this economic crisis!

Answer: B

Explanation:

The convention being tested is end-of-sentence punctuation. This choice uses a question mark to punctuate the interrogative sentence "What caused this economic crisis?" This question is answered in the sentence that follows it.

Choice A is incorrect, as this choice presents the information as a declarative statement. Choice C is incorrect because it uses a colon, implying that it will list the information directly following the statement. The information is provided in a separate and complete sentence, thus requiring the use of a question mark to create an interrogative sentence. Choice D is incorrect because an exclamatory sentence does not set up the information that follows to explain the causes of the Great Depression.

Question: 3

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. echoes of the past
- B. markers of the present
- C. predictions of the future
- D. glimpses of the unknown

Answer: A

Explanation:

The phrase "echoes of the past" aligns with the context of the passage, emphasizing that cultural artifacts reflect and carry the essence of earlier times and societies. It emphasizes the idea that these expressions serve as a connection to history and the collective values of the past. Choices B, C, and D do not accurately complete the sentence, nor do they align with the passage's focus on the meaningful nature of cultural expressions as reflections of the past.

Question: 4

What is the main purpose of the text?

- A. To discuss the significance and impact of space exploration
- B. To emphasize the importance of studying distant galaxies
- C. To highlight the technological achievements of space probes
- D. To outline the historical evolution of telescopes

Answer: A

Explanation:

Choice A correctly summarizes the main intent of the passage, which is to highlight the significance and impact of space exploration. While distant celestial objects are mentioned, they are not the main focus like choice B suggests; the passage emphasizes a broader range of subjects and impacts related to space exploration. Space probes and rovers are discussed in the context of grasping the cosmos and advancing science and technology, not just to showcase technical feats like choice C suggests. Choice D, which emphasizes telescopes, is too narrow. The text covers probes, rovers, and the wider scope of space exploration, making choice D inaccurate.

Question: 5

Consider the following passage:

Millions of dollars are spent yearly on perfume, scented candles, bath products, and other scented products. Why are so many willing to spend hard-earned money just for a pleasant smell? The answer is that scent is more than just pleasant; it has a strong physical and emotional effect. Certain scents like lavender may help calm someone in a stressful situation. Scent also has a very strong connection to memory, triggering an emotional reaction when someone smells the perfume her mother

used to wear or a pie like her grandmother often baked. Each person's scent receptors differ, leading some people to prefer more floral perfumes while others enjoy musky scents and still others like citrus. Scent is closely linked with

- A. stress
- B. family
- C. personality
- D. memory

Answer: D

Explanation:

The passage states that "scent also has a very strong connection with memory." It mentions that certain scents may be able to help with stress, not that scent and stress are linked. It also mentions potential scents associated with family that may trigger an emotional reaction, but it does not state that family and scent are connected (B). Finally, the passage mentions that different people have different scent preferences based on their physiological makeup, but it does not say that personality is connected to scent (C).

Question: 6

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A. Therefore,
- B. However,
- C. Eventually,
- D. Conversely,

Answer: B

Explanation:

"However" most logically completes this statement because it signals a conflict with the information stated before it. The ability for the listed groups to reach the masses with ease is viewed as a positive attribute of social media by the author of this passage, while the ability of groups who spread hate speech and misinformation to do the same would be viewed negatively. Choice A is incorrect, as "therefore" illogically signals that the information that follows was caused by the previous statement. In this case, it would imply that the ability of groups using social media in a negative manner would be the fault of the groups mentioned prior. Choice C is incorrect, as the use of "eventually" illogically signals that the following statement will occur later, which is not the case here. The use of "conversely" illogically signals that the two statements will contradict each other, making Choice D incorrect.

Question: 7

The student wants to demonstrate that there are multiple factors that determine if an

individual will develop dementia in their lifetime. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The development of degenerative diseases that impact cognitive functioning can be prevented through maintaining a healthy lifestyle in one's younger years.
- B. The causes of dementia are not yet fully understood, leading to a lack of treatment and prevention methods.
- C. Impaired brain functions caused by Alzheimer's disease are an unpreventable cause of death in the elderly population.
- D. Dementia can impact even the healthiest of individuals, as there are several known causes of dementia, some congenital and some developed.

Answer: D

Explanation:

The notes explain that dementia has both hereditary and acquired causes. Choice D addresses both causes and explains that dementia may affect an individual regardless of his or her physical health.

Choice A is incorrect. While attributes of poor health are mentioned as risk factors for developing dementia, maintaining good health will not necessarily prevent it, because there are other factors involved. While it is true, according to the notes, that there is a lack of treatment and prevention methods for dementia, choice B does not demonstrate the topic the student wishes to address. It does not mention any factors that can cause dementia. Similarly, choice C only addresses Alzheimer's disease, which is a cause of dementia--not dementia itself. It is also factually incorrect. It references the information in the fourth point, but that note applies to dementia as a whole.

Question: 8

Racism is still a widespread problem in North America. For example, one man of Arab descent was held at an airport for hours for no apparent reason. The man said he was later told that officials thought he was carrying a bomb. An African-American woman was passed over for a promotion. She says the job went to a less qualified applicant. The author is constructing her argument by

- A. relying on studies conducted by others.
- B. relying on the self-reported experiences of others.
- C. relying on events that she personally witnessed.
- D. relying on accepted facts and proven statistics.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The author is relying on experiences that were reported by others. This is evident through the use of such phrases as "he said that he was later told" and "she says the job went to a less qualified applicant."

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