

1) C. vocabulary

A language is comprised of structure and vocabulary, and an etymologist studies the history of language. Though grammar is also relevant, it's redundant to structure, which is already in the sentence. The other choices, culture, politics, and decorum (proper behavior), are not directly related to languages or language structure.

2) A. Hemisphere

The wind flow is driven by the rotation of the Earth, so look for an answer choice related to that — especially one with a clockwise or counterclockwise orientation. Only hemisphere is related to the rotation of the Earth, which would appear to go clockwise in one hemisphere and counterclockwise in the other. You don't need geographical knowledge to answer this question — just eliminate answer choices that aren't related to the rotation of the Earth.

3) A. capricious, E. penchant

People who are capricious tend to change their minds easily, so they have a penchant for or tendency to abandon their shopping carts before checking out. For the first blank, predictable doesn't work because it's the opposite of capricious, and fatuous means silly or inane. For the second blank, neither inkling (hunch) nor passion (desire) makes sense in this context

4) C. commensurate, D. quibble

Because the compensation was commensurate (proportional), Jerry wouldn't quibble (argue) over the deadlines. For the first blank, discordant (conflicting) means nearly the opposite of commensurate, and pursuant means in agreement with (as in the terms of a contract). Acquiesce and concede both mean to go along with, neither of which fits the connotation of this sentence.

5) A. intractable, F. exacerbate

Because the audience was impatient, it was more likely intractable (difficult to control) than imperturbable (calm and cool) or indolent (lazy). If everything the speaker said to silence the rabble didn't work, his efforts must have exacerbated the situation (made it worse), not precipitated (triggered) or exonerated (forgave) it.

6) C. catalyst, D. volatile, G. superseded

Reading the sentence from the end, you know that the teacher was concerned about student safety, so safety issues would have superseded (taken precedence over) all other concerns and not preceded (come earlier) or negated (canceled) them. If safety became a concern, the mixture must have become volatile (changing rapidly, which could be dangerous), definitely not piquant (spicy) but perhaps acidic, although that wouldn't necessarily require an evacuation. Something helped change the nature of the mixture, so that would be a catalyst (an agent of change), not just any old chemical, and certainly not a neutralizer, which would have made the mixture less volatile.

7) A. pristine, F. averred, H. duped

Pristine means perfect. Primordial is more along the lines of prehistoric and rudimentary means basic. If the owner said that the vase certainly was, he averred (confirmed) that the vase was

in pristine condition. Corroborated would have required someone else saying it before he did, and if he proved it, the vase really would have been in pristine condition. For the last blank, however is the key word; knowing that the owner claimed the vase was in pristine condition, however clues you in that it really wasn't, in which case the buyer was duped (fooled), not sidetracked (diverted) or ostracized (excluded).

8) B. International trade, C. Abundance of coal

The second sentence names three factors that contributed to Great Britain's ability to take an early lead in the Industrial Revolution: coal, waterways, and international trade. Choice (A), trade unions, is mentioned near the end but only as reaction by the working class to the low pay and poor working conditions. D. "Thus, employers had such a large labor pool to select from that they were able to dictate low wages and long hours, further suppressing the working poor." The sentence clearly states that the wages were so low because "employers had such a large labor pool to select from."

9) D. Sentence 5: Thus, employers had such a large labor pool to select from that they were able to dictate low wages and long hours, further suppressing the working poor.

The sentence clearly states that the wages were so low because "employers had such a large labor pool to select from."

10) E. Great Britain's Industrial Revolution: Natural Resources, Migration, and Unions

The passage covers these three topics but isn't entirely based on any one. Choice (A) is wrong because the passage never says Great Britain went bust. Choice (B) is wrong because it describes only half of the passage. Choice (C) is wrong because unions are mentioned only in the final sentence and the passage doesn't say that unions originated in Great Britain. Choice (D) is wrong because the perspective in the passage is one of historian, not one of the exploited poor.

11) A. A study conducted at one school found that students of some of the teachers showed significant improvement year after year while students of other teachers at the same school did not.

If some teachers have a better track record than others in educating students at the same school, the difference in teacher expertise is probably the reason why. Choices (B), (C), and (E) would help point toward some other cause, while Choice (D) is off topic.

12) C. Population growth offsets any savings in resources from improved efficiency as well as gains in per-capita consumption reduction.

If population growth offsets any savings in resources from reducing consumption then regardless how much consumption is reduced, the population will eventually be too large for the planet to sustain it. Choice (A) is wrong because the fact that the population doubles every 40 years is not necessarily a problem in and of itself. Choice (B) is wrong because it doesn't counter the argument. Choice (D) is off topic, and Choice (E) is more in support of the argument.

13) B. Reconciliation

Even if you don't know the meaning of rapprochement, the following parenthetical rejection of provides a clue that it means the opposite of rejection of, so it means something like acceptance of. Reconciliation is the closest in meaning to acceptance of.

14) C. Triumphant parade of great men and women

The second sentence mentions the only answer choice that's correct: "It can be a triumphant parade of 'great men and women.'" Choice (A) is wrong because although the passage mentions psychoanalysis, it does so only as one of a sequence of paradigmatic shifts. Choice (B) is wrong because although the passage mentions film language, it does so only as an example of an orienting metaphor.

15) B. loutish, E. boorish

If Amanda was known as the life of the party and acted that way during a ceremony of any sort, her behavior would appear loutish or boorish, both of which mean rude. At a ceremony, people are expected to be courteous or decorous, both of which mean polite. Capricious means fickle, and contentious means quarrelsome, neither of which fits in this context.

16) D. convoluted, F. tortuous

Convoluted and tortuous both mean complex, full of twists and turns, which would make the plans difficult to follow and execute. Desultory means aimless or unfocused, making it a good word to describe the plans, but it doesn't have a match in the answer choices. If the plans were methodical (systematic), they'd be easy to follow, and if they were proscribed (prohibited), nobody on staff would be allowed to carry them out.

17) A. pusillanimous, E. craven

If the candidates weren't strong and were pandering, they must have been pusillanimous or craven (cowardly). They certainly would not be impudent (bold, in a disrespectful way), audacious (daring), sanctimonious (self-righteous), or intransigent (stubborn).

18) B. admonish, E. castigate

When children misbehave, parents are expected to admonish (scold) or castigate (punish) them but not vilify (slander) or disparage (ridicule) them. Of course, parents should never sanction (approve of) such behavior or congratulate the child for it

19) A. obdurate, C. obstinate

Obdurate and obstinate both convey a sense of stubbornness. Recalcitrant and subversive are a little too strong, conveying a sense of rebellion. Assiduous means hardworking, which the couple may have been, but that wouldn't necessarily make them reluctant to move. Fundamentalist (die-hard, or one who unyielding) isn't even in the ballpark.

20) B. Description versus expression

The answer is most clearly provided in the final sentence. Naturalism relied on accuracy of description, whereas symbolism requires vividness of expression. Choice (E) is tempting, but authenticity is used to describe both naturalism and symbolism. Choice (A) is also a little tempting, but the passage mentions two types of art — that which is rooted in the real world (such as nature) and that which originates in the artist's soul (symbolism) — so it's not exactly art versus nature. Neither of the remaining two choices comes close.

Directions: For Questions 1–7, choose the one entry best suited for each blank from its corresponding column of choices.

1. In Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar, Act II, scene I, lines 193 to 194, Brutus and Cassius make reference to a clock that struck three o’clock. Given the fact that at the time of Julius Caesar, the mechanical clock had not yet been invented, this reference is quite ____.

A) archaic
B) a relic
C) a tropism
D) an anachronism
E) a euphemism

2. The journalism student must study not only the craft of writing but also the ethics of accuracy. The journalist is responsible to the public and his profession for the ____ of his story.

A) veracity
B) plausibility
C) tenacity
D) originality
E) righteousness

3. Galileo was not the first astronomer to question the (i) ____ view of the Earth a being at the center of the universe, but he was certainly the most vocal. Ultimately, he was labeled a heretic for publicly supporting Copernicanism, and his ideas were (ii) ____ by the Catholic Church.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A) heliocentric	D) authorized
B) eurocentric	E) proscribed
C) geocentric	F) legitimized

4. The question of whether the common (i) ____ used in dental fillings poses a significant health risk plagues dental professionals. Although it contains mercury (among other metals), most dentists advocate its use, because it is inexpensive, easy to use, and durable. Experts question the (ii) ____ that because mercury is toxic, its use in fillings must be unhealthy. They believe that the level of mercury exposure is too low to pose a serious threat.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A) element	D) supposition
B) metal	E) accusation
C) amalgam	F) allegation

5. Law students often have (i) ____ to study the letter of the law at the expense of grasping the spirit of the law. As a result, many of these students become so consume in (ii) ____ legal language and technicalities that they completely miss the point.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A) an aptitude	D) sophisticated
B) the propensity	E) recondite
C) a desire	F) erudite

6. Teachers with a temperament that is more (i) ____ typically perform better and last longer than those who are choleric. In junior high especially, classroom management can become quite (ii) _____. Over time, an irritable temperament only deepens one's (iii) ____ to the students and the profession.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (ii)
A) phlegmatic	D) truculent	G) antipathy
B) sanguine	E) elementary	H) opposition
C) melancholic	F) onerous	I) hostility

7. Arguments for increasing domestic oil production instead of investing in renewable energy resources are (i) ____ at best. When one considers that the entire world is at or about to reach peak oil (maximum world oil production), it is (ii) ____ obvious that regardless of how much oil we produce domestically, it will eventually be insufficient to meet the (iii) ____ demand.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (ii)
A) specious	D) deliberately	G) nascent
B) standard	E) consummately	H) escalating
C) surreptitious	F) manifest	I) proliferating

Directions: Each of the following passages is followed by questions pertaining to the passage. Read the passage and answer the questions based on information stated or implied in that passage. For each question, select one answer choice unless instructed otherwise.

This passage is an excerpt from Psychology by Robin M. Kowalski, PhD, and Drew Westen (Wiley).

Since its origins in the nineteenth century, one of the major issues in behavioral neuroscience has been localization of function. In 1836, a physician named Marc Dax presented a paper suggesting that lesions on the left side of the brain were associated with aphasia, or language disorders. The notion that language was localized to the left side of the brain (the left hemisphere) developed momentum with new discoveries linking specific language functions to specific regions of the left hemisphere. Paul Broca (1824–1880) discovered that brain-injured people with lesions in the front section of the left hemisphere were often unable to speak fluently but could comprehend language. Carl Wernicke (1848– 1904) showed that damage to an area a few centimeters behind the section Broca had discovered could lead to another kind of aphasia: These individuals can speak fluently and follow rules of grammar, but they cannot understand language, and their words make little sense to others (e.g., “I saw the bats and cuticles as the dog lifted the hoof, the pauser”).

For question 8, consider each of the choices separately and choose all that apply.

8. Which of the following, if true, supports the notion of localization of function?

- (A) A person suffering from a lesion in part of the frontal lobe of the left hemisphere of the brain can no longer recall certain words.
- (B) The region of the brain known as the fusiform gyrus is more active than other regions of the brain when the subject is engaged in facial recognition
- (C) Unconsciousness occurs when almost the entire cortex has been destroyed or invaded by convulsive activity.

9. Which of the following statements, if true, would most effectively challenge the notion that complex thoughts or emotions happen exclusively in a single localized part of the brain?

- (A) While nearly 95 percent of right-handed people are left-hemisphere dominated for language, only 18 percent of left-handed people are right-hemisphere dominated for language.
- (B) While the back edge of the frontal lobes control voluntary motor movement, the occipital lobe controls one's visual ability.
- (C) A woman with lesions in the top part of the temporal lobe suffers hearing loss, but her vision improves.
- (D) Due to a lesion in one area of his brain, a man cannot consciously recognize his wife's face, but his heart rate increases upon seeing her face.
- (E) Convulsions may be accompanied by a loss of consciousness.

10. The discoveries of Broca and Wernicke contribute to Dax's findings by showing that

- (A) Language functions are not as localized as Dax had suspected.
- (B) Language comprehension is not localized to the left hemisphere of the brain.
- (C) Language functions are even more localized than Dax had suspected.
- (D) Language acquisition and grammar are localized in different areas of the brain.
- (E) Aphasia encompasses more than simply language disorders.

This passage is taken from *The Egyptians (Peoples of Africa)* by Barbara Watterson (Wiley-Blackwell)

The Egyptian section of the Nile — the 1,250 kilometers from the First Cataract to the Mediterranean — was, in its formative stage, much wider than it is today, and bordered by marshland and swamps. Gradually, the river bed cut deeper and the Nile narrowed, flowing through terrain that was rocky and barren. The land sloped very gently to the north, and large quantities of the gravel, sand and silt carried by the river were deposited at its mouth to form the delta, later to become one of the most fertile areas of Egypt. In addition, large amounts of detritus sank to the bottom of the river so that, over the millennia, it aggraded the different levels of the river are still visible, in the form of cliffs and terraces on the east and west sides of the Nile Valley.

For question 11, consider each of the choices separately and choose all that apply.

11. According to the passage, compared to earlier times, parts of the Nile River are now

- (A) Wider
- (B) Deeper
- (C) More fertile

12. Which of the following is the most accurate definition of the word terraces as used in the passage?

- (A) A strip of land having an abrupt descent
- (B) A raised platform faced with masonry or turf
- (C) The platform top of a structure
- (D) A flat roof
- (E) An outdoor living area, such as a deck

This passage is taken from *The Idea of Culture (Blackwell Manifestos)* by Terry Eagleton (Wiley-Blackwell).

'Culture' is said to be one of the two or three most complex words in the English language, and the term which is sometimes considered to be its opposite — nature — is commonly awarded the accolade of being the most complex of all. Yet though it is fashionable these days to see nature as a derivative of culture, culture, etymologically speaking, is a concept derived from nature. One of its original meanings is 'husbandry' or the tending of natural growth. The same is true of our words for law and justice, as well as of terms like 'capital', 'stock', 'pecuniary' and 'sterling'. The word 'coultter', which is a cognate of 'culture', means the blade of a ploughshare. We derive our word for the finest of human activities from labour and agriculture, crops and cultivation. Francis Bacon writes of 'the culture and manurance of mines', in a suggestive hesitancy between dung and mental distinction. 'Culture' here means an activity, and it was a long time before the word came to denote an entity. Even then, it was probably not until Matthew Arnold that the word dropped such adjectives as 'moral' and 'intellectual' and came to be just 'culture', an abstraction of itself.

13. Select the sentence in the passage that most accurately expresses the main idea of the passage.

- (A) First sentence: "'Culture' is said to be ... the most complex of all."
- (B) Second sentence: "Yet though it is fashionable ... a concept derived from nature."
- (C) Third sentence: "One of its original meanings ... of natural growth."
- (D) Fourth sentence: "The same is true of our words ... 'pecuniary' and 'sterling'."
- (E) Sixth sentence: "We derive our word for ... crops and cultivation."

14. Which of the following words does the author of the passage not cite as being a concept derived from nature?

- (A) Capital
- (B) Culture
- (C) Stock
- (D) Pecuniary
- (E) Manurance

Directions: Each of the following sentences has a blank indicating that a word or phrase is omitted. Choose the two answer choices that best complete the sentence and result in two sentences most alike in meaning.

15. To most Western listeners, traditional Japanese music may sound ____, aimless, and even monotonous, but this is only because we lack the foundation for appreciating it.

- (A) dissonant
- (B) symphonic
- (C) disparate
- (D) raucous
- (E) cacophonous
- (F) mellifluous

16. Filmmakers have a tendency to stereotype scientists, choosing to depict them as either ____ humanitarians, like Paul Muni in *The Story of Louis Pasteur*, or passionately mad scientists, like Dr. Strangelove, portrayed by Peter Sellers.

- (A) sentient
- (B) stygian
- (C) impassive
- (D) zealous
- (E) profound
- (F) stolid

17. People with diabetes are more prone to simple yet ____ wounds that require long-term treatment.

- (A) refractory
- (B) recalcitrant
- (C) acute
- (D) severe
- (E) perspicacious
- (F) excruciating

18. Although communities often must deal with it locally, ____ is a global issue requiring a global solution and is not always the result of laziness.

- (A) malnutrition
- (B) illiteracy
- (C) indigence
- (D) famine
- (E) penury
- (F) squalor

19. By focusing almost exclusively on the contentious dialogue between the countries' leaders, the media brings misconceptions that lead to irrational enmity between the people of the two countries; instead, the media should ____ this potential antagonism.

- (A) mitigate
- (B) augment
- (C) assuage
- (D) incite
- (E) repress
- (F) subjugate

Directions: The following passage is followed by a question pertaining to that passage. Read the passage and answer the question based on information stated or implied in the passage. Select only one answer.

This passage is taken from *Healing Gardens: Therapeutic Benefits and Design Recommendations* by Clare Cooper Marcus and Marni Barnes (Wiley).

The idea of a healing garden is both ancient and modern. Long after humans had begun to erect dwellings, local healing places were nearly always found in nature — a healing spring, a sacred grove, a special rock or cave. The earliest hospitals in the Western world were infirmaries in monastic communities where herbs and prayer were the focus of healing and a cloistered garden was an essential part of the environment.

Over the centuries, the connection between healing and nature was gradually superseded by increasingly technical approaches — surgery, medicines, drugs, X-rays. A separation occurred between attention to body and spirit and increasingly, different parts of the body (eyes, heart, digestive tract, etc.) and different afflictions (cancer, arthritis, etc. were treated by specialists. The idea that access to nature could assist in healing was all but lost. By the late twentieth century, in many health care settings, “landscaping” came to be seen as merely decoration used to offset the

hospital building or perhaps to impress potential customers. Even when a courtyard or roof garden exists, it rarely appears on hospital way-finding maps or signage.

20. One could reasonably infer from this passage that the author believes which of the following?

- (A) Natural remedies are superior to modern medicine.
- (B) Hospitals should be located in natural settings.
- (C) Nature can improve the healing process.
- (D) The earliest hospitals are superior to their modern counterparts.
- (E) Every hospital should have a courtyard or roof garden.

Directions: For Questions 1–7, choose the one entry best suited for each blank from its corresponding column of choices.

1. Many of Shakespeare's plays contain scenes or discussions that may appear, on their surface, to be _____. On closer inspection, however, most readers discover that these scenes and discussions are central to the theme.

A) essential
B) incisive
C) tangential
D) concurrent
E) predominant

2. The speaker presented and supported the case in such a way that he _____ the need for further clarification.

A) precluded
B) anticipated
C) adjourned
D) prohibited
E) obviated

3. A(n) (i) _____ existence typically leads to a loss of self-discipline followed by self-loathing. What once seemed a hedonistic paradise becomes a (ii) _____ asylum.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A) ascetic	D) stygian
B) libertine	E) quixotic
C) spartan	F) utopian

4. In Ayn Rand's *For the New Intellectual*, Galt questions the overriding belief at the time in the (i) ____ of body and soul. According to Galt, proponents of this belief have (ii) ____ the individual into two elements, both symbols of death — a corpse (a body without a soul) and a ghost (a soul without a body).

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A) paradox	D) dissected
B) irony	E) bifurcated
C) dichotomy	F) bisected

5. In diplomacy, talks often fail or at least fail to move forward for some time. When this occurs, one party almost invariably accuses the other of (i) _____. In worst-case scenarios, negotiations break down completely, which may (ii) _____ conflict.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A) tractability	D) expedite
B) indolence	E) precipitate
C) intransigence	F) motivate

6. Over the years, interrogators have learned a great deal about what works and what doesn't. They have discovered that overly aggressive interrogations often (i) _____ bad information. Rather than engage or give in, suspects often (ii) _____ to "give the interrogator what he or she wants." This calls into question not only the ethics of overly aggressive tactics but also their (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A) dissemble	D) prevaricate	G) efficiency
B) elicit	E) prognosticate	H) alacrity
C) disseminate	F) adjudicate	I) efficacy

7. With no land masses to (i) ____ them, high winds and large waves are (i) ____ to the Southern Ocean. Plankton gather in relatively (iii) ____ pools, where they attract additional wildlife.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (ii)
A) debilitate	D) endemic	G) quiescent
B) impede	E) pandemic	H) dormant
C) disperse	F) intrinsic	I) truculent

Directions: Each of the following passages is followed by questions pertaining to the passage. Read the passage and answer the questions based on information stated or implied in that passage. For each question, select one answer choice unless instructed otherwise.

This passage is taken from *Better Living through Reality TV: Television and Post-Welfare Citizenship* by Laurie Ouellette and James Hay (Wiley-Blackwell).

To understand the political rationality of reality-based charity TV, a brief detour through the conceptual history of welfare will be helpful. We take our bearings partly from political theorist Nikolas Rose, who situates the changing “mentalities” of government leading up to welfare reform within the stages of liberalism. According to Rose’s account, the liberal state was called upon to become more directly involved in the care of citizens in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, a period of time that happens to correspond with the development and progression of industrial capitalism. As relations among elites and workers became increasingly antagonistic, rulers were “urged to accept the obligation to tame and govern the undesirable consequences of industrial life, wage labor and urban existence in the name of society.” What Rose calls a “state of welfare” emerged to provide basic forms of social insurance, child welfare, health, mental hygiene, universal education, and similar services that both “civilized” the working class and joined citizens to the State and to each other through formalized “solidarities and dependencies.” Through this new “social contract” between the State and the population, Rose contends, the autonomous political subject of liberal rule was reconstituted as a “citizen with rights to social protection and social education in return for duties of social obligation and social responsibility.”

8. Select the sentence in the passage that explains the purpose of welfare, according to Nikolas Rose, in greatest detail.

- (A) First sentence: “To understand the political rationality ... will be helpful.”
- (B) Second sentence: “We take our bearings partly from ... the stages of liberalism.”
- (C) Third sentence: “According to Rose’s account ... progression of industrial capitalism.”
- (D) Fourth sentence: “As relations among elites and workers ... in the name of society.”
- (E) Fifth sentence: “What Rose calls a “state of welfare” ... through formalized ‘solidarities and dependencies.’”

This passage is taken from GMAT For Dummies, 5th Edition by Scott Hatch, JD, and Lisa Hatch, MA (Wiley).

It is hard for us to imagine today how utterly different the world of night used to be from the daylight world. Of course, we can still re-create something of that lost mystique. When we sit around a campfire and tell ghost stories, our goose bumps (and our children's remind us of the terrors that night used to hold. But it is all too easy for us to pile in the car at the end of our camping trip and return to the comfort of our incandescent, fluorescent, floodlit modern world. Two thousand, or even two hundred, years ago there was no such escape from the darkness. It was a physical presence that gripped the world from sunset until the cock's crow.

"As different as night and day," we say today. But in centuries past, night and day really were different. In a time when every scrap of light after sunset was desperately appreciated, when travelers would mark the road by piling up light stones or by stripping the bark off of trees to expose the lighter wood underneath, the Moon was the traveler's greatest friend. It was known in folklore as "the parish lantern." It was steady, portable, and —unlike a torch—entailed no risk of fire. It would never blow out, although it could, of course, hide behind a cloud.

Nowadays we don't need the moon to divide the light from the darkness because electric lights do it for us. Many of us never even see a truly dark sky. According to a recent survey on light pollution, 97 percent of the U.S. population lives under a night sky at least as bright as it was on a half-moon night in ancient times. Many city-dwellers live their entire lives under the equivalent of a full moon.

9. The primary purpose of this passage is to

- (A) Compare and contrast nighttime in the modern world with the dark nights of centuries past.
- (B) Explain why the invention of the electric light was essential to increasing worker productivity.
- (C) Lament the loss of the dark nights and the danger and excitement that moonless nights would bring.
- (D) Describe the diminishing brightness of the moon and the subsequent need for more electric lights.
- (E) Argue for an end to the excessive light pollution that plagues 97 percent of the U.S. population.

For question 10, consider each of the choices separately and choose all that apply.

10. The passage mentions which of the following as possible ways for travelers to find the path at night?

- (A) Piles of light-colored stones or trees with the bark stripped off
- (B) The moon or a torch
- (C) Railings made of light wood

This passage is taken from *Bad Medicine: Misconceptions and Misuses Revealed, from Distance Healing to Vitamin O* by Christopher Wanjek (Wiley).

How can we be certain that we don't use only 10 percent of the brain? As Beyerstein succinctly says, "The armamentarium of modern neuroscience decisively repudiates this notion." CAT, PET and MRI scans, along with a battery of other tests, show that there are no inactive regions of the brain, even during sleep. Neuroscientists regularly hook up patients to these devices and ask them to do math problems, listen to music, paint, or do whatever they please. Certain regions of the brain fire up with activity depending on what task is performed. The scans catch all this activity; the entire brain has been mapped this way.

Further debunking of the myth is the fact that the brain, like any other body part, must be used to remain healthy. If your leg remains in a cast for a month, it wilts. A 90-percent brain inactivity rate would result in 90 percent of the brain rapidly deteriorating. Unused neurons (brain cells) would shrivel and die. Clearly, this doesn't happen in healthy individuals. In Alzheimer's disease, there is a diffuse 10 percent to 20 percent loss of neurons. This has a devastating effect on memory and consciousness. A person would be comatose if 90 percent of the brain — any 90 percent — were inactive.

For question 11, consider each of the choices separately and choose all that apply.

11. Which of the following does the passage provide as scientific evidence to disprove the myth that humans use only 10 percent of their brains?

- (A) Brain scans show activity in all regions of the brain, even during sleep.
- (B) Brain cells shrivel and die when not in use.
- (C) A loss of 10 to 20 percent of the brain results in Alzheimer's disease.

This passage is taken from *The Daily Show and Philosophy: Moments of Zen in the Art of Fake News* by Jason Holt (Wiley-Blackwell).

The fact that television provides entertainment isn't, in and of itself, a problem for Postman. He warns, however, that dire consequences can befall a culture in which the most important public discourse, conducted via television, becomes little more than irrational, irrelevant, and incoherent entertainment. Again, we shall see that this is a point often suggested by *The Daily Show's* biting satire. In a healthy democracy, the open discussion of important issues must be serious, rational, and coherent. But such discussion is often time consuming and unpleasant, and thus incompatible with television's drive to entertain. So, it's hardly surprising to see television serving up important news analyses in sound bites surrounded by irrelevant graphics and video footage, or substituting half-minute ad spots for substantial political debates. On television, thoughtful conversations about serious issues are reserved for only the lowest-rated niche programs. Just as ventriloquism and mime don't play well on radio, "thinking does not play well on television." Instead, television serves as the sort of "gut"-based discourse celebrated by Stephen Colbert.

12. Which of the following most accurately expresses the main point of this passage

- (A) Television can entertain, but it cannot inform.
- (B) Television inherently is a poor medium for discussion of important issues.
- (C) Conversations about serious issues play better on radio than on TV.
- (D) Television's drive to entertain is incompatible with serious discussion of complex issues.
- (E) Public discourse presented on TV is irrational, irrelevant, incoherent entertainment.

This passage is taken from *GMAT For Dummies, 5th Edition*, by Scott Hatch, JD, and Lisa Hatch, MA (Wiley).

Snakes exist on every continent except for Antarctica, which is inhospitable to all cold blooded animals. The continent of Australia is home to many of the deadliest snakes in the world. However, the nearby island nation of New Zealand has no snakes at all. Scientists estimate that snakes originated about 100 million years ago when the continents were joined and the snakes stayed on the main land masses of the continents when they split apart. Snakes are absent from New Zealand because they are unable to swim and therefore could not make the journey.

13. Which of the following, if true, would most weaken the premise that certain species of snake are absent from New Zealand because they are unable to swim?

- (A) Snakes are found in South America at latitudes farther south than New Zealand.
- (B) Islands like Hawaii and New Zealand are very aggressive about preventing an accidental introduction of snakes.
- (C) Sea snakes can swim and are present in the warmer oceans of the world.
- (D) The Tasman Sea, separating Australia from New Zealand, is home to sharks that prey on snakes.
- (E) Snakes are found on many other islands of the Pacific Ocean.

Questions 14-15 are based on the following passage.

Although many people in the United States complain about the tax burden, some of the countries with the highest taxes are ranked happiest in the world. One notable example is Denmark, where some of the happiest people in the world pay some of the highest taxes — between 50 and 70 percent of their total income.

How can that be? The reason is Denmark's healthcare and education services. In exchange for handing over 50 to 70 percent of their income, Danes receive universal healthcare coverage and free, quality education. While in school, students receive a stipend to cover living expenses and free daycare if they have children. The government also spends more per capita on caring for children and the elderly than any country in the world. Without having to worry so much about paying doctor bills and sending their kids to college, no wonder the Danes are so happy.

14. Which of the following, if true, most effectively challenges the connection between social services and happiness?

- (A) The United States pays more per capita on healthcare.
- (B) Denmark is a relatively small country with a population of approximately 5.5 million people.
- (C) Between 2004 and 2008, Denmark's per capita GDP grew at an average annual rate of 1.5 percent — one of the lowest in the world.
- (D) Several countries that provide universal healthcare and free education rank much lower in happiness than Denmark.
- (E) Denmark is ranked first in entrepreneurship and opportunity.

15. Which of the following does this passage most strongly imply?

- (A) Money can't buy happiness.
- (B) Higher taxes are essential to providing for the needs of citizens.
- (C) There's more to life than low taxes.
- (D) Universal healthcare coverage is essential for happiness.
- (E) We should all move to Denmark.

Directions: Each of the following sentences has a blank indicating that a word or phrase is omitted. Choose the two answer choices that best complete the sentence and result in two sentences most alike in meaning

16. Communications experts recommend taking a time-out to remove the emotional component of a heated debate and return to discussions with a more ____ attitude.

- (A) complaisant
- (B) incendiary
- (C) apprehensive
- (D) conciliatory
- (E) beguiling
- (F) complacent

17. When the goal is to foster bipartisanship and encourage cooperation, one should deliver a prepared speech rather than allow extemporaneous discourse to lapse into an impassioned ____.

- (A) supplication
- (B) vernacular
- (C) malapropism
- (D) invective
- (E) hyperbole
- (F) diatribe

18. Although most employers want team players, ____ individuals are more prone to cheer from the sidelines than get into the game.

- (A) fawning
- (B) assertive
- (C) timorous
- (D) obsequious
- (E) indignant
- (F) aggressive

19. Though delivered out of a genuine desire to help the community, the presentation seemed exaggerated and thus came across as ____.

- (A) erroneous
- (B) duplicitous
- (C) mendacious
- (D) disingenuous
- (E) sagacious
- (F) pretentious

20. Two hours playing outdoor sports is more ____ than two hours watching TV.

- (A) salacious
- (B) specious
- (C) salubrious
- (D) pernicious
- (E) wholesome
- (F) propitious

1) D. an anachronism

An anachronism is a reference to something that couldn't have existed in the time it's referenced, like Brutus and Cassius's discussion of a mechanical clock (a clock that can strike a specific time) when no such clock existed. Archaic (outdated) also refers to time, but it doesn't work as well as anachronism in this context. Relic refers to something really old, which the reference itself may be, but in the context of referring to a mechanical clock, it doesn't fit, either. Tropism refers to the orientation of an organism in response to a stimulus, such as a plant growing toward sunlight, so it obviously doesn't work here. And a euphemism is a mild form of an expression that may be offensive or not politically correct.

2) A. veracity

Veracity means truth, or accuracy, which is an essential quality of any story a journalist may report. The only other choice that comes close is plausibility, but that doesn't necessarily mean the story is true, only believable. None of the remaining choices (tenacity, meaning persistence, originality, and righteousness) work here.

3) C. geocentric, E. proscribed

Geocentric means, as the phrase after it explains, that the Earth is at the center of the universe. If Galileo was labeled as a heretic for questioning a belief, his ideas would be proscribed (prohibited).

4) C. amalgam, D. supposition

Amalgam is a metal alloy (mixture) commonly used in dental fillings. Although amalgam is metal, it contains several metals, as explained in the second sentence, so amalgam is the better choice. Experts would question the supposition (speculation), because people who believe amalgam fillings pose a health risk are not only making the accusation or allegation but also basing their hypothesis on the reasoning that because the fillings contain mercury, the mercury must leach out in levels high enough to pose a threat.

5) B. the propensity, E. recondite

Propensity means the inclination. Law students may also have an aptitude (skill) and desire, but propensity conveys a sense that they're more likely than not to do something. As a result, law students would become consumed in recondite (obscure) language, not sophisticated (refined) or erudite (learned) language.

6) A. phlegmatic, F. onerous, G. antipathy

Phlegmatic (unflappable) teachers would be the opposite of choleric (irritable) and would perform better and last longer in junior high school, where classroom management can become onerous (burdensome), certainly not elementary and not necessarily truculent (aggressive, hostile), although the students may be. Sanguine (confident, optimistic) could work for the first blank, but because the rest of the passage talks about oppositional students, phlegmatic is a better choice. Melancholic (sad) teachers would certainly not perform as well under such conditions. Over time, a

choleric temperament would increase antipathy (aversion), not opposition (resistance) and usually not hostility (aggression), which is too strong of a word.

7) A. specious, F. manifest, H. escalating

Specious arguments are unsound, unsupported. In this case, arguments for increasing domestic oil production at the expense of developing renewable energy sources would be specious, because it's manifestly (clearly) obvious that oil production can't possibly keep pace with escalating (growing) demand. For the first blank, standard obviously doesn't work. Surreptitious (sneaky, underhanded) may make a good second choice, but specious is a better fit. For the second blank, deliberately obviously doesn't fit, and consummately means complete or perfect, which would also be a poor choice. For the third blank, nascent means emerging, as in being born, and it doesn't work because the demand already exists. Proliferation is sort of like escalating but refers more to growing in number than amount.

8) A. A person suffering from a lesion in part of the frontal lobe of the left hemisphere of the brain can no longer recall certain words; B. The region of the brain known as the fusiform gyrus is more active than other regions of the brain when the subject is engaged in facial recognition. Choices (A) and (B) are correct because they demonstrate specific regions of the brain that control specific functions. The third choice is wrong, because it describes a case in which a large portion of the brain must be affected for something to occur.

9) D. Due to a lesion in one area of his brain, a man cannot consciously recognize his wife's face, but his heart rate increases upon seeing her face.

Choice (D) is correct because it shows that facial recognition is not linked solely to the damaged area of the man's brain.

10) C. Language functions are even more localized than Dax had suspected.

The big clue here is the sentence that transitions from Dax's to Broca's research: "The notion that language was localized to the left side of the brain (the left hemisphere) developed momentum with new discoveries linking specific language functions to specific regions of the left hemisphere."

11) B. Deeper, C. More fertile

The passage states that the river bed cut deeper and the Nile narrowed (the opposite of becoming wider). Also, it states that the delta, which is part of the river, became more fertile over time.

12) A. A strip of land having an abrupt descent

The terraces in this passage are features carved by the Nile River. The four other answer choices refer to features of man-made structures.

13) B. Second sentence: “Yet though it is fashionable these days to see nature as a derivative of culture, culture, etymologically speaking, is a concept derived from nature.”

The second sentence explains that the word culture is derived from nature. The rest of the passage provides details supporting that statement.

14) E. Manurance

Manurance (cultivation) appears in the passage but only as part of one of the examples showing that the word culture was first used to describe an activity. All the other words in the answer choices are specifically cited as being derived from nature.

15) A. dissonant, E. cacophonous

Dissonant (harsh sounding) and cacophonous (grating) are the two correct answers. Symphonic and mellifluous both mean harmonious, which is the opposite of what’s needed here. Disparate means dissimilar, and raucous means something more like loud and unruly, which is close but not the best match.

16) C. impassive, F. stolid

Impassive and stolid both mean unemotional, which would be the opposite of passionately mad. Sentient means conscious of or aware, which doesn’t fit the meaning of the sentence or have a suitable match among the answer choices. Stygian means hellish, which doesn’t generally apply to scientists. Zealous (passionate, enthusiastic) doesn’t work, because it doesn’t contrast with the idea of a passionately mad scientist. Finally, although most scientists have profound thoughts you wouldn’t describe someone as profound.

17) A. refractory, B. recalcitrant

Refractory and recalcitrant mean resistant to treatment in this context. An acute wound would probably not require long-term treatment, and although the wounds may be severe or excruciating, neither of those qualities would necessarily make the wounds resistant to treatment. Perspicacious means wise, so it definitely doesn’t work here.

18) C. indigence, E. penury

Indigence and penury both mean poverty. They’re the only two words in the list that match. Malnutrition and famine are related but not very close in meaning, and neither is commonly attributed to laziness. Illiteracy has no match, and squalor means something more like filth or uncleanliness, which may accompany poverty but isn’t the same as poverty.

19) A. mitigate, C. assuage

Mitigate and assuage both mean to lessen or alleviate. Augment (amplify and incite (provoke) obviously don’t work, and repress and subjugate, both of which mean to put down by force, are too strong.

20) C. Nature can improve the healing process.

“Nature can improve the healing process” is the best answer. The answer is in the third sentence of the second paragraph: “The idea that access to nature could assist in healing was all but lost.” All the other choices go too far and lack support in the passage.

1) C. Tangential

Tangential conveys a sense of not being essential or central to the play. Essential (necessary) is the opposite of what's needed here, and neither incisive (perceptive) nor predominant (main, principal) fits the context. Scenes could be concurrent (happening at the same time), but this wouldn't convey the sense that the scenes are of less importance.

2) E. obviated

You know that the speaker made the need for further clarification either necessary or unnecessary; the note that he "supported" the case tells you that his speech was sound and that clarification was unnecessary. Obviated means something along the lines of "made unnecessary." Precluded (prevented) and prohibited (banned) are too strong, and although the speaker anticipated the questions, that would not anticipate the need for clarification. Adjourned doesn't work, because you adjourn a meeting, but you don't adjourn a need.

3) B. libertine, D. stygian

A libertine (morally unrestrained) existence could conceivably lead to a loss of self-discipline, but a Spartan (simple) or ascetic (puritan) lifestyle would tend to make someone more disciplined. For the second blank, you'd expect something opposite to "hedonistic paradise," making stygian (hellish) the only choice. Quixotic means idealistic, and utopian means perfect (in a good way).

4) C. dichotomy, F. bisected

This passage is all about twos — the body and soul — so filling the first blank is relatively easy: Dichotomy is a separation into two. A paradox is an apparent contradiction that may be true, and irony is the use of words to express the opposite of what the words mean. Finding the right match for the second blank is more challenging because all the words have two or separation in their meaning. Bisected (divided in two) is the best choice. Bifurcated is divided but more like a fork in a road, and dissected is more along the lines of dividing into several parts.

5) C. intransigence, E. precipitate

Intransigence is inflexibility, and precipitate means to bring about. Tractability (compliance) is the opposite of what's needed for the first blank, and indolence means laziness. For the second blank, expedite (hasten) would make a decent second choice, but precipitate is more fitting. Motivate (provide with a motive) doesn't work, because you may motivate individuals but not actions such as conflict.

6) B. elicit, D. prevaricate, I. efficacy

During an interrogation, you want to elicit (extract) information, not dissemble (mislead) or disseminate (spread) it. To stop interrogations without giving in, suspects may prevaricate (mislead, lie), not prognosticate (predict) or adjudicate (mediate). The prevaricating would call into question the efficacy (effectiveness) of such methods, not their efficiency (ability to accomplish something with minimal effort) or alacrity (speed).

7) B. impede, D. endemic, G. quiescent

High winds and large waves would occur if nothing was in their way to impede (slow) them, not debilitate (incapacitate) them. Disperse (scatter) would make a good second choice. These high winds and large waves would be endemic (characteristic of) rather than pandemic (epidemic) or intrinsic (fundamental). Plankton would gather in pools, which tend to be more quiescent (calm) than a wavy ocean, not dormant (sleeping) and definitely not truculent (hostile).

8) E. Fifth sentence: "What Rose calls a 'state of welfare' emerged to provide basic forms of social insurance, child welfare, health, mental hygiene, universal education, and similar services that both 'civilized' the working class and joined citizens to the State and to each other through formalized 'solidarities and dependencies.'" Several other sentences explain the purpose of welfare, but this sentence does so in the greatest detail.

9) A. Compare and contrast nighttime in the modern world with the dark nights of centuries past.

Compare and contrast, explain, and describe reflect the author's purpose, but lament and argue imply more emotion on the part of the author than is displayed in the passage, so eliminate Choices (C) and (E). Worker productivity has nothing to do with showing how our ancestors perceived night differently, so you can eliminate Choice (B). Choice (D) is simply wrong; the author doesn't maintain that the moon is actually getting darker, just that it's become outshone by electric lights

10) A. Piles of light-colored stones or trees with the bark stripped off; B. The moon or a torch

This specific information exception question asks you to refer to the text to eliminate answers that are ways in the passage that travelers can find a path at night. The second paragraph specifically mentions Choice (A), light-colored stones or trees with bark stripped off, and Choice (B), the moon or a torch. Railings aren't mentioned anywhere in the passage.

11) A. Brain scans show activity in all regions of the brain, even during sleep.

Choice (B) is wrong because although the passage implies that brain cells shrivel and die when not in use, it provides no scientific evidence to support this claim. Choice (C) is wrong because cause and effect are flipped; although a 10 to 20 percent loss of neurons may occur in Alzheimer's, the passage doesn't state that a 10 to 20 percent loss of neurons causes Alzheimer's.

12) D. Television's drive to entertain is incompatible with serious discussion of complex issues.

The other choices go too far, saying that TV cannot instead of that it does not. The passage doesn't criticize television itself but how it's used

13) D. The Tasman Sea, separating Australia from New Zealand, is home to sharks that prey on snakes.

To weaken the argument, find a reason for the absence of snakes other than that they can't swim. Choice (D) suggests that maybe the snakes can swim, but they get eaten by sharks before reaching New Zealand.

14) D. Several countries that provide universal healthcare and free education rank much lower in happiness than Denmark.

If other countries provide the same social services as Denmark but rank lower in happiness, then something other than social services is boosting Denmark to the number one position.

15) B. Higher taxes are essential to providing for the needs of citizens.

The passage focuses on taxes and how Denmark uses them to provide for the needs of its citizens. Choice (C) is a reasonable candidate, but the phrase more to life extends its reach outside the scope of the passage.

16) A. complaisant, D. conciliatory

Complaisant and conciliatory mean inclined to please. Incendiary (provocative) means the opposite, and beguiling means deceiving with trickery. Apprehensive means anxious, and complacent, which is included to trip you up with its similarity to complaisant, means satisfied, content.

17) D. invective, F. diatribe

Invective and diatribe refer to bitter, abusive language, something you'd want to avoid if your goal was to foster bipartisanship and cooperation. None of the other choices are good matches: supplication (plea), vernacular (dialect), malapropism (confusion of words with similar sounds), and hyperbole (exaggeration).

18) A. fawning, D. obsequious

Fawning and obsequious refer to agreeably showing favor, which would incline people to act as cheerleaders instead of players. Assertive and aggressive mean the opposite of what's required here. Timorous means shy, which would make a good second choice, but it has no match. Indignant is more along the lines of being annoyed.

19) B. duplicitous, D. disingenuous

Duplicitous and disingenuous mean deceitful. Erroneous means false. Mendacious is more along the lines of being a compulsive liar. Sagacious means wise, and pretentious describes someone who's phony.

20) C. salubrious, E. wholesome

Salubrious and wholesome are both good for you. Salacious (scandalous), specious (unsupported), and pernicious (malicious) aren't. Propitious (favorable) could be good for you but doesn't express the meaning of being healthy, which is what's needed here.