

1. **systematic**; The clue is “simple, unambiguous, and unchanging.” The trigger word is “in other words.” The trigger word maintains the direction of the clue. Therefore, find a word that means regimented. Systematic is the best match.

2. **obdurate and capitulate**; Try working with the second blank first. The second blank is talking about what a player will be forced to do if they are stubborn. The clue is that the mistakes the player makes will lead to the prevailing strategy of their opponent. Because of these clues, we know that a word that means “to give in” would be a good match. Capitulate is the only word that works as dissent means to disagree and repudiate means to reject. Now look at the first blank. The first blank is referring to something all great chess players know. The clue tells us that they know stubbornness will lead to mistakes that will force a player to capitulate to the prevailing strategy of their opponent. As you can see, we needed to solve for the second blank first, as we would not have known what stubbornness would lead to without doing so. Recycle the word stubbornness as your word for the blank. Obdurate is the only word that works for the first blank. Finicky means to be overly particular and vituperative means to be combative.

3. **corruptibility, venal, and redundancy**; The first two blanks are related, but there isn’t a strong clue for either one in the first part, so let’s start with the third blank. Since the motif is tiresome, the third blank must mean something close to “repetitive.” Redundancy matches this. At the end of the paragraph, each character is bribed ... into giving up ... beliefs. So the first two blanks must mean “bribeable.” Corruptibility in the first blank and venal in the second both match this.

4. **illegal and unabashedly**; For the first blank, the clues “pirating software” and “downloading software from unapproved sources” describe unauthorized activities, and illegal is the best fit. Uncommon and difficult are incorrect because the sentence says that “many people continue to do so.” If people are doing something despite its illegality and “almost as if they were unaware that such acts amount to theft” you could describe them as acting brashly. Unabashedly is the best fit.

5. **insolvent**; The phrase “squandered his life’s savings on unprofitable business ventures” tells you that the entrepreneur had no money left. The blank needs a word that means broke. Former and unlikely are tempting choices, but they don’t match broke. Eliminate them. Eccentric also doesn’t match, while perturbed only describes the entrepreneur’s possible feelings. Insolvent agrees with the clue, so keep it.

6. **eschew obfuscation, recondite, and limpid**; The key clue is that the teachers urge students to “use clear, simple language.” The trigger instead indicates that the phrase that goes into the blank will present an alternative to using clear, simple language, while the and indicates that the phrase will nevertheless agree with the clue. Something like “avoid difficult language” would be best: Difficult language is the alternative to clear, simple language, but the two phrases still agree because the difficult language is something to avoid. Thus, eschew obfuscation is best: Eschew means avoid, while obfuscation means the act of hiding the meaning of something. Excise obloquy means to cut out critical language, while evince ossification means to show excessive rigidity, neither of which is appropriate here. The second blank needs a word that means difficult or obscure because teachers call into question the use of difficult vocabulary; recondite means obscure and hard to understand. Recreant means cowardly; redolent means fragrant. The final blank requires a word like clear because that is the type of language that “conveys one’s meaning so much more effectively.” Limpid means easily understood, and so is correct.

7. **A and C**; Answer choice (A) is supported because the passage says that myelin protects the brain's circuitry. Answer choice (C) is supported by the fact that "as humans mature" increasing levels of myelin need to be produced. While the passage suggests that a lack of myelin leaves the brain vulnerable, that doesn't mean that increasing the levels of myelin will reverse damage.

8. **B**; In the passage, byzantine refers to the "circuitry inside our nervous systems." Previously, the circuitry is described as growing more complex, so you need to find a word with a similar meaning. Answer choice (A) is an alternate meaning for byzantine, but is not supported by the passage. Answer choices (C), (D), and (E) do not have meanings similar to complex.

9. **D**; The argument concludes that large universities should utilize work-study students rather than administrative assistants. The premise is that a similar strategy realizes a cost savings at small colleges. This is an argument by analogy. Hence, the argument assumes that there are similar conditions at small colleges and at large universities. Choice (D) says that students at universities are just as qualified to take over the administrative roles as they are in small colleges. In other words, the administrative jobs at universities are not appreciably different than those at colleges. For choice (A), whether the practice would be of greater benefit to the small colleges is out of scope. For choice (B), whether large universities usually depend on small colleges for ideas is out of scope. For choice (C), the issue of non-work-study students is out of scope. For choice (E), whether anyone has an easier ride than anyone else is out of scope.

10. **A**; The first paragraph acts as an introduction to the rest of the passage. The author notes that in the nineteenth century "investments became increasingly speculative." In the last paragraph, the author explains that due to fluctuating interest rates, the consol was popular with speculative investors. There is no support in the passage for (B), (C), or (D). Although the first paragraph provides a historical framework, as suggested in answer choice (E), it does not provide a way "by which the nature of the nineteenth-century investor" could be understood.

11. **To address the problem, the British government instituted a sinking fund, using tax revenue to buy back the bonds in the open market**; The second paragraph has five sentences so this question has five answer choices. The third sentence begins, "To address the problem...." This is a clear indication that the sentence describes a solution to a problem. The correct answer is the third sentence.

12. **rarefied and meager**; What sort of atmosphere would make Mars the only planet "whose surface details can be discerned from Earth?" You need a word that means transparent or thin for the blank. Viscous takes you in the wrong direction, so toss it. The next choice, ossified, makes no sense; toss that one, too. In contrast, rarefied works well, so hang onto it. Meanwhile, a copious atmosphere would definitely not be easy to see through, so cross out that choice. Meager fits nicely and agrees with rarefied, making those two the best answers.

13. **adversity and tribulation**; The clue is "Using the hardships of the Joad family as a model." Recycle hardships, and use POE. Does reticence mean hardships? No; cross it out. Adversity works, so leave it. Do the same for the remaining choices. Only tribulation agrees with hardships, so that's the other correct answer.

14. **a venerable and an august**; The blank is a description of the pyramid. The clue is “imposing structure” because this is the only other description of the pyramid. Venerable and august are the only words that match imposing.

15. **noisome and mephitic**; The word that fills the blank must describe “the stench of the livestock,” which is so malodorous that it drives the newcomers back to the city; it must mean something like, well, stinky! Both **noisome** and **mephitic** are appropriate choices. The other words don’t work; if you were tempted by olfactory, realize that it simply means “related to the sense of smell” and does not actually describe a particular scent.

16. **B**; Answer choice (B) correctly sums up the purpose of the passage: It explores the significance—the creation of a military aristocracy and chivalric culture—of a technological innovation—the stirrup. Choice (A) is incorrect because nothing in the passage suggests that this discussion has a basis in recent discovery. Answer choice (C) is too broad for the limited subject matter discussed. Choice (D) is too extreme. Answer choice (E) is incorrect because the physics, while important in connecting the stirrup to its social effects, isn’t really the point of the passage—and, in any event, the physics relates to cavalry, not artillery.

17. **E**; Answer choice (E) is supported by the passage because the sixth sentence suggests that the development of the barbed lance serves as an “unusually clear” marker. Choice (A) is incorrect because no additional subjects for research are brought up in the passage. Choices (B) and (C) require comparisons beyond the scope of the information in the passage: No other technology, ancient or medieval, was discussed. Answer choice (D), finally, is an extreme overstatement: Although the stirrup increased the military value of the horse, nowhere is it suggested that it had previously been considered militarily insignificant.

18. **“Stirrups unify lance, rider, and horse into a force capable of unprecedented violence.”**; In this sentence, the author says that stirrups improve the ability of a lance and rider. This is an improvement on the issues discussed earlier when the author states that a “lance couched under the rider’s arm, unifying the force of rider and weapon, would throw its wielder backwards off the horse at impact.”

19. **D**; Choice (D) describes the organization of the passage. Answer choice (A) can be eliminated because the traditional definition is never amended. Answer choice (B) can be eliminated because the authorities do not support the traditional theory. Answer choice (C) can be eliminated because no new definition is proposed. Answer choice (E) can be eliminated because the “implications of the experiment” are not rejected.

20. **A and B**; The author’s dismissal of the traditional definition of randomness rests upon the premises that the results of the same probabilistic mechanism will all have the same likelihood of occurring, and, as such, should be considered equally probable. The passage never mentions how the results of different probabilistic mechanisms relate to each other, so eliminate choice (C).