

For questions 1 through 6, select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1 of 20

Despite what _____ philosophies of child-rearing suggest, there is no imperative that the day-to-day action of raising a child be simple, unambiguous, and unchanging—no requirement, in other words, ensures that life follows philosophy.

inexact
aggressive
random
shameless
systematic

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All the greatest chess players in the world know that it is folly to be (i) _____ when facing a formidable opponent, as stubbornness will almost surely lead to mistakes that force a player to (ii) _____ to the prevailing strategy of his or her opponent.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
finicky	capitulate
obdurate	dissent
vituperative	repudiate

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The novel emphasizes the innate (i) _____ of all humans, showing how each and every character within the narrative is, ultimately, (ii) _____. This motif becomes tiresome due to its (iii) _____, however, as character after character is bribed, either explicitly or implicitly, into giving up his or her supposedly cherished beliefs.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
zealousness	adroit	redundancy
corruptibility	cunning	triviality
optimism	venal	subtlety

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Although pirating software, such as borrowing a friend's copy of an installation CD or downloading software from unapproved sources is (i) _____, many people continue to do so (ii) _____, almost as if they were unaware that such acts amount to theft.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
uncommon	savagely
illegal	sensibly
difficult	unabashedly

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Having squandered his life's savings on unprofitable business ventures, the _____ entrepreneur was forced to live in squalor.

former
unlikely
insolvent
perturbed
eccentric

6 of 20

Teachers of composition urge their students to (i) _____ in their writing and instead use clear, simple language. Why use a (ii) _____ vocabulary when (iii) _____ phrasing conveys one's meaning so much more effectively?

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
exscind obloquy	recreant	an arcane
eschew obfuscation	redolent	a limpid
evince ossification	recondite	a droll

For each of Questions 7 to 11, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 7 through 8 are based on the following reading passage.

Neurobiologists have never questioned that axon malfunction plays a role in neurological disorders, but the nature of the relationship has been a matter of speculation. George Bartzokis's neurological research at UCLA suggests that many previously poorly understood disorders such as Alzheimer's disease may be explained by examining the role of the chemical compound myelin.

Myelin is produced by oligodendrocyte cells as a protective sheathing for axons within the nervous system. As humans mature and their neurochemistries grow more complex, oligodendrocyte cells produce increasing amounts of myelin to protect the **byzantine** circuitry inside our nervous systems. An apt comparison may be to the plastic insulation around copper wires. Bereft of myelin, certain areas of the brain may be left vulnerable to short circuiting, resulting in such disorders as ADHD, schizophrenia, and autism.

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Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

It can be inferred from the passage that the author would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements regarding the role of myelin?

- The levels of myelin in the brain can contribute to the neurological health of individuals.
- Increasing the levels of myelin in the brain can reverse the effects of neurological damage.
- The levels of myelin in the brain are not fixed throughout the lifetime of an individual.

8 of 20

In the context in which it appears, **byzantine** most nearly means

- devious
- intricate
- mature
- beautiful
- electronic

9 of 20

The cost of operating many small college administrative offices is significantly reduced when the college replaces its heavily compensated administrative assistants with part-time work-study students whose earnings are partially subsidized by the government. Therefore, large universities should follow suit, as they will see greater financial benefits than do small colleges.

In the above argument it is assumed that

- replacing administrative assistants with work-study students is more cost-effective for small colleges than for large universities
- large universities usually depend upon small colleges for development of money-saving strategies
- the financial gains realized by large universities would not be as great were they to use non-work-study students in place of the administrative assistants
- work-study students at large universities could feasibly fulfill a similar or greater proportion of administrative assistant jobs than what they could at small colleges
- the smaller the college or university, the easier it is for that college or university to control costs

Questions 10 through 11 are based on the following reading passage.

The nineteenth century marked a revolutionary change in the way wealth was perceived in England. As landed wealth gave way to monied wealth, investments became increasingly speculative.

A popular investment vehicle was the three-percent consol which took its name from the fact that it paid three pounds on a hundred pound investment. The drawback to the consol was that once issued, there was no easy way for the government to buy back the debt. To address the problem, the British government instituted a sinking fund, using tax revenue to buy back the bonds in the open market. The fact that the consol had no fixed maturity date ensured that any change in interest rate was fully reflected in the capital value of the bond. The often wild fluctuation of interest rates ensured the consol's popularity with speculative traders.

10 of 20

Which of the following best describes the relationship of the first paragraph of the passage to the passage as a whole?

- It provides a generalization which is later supported in the passage.
- It provides an antithesis to the author's main argument.
- It briefly compares two different investment strategies.
- It explains an investment vehicle that is later examined in greater detail.
- It provides a historical framework by which the nature of the nineteenth-century investor can more easily be understood.

11 of 20

In the second paragraph, select the sentence that describes a solution to a problem.

For questions 12 through 15, select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

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Owing to a combination of its proximity and _____ atmosphere, Mars is the only planet in our solar system whose surface details can be discerned from Earth.

- viscous
- ossified
- rarefied
- estimable
- copious
- meager

13 of 20

Using the hardships of the Joad family as a model, John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* effectively demonstrated how one clan's struggles epitomized the _____ experienced by an entire country.

- reticence
- adversity
- repudiation
- quiescence
- verisimilitude
- tribulation

14 of 20

The Mayan pyramid of Kukulkan is more than just _____ edifice; this imposing structure was built to create a chirping echo whenever people clap their hands on the staircase. This echo sounds just like the chirp of the Quetzal, a bird which is sacred in the Mayan culture.

- a venerable
- a humble
- a beguiling
- an august
- a specious
- a prosaic

15 of 20

Some wealthy city-dwellers become enchanted with the prospect of trading their hectic schedules for a bucolic life in the countryside, and they buy property with a pleasant view of farmland—only to find the stench of the livestock so _____ that they move back to the city.

- bovine
- pastoral
- noisome
- atavistic
- olfactory
- mephitic

For each of Questions 16 to 20, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 16 through 18 are based on the following reading passage.

Often the most influential developments initially appear to be of minor significance. Consider the development of the basic stirrup for example. Without stirrups horse and rider are, in terms of force, separate entities; lances can be used from horseback, but only by throwing or stabbing, and mounted warriors gain only height and mobility. In medieval times, a lance couched under the rider's arm, unifying the force of rider and weapon, would throw its wielder backwards off the horse at impact. Stirrups unify lance, rider, and horse into a force capable of unprecedented violence. This development left unusually clear archaeological markers: With lethality assured, lances evolved barbs meant to slow progress after impact, lest the weight of body pull rider from horse. The change presaged the dominance of mounted combat, and increasingly expensive equipment destroyed the venerable ideal of freeman warriors. New technology demanded military aristocracy, and chivalric culture bore its marks for a millennium.

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The primary purpose of the passage is to

- discuss the influence of a recent archeological discovery
- explore the societal significance of a technological innovation
- assess the state of research in a given field
- lament the destruction of certain social ideals
- explicate the physics of combat artillery

17 of 20

It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following about innovations in military technology?

- Their study merits additional research.
- They had more lasting influence than did those of the ancient world.
- Most of them had equally far-reaching repercussions.
- Prior to their application, the military value of horses was considered insignificant.
- Many of them are archaeologically ambiguous.

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Select the sentence in the passage in which the author cites the physical effects of a technological innovation being discussed as an example of a previous generalization.

Questions 19 through 20 are based on the following reading passage.

Few mathematical constructs seem as conceptually simple as that of randomness. According to the traditional definition, a number is random if it is chosen purely as the result of a probabilistic mechanism such as the roll of a fair die. In their groundbreaking work regarding complexity and the limitations of formal systems, mathematicians Gregory Chaitin and A.N. Kolmogorov force us to consider this last claim more closely.

Consider two possible outcomes of throwing a fair die three times: first, 1, 6, and 2; second 3, 3, and 3. Now let us construct two three-member sets based on the results. Though the first set—{1,6,2}—intuitively seems more random than the second—{3,3,3}, they are each as likely to occur, and thus according to the accepted definition, must be considered equally random. This unwelcome result prompts Chaitin and Kolmogorov to suggest the need for a new standard of randomness, one that relies on the internal coherence of the set as opposed to its origin.

19 of 20

Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage as whole?

- A concept is introduced; a traditional definition is put forward; a thought experiment is described; a new definition is proposed; the traditional definition is amended as a result.
- A concept is introduced; a traditional definition is supported by authorities; a thought experiment is described; the implications of the experiment are discussed.
- A concept is introduced; a traditional definition is considered and rejected; a thought experiment is described; a new definition is proposed.
- A concept is introduced; a traditional definition is called into question; a thought experiment is described; the implications of the experiment are discussed.
- A concept is introduced; authorities are called in to reevaluate a definition; a thought experiment is described; the implications of the experiment are considered and rejected.

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Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

Which of the following is an inference made in the passage above?

- The results of the same probabilistic mechanism will each be as likely as the other to occur.
- According to the traditional definition of randomness, two numbers should be considered equally random if they result from the same probabilistic mechanism.
- Different probabilistic mechanisms are likely to result in similar outcomes.