

Verbal Reasoning Section 1

18 Minutes

- 1** Despite dogs' talent for detecting those high-pitched whistles that are inaudible to us, dogs' ability to locate sounds is _____ compared with ours.

(A) imprecise
(B) innate
(C) impractical
(D) inherent
(E) inexact
(F) impaired

- 2** One baffling aspect of the novel is its capacity to generate emotional power from a plot that lacks the most elementary _____: readers must accept not an occasional coincidence, but a continuous stream of them.

(A) synergy
(B) continuity
(C) naivety
(D) premise
(E) credibility

- 3** Typefaces, in one sense, are just like styles of shoes: they _____ because different people have different tastes and identities and because both creators and users value novelty for its own sake.

(A) bemuse
(B) converge
(C) proliferate
(D) abound
(E) evolve
(F) coincide

- 4** Given the important role that apologies can play in human relations and the almost daily news reports of the latest celebrity or political apology, the _____ of empirical research on the subject is surprising.

(A) weakness
(B) scarcity
(C) complexity
(D) impartiality
(E) want
(F) sophistication

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- 5 The methods for composting organic waste aim to (i) _____ nature's tendency toward decay—a process unfortunately often (ii) _____ in landfills, where organic materials are packed so tightly that they have little access to the oxygen necessary for decomposition.

(i)	(ii)
(A) obviate	(D) impeded
(B) precipitate	(E) expedited
(C) ameliorate	(F) manifested

Line (5) Researchers once widely concurred that the typical participant in the Great Migration (approximately 1910-1970), which brought vast numbers of African Americans from the southeastern United States to northern cities, was an illiterate sharecropper fleeing the rural South's distressed agricultural economy. However, researchers are increasingly recognizing that the stream of Black migrants was probably more diverse than previously supposed. Marks argues that many migrants headed north from southern towns and cities rather than from rural areas and had more extensive experience with nonagricultural employment than was typically assumed. Additional research shows that Black migrants had significantly higher levels of education than the nonmigrating southern Black population, although the migrants generally had lower levels of educational attainment than did Black populations already living in the North.

(10)

Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

- 6 The passage suggests which of the following about African Americans who migrated north during the Great Migration?
- (A) Many of them may have had employment experience that differed from what researchers once supposed was typical of Black migrants.
 - (B) Many of them attained higher levels of education once they settled in northern cities.
 - (C) Black migrants from southern towns and cities were less motivated by economic conditions than were Black migrants from rural areas of the South.
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- 7 It can be inferred that if Marks is correct, the interpretation summarized in the first sentence of the passage overlooks important facts about
- (A) the proportion of the southern Black population that lived in cities and towns
 - (B) the number of Black sharecroppers who chose to remain in the South
 - (C) the points of origin from which many Black migrants headed north
 - (D) the northern destinations where Black migrants settled after leaving the South
 - (E) the size of the southern Black population that migrated to northern states

Line (5) Potatoes are naturally rich in salicylates, substances believed to reduce the risk of heart attack. Although fried potatoes contain fats and substantially increase the risk of heart attack, boiled potatoes turned out to be prepared without any fats at all. Therefore, if what is commonly believed about salicylates is in fact true, boiled potatoes would be a useful addition to the diet of anyone who wants to reduce his or her risk of heart attack.

- 8 Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?
- (A) The only way to prepare potatoes without using harmful fats is to boil them.
 - (B) There are sufficient amounts of salicylates in fried potatoes to offset the harmful effects of the fats that fried potatoes contain.
 - (C) People who increase their consumption of boiled potatoes generally decrease their consumption of fried potatoes.
 - (D) Apart from salicylates, there are no substances in potatoes that reduce the risk of heart attack.
 - (E) The salicylates in potatoes do not break down into inactive substances at the temperatures that potatoes typically reach when they are boiled.
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Line (5) In 1755 British writer Samuel Johnson published an acerbic letter to Lord Chesterfield rebuking his patron for neglect and declining further support. Johnson's rejection of his patron's belated assistance has often been identified as a key moment in the history of publishing, marking the end of the culture of patronage. However, **patronage had been in decline for 50 years, yet would survive, in attenuated form, for another 50.** Indeed, Johnson was in 1762 awarded a pension by the Crown—a subtle form of sponsorship, tantamount to state patronage. The importance of Johnson's letter is not so much historical as emotional; it would become a touchstone for all who repudiated patrons and for all (10) who embraced the laws of the marketplace.

- 9 The author of the passage mentions Johnson's 1762 pension award in order to
- (A) reveal that Johnson remained consistent in his rebuke of Lord Chesterfield well after 1755
 - (B) provide evidence for a general trend in the latter half of the eighteenth century of private patronage's being replaced by state sponsorship
 - (C) situate the debate over the end of patronage within the wider realm of eighteenth-century economic history
 - (D) suggest that Johnson's letter to Chesterfield was noticed by the Crown only years after it was published
 - (E) emphasize that patronage still helped support Johnson's writing after his letter to Chesterfield

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10 Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted phrase in the context of the passage as a whole? (patronage had been in decline for 50 years, yet would survive, in attenuated form, for another 50)

- (A) It points out the most obvious implications of Johnson's letter to his patron.
 - (B) It suggests a motivation for Johnson's rejection of Chesterfield's patronage.
 - (C) It provides information that qualifies the assertion that Johnson's letter sharply defined the end of a publishing era.
 - (D) It provides a possible defense for Chesterfield's alleged neglect of Johnson.
 - (E) It refutes the notion the patrons are found primarily among the nobility.
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11 By the end of the 1970s, the postmodern novel had degenerated from a bold attempt to (i)_____ the conventions of traditional narrative into a literary style as (ii)_____ as any other. There are, it seems, (iii)_____ number of ways to avoid telling a straightforward story.

(i)	(ii)	(iii)
(A) refine	(D) predictable	(G) a limited
(B) perpetuate	(E) inescapable	(H) a variable
(C) subvert	(F) comprehensible	(I) an inexhaustible

12 Architecture scholar Sandy McCreery recently argued that traffic congestion, far from being a sign of urban (i)_____, is a mark of urban (ii)_____; congestion promotes contemplation of our surroundings and provides us with a shared experience, thereby fulfilling the essential task of the city.

(i)	(ii)
(A) plentitude	(D) ambition
(B) decline	(E) privation
(C) excitement	(F) health