

1. **original and outlandish**; Try working with the second blank first. The clues are that the fashions were “considered daring” and then “imitated.” Starting with the second blank, the sentence suggests that the fashions have changed from what they once were—in other words, daring. Outlandish is a good synonym for daring and it makes sense that, in the first blank, the fashions were original and then lost their impact because of excess imitation.

2. **diverge**; Take note of the time trigger “... at one time inseparable ... now,” which indicates that the combined roles in Middle Eastern music are now not inseparable. You need a word that means divide or separate. Divulge starts with the proper root, but its meaning is way off. Meanwhile, neither retreat nor retrench means divide, while fuse is the opposite of what you want. Diverge is the best answer.

3. **rebuked, perfidy, and expiate**; Start with the second blank, which must mean something close to an act of treachery. Perfidy means this. Since his contemporaries believed Kazan had committed treachery, they would have “harshly criticized” him, so the first blank means rebuked. For the last blank, he was able to achieve atonement, which is what expiate means.

4. **soporific**; The sentence requires you to figure out the effect that “tranquilizers usually have,” and this is provided by the clue in the later part of the sentence, when we read that the “abuse of these drugs results in a failure to induce the much-desired sleep.” You can infer that the usual effect of tranquilizers is to produce sleep. Soporific, which means sleep-inducing, is the correct answer choice. While sedulous might remind you of “sedative,” it actually means hard-working.

5. **preternatural, preclude, and consonant**; The clue for the first blank is “are rejected by modern science in its attempts to find secular insights.” Otherworldly interpretations contrast the secular, and the best choice for the first blank is preternatural. There would be a paradox only if scientists could hold non-secular beliefs. Therefore, a good word for the second blank is prevent, and a good phrase for the last blank would be in agreement. Preclude is synonymous with prevent, and consonant is synonymous with in agreement, making these the best answer choices.

6. **conformity and eccentricity**; Try working with the second blank first. The clue is “none of the family members were fearful ... of appearing or acting differently from other people.” Therefore, find a word for the second blank that means uniqueness. Eccentricity fits the bill. Considering the clue, “The Johnson’s were not known for their,” the two blanks must be opposites. Eliminate candor and vulgarity based on the clue and the word choice for the second blank, and choose conformity.

7. **E**; In the last paragraph, the author discusses the difficulties inherent in measuring intergalactic distances. He notes that scientists use a standard candle in combination with the inverse square law to measure those distances.

8. **C**; The passage states in the third paragraph that brighter objects are closer than dim objects, so eliminate choice (A). The passage never specifies what scientists know about the age of astronomical objects, so eliminate choice (B). The first paragraph says that, according to Hubble’s law, “objects farther away from Earth are receding faster than those closer.” This means that the farther object will travel faster, so choice (C) is correct.

9. **B**; According to the last line in the paragraph, “By the inverse square law, galaxy B is ten times farther away than galaxy A, assuming, of course, that distance is the only factor affecting brightness.”

Therefore, if interstellar dust affects the brightness of an object, the brightness of the object is affected, and the distance scientists measure may be inaccurate.

10. **C**; According to the passage, “By the inverse square law, galaxy B is ten times farther away than galaxy A, assuming, of course, that distance is the only factor affecting brightness.” Therefore, assuming that all other factors affecting brightness can be known, we can conclude that the brighter of the supernovas will be closer to Earth.

11. **B**; “Prozac lag” is a phenomenon for which there is currently no explanation, but neurogenesis may offer a solution. Answer (A) contradicts this. The passage offers “Prozac lag” as supporting evidence of a new theory, not disproving an old one, as choice (C) suggests, or disproving a new one, as choice (D) states. Answer (E) goes too far by discussing “unforeseen effects.” Choice (B) is the best option.

12. **However, patients suffering from depression only begin to experience mood elevation weeks after beginning treatment**; The second paragraph has five sentences, so this question has five answer choices. For an “unexpected observation,” a good place to start would be to check the trigger words. The fourth sentence starts with the word “however.” While the effects should occur immediately, these don’t occur until weeks after starting treatment. The answer is the fourth sentence.

13. **edifying and didactic**; The blank describes Socrates’s conversations. The clue is “Socrates’s teachings have survived and continue to enlighten seekers of wisdom,” so the blank must mean instructional. Edifying and didactic are the closest in meaning. Tedious, grating, inspiring, and rousing could all be used to describe Socrates’s conversations, but they do not match the clue.

14. **satiate and allay**; You would expect “the colossal meal” to fill someone up, but the sentence says that “failed to ... her voracious appetite.” Thus, she was not full, and the meal failed to satisfy. Sate and allay are the best match. Cadge and mendicate mean the meal begged her hunger. Exacerbate and provoke go in the wrong direction.

15. **iridescent and pavonine**; The clue for this sentence is “the lovely rainbows they produce,” which suggests that the blank should be filled by a word meaning colorful. Both iridescent and pavonine mean exactly that. Even if you don’t agree that the blank necessarily refers to rainbows of color, the missing word does have to agree with beautiful due to the trigger and, and none of the other four options does: Anodyne means eliminating physical pain, monocoque means constructed in one piece, parietal mean collogerelated, and saturnine means gloomy.

16. **cauterized and inured**; The clue for this sentence is callous, so the blank must mean “used to,” or “didn’t notice.” Choices (B), cauterized, and (E), inured, mean this. (F) is incorrect because he didn’t notice the violence more, but rather noticed it less.

17. **D**; The conclusion of the argument is that the old formula for Megapower contained natural kiwi extract, while the new formula does not. The evidence is that Tasmania suffered a decrease in its kiwi exports. The assumption is that Megapower is not getting kiwi fruit from Tasmania. Choice (D) strengthens the argument by pointing out that kiwi imports have fallen in the country that produces Megapower, which would reinforce that assumption that the manufacturer is not getting kiwis from Tasmania. Choice (A) would weaken the argument by providing a potential alternate source for kiwi fruit. Choice (C) weakens the argument by providing evidence that the manufacturer of Megapower

could be getting kiwi fruit from another source. Choice (B) and Choice (E) are not relevant to the conclusion.

18. **C**; While the word promulgated can take on the meanings given in answer choices (A), (B), or (C), within the context of the sentence it is clear that Courbet is taking a stand on what he believes art should be. Therefore, answer choice (C) is closest to the correct meaning.

19. **“The argument has been made that the painting struck a blow for the independence of the artist, and that since Courbet’s work, artists have felt freed from the societal demands placed upon their work.”**; While the rest of the passage enumerates Courbet’s ideas on painting, only this sentence points to the effect that Courbet’s work may have had on other artists when it states that “since Courbet’s work artists have felt freed from the societal demands placed on their work.”

20. **A**; According to the passage, Courbet broke with convention by “striving to do something strikingly original.” Only answer choice (A) provides that sense of defying a convention to do something original.