

### 1) C. ubiquitous

**Ubiquitous** means existing everywhere, which is what product customization is if it can be found in such a wide variety of products. Inaccessible and scarce convey nearly the opposite meaning. Product customization can't really be considered indispensable, because consumers lived without it for so long. **Salubrious** doesn't fit, because it means conducive to good health.

### 2) A. Taciturn

**Taciturn** means aloof or uncommunicative, which is what Dr. Mandalow would be if he left the room without asking whether anyone had questions. **Effusive** mean outwardly enthusiastic, so you can immediately rule out (B). **Indignant** means outraged or annoyed, but there's no evidence that the doctor was indignant; he didn't lash out at anyone in the audience. **Despondent** means depressed or dejected, which could lead the doctor to exit prematurely, but the passage contains nothing to indicate that the doctor was depressed. And **malevolent** would indicate that the good doctor was evil, and nothing in the passage supports that description.

### 3) C. repudiates, E. immutable

Epigenetics is the study of changes in gene activity that can be passed down to future generations. To some degree, it **repudiates** (rejects) Darwin's theory of evolution because a gene's expression can change; genes are not **immutable** (unchangeable). For the first blank, **obviates** (takes steps to render something unnecessary) doesn't work, nor does **expatiates**, which would imply that epigenetics elaborates on Darwin's theory of evolution. For the second blank, **imperturbable** would be a good second choice, but it means something more along the lines of being calm, cool, and collected. **Inimitable** (incomparable) just doesn't fit.

### 4) B. diffident, D. audacious

Financial experts are often depicted as being **diffident** (shy or insecure), but when it comes to investing other people's money, they become the opposite — **audacious** (bold, daring). You can rule out **dissident** (rebellious) and confident based on the meaning of the second sentence — the word however indicates that whatever quality was mentioned in the first sentence will have an opposing quality in the second sentence. The word gamble clues you in to the fact that these individuals are going to be **audacious** (aggressive) when investing other people's money, not **pusillanimous** (timid) or aloof (standoffish).

### 5) B. paucity, F. surfeit

With a **paucity** (too little) of livestock and a **surfeit** (too much) of corn, farmers would be more likely to market their corn for use in producing biodiesel fuel instead of using it as feed. For the first blank, both of the other choices — plethora and **overabundance** — mean the opposite of **paucity**. For the second blank, both of the other choices — **dearth** and **scarcity** — are the opposite of **surfeit**.

### 6) C. involute, F. trenchant, G. sagacious

The nature of the situation must have been **involute** (complex) to require input from **trenchant** (clever) advisors so that the CEO could make **sagacious** (shrewd) decisions. By starting

at the end of the passage, you know that the decisions needed to be wise and not *salacious* (obscene) or *sententious* (self-righteous). Conscientious or confidential advisors wouldn't be the best qualified to advise the CEO on making wise decisions; they'd be better in situations that were delicate or sensitive in nature and that probably wouldn't lead to greatly improving the company's market share.

**7) C. deprecate, D. unencumbered, H. forge**

If teachers are claiming that charter schools have an unfair advantage, they must be critical of charter schools, so they would *deprecate* (express disapproval of) them, not *extol* (praise) or advocate (speak or write in favor of) them. For the second blank, if charter schools have the power to set very selective admissions standards, they must be *unencumbered* (free of) Department of Education policies, not hampered or constrained, which both mean constricted or limited by. And given that they're unencumbered by Department of Education policies, they must be free to forge their own policies. Disallow means prohibited, which is opposite of the meaning this blank calls for, and *correlate* means to arrange in some orderly fashion, which doesn't quite fit.

**8) B. Hydroelectricity**

The passage classifies energy sources in two categories: capital, which is available in limited quantities, and income, which is clean and renewable. Hydroelectricity is the only answer choice that represents a renewable energy source. All the other energy sources (heating oil, natural gas, uranium, and coal) are nonrenewable.

**9) A. Schumacher's message, C. The assumption that production problems in the industrial world had been solved**

In the first sentence of the passage, Shumacher pours scorn on the idea that problems in the industrialized world had been solved. Near the end of the passage, the author mentions that Shumacher's message was derided by the majority of people. *Derided* and *scorned* are synonymous.

**10) C. Schumacher's heartfelt plea encouraged us to start basing industrial and energy policy on what we now call sustainability, recognising the distinction between capital and income and the paramount need to respect the planet's finite ability to absorb the polluting products of industrial processes -- including electricity production.**

The only specific human activity that's pointed out as unsustainable is the use of limited energy resources as though they were unlimited. You may be tempted to choose the sentence that mentions "the polluting products of industrial processes — including electricity production," but that phrase is more about the planet's ability to absorb pollution than about the unsustainable use of nonrenewable resources.

**11) B. Establishing and enforcing sound financial policies is essential for a strong economy.**

This passage is primarily about the need to establish and enforce sound financial policies. You can rule out Choice (A) because the passage doesn't mention the need to pay off debt; in fact, it mentions the possibility of defaulting on debt. Choices (C), (D), and (E) are all specific problems that

occur when sound financial policies are not in place or not enforced; they serve as evidence to support the author's main point in the passage.

**12) D. Stagnant**

*Moribund* means declining or not progressing, stagnant. *Robust* and *stout* carry the opposite meaning and would be used to describe a healthy economy. The economy described in the passage is still a working economy, so it can't be extinct (nonexistent) or dead (kaput).

**13) B. Forcing banks to backup unsecured loans with capital, C. Price transparency on derivatives**

Dodd-Frank isn't an issue, so you can rule out Choice (A); Dodd-Frank is described in the passage as a financial reform law. The passage states that the 2008 EESA/TARP bill failed to cure bad lending decisions by banks, Choice (B), and that Dodd-Frank failed to force transparency on derivatives, Choice (C).

**14) E. The United State can expand its influence in the world by building trust.**

The main point of this passage is that the United States can expand its influence in the world by building trust. The passage does imply that humanitarian aid is more effective than military might in improving how the world views the United States, but this is only one example of how to build trust — it's supporting evidence, not the main point. You can rule out Choice (B) because the passage doesn't mention the United States using its military and economic power for anything evil. You can also quickly rule out Choice (D) because it's not mentioned in the passage. Choice (C) represents an assumption on which the main point of the article is based, but it's not the main point.

**15) C. In the Iraq War, the U.S. removed from power Saddam Hussein, the President of Iraq who skimmed billions of dollars from the United Nation's oil-for-food program.**

This passage uses the Iraq War as an example of action that harmed the reputation of the United States, while Choice (C) points out that this action removed the corrupt Iraqi president from power; political corruption is second on the list of concerns from citizens around the world, as stated in the first paragraph. Choices (A) and (B) are examples of United States' initiatives developed to help other countries pursue their interests. The passage doesn't state that the United States doesn't have such programs in place, so these choices don't challenge a claim made in the passage. Choice (D) is irrelevant. Choice (E) suggests that the United States serves its own internal interests while reaching out to help other countries.

**16) D. Prisoners with mental illness cost the nation on average nearly \$9 billion annually.**

One of the costs of the failure to treat mental illness is the \$9 billion annually to house those with mental illness in the prison system. If you choose the sentence immediately after the question, you fell for a common trap. Although that sentence answers the question, it doesn't offer evidence — specific data or an example — to support the question.

**17) B. avoid, E. eschew**

If the violence were counterproductive, then politicians from both parties would encourage their constituents to *avoid* or *eschew* violence, which carry nearly the same meaning. ***Embrace, appropriate, and incite*** would actually promote violence, which isn't something politicians would encourage if it were counterproductive. ***Denounce*** means to condemn, which sort of works in the sentence, but none of the other answer choices conveys a similar meaning.

**18) C. quirks, D. idiosyncrasies**

Calculating the cubic volume of a meal before partaking in it would be a quirk or ***idiosyncrasy***. Passions and obsessions make a fairly good pairing, but the behavior being described isn't ordinary, so these two choices aren't the best. Likewise, calculating the cubic volume of a meal may be considered an ***endowment*** (talent), but ***idiosyncrasies*** and quirks are more fitting choices; besides, none of the other answer choices is similar in meaning to ***endowment***. ***Assimilation*** means the acquisition of something, such as a cultural trait; again, this isn't the best choice, and it has no synonym in the answer choices.

**19) B. paramount, E. pivotal**

The second and third sentences express the ***pivotal*** nature of the career choice — you can envision an arrow turning around a pivot point depending on which career choice is made. The closest match to ***pivotal*** is ***paramount***, which means “of great importance.” Choices (A), (C), and (D) would make good pairings but mean the opposite of pivotal and paramount. The meaning of ***urgent*** is more in line with pivotal and paramount but conveys more of a sense of requiring immediate action.

**20) B. Farm-raised catfish**

The definition of domestication in this passage is activity that “results in genetic change brought about through conscious or unconscious human selection.” Farm-Raised catfish is an example of cultivation — taking catfish from the wild and breeding and growing them in managed ponds or tanks. All the other answer choices indicate situations in which human selection resulted in genetic change in a plant or animal.