

1. **inflection and utilized**; For the first blank, the trigger “more important” tells you to change direction from “actual words.” Also, sarcastically is an example of tone. Look for a choice that means tone. Inflection fits tone. Pitch is nonverbal, but it does not match the example of sarcastically. Accuracy does not fit. For the second blank, look for a word that means conveyed or spoken. Utilized is the best match. Implied and repudiated don’t fit.

2. **expressive, relegated, and conflict**; with Try working with the first blank first. The clue is artistic, and the trigger and indicates the first blank should be a word that is the same as artistic. Expressive is the best choice; neither tedious nor tiresome works. Though changes the direction of the sentence—though the studio likes the creative/artistic aspect, something negative must be happening to creativity—it’s brought down to a secondary position. Eliminate uplifted and compared for blank (ii) because they are not negative, and choose relegated. Turning to the third blank, “organization and hierarchy” are in opposition to creativity, and conflict with makes the most sense.

3. **axiomatic**; You are given the clue that the beliefs “are in conflict” and “cannot all be correct.” Therefore, whatever goes into the blank must be synonymous with correct or something we can infer correctness from. The correct answer is axiomatic, which means self-evident or universally true. Disputable is the opposite of what the sentence requires, and ubiquitous, and historic are not synonymous with self-evident. Although empirical, meaning derived from observation, might fit science, it is not a good fit for religion.

4. **staved off, contributed to, and affliction**; The clue “Although most medical, preventative ointments commonly in use” tells you that most ointments would prevent an infection, but the one Helen used did not. Recycle the clue, and put a word that means prevent in the first blank; staved off is the best match. Work with the second and third blanks together. The ointment did not prevent an infection, and the clue “much to her dismay” tells you that something bad happened. The only pair that makes sense together is contributed to and affliction because they tell you that the ointment made her problem worse.

5. **glib, spontaneity, and tepid**; For the first blank, the clue is offhand remarks, so the blank means something like “offhand.” Glib, which means “superficial or showing a lack of concern,” is the closest match for this. Sticking to prepared talking points can result in a lack of “excitement” or “naturalness,” which spontaneity matches. For the last blank, you know the crowd’s responses are lukewarm, so the answer for that blank is tepid.

6. **shallow**; The clue is the entire clause that follows the semicolon, “its characters take trivial concerns seriously while thoughtlessly dismissing important ones.” Look for a word that means superficial or petty to go in the blank. The only one that fits is shallow.

7. **B**; The third paragraph states that if incorrect quantities of Haber nitrogen were applied, “the wheat crop would grow taller and thicker, eventually toppling over and rotting.” Losing a crop would be an undesirable effect, making choice (B) the best answer. Eliminate choice (A) because the passage doesn’t compare the effects of Haber nitrogen on different kinds of crops. The passage doesn’t provide any information to support choices (C) and (D). Choice (E) contradicts the passage, which says the farmers were wary of the substance.

8. **E**; According to the first paragraph, there has been no sharp decline in the world's population and, therefore, we can surmise that food production has been sufficient to allow for the existing population growth, as in answer choice (A). In the second paragraph, the author mentions the invention of the tractor as one of the factors that allowed more crops to be grown for human consumption. This reflects the technological innovation in answer choice (B). In the last paragraph, the author notes that the environmental movement has opposed efforts at genetic engineering. Thus, answer choice (C) is implied as well. The author notes that increases in crop production through the invention of the tractor and ammonia prevented Malthus's predictions from being realized, and this rules out answer choice (D). The extent of the impact of genetic engineering is not clear. We don't know that a Malthusian disaster would have been a certainty without genetic engineering. Therefore, the correct answer is choice (E) because it is not implied.

9. **D**; The first paragraph states that Malthus believed that "population increases in a geometric ratio, while the means of subsistence increases in an arithmetic ratio." More simply put, Malthus argued that population growth happens at a significantly faster rate than food production. Only answer choice (D) demonstrates this.

10. **E**; The first paragraph presents Malthus's prediction about what would happen if population growth were to outstrip food production. If there were too many people and not enough food, you would expect a significant or rapid population decline. Look for a word to replace precipitous that is similar to significant or rapid. Sharp is the best word.

11. **B**; The "rosy prospect" refers to the previous paragraph's discussion of the booming tourism industry in Australia, which implies a positive future, and the "cloud on the horizon" refers to the conflict between the rights of the Aborigines and the need for the money from tourism, a potential problem. Choice (A) incorrectly interprets the quote as referring to a literal horizon and prospect. Choice (C) is also too literal, taking prospect to mean view. Choice (D) is incorrect because, although this may be true based on later information in the passage, it is not an accurate interpretation of this phrase. Choice (E) is too strong because the future is described as generally good, not hopeless.

12. **A, B, and C**; All three statements are given as sources of the conflict. Choice (A), economic hardship, is mentioned in the third paragraph. Due to financial difficulties, many regions are unwilling to give up the income derived from tourists visiting Aboriginal lands. Choice (B) is discussed in the second paragraph. The expansion of Western culture is the reason that the Aborigines have moved inland and abandoned other sacred sites. Choice (C) is mentioned in the first sentence. Tourism is described as particularly important due to the "dearth of natural resources."

13. **morose and dour**; The first part of the clue is "mercurial character," which means George's moods change frequently. The second part of the clue is "one moment he was optimistic about his prospects," and the trigger is "the next he was." Thus, the blank should be the opposite of optimistic; look for words that mean pessimistic. Morose and dour are both similar to pessimistic. Hopeful and buoyant have the opposite meaning, and witty and immoral are not related.

14. **tyro and neophyte**; The clue is that she "began her first job." Also, the contrast of "wealthy suburb" and "llama caretaker on a rural farm" suggests that she'd feel out of place or lacking in experience at her first job. Look for words that mean beginner. Tyro and neophyte are the only words that mean beginner.

Agronomist and cultivator are traps for people who focused too heavily on the farm. Concierge and curator are traps for people who focused too heavily on caretaker.

15. **embellished and colored**; The clue “King Duncan’s death at the hand of Macbeth comprises the play’s only historical truth” tells you that the version of events related in Macbeth was not very accurate. Does anachronistic mean inaccurate? No; cross it out. What about effusive? No. In contrast, embellished works well, but prosaic and serpentine do not. Finally, colored—which, like embellished, means misrepresented or distorted—fits the blank nicely.

16. **thewy and sinewy**; The word that goes into the blank describes superheroes, of whom the clue phrase states that “every detail of their musculatures would be visible through their clothing.” Clearly, something like muscular is called for, and both thewy and sinewy fit the bill. The other four words don’t fit: Superfluous means unnecessary, pneumatic means full of air, flocculent means covered in wool, and atrophied means shriveled due to disuse.

17. **A and C**; Answer choice (A) is correct because the passage states that “... without this mundane structure, every cell division would be a step into senescence, and the onset of old age would begin at birth.” Choice (B) is not correct because we have no information about what scientists used to think about telomeres. Choice (C) is correct because we are told that one function of telomeres is to mitigate the loss of DNA bases. If no bases are lost, then this role is not important any more.

18. **A**; The first paragraph says that without telomere buffers “every cell division would be a step into senescence, and the onset of old age would begin at birth,” and the last sentence of the passage states that “many ailments associated with normal old age begin only after the telomere buffer has been exhausted through years of cell division.” If the protection offered by the buffers didn’t exist, you could expect problems related to aging to start sooner, as choice (A) suggests. Choice (B) goes too far; though the passage speaks on the onset of old age at birth, we can’t be sure that almost no one would live past childhood. The passage provides no support for choices (C), (D), or (E).

19. **B**; The passage as a whole provides a short history of two types of early musical education, the rote method and the note method. Nowhere in the passage does the author come out in favor of either method, thereby ruling out choices (A) and (C). Given that Reverend Walter taught music by the note method he developed, answer choice (D) doesn’t make sense. While it is true that rote learning was inconsistently practiced, as choice (E) states, this does not answer the question.

20. **“The ‘note versus rote’ controversy in music education continued well into the mid-nineteenth century.”**; The use of the word “controversy” in the final paragraph is the only indication the author gives that the decision between “note” or “rote” as a musical learning technique was in any way contentious.