

GMAT Sample Tests: Answers with Complete Explanations

We offer a full verbal test, including 10 critical reasoning questions, 16 sentence correction questions, and 15 reading comprehension questions. Also included are answers with complete explanations.

Questions 1- 8 are based on the following passage.

- "I want to criticize the social system, and to show it at work, at its most intense." Virginia Woolf's provocative statement about her intentions in writing *Mrs. Dalloway* has regularly been ignored by the critics, since it highlights an aspect of her literary interests very different from the traditional picture of the "poetic" novelist concerned with examining states of reverie and vision and with following the intricate pathways of individual consciousness. But Virginia Woolf was a realistic as well as a poetic novelist, a satirist and social critic as well as a visionary: literary critics' cavalier dismissal of Woolf's social vision will not withstand scrutiny.

- In her novels, Woolf is deeply engaged by the questions of how individuals are shaped (or deformed) by their social environments, how historical forces impinge on people's lives, how class, wealth, and gender help to determine people's fates. Most of her novels are rooted in a realistically rendered social setting and in a precise historical time.

- Woolf's focus on society has not been generally recognized because of her intense antipathy to propaganda in art. The pictures of reformers in her novels are usually satiric or sharply critical. Even when Woolf is fundamentally sympathetic to their causes, she portrays people anxious to reform their society and possessed of a message or program as arrogant or dishonest, unaware of how their political ideas serve their

own psychological needs. (Her Writer's
(40) Diary notes: "the only honest people
are the artists," whereas "these social
reformers and philanthropists...harbor...
discreditable desires under the disguise
of loving their kind....") Woolf detested
(45) what she called "preaching" in fiction,
too, and criticized novelist D.H.Lawrence
(among others) for working by this method.

Woolf's own social criticism is
expressed in the language of observation
(50) rather than in direct commentary, since
for her, fiction is a contemplative, not
an active art. She describes phenomena
and provides materials for a judgment
about society and social issues; it is
(55) the reader's work to put the observations
together and understand the coherent
point of view behind them. As a moralist,
Woolf works by indirection, subtly under—
mining officially accepted mores, mocking,
(60) suggesting, calling into question, rather
than asserting, advocating, bearing
witness: hers is the satirist's art.

Woolf's literary models were acute
social observers like Checkhov and
(65) Chaucer. As she put it in The Common
Reader. "It is safe to say that not a
single law has been framed or one stone
set upon another because of anything
Chaucer said or wrote; and yet, as we
(70) read him, we are absorbing morality at
every pore." Like Chaucer, Woolf chose
to understand as well as to judge, to
know her society root and branch—a
decision crucial in order to produce art
(75) rather than polemic.

1. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?

- (A) Poetry and Satire as Influences on the Novels of Virginia Woolf
- (B) Virginia Woolf: Critic and Commentator on the Twentieth-Century Novel
- (C) Trends in Contemporary Reform Movements as a Key to Understanding Virginia Woolf's Novels
- (D) Society as Allegory for the Individual in the Novels of Virginia Woolf
- (E) Virginia Woolf's Novels: Critical Reflections on the Individual and on Society

Explanation:

This question asks you to identify the most appropriate title for the passage. You should consider the passage as a self-contained unit, not as part of a larger work. E is the correct answer. The topics of the passage is Woolf's novels, and the author emphasizes that the novels contain observations concerning "how individuals are shaped (or deformed) by their social environments" (lines 20-22).

2. In the first paragraph of the passage, the author's attitude toward the literary critics mentioned can best be described as

- (A) disparaging
- (B) ironic
- (C) factious
- (D) skeptical but resigned
- (E) disappointed but hopeful

Explanation:

The literary critics discussed in the first paragraph ignored Woolf's intention to criticize society and saw her as a "poetic" novelist unconcerned with the real world. This question asks you to identify the tone of the remarks made by the author of the passage concerning this assessment of Woolf's work. A is the correct choice. The author's characterization of the critics' assessment as "cavalier" (line 16) can be described as "disparaging"

3. It can be inferred from the passage that Woolf chose Chaucer as a literary model because she believed that

- (A) Chaucer was the first English author to focus on society as a whole as well as on individual characters
- (B) Chaucer was an honest and forthright author, whereas novelists like D, H, Lawrence did not sincerely wish to change society
- (C) Chaucer was more concerned with understanding his society than with calling its accepted mores into question
- (D) Chaucer's writing was greatly, if subtly, effective in influencing the moral attitudes of his readers
- (E) her own novels would be more widely read if, like Chaucer, she did not overtly and vehemently criticize contemporary society

Explanation:

The author discusses Woolf's literary models, emphasizing Chaucer, in the last paragraph. The reason why Woolf chose Chaucer as her model is not directly stated in the passage but must be inferred from the information there. D is the correct answer. Line 61 indicates that Woolf's work as a moralist is subtle and done "by indirection." Woolf's statement that readers absorb morality at every pore despite the fact that no laws were changed because of Chaucer indicates that she believed Chaucer's influence to be subtle. Therefore, it is likely that it was Chaucer's subtle effectiveness that led Woolf to choose him as a model.

4. It can be inferred from the passage that the most probable reason Woolf realistically described the social setting in the majority of her novels was that she

- (A) was aware that contemporary literary critics considered the novel to be the most realistic of literary genres
- (B) was interested in the effect of a person's social milieu on his or her character and actions
- (C) needed to be as attentive to detail as possible in her novels in order to support the arguments she advanced in them
- (D) wanted to show that a painstaking fidelity in the representation of reality did not in any way hamper the artist
- (E) wished to prevent critics from charging that her novels were written in an ambiguous and inexact style

Explanation:

In lines 25-28, the author states that Woolf's novels presented social settings realistically. The question asks why Woolf did so. B is the best answer. In lines 19-22, Woolf's interest in the effect of social environment on the individual is described. The juxtaposition of these lines with the statement in lines 25-28 strongly suggests that Woolf realistically described social settings because she was interested in their effect on character.

5. Which of the following phrases best expresses the sense of the word "contemplative" as it is used in line 51 of the passage?

- (A) Gradually elucidating the rational structures underlying accepted mores
- (B) Reflecting on issues in society without prejudice or emotional commitment
- (C) Avoiding the aggressive assertion of the author's perspective to the exclusion of the reader's judgment
- (D) Conveying a broad view of society as a whole rather than focusing on an isolated individual consciousness
- (E) Appreciating the world as the artist sees it rather than judging it in moral terms

Explanation:

This question refers you to line 54 of the passage so that you can evaluate the context in which the author uses the word "contemplative." You are to choose the definition of "contemplative" that is closest in meaning to the use of the word in that context. C is the best answer. Lines 51-55 suggest that a contemplative art is expressed indirectly, rather than by "aggressive assertion." Lines 57-60 point out that Woolf, as a contemplative novelist, encourages readers to make their own judgements.

6. The author implies that a major element of the satirist's art is the satirist's

- (A) consistent adherence to a position of lofty disdain when viewing the foibles of humanity
- (B) insistence on the helplessness of individuals against the social forces that seek to determine an individual's fate
- (C) cynical disbelief that visionaries can either enlighten or improve their societies
- (D) fundamental assumption that some ambiguity must remain in a work of art in order for it to reflect society and social mores accurately
- (E) refusal to indulge in polemic when presenting social mores to readers for their scrutiny

Explanation:

This question asks you to identify an element that the author thinks is important in the satirist's art. The

colon in line 65 indicates that the information in lines 61-65 describing Woolf's work leads to the statement, "hers is the satirist's art." This statement indicates that conclusions about Woolf's work as a satirist can lead you to conclusions about the art of satirists in general. E is the correct answer. Lines 61-65 describe Woolf's satirical art as providing the materials for judgments about mores in an indirect, subtle, and nonassertive way, that is, in a nonpolemical way.

7. The passage supplies information for answering which of the following questions?

- (A) Have literary critics ignored the social criticism inherent in the work of Chekhov and Chaucer?
- (B) Does the author believe that Woolf is solely an introspective and visionary novelist?
- (C) What are the social causes with which Woolf shows herself to be sympathetic in her writings?
- (D) Was D. H. Lawrence as concerned as Woolf was with creating realistic settings for his novels?
- (E) Does Woolf attribute more power to social environment or to historical forces as shapers of a person's life?

Explanation:

This question asks you to determine which of the questions given can be answered using the information in the passage. To make this determination, you must first attempt to answer each question using only the information presented by the author. B is the correct answer. The answer to the question is "No". In lines 13-15, the author characterizes Woolf as realistic and satirical as well as introspective and visionary.

8. One of the truisms of the advertising industry is that it is rarely necessary to say something of substance in an advertisement in order to boost sales. Instead, one only needs to attract the potential customer's attention; memory does the rest, for it is more important for sales that people know of a product than that they know something about it.

Which of the following is assumed by the argument?

- A. People can remember a product without having much information about it.
- B. Advertisements, in their own way, function to improve people's memories.
- C. Attracting a potential customer's attention is a simple matter.
- D. The advertising industry knows little of substance about the products it promotes.
- E. Advertisements seldom tell the truth about a product.

Explanation:

The passage discusses how advertising usually need only draw people's attention to a product and need not provide any substance for people to remember the product. Thus, the passage implies that people can remember a product without having much information about it, and A is the correct answer.

B is incorrect. The passage suggests that if advertisements draw people's attention to a product, the people are more apt to remember the product. The advertisement is not said to improve people's memories, only to draw people's attention so they will use their existing memories.

C is also incorrect. The passage says that all one usually needs to do is attract a potential customer's attention. It does not say how easy or difficult that is.

The fourth answer choice is incorrect. The passage says that it is rarely necessary to say something of substance in an advertisement but does not suggest that the advertising industry knows little of substance about the product.

The last answer choice is incorrect. The passage does not suggest that advertisements make false claims about products.

9. The company announced that its profits declined much less in the second quarter than analysts had expected it to and its business will improve in the second half of the year.

- (A) had expected it to and its business will improve
- (B) had expected and that its business would improve
- (C) expected it would and that it will improve its business
- (D) expected them to and its business would improve
- (E) expected and that it will have improved its business

B, the best choice, avoids errors of agreement, correctly uses the parallel construction that x and that y, and uses would rather than will to refer to a promised but uncertain future event. In A and C, singular it after expected has no grammatical referent: its antecedent cannot be The company, but rather must be the plural profits. Choices A and C also contain errors of verb form, using will where would is required. Choices A and D fail to maintain parallel structure: properly formed, the construction would have that after expected to parallel that after announced. Furthermore, in D, the addition of them to is unnecessary. Choice E illogically uses the future perfect will have improved to suggest completion of an action that will be continuous in the second half of the year.

Directions: For each question, select the best of the answer choices given. (Critical Reasoning)

10. Why save endangered species? For the general public, endangered species appear to be little more than biological oddities. A very different perception is gained from considering the issue of extinction in a wider context. The important point is that many major social advances have been made on the basis of life forms whose worth would never have been perceived in advance. Consider the impact of rubber-producing plants on contemporary life and industry: approximately two-thirds of the world's rubber supply comes from rubber producing plants and is made into objects as diverse as rubber washers and rubber boots.

The point of the passage is made chiefly by

- A. acknowledging the validity of two opposing points of view
- B. appealing to the emotions of the audience rather than to their intellects
- C. suggesting a useful perspective for viewing the question raised at the beginning of the passage
- D. trying to discredit the view of an opponent without presenting an alternative hypothesis
- E. generalizing from similar to dissimilar cases.

Explanation: The passage suggests that considering the possibility of extinction with an eye toward the possible utility of a previously unvalued species will lead to a different answer to the question than considering the possibility of extinction from a more general perspective. C describes the author's procedure of suggesting a new perspective and is thus the correct answer.

The first choice is incorrect. The author argues that it is important to preserve endangered species without endorsing any opposing point of view. The view attributed to the general public is not accepted; rather, an argument is given to show what that view misses. B is incorrect. The author uses an approach that is primarily factual, and does not seek to arouse the emotions of its audience. D is also incorrect. The author tries to undermine an opposing position by presenting an alternative to it. The last answer choice

is incorrect. The generalization about the potential value of life forms whose value was not perceived in advance is supported by an example of a similar case, namely that of rubber plants.

11. The gyrfalcon, an Arctic bird of prey, has survived a close brush with extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than when the use of DDT was sharply restricted in the early 1970's.

- (A) extinction; its numbers are now five times greater than
- (B) extinction; its numbers are now five times more than
- (C) extinction, their numbers now fivefold what they were
- (D) extinction, now with fivefold the numbers they had
- (E) extinction, now with numbers five times greater than

A, the best choice, uses a singular pronoun, its, to refer to the singular antecedent The gyrfalcon, and it properly uses the construction its numbers are now ... greater than. In B, the construction its numbers are ... more is not idiomatic: there are more birds, but not more numbers. Choices C and D use a plural pronoun, their or they, to refer to a grammatically singular antecedent, The gyrfalcon. Choices D and E wrongly use a phrase introduced by now with to modify The gyrfalcon. In both choices, the phrase confusingly seems to parallel with extinction; a new clause with a present tense verb is needed to state what the gyrfalcon's numbers are now.

Directions: For each question, select the best of the answer choices given. (Critical Reasoning)

12. Only a member of the Regionalist party would oppose the bill for a new recycling law that would protect the environment from industrial interests. Ellen cannot be a member of the Regionalist party because she supports the bill.

Which of the following statements points out why the conclusion is invalidly drawn?

- A. Regionalist party members have organized to oppose industrial interests on several other issues.
- B. Industrial interests need not oppose the protection of the environment.
- C. Past attempts to protect the environment through recycling laws have failed.
- D. It is possible that some Regionalist party members may not oppose the bill for a new recycling law.
- E. Ellen has attended programs and distributed literature prepared by the Regionalist party.

Explanation:

The fact that only a member of the Regionalist party would oppose the bill does not imply that all members of the Regionalist party would oppose the bill. Based on the initial statement, Ellen may or may not be a member of the Regionalist party if she supports the bill. For the conclusion to be valid, the initial statement would have to read, "All members of the Regionalist party would oppose the bill for a new recycling law..." Thus, the choice of D makes the relevant logical point.

The first three answer choices are incorrect. Each presents at best a piece of background information without being specifically related to the question of whether all Regionalist party members would oppose the bill. The last answer choice is also incorrect. Ellen's attending programs and distributing literature prepared by the Regionalist party might appear to make it likely that the conclusion is false. But suggesting that the conclusion might be false does not help show why the conclusion is invalidly drawn.

13. Three out of every four automobile owners in the United States also own a bicycle.

- (A) Three out of every four automobile owners in the United States also own a bicycle.

- (B) Out of every four, three automobile owners in the United States also owns a bicycle.
- (C) Bicycles are owned by three out of every four owners of automobiles in the United States.
- (D) In the United States, three out of every four automobile owners owns bicycles.
- (E) Out of every four owners of automobiles in the United States, bicycles are also owned by three.

A, the best choice, is concise, idiomatic, and maintains subject-verb agreement. In B, Out of every four, three is unidiomatic. The singular verb owns does not agree with its plural subject, three ... owners. The passive construction in C (Bicycles are owned by) is cumbersome and does not contribute meaningfully to the sentence. The shift to plural Bicycles detracts from clarity by suggesting that multiple bicycles are owned by each person in question. In D, the singular owns does not agree with its plural subject three... owners. Furthermore, the plural bicycles detracts from clarity by suggesting that multiple bicycles are owned by each person in question. In E, the phrase beginning Out of every four ... cannot properly modify bicycles, and the passive construction (bicycles are also owned) is awkward and does not contribute meaningfully to the sentence. The plural nouns bicycles and automobiles suggest imprecisely that each person owns more than one of each.

14. Analysts blamed May's sluggish retail sales on unexciting merchandise as well as the weather, colder and wetter than was usual in some regions, which slowed sales of barbecue grills and lawn furniture.

- (A) colder and wetter than was usual in some regions, which slowed
- (B) which was colder and wetter than usual in some regions, slowing
- (C) since it was colder and wetter than usually in some regions, which slowed
- (D) being colder and wetter than usually in some regions, slowing
- (E) having been colder and wetter than was usual in some regions and slowed

Choice B is the best answer. It is concise and idiomatic, and which has a clear referent, the weather. In A, the insertion of was is unnecessary, and the referent of which is not clear because regions, not weather, is the nearest noun. In C, the adjective usual is needed in place of the adverb usually, and the referent of which is unclear because regions, not weather, is the nearest noun. In D and E, the verb phrases (being colder ..., having been colder ...) do not refer as clearly to the noun weather as the pronoun which does. Choice D needs the adjective usual in place of the adverb usually, while choice E fails to maintain parallelism in verb tense (having been... and slowed).

Questions 15- 18 are based on the following passage.

- It is a popular misconception that nuclear fusion power is free of radioactivity; in fact, the deuterium-tritium reaction that nuclear
- (5) scientists are currently exploring with such zeal produces both alpha particles and neutrons, (The neutrons are used to produce tritium from a lithium blanket surrounding the reactor.) Another common
- (10) misconception is that nuclear fusion power is a virtually unlimited source of

energy because of the enormous quantity of deuterium in the sea. Actually, its limits are set by the amount of (15) available lithium, which is about as plentiful as uranium in the Earth's crust. Research should certainly continue on controlled nuclear fusion, but no energy program should be premised (20) on its existence until it has proven practical. For the immediate future, we must continue to use hydroelectric power, nuclear fission, and fossil fuels to meet our energy needs. The energy (25) sources already in major use are in major use for good reason.

15. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) criticize scientists who believe that the deuterium-tritium fusion reaction can be made feasible as an energy source
- (B) admonish scientists who have failed to correctly calculate the amount of lithium
- (C) defend the continued short-term use of fossil fuels as a major energy source
- (D) caution against uncritical embrace of nuclear fusion power as a major energy source
- (E) correct the misconception that nuclear fusion power is entirely free of radioactivity

Explanation:

This question asks you to determine the primary purpose of the passage. In order to do this, you must take into account all of the information in the passage. D is the best answer. The author mentions several reasons why nuclear fusion should not be accepted as a major source of energy at this time and recommends continued critical evaluation of its potential.

16. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following about the current state of public awareness concerning nuclear fusion power?

- (A) The public has been deliberately misinformed about the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear fusion power.
- (B) The public is unaware of the principal advantage of nuclear fusion over nuclear fission as an energy source.
- (C) The public's awareness of the scientific facts concerning nuclear fusion power is somewhat distorted and incomplete.
- (D) The public is not interested in increasing its awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear fusion power.
- (E) The public is aware of the disadvantages of nuclear fusion power but not of its advantages.

Explanation:

This question asks you to use the specific statements made in the passage to determine what the author

believes about public awareness of nuclear fusion power. C is the correct answer. The author specifically mentions two misconceptions about nuclear fusion that he believes are generally held, indicating that he believes that people's knowledge of the scientific facts is incomplete.

17. The passage provides information that would answer which of the following questions?

- (A) What is likely to be the principal source of deuterium for nuclear fusion power?
- (B) How much incidental radiation is produced in the deuterium-tritium fusion reaction?
- (C) Why are scientists exploring the deuterium-tritium fusion reaction with such zeal?
- (D) Why must the tritium for nuclear fusion be synthesized from lithium?
- (E) Why does the deuterium-tritium reaction yield both alpha particles and neutrons?

Explanation:

This question asks you to determine which of the questions given can be answered using the information in the passage. To make this determination, you must first attempt to answer each question using only the information presented by the author. A is the correct answer. The answer to the question posed in this choice is "the sea." The passage states that it is commonly believed that there is an enormous quantity of deuterium in the sea; the author does not deny this.

18. Which of the following statements concerning nuclear scientists is most directly suggested in the passage?

- (A) Nuclear scientists are not themselves aware of all of the facts surrounding the deuterium-tritium fusion reaction.
- (B) Nuclear scientists exploring the deuterium-tritium reaction have overlooked key facts in their eagerness to prove nuclear fusion practical.
- (C) Nuclear scientists may have overestimated the amount of lithium actually available in the Earth's crust.
- (D) Nuclear scientists have not been entirely dispassionate in their investigation of the deuterium-tritium reaction.
- (E) Nuclear scientists have insufficiently investigated the lithium-to-tritium reaction in nuclear fusion.

Explanation:

The author mentions nuclear scientists only once, near the beginning of the passage. This question asks you to determine what the passage most directly suggests about them. D is the correct answer. The author's statement that scientists are studying the deuterium-tritium reaction with "zeal" suggests that he believes that they are not dispassionate.

19. Balding is much more common among White males than males of other races.

- (A) than
- (B) than among
- (C) than is so of
- (D) compared to
- (E) in comparison with

B, the best choice, correctly uses the idiomatic construction more common among x than among y. In A, the comparison is not parallel and not clear; one illogical but available reading is that balding is more

common among White males than are males of other races. To be clear, the sentence should read more common among White males than among In C, the phrase is so cannot refer to the process Balding, and more common among ... than is so lacks parallelism. In D and E, the phrases more common... compared to and more common ... in comparison with are redundant and unidiomatic. The correct form is more common than.

20. The bank holds \$3 billion in loans that are seriously delinquent or in such trouble that they do not expect payments when due.

- (A) they do not expect payments when
- (B) it does not expect payments when it is
- (C) it does not expect payments to be made when they are
- (D) payments are not to be expected to be paid when
- (E) payments are not expected to be paid when they will be

Choice C, the best answer, expresses its meaning clearly and directly, with subject-verb agreement throughout. Choice A is incorrect: although in some dialects of English a bank is treated as a plural entity, in this case The bank holds clearly establishes that bank is grammatically singular, and thus it cannot be referred to with the plural pronoun they. Furthermore, the structure of they do not expect payments when due makes the modification of due unclear. In B, it correctly refers to the singular bank, but payments when it is due introduces an agreement error between plural payments and singular it. In D and E, the use of the passive (payments are not... expected to be paid) does not contribute meaningfully to the sentence and thus is unwarranted, while payments... to be paid is redundant and unidiomatic. Also, are not to be in D and will be in E inappropriately shift action to the future.

Directions: For each question. select the best of the answer choices given. (Critical Reasoning)

21. Roberta was born in 1967, and so in 1976 she was nine years old. It is clear from this example that the last two digits of a person's birth year will be the same as the last two digits of the year of that person's ninth birthday, except that the position of the digits will be reversed.

Which of the following is the best criticism of the assertions made?

- A. The generalization is valid only for those birth years that do not end in two zeroes.
- B. The example does not exhibit the same principle as is expressed in the generalization based on it.
- C. The generalization is valid only for those birth years in which the last digit is one greater than the second-to-last digit.
- D. The example cannot be shown to be correct unless the truth of the generalization is already presupposed.
- E. The generalization is valid only for those birth years in which the last digit is greater than five.

Explanation:

The generalization is only true for some birth years. A good criticism of the generalization would show when the generalization is not true. C does just that and thus is the correct answer.

A is incorrect. It is false that the generalization holds for all years that do not end in two zeros. For example, 1970 is a birth year that does not end in two zeros. However, 1970 plus nine equals 1979, and hence this is a case for which the generalization is not valid. Since this answer choice is false, it cannot be a good criticism of the assertions.

The second answer choice is also incorrect. In the example, the last two digits of the person's birth year-67-are the same as the last two digits of the year of the person's ninth birthday-76-except reversed. Thus, the example does in fact exhibit the same principle as the generalization.

The fourth answer choice is incorrect. The difference between 1976 and 1967 is nine. The correctness of the first statement depends only on this fact and the fact that Roberta was born in 1967 and was still alive in 1976. Thus, the truth of the generalization is not presupposed.

The last answer choice is also incorrect. Consider birth year 1923. a person born in 1923 would have been nine in 1932 and the generalization holds. So E is false.

22. The nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.

(A) The nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.

(B) To the historian Tacitus, the nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote two letters, being the only eyewitness accounts of the great eruption of Vesuvius.

(C) The only eyewitness account is in two letters by the nephew of Pliny the Elder writing to the historian Tacitus an account of the great eruption of Vesuvius.

(D) Writing the only eyewitness account, Pliny the Elder's nephew accounted for the great eruption of Vesuvius in two letters to the historian Tacitus.

(E) In two letters to the historian Tacitus, the nephew of Pliny the Elder wrote the only eyewitness account of the great eruption of Vesuvius.

E, the best choice, conveys its meaning clearly, without ambiguity, and uses straightforward syntax. In A, the placement of the phrase in two letters to the historian Tacitus generates ambiguity: the nonsensical suggestion is that the eruption of Vesuvius took place in the letters themselves. In B, the verb phrase that begins being the only eyewitness accounts modifies the subject of the preceding clause, suggesting nonsensically that the nephew of Pliny the Elder himself was the eyewitness accounts. Furthermore, To the historian Tacitus, the nephew... wrote two letters is unnecessarily clumsy. In C, the meaning of the sentence is unclear (The only eyewitness account of what?), the repetition of account is clumsy, and the syntax is highly convoluted (... in two letters by the nephew of Pliny the Elder writing to the historian Tacitus an account...). In D, Writing the only eyewitness account, Pliny the Elder's nephew accounted is redundant, and the placement of in two letters to the historian Tacitus generates ambiguity, suggesting under one available reading that the eruption took place in the letters.

23. In A.D. 391. resulting from the destruction of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria, later generations lost all but the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* among Greek epics, most of the poetry of Pindar and Sappho, and dozens of plays by Aeschylus and Euripides.

(A) resulting from the destruction of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria,

(B) the destroying of the largest library of the ancient world at Alexandria resulted and

(C) because of the result of the destruction of the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world,

(D) as a result of the destruction of the library at Alexandria, the largest of the ancient world,

(E) Alexandria's largest library of the ancient world was destroyed, and the result was

D, the best choice, uses the idiomatic as a result of/and conveys information unambiguously. In A, the phrase that begins resulting from cannot properly modify later generations. The word order of the largest

library of the ancient world at Alexandria generates ambiguity: one possible reading is that the ancient world was located at Alexandria. Choice B is incorrect. Although an "-ing" verb such as destroying can sometimes act as a noun, in this case the usage is strained. Again, at Alexandria is ambiguous (as in choice A). Choice B also uses resulted ungrammatically and produces a run-on sentence (In A.D. 391, the destroying... resulted and later generations lost). In C, the phrase because of the result of is unidiomatic as well as redundant. The structure of E illogically suggests that there was more than one largest library of the ancient world and that only Alexandria's was destroyed. Furthermore, the result was should instead be the result was that.

24. Scientists believe that unlike the males of most species of moth, the male whistling moths of Nambung, Australia, call female moths to them by the use of acoustical signals, but not olfactory ones, and they attract their mates during the day, rather than at night.
- (A) by the use of acoustical signals, but not olfactory ones, and they attract
(B) by the use of acoustical signals instead of using olfactory ones, and attracting
(C) by using acoustical signals, not using olfactory ones, and by attracting
(D) using acoustical signals, rather than olfactory ones, and attract
(E) using acoustical signals, but not olfactory ones, and attracting

Choice D, the best answer, is concise, maintains parallel structure, and clearly conveys the comparisons being made between the two types of moth. In A and E, the comparison between most male moths and the male whistling moth is not clear. The use of but not does not clearly convey that most other moths use olfactory signals; rather than would be preferable, as well as parallel to rather than at night. In A, the phrase by the use of is unnecessarily wordy, and the insertion of they is not required. In E, the final verb should be attract (parallel to call), not attracting (parallel to using). Choice B violates parallelism with by the use of... instead of using, as well as with call... and attracting. Choice C distorts the meaning of the original with its suggestion that male whistling moths call female moths to them both by using acoustical signals and by attracting their mates during the day. The insertion of using in not using olfactory ones is unnecessary.

Directions: For each question, select the best of the answer choices given. (Critical Reasoning)

25. The state with the greatest fraction of its population in urban areas, if the urban areas are considered to include the suburbs, is California. The West is highly urbanized, but California is exceptional even in that region: 91 percent of its population lives in urban areas. Geographically, however, California is rural: 96 percent of its land is outside urban areas.

If all of the statements are true, which of the following is best supported on the basis of them?

- A. No state has a smaller fraction of its population in rural areas than California has.
B. The current rate of population growth in California's urban areas exceeds that current rate of population growth in California's rural areas.
C. In California 96 percent of the population lives on 9 percent of the land.
D. No state has a smaller area devoted to urban settlement than California has.
E. California's population density is among the highest of all states in the United States.

The passage states that of all the states, California has the greatest fraction of its population (91 out of 100) living in urban areas. That means only 9 out of every 100 California residents live in rural areas. The

greatest fraction of any other states' population living in urban areas, to be smaller than California's fraction, must be 90 or fewer out of every 100. That means that, in every other state, 10 or more out of every 100 residents live in rural areas. Since 9 out of every 100 is smaller than 10 or more out of every 100, so A is the correct answer.

B is incorrect. In order to decide whether this statement is true, it is necessary to know about rates of population growth. No such information is provided in the passage. The third answer choice is also incorrect. Since 96 percent of the land is outside urban areas, 4 percent is inside urban areas. Thus, 91 percent of the population lives on 4 percent of the land. The fourth answer choice is incorrect. The passage does not provide enough information to determine whether this statement is true or false. No comparison is made between the amount of land area in California devoted to urban settlement and the amount of land area in other states devoted to urban settlement. E is incorrect. The passage does not provide sufficient information to determine whether this statement is true or false. Information on the actual size of the population as compared to total land area of California and other states would be necessary to make a judgment about population density in these states.

26. A ten-year comparison between the countries of Arudia and Cazonia in terms of crop yields per acre revealed that when only planted acreage is compared, Cazonian yields are equal to 68 percent of Arudian yields. When total agricultural acreage (planted acreage plus fallow acreage) is compared, however, Cazonia's yield is 114 percent of Arudia's yield.

From the information above, which of the following can be most reliably inferred about Arudian and Cazonian agriculture during the ten-year period?

- A. A higher percentage of total agricultural acreage was fallow in Arudia than in Cazonia.
- B. Arudia had more fallow acreage than planted acreage.
- C. Fewer total acres of available agricultural land were fallow in Cazonia than in Arudia.
- D. Cazonia had more planted acreage than fallow acreage.
- E. Cazonia produced a greater volume of crops than Arudia produced.

Explanation:

If crop yield per planted acre was less in Cazonia than it was in Arudia, yet crop yield per total (planted plus fallow) agricultural acreage was greater in Cazonia than it was in Arudia, there must have been a lower percentage of the total acreage that was left fallow in Cazonia than there was in Arudia. Therefore, the correct answer is A.

B is incorrect. From the information in the passage, it is impossible to tell whether Arudia had more or less fallow acreage than planted acreage. C is not correct. Since the comparisons made in the passage are based on crop yields per acre, it is impossible to tell whether there was more or less fallow acreage in Cazonia than in Arudia. D is also incorrect. From the information in the passage, it is impossible to tell whether Cazonia had more or less planted acreage than fallow acreage. The last answer choice is incorrect. Since the comparisons made in the passage are based on crop yields per acre, it is impossible to tell whether Cazonia produced a greater volume of crops than Arudia produced.

27. In the United States between 1850 and 1880, the number of farmers continued to increase, but at a rate lower than that of the general population.

Which of the following statements directly contradicts the information presented above?

- A. The number of farmers in the general population increased slightly in the thirty years between 1850 and 1880.

- B. The rate of growth of the United States labor force and the rate of growth of the general population rose simultaneously in the thirty years between 1850 and 1880.
- C. The proportion of farmers in the United States labor force remained constant in the thirty years between 1850 and 1880.
- D. The proportion of farmers in the United States labor force decreased from 64 percent in 1850 to 49 percent in 1880.
- E. The proportion of farmers in the general population increased from 68 percent in 1850 to 72 percent in 1880.

Explanation:

The passage indicates that the proportion of farmers in the general population decreased from 1850 to 1880. the fifth answer choice says exactly the opposite-that this proportion increased; therefore, it contradicts the passage and is the correct response.

A is incorrect. The passage also indicates that the number of farmers increased between 1850 and 1880, and thus agrees with this choice. B is also incorrect. The passage does not tell us about the rate of growth of the labor force. It can be inferred from the passage that the general population grew, but this choice agrees with, rather than contradicts, this conclusion. The choice of C is not the correct answer. We cannot draw any conclusions about the proportion of farmers in the labor force from the passage alone. The fourth is also incorrect. We cannot draw any conclusions about the proportion of farmers in the labor force from the passage alone.

28. The British sociologist and activist Barbara Wootton once noted as a humorous example of income maldistribution that the elephant that gave rides to children at the Whipsnade Zoo was earning annually exactly what she then earned as director of adult education for London.

- (A) that the elephant that gave rides to children at the Whipsnade Zoo was earning
- (B) that the elephant, giving rides to children at the Whipsnade Zoo, had been earning
- (C) that there was an elephant giving rides to children at the Whipsnade Zoo, and it earned
- (D) the elephant that gave rides to children at the Whipsnade Zoo and was earning
- (E) the elephant giving rides to children at the Whipsnade Zoo and that it earned

Choice A, the best answer, uses the idiomatic construction noted... that and clearly focuses on the salient information-- a comparison of annual earnings. In B, the structure of noted... that the elephant, giving rides ..., had been earning falsely implies that the reader already knows about the elephant--that is, that the existence of this particular elephant is not new information. Also, the past perfect had been improperly places the elephant's earning in the past, prior to Wootton's; consistent verb tense is needed to show that the actions are simultaneous. Choice C may be faulted for distortion of meaning and diminished clarity because it suggests that the point of Wootton's example was the elephant's very existence; comparative earnings are presented (after and) as incidental detail. Choice D is awkward and inexact; the whole circumstance that Wootton "noted" is best expressed in a clause that begins with that. Choice E does not use the idiomatic construction noted that x; therefore, and that it earned has no parallel construction to which it can be joined.

29. Five fledgling sea eagles left their nests in western Scotland this summer, bringing to 34 the number of wild birds successfully raised since transplants from Norway began in 1975.

- (A) bringing

- (B) and brings
- (C) and it brings
- (D) and it brought
- (E) and brought

Choice A is best. The "-ing" (present participle) form introduces action that is simultaneous with the action of the main clause; i.e., bringing indicates that the number of wild birds became 34 when the sea eagles left their nests. In B, there is no subject available for the singular present-tense verb brings. The subject cannot be eagles, since that noun is plural and the action of its verb left is in the past. Neither C nor D contains a grammatical referent for it. In E, the use of and brought implies two discrete actions on the part of the eagles, and thus lacks the clarity of the best answer, where bringing underscores the cause-and-effect nature of the situation.

30. According to some economists, the July decrease in unemployment so that it was the lowest in two years suggests that the gradual improvement in the job market is continuing.

- (A) so that it was the lowest in two years
- (B) so that it was the lowest two-year rate
- (C) to what would be the lowest in two years
- (D) to a two-year low level
- (E) to the lowest level in two years

E, the best choice, employs idiomatic construction and uses the precise decrease ... to the lowest level. Choices A and B are faulty in construction. The adverbial so that can modify verbs (e.g., decreased) but not nouns (e.g., the decrease). The meaning of lowest two-year rate in B is unclear; in any event the phrase distorts the intended meaning of lowest in two years. In A and B, the referent of it is unclear, as the pronoun could refer to either unemployment or decrease. Choice C improperly uses would be to describe a situation that is presented as a current and known fact. Also, there is no noun for lowest to modify; clearly "the lowest decrease" is not intended. In D, the phrase two-year low level is unidiomatic, as well as unclear in its intended meaning.

Directions: For each question, select the best of the answer choices given. (Critical Reasoning)

31. The 38 corporations that filed United States income tax returns showing a net income of more than \$ 100 million accounted for 53 percent of the total taxable income from foreign sources reported on all tax returns. Sixty percent of the total taxable income from foreign sources came from the 200 returns reporting income from 10 or more countries.

If the statements above are true, which of the following must also be true?

- A. Most of the total taxable income earned by corporations with net income above \$ 100 million was earned from foreign sources.
- B. Wealthy individuals with large personal incomes reported 47 percent of the total taxable income from foreign sources.
- C. Income from foreign sources amounted to between 53 and 60 percent of all reported taxable income.
- D. Some of the corporations with net income above \$ 100 million reported income from 10 or more countries.

E. Most of the tax returns showing income from 10 or more countries reported net income of more than \$ 100 million.

Explanation:

If 38 tax returns in one category account for 53 percent of the total taxable income from foreign sources, and if 200 tax returns in another category account for 60 percent of the same amount, then the two categories must overlap to some extent. Only if the two percentages, added together, amounted to 100 percent or less is there not necessarily any overlap. Here, the two percentages add up to 113 percent. The answer choice that expresses an overlap between the category of corporations with a net income of above \$ 100 million and that of corporations with income from 10 or more countries is D, which is thus the correct answer.

A is not correct. Whereas corporations with net incomes of above \$ 100 million account for more than half of the total taxable income from foreign sources, we cannot tell from the information given what proportion of their own total incomes from all sources is derived from incomes from foreign sources. The second answer choice is incorrect. All we can infer is that 47 percent was reported by taxpayers other than corporations with net incomes above \$ 100 million. These taxpayers could be other corporations with somewhat lower incomes. C is not the correct answer choice. The figures of 53 and 60 percent refer to percentages of total taxable income from foreign sources. Neither these nor any other figures in the passage refer to or imply any percentages of all reported taxable income. E, the last choice, is also incorrect. Since there are only 38 corporations with reported net incomes of more than \$ 100 million, but 200 taxpayers with income from 10 or more countries, at the very most somewhat less than 20 percent of those 200 taxpayers could report net incomes of more than \$ 100 million.

Questions 32- 34 are based on the following passage.

Tocqueville, apparently, was wrong. Jacksonian America was not a fluid, egalitarian society where individual wealth and poverty were ephemeral (5) conditions. At least to argues E. Pessen in his iconoclastic study of the very rich in the United States between 1825 and 1850.

Pessen does present a quantity of (10) examples, together with some refreshingly intelligible statistics, to establish the existence of an inordinately wealthy class. Though active in commerce or the professions, (15) most of the wealthy were not self-made, but had inherited family fortunes. In no sense mercurial, these great fortunes survived the financial panics that destroyed lesser ones. Indeed, in (20) several cities the wealthiest one

- percent constantly increased its share until by 1850 it owned half of the community's wealth. Although these observations are true, Pessen
- (25) overestimates their importance by concluding from them that the undoubted progress toward inequality in the late eighteenth century continued in the Jacksonian period and that the United
- (30) States was a class-ridden, plutocratic society even before industrialization.

32. According to the passage, Pessen indicates that all of the following were true of the very wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850 EXCEPT:

- (A) They formed a distinct upper class.
- (B) Many of them were able to increase their holdings.
- (C) Some of them worked as professionals or in business.
- (D) Most of them accumulated their own fortunes.
- (E) Many of them retained their wealth in spite of financial upheavals.

Explanation:

The author of the passage discusses the work of another author, Pessen. This question asks what statements the author of the passage attributes to Pessen concerning the very wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850. You are to identify the one statement that CANNOT be correctly attributed to Pessen. Therefore, you must first determine which of the statements given can be attributed to Pessen. D is the correct answer. According to the second paragraph, "most of the wealthy were not self-made, but had inherited family fortunes." Therefore, they did NOT accumulate their own fortunes.

33. The author's attitude toward Pessen's presentation of statistics can be best described as

- (A) disapproving
- (B) shocked
- (C) suspicious
- (D) amused
- (E) laudatory

Explanation:

To answer this question, you must determine the attitude of the author of the passage toward Pessen's presentation of statistics. The author of the passage discusses Pessen's statistics near the beginning of the second paragraph. He calls Pessen's statistics "refreshingly intelligible." E is the correct answer. The words "refreshingly intelligible" can be taken as praise, so "laudatory" describes the author's attitude toward Pessen's presentation of statistics.

34. Which of the following best states the author's main point?

- (A) Pessen's study has overturned the previously established view of the social and economic structure of early nineteenth-century America.
- (B) Tocqueville's analysis of the United States in the Jacksonian era remains the definitive account of this period.
- (C) Pessen's study is valuable primarily because it shows the continuity of the social system in the United States throughout the nineteenth century.
- (D) The social patterns and political power of the extremely wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850 are well documented.
- (E) Pessen challenges a view of the social and economic system in the United States from 1825 to 1850, but he draws conclusions that are incorrect.

Explanation:

This question asks you to identify the main point that the author of the passage makes. To do this, you must separate the author's description of Pessen's work and views from the author's evaluation of Pessen's work. E is the correct answer. According to the first paragraph, Pessen challenges Tocqueville's view. According to the first paragraph, Pessen challenges Tocqueville's view. According to the second paragraph, Pessen's conclusions are incorrect.

Directions: For each question, select the best of the answer choices given. (Critical Reasoning)

35. The greater the division of labor in an economy, the greater the need for coordination. This is because increased division of labor entails a larger number of specialized producers, which results in a greater burden on managers and, potentially, in a greater number of disruptions of supply and production. There is always more division of labor in market economies than in planned economies. If all of the statements given are true, which of the following must also be true?
- A. Disruptions of supply and production are more frequent in planned economies than in market economies.
 - B. There are more specialized producers in planned economies than in market economies.
 - C. The need for coordination in market economies is greater than in planned economies.
 - D. A manager's task is easier in a market economy than in a planned economy.
 - E. Division of labor functions more effectively in market economies than in planned economies.

Explanation:

C is the correct answer. If, as the first statement claims, greater division of labor entails a greater need for coordination and if, as the second statement claims, there is always more division of labor in market economies than in planned economies, then it must be true that the need for coordination in market economies is greater than in planned economies.

The first choice is incorrect. If the statements are true, then it is possible, and even expected, that disruptions of supply and production are NOT more frequent in planned economies than in market economies. The statements suggest that since there is always more division of labor in market economies than in planned economies, there is potentially a greater number of disruptions in market economies than in planned economies. B is not correct. One would expect there to be fewer, not more, specialized producers in planned economies than in market economies, other things being equal. This is because, according to the statements, there is always more division of labor in market economies than in planned economies and because increased division of labor entails a larger number of specialized

producers. The fourth answer choice is incorrect. The statement lead to the conclusion that a manager's task would be harder, not easier, in a market economy than in a planned economy. This is because the increased division of labor that exists in a market economy entails a larger number of specialized producers. The last answer choice, E is also incorrect. The statement that division of labor functions more effectively in market economies than in planned economies does not follow from the statements given. The statements imply that such effectiveness is dependent on the amount of coordination available, but no information concerning that amount is given.

36. Being a United States citizen since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee has lived in England and Canada, and first came to the United States in 1961 to study at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

- (A) Being a United States citizen since 1988 and born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee has
- (B) Having been a United States citizen since 1988, she was born in Calcutta in 1940; author Bharati Mukherjee
- (C) Born in Calcutta in 1940, author Bharati Mukherjee became a United States citizen in 1988; she has
- (D) Being born in Calcutta in 1940 and having been a United States citizen since 1988, author Bharati Mukherjee
- (E) Having been born in Calcutta in 1940 and being a United States citizen since 1988, author Bharati Mukherjee

C is best. The first clause presents its information clearly and in logical sequence. The use of a semicolon to set apart the remaining information further assists the clarity of the sentence. In A, the phrase Being... and born violates parallelism and oddly presents its information in reverse chronological order. Choice B illogically suggests that upon her birth in 1940, Mukherjee had already been a United States citizen since 1988. In D and E, the use of progressive forms (Being born, having been. Having been born, and being) implies continuous action, a notion that is not appropriate to the facts being presented. Also, these forms do not establish a logical time sequence, suggesting, for example, that Mukherjee had been a United States citizen before she lived in England and Canada and first came to the United States.

37. Initiated five centuries after Europeans arrived in the New World on Columbus Day 1992. Project SETI pledged a \$100 million investment in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

- (A) Initiated five centuries after Europeans arrived in the New World on Columbus Day 1992, Project SETI pledged a \$100 million investment in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.
- (B) Initiated on Columbus Day 1992, five centuries after Europeans arrived in the New World, a \$100 million investment in the search for -extraterrestrial intelligence was pledged by Project SETI.
- (C) Initiated on Columbus Day 1992, five centuries after Europeans arrived in the New World, Project SETI pledged a \$100 million investment in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.
- (D) Pledging a \$100 million investment in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, the . initiation of Project SETI five centuries after Europeans arrived in the New World on Columbus Day 1992.
- (E) Pledging a \$100 million investment in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence five centuries after Europeans arrived in the New World, on Columbus Day 1992, the initiation of Project SETI took place.

Choice C, the best answer, is a complete sentence, and its (initial structures correctly modify Project SETI so that there is no ambiguity regarding when events took place. Choice A is faulty because its construction illogically suggests that

Europeans arrived in the New World on Columbus Day 1992 and that Project SETI was initiated five centuries thereafter. In B, Initiated on Columbus Day ... illogically modifies a \$100 million investment, suggesting that it was the investment itself, not Project SETI, that was initiated. In D and E, the initial phrase beginning with Pledging in both cases illogically modifies the initiation of Project SETI; it is not the project's initiation, but the project itself, that pledged a certain investment. Furthermore, D is a sentence fragment, while E may be faulted for ambiguity. The phrase five centuries after could modify either Pledging or the search, and on Columbus Day 1992 could refer to the date of either the initiation of Project SETI or the arrival of Europeans in the New World.

Directions: For each question, select the best of the answer choices given. (Critical Reasoning)

38. The greatest chance for the existence of extraterrestrial life is on a planet beyond our solar system. The Milky Way galaxy alone contains 100 billion other suns, many of which could be accompanied by planets similar enough to Earth to make them suitable abodes of life.

The statement presupposes which of the following?

- A. Living creatures on another planet would probably have the same appearance as those on Earth.
- B. Life cannot exist on other planets in our solar system.
- C. If the appropriate physical conditions exist, life is an inevitable consequence.
- D. More than one of the suns in the galaxy is accompanied by an Earth-like planet.
- E. It is likely that life on another planet would require conditions similar to those on Earth.

Explanation:

In stating that planets may exist that are similar enough to Earth to make them suitable for supporting life, the author implicitly rules out planets dissimilar to Earth as likely to support life. The assumption underlying the statement is that life on another planet is likely to require conditions similar to those on Earth. Therefore, E is the correct answer.

A is not correct. The statement presupposes nothing about the appearance of extraterrestrial life. B is incorrect. The statement implies that it is relatively unlikely that life exists on other planets in our solar system, but it makes no presupposition absolutely ruling out the possibility that such life exists. The answer choice of C is incorrect. Although the statement suggests that there is the greatest chance for life when physical conditions are appropriate, it leaves open the possibility that no life will exist even with appropriate conditions. D is also incorrect. The statement says that it is possible that more than one of the suns in the galaxy is accompanied by an Earth-like planet, but it does not presuppose that there are actually any such suns.

39. The direction in which the Earth and the other solid planets --Mercury, Venus, and Mars -- spins were determined from collisions with giant celestial bodies in the early history of the Solar System.

- (A) spins were determined from
- (B) spins were determined because of
- (C) spins was determined through
- (D) spin was determined by
- (E) spin was determined as a result of

D, the best choice, is clear and concise, and uses correct subject-verb agreement. Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they use the singular verb spins for the plural subject Earth and the other solid

planets--Mercury, Venus, and Mars. Choices A and B furthermore incorrectly use the plural were, which does not agree with the singular subject The direction. To express cause, determined by is idiomatic; the prepositions from and through in A and C are not idiomatic. The phrase determined because of in B is redundant. In E, the phrase determined as a result of is redundant, awkward, and unidiomatic.

40. Thomas Eakins' powerful style and his choices of subject--the advances in modern surgery, the discipline of sport, the strains of individuals in tension with society or even with themselves--was as disturbing to his own time as it is compelling for ours.

- (A) was as disturbing to his own time as it is
- (B) were as disturbing to his own time as they are
- (C) has been as disturbing in his own time as they are
- (D) had been as disturbing in his own time as it was
- (E) have been as disturbing in his own time as

Choice B, the best answer, exhibits correct subject-verb agreement and uses appropriate verb tenses. Choices A, C, and D contain errors of agreement: the compound subject style and... choices of subject requires a plural verb and should correspond to the plural pronoun they, not it. Furthermore, C wrongly shifts to the present perfect tense (has been) to characterize something that happened in the past, while D uses the past tense was to characterize something that is happening in the present. In E, while the plural have agrees in number with the compound subject, the use of the present perfect tense (have been) is inappropriate for characterizing the effect of Eakins' work in his own time.

41. In a recent poll, 86 percent of the public favored a Clean Air Act as strong or stronger than the present act.

- (A) a Clean Air Act as strong or stronger than
- (B) a Clean Air Act that is stronger, or at least so strong as,
- (C) at least as strong a Clean Air Act as is
- (D) a Clean Air Act as strong or stronger than is
- (E) a Clean Air Act at least as strong as

E, the best choice, is concise, clear, and idiomatic. Choices A, B, C, and D may be faulted for constructions that are cumbersome, unnecessarily wordy, or unidiomatic. Choices A and D require as strong as instead of as strong. Similarly, B is missing than after stronger, and so should be as. In C and D, is should be dropped. Even with revisions, these choices are more wordy and awkward than the best answer.