

1. **abundant and inexpensive**; The clue for the second blank is “on the earth’s surface, where the processing of chemicals is less costly.” Underwater recovery, in contrast, would be more expensive. The second blank describes what’s not true of the procedure, so use a word that means low-cost. Cost-effective is a close match. Use the same clue for the first blank. If the processing of ores from the surface is less costly, those ores must be plentiful. Abundant is a good match.

2. **irresponsible, forestall, and avoidable**; The keys to the first blank are the clues “given their responsibilities as democratically elected officials” and “neglect to do everything they could.” These clues indicate that the first blank should have a negative connotation; a word that means something as simple as bad would eliminate thoughtful and intuitive, leaving irresponsible. Blanks (ii) and (iii) build on the idea set up in the first half of the sentence. The second blank describes the action that would be bad, so use something that means solve. Sustain and cultivate are the opposites of what’s needed for the second blank, leaving forestall. The last blank describes the type of problem, and entirely suggests it’s a solvable problem. Avoidable is close, and it helps the whole sentence make sense.

3. **erudite**; Despite is a trigger word that implies a contrast between the student’s actual behavior when presenting her thesis and her mentor’s advice. The student resorted to using slang, language that is informal and unscholarly. Therefore, the word in the blank must mean formal or scholarly. The only word that fits that description is erudite, which is the best choice. The other answer choices can be used to describe speech, but none of these words contrast the mentor’s advice with the student’s use of slang.

4. **augmented, overwhelmed, and delicate**; Start with the second blank. The clue pungent tells you this onion did something bad to the delicious stew. Exaggerated and satiated are positive; overwhelmed is the only fit. The trigger otherwise tells you to change direction from the third blank’s clue of pungent. Look for a word that means subtle or soft. Only delicate fits. For the first blank, the clue is that Steve’s stinky onion hurt the delicate stew. The trigger although tells you to change direction. So, this addition of the sweet potato was good. Only augmented fits.

5. **banal, an adept, and sublime**; The first clue is its focus on such everyday objects as flowers or fruits apparently uninspired, so the first blank has to mean something such as “uninspired.” Banal, which means predictable, matches this. For the second blank, the painter must pay careful attention, so the second blank must mean “careful” or “talented,” which matches an adept. Since the painting is exemplary, the third blank must be sublime.

6. **comely and prepossessing**; The first blank describes Viktor Yushenko’s face. The clue is that his face was transformed into a monstrous mask by dioxin poisoning and the trigger word once tells us an appropriate word for the blank would be the opposite of monstrous; something like attractive would work nicely. Quiescent means calm, and fatuous means foolish, so those words don’t work. Comely, which means attractive, is the only word that works. The second blank is describing Yulia Tymoshenko. Both the trigger phrase a study in contrasts and the clue about fashion magazines suggest that a word that means beautiful is appropriate. Though it might not sound like it, prepossessing does, in fact, mean beautiful. Felicitous means well-expressed, and decorous means full of propriety, so although they are both positive words, they aren’t as fitting here as the credited response is.

7. **D**; According to the first sentence, her work can be viewed three different ways. The rest of the passage describes those ways: as the work of a modern poet, of a woman, and of a Native American.

Choice (A) is too vague, and the passage doesn't so much describe her work as how it should be viewed. Choices (B) and (C) are too narrow and don't describe the overall purpose. Choice (E) doesn't match the passage.

8. **B**; In the second paragraph the author states, "Mr. Wilson's praise gives the impression that Feather's readership is limited to her own culture—an impression which hints that Mr. Wilson is himself measuring her by only one criterion," which best fits choice (B). Choices (A) and (E) contradict the passage and are too broad and extreme. Choice (C) contradicts the passage, and choice (D) is not supported.

9. **E**; The second sentence of the passage claims, "We could consider her poems as the product of a twentieth-century artist in the tradition of James Joyce, T.S. Eliot, and Wallace Stevens." Thus, the author mentions Joyce, Eliot, and Stevens in order to describe one context—twentieth-century poetry—in which Feather's work can be analyzed. Eliminate choice (A) because the author doesn't compare Feather's political messages to those of these authors. Eliminate choice (B) because the author doesn't use these authors to discuss differences between male and female poets. Eliminate choice (C) because the author doesn't contrast Feather's themes with those of these authors. Although Joyce, Eliot, and Stevens were, like Feather, twentieth-century artists, the passage doesn't say that they shared sensibilities, which eliminates choice (D).

10. **C**; Only answer choice (C) provides a clue to the meaning of urbane as used here: The urbane buyer is contrasted with the "unsuspecting or naïve buyer," and so must mean "not unsuspecting" or "not naïve." Choice (A) tantalizingly dangles the word rural before our eyes, trying to take advantage of that word's well-known association with the word urban. Urbane, though, means sophisticated. Moreover, if answer choice (A) were accepted, the strangely illogical proposition that city-dwellers knew best how to buy animals at market would have to be accepted as well. Answer choice (B), thankfully, presents no such difficulties of interpretation and appears in the definition of the obscure expression itself, not in the comparison between unsuspecting and urbane.

11. **It relates to the common Renaissance practice of securing suckling pigs for transport to market in a poke, or drawstring bag**; In this sentence the author defines the term "poke" as a drawstring bag. This is the only instance in which the author gives a definition for a word that the reader may not be familiar with because the word "poke" is not a common term used to describe a drawstring bag.

12. **propriety and decorum**; The clue is "was such a bad-mannered child." Time acts as a change-of-direction trigger ("now, as an adult") that indicates the blank should mean something like well-mannered. Only propriety and decorum mean well-mannered. Diffidence, reticence, and brashness are all traits that would be considered bad-mannered. Friendliness does not necessarily mean well-mannered.

13. **whimsical and capricious**; The blank describes how politicians act. The clue is "acting out a deliberate plan." The change-of-direction trigger however tells you that they appear not to have a plan. Words that mean unplanned or random should be in the blank. Both whimsical and capricious fit this meaning. Conventional and conformist have the opposite meaning. The other two words are unrelated to the blank.

14. **irksome and onerous**; The trigger “even more” tells you to stay in the same direction as the clue. “Forced to take an alternate road,” “two-hour detour,” and “arduous trip” tell you that the journey was difficult. Put a word that means hard or tiring in the blank. Only irksome and onerous fit this meaning. Facile and glib describe something easy, and implacable and immutable describe something that doesn’t change.

15. **adventurous and doughty**; The trigger especially tells you to stay in the same direction as the clue “willingness to reject prevailing feminine roles and travel to foreign lands alone.” Thus, she has a bold spirit. Only adventurous and doughty mean bold. Although she is traveling alone, there is nothing to support that she is lonely, as forlorn and desolate suggest. Magnanimous and bellicose do not fit.

16. **A**; The argument concludes that the substitution of microfiber clothes for those made from natural fabrics is not financially sound. The premise is that microfiber clothes last as long as natural fabric clothes but are three times as expensive to produce. The argument assumes that there are no other factors that need to be considered to evaluate the cost effectiveness of switching. Choice (A) points out another factor that would affect the overall costs and so weakens the argument. Choice (B) helps to explain why the microfiber synthetic shirt is more expensive to produce than a natural fiber shirt, but it does not weaken the argument. In choice (C), comparing natural fiber shirts and other fiber garments is not relevant. Choice (D) strengthens the argument. Choice (E), by pointing out additional costs associated with microfibers, also strengthens the argument.

17. **E**; The first paragraph presents the Gandhara-first view “... Greek influence in Gandhara promoted the development of the new style and form of representation of the divine.” The second paragraph provides evidence Gandharan Buddhas shared certain features with Greek art. Choice (E) provides additional information about those similarities and is the best choice. Choices (A) and (C) undermine the idea that Gandharan artists were responding to outside influences. Choice (B) is irrelevant, and choice (D) provides evidence for outside influences in Mathura.

18. **B**; The first sentence says that “images in human form emerged around the first century A.D.,” and the middle of the first paragraph states that “earlier Buddhist art was largely aniconic.” You can conclude from these statements that the earliest Buddhist art didn’t usually depict the Buddha in human form. Eliminate choice (A); although human representations first appeared in these regions, the passage doesn’t say that the first Buddhist art appeared in the same places. The passage doesn’t support choices (C), (D), and (E).

19. **B and C**; For choice (A), the passage says only that the age of these fossils was “far too recent for humans to have evolved” from them. This does not give an age for the fossils. The last sentence says that “the concept of ‘missing link’ has changed dramatically,” which answers the question in choice (B). The last sentence also answers the question in choice (C) because it says, “the value of his discovery and the debate it generated is unquestionable.”

20. **Although the concept of “missing link” has changed dramatically and a recent analysis showed Dubois’s fossils to be far too recent for humans to have evolved from this “missing link,” the value of his discovery and the debate it generated is unquestionable**; In the last sentence, the author states that the value of Dubois’s fossils is “unquestionable.” This statement represents the author’s conclusion.