

# **Sophomore Digital PSAT Training Packet**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the PSAT/NMQST?**

The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) or The National Merit Qualifying Scholarship Test (NMQST) is a test that helps you practice for the SAT. For Juniors, the test enables students to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship program.

### **2. How many times can I take the test?**

You can take the PSAT once a year in October as a sophomore and a junior.

### **3. What is the difference between the Digital SAT and Digital PSAT?**

The two tests are structured exactly the same. The only difference is the level of difficulty. There are two Reading and Writing Modules each containing 27 short passage questions to be completed in 32 minutes.

There are two Math modules each containing 22 questions to be completed in 35 minutes.

The difficulty of the second module will be determined by how well you do on the first module.

### **4. How do I register for the PSAT?**

All Mitty sophomores and juniors are automatically registered for the test.

### **5. Can I guess on the PSAT?**

Yes. There is no penalty for wrong answers, so do not leave a PSAT question blank!

### **6. Do colleges care about my PSAT scores?**

PSAT scores are NEVER used for college admissions. If you were recognized as a Commended or National Merit Scholar, you can report the recognition on your college applications.

### **7. How do I get my scores?**

PSAT scores are emailed in November.

## **Structure for the Digital PSAT Reading and Writing**

This section is made up of 27 short passages that can be grouped into four categories that follow a specific order.

Always look at the question first before you read the passage. This will help you strategize your approach.

### **Part 1: Reading (about 14 questions)**

The links below will connect you to Khan Academy for more information.

There are seven types of questions that tend to be in the following order:

1. [Words in Context](#)

You will read a short passage that will be missing a word or focus on a specific word.

2. [Purpose](#)

Questions tend to ask the main purpose of the overall text or the meaning of a specific sentence.

3. [Dual Texts](#)

Two short passages that tend to ask how one author might respond to another author.

4. [Main Idea](#)

The question will ask what is the main idea of the text or the main idea about a specific sentence.

5. [Claims](#)

After reading the passage, questions will range from asking which lines from a poem best support the passage or which answer best supports the passage.

6. [Chart/Graph](#)

Questions will ask you to interpret a chart or graph.

7. [Conclusion](#)

You will need to select the best answer to complete the passage.

**Part 2: [Grammar](#)/ [Punctuation](#) (about 14 questions)**

This section will have short passages missing a segment. The answer choices are about the proper use of grammar and punctuation. You will know when you reach this section since every question will state the following: *“Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?”*

**Part 3: [Transitions](#) (about 3 questions)**

The reading passage will have a segment missing and you will be asked to select the most logical transitions that unites the two parts.

**Part 4: [Bullet Point List](#) (about 3 questions)**

A list of bullet points will be followed by a question that will ask you to synthesize the information in some fashion.

So let’s look at examples of the above types.

## Sample Questions Types

### Part 1 Reading (about 14 questions)

Seven types of questions.

#### 1. Words in Context

##### Sample 1

1

In the 1960s, Sam Gilliam, a Black painter from the southern United States, became the first artist to drape painted canvases into flowing shapes. He later explored a different style, \_\_\_ quilt-like paintings inspired by the patchwork quilting tradition of Black communities in the South.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) predicting
- B) refusing
- C) hiding
- D) creating

##### Sample 2

2

The following text is from Henry Guy Carleton's 1884 short story "The Thompson Street Poker Club."

When Mr. Tooter Williams entered the gilded halls of the Thompson Street Poker Club Saturday evening it was evident that fortune had smeared him with prosperity. He wore a straw hat with a blue ribbon, an expression of serene content, and a glass amethyst on his third finger whose effulgence irradiated the whole room and made the envious eyes of Mr. Cyanide Whiffles stand out like a crab's.

As used in the text, what does the word "smeared" most nearly mean?

- A) deceived
- B) gifted
- C) assaulted
- D) criticized

#### 2. Main Purpose

##### Sample 1

3

Early in the Great Migration of 1910–1970, which involved the mass migration of Black people from the southern to the northern United States, political activist and *Chicago Defender* writer Fannie Barrier Williams was instrumental in helping other Black women establish themselves in the North. Many women hoped for better employment opportunities in the North because, in the South, they faced much competition for domestic employment and men tended to get agricultural work. To aid with this transition, Barrier Williams helped secure job placement in the North for many women before they even began their journey.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) To introduce and illustrate Barrier Williams's integral role in supporting other Black women as their circumstances changed during part of the Great Migration
- B) To establish that Barrier Williams used her professional connections to arrange employment for other Black women, including jobs with the *Chicago Defender*
- C) To demonstrate that the factors that motivated the start of the Great Migration were different for Black women than they were for Black men
- D) To provide an overview of the employment challenges faced by Black women in the agricultural and domestic spheres in the southern United States

## Sample 2

4

How lifelike are they? Many computer animators prioritize this question as they strive to create ever more realistic environments and lighting. Generally, while characters in computer-animated films appear highly exaggerated, environments and lighting are carefully engineered to mimic reality. But some animators, such as Pixar's Sanjay Patel, are focused on a different question. Rather than asking first whether the environments and lighting they're creating are convincingly lifelike, Patel and others are asking whether these elements reflect their films' unique stories.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole?

- A) It reflects a primary goal that many computer animators have for certain components of the animations they produce.
- B) It represents a concern of computer animators who are more interested in creating unique backgrounds and lighting effects than realistic ones.
- C) It conveys the uncertainty among many computer animators about how to create realistic animations using current technology.
- D) It illustrates a reaction that audiences typically have to the appearance of characters created by computer animators.

## 3. Dual Texts

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### Text 1

What can contribute to climate change besides the already well-documented impact of human-caused, or anthropogenic, carbon dioxide production? Some scientists caution that, while long-term human impact on global temperatures cannot be understated, sudden environmental events in a specific region can have global implications that are no less critical to understand and thus must be as carefully monitored as anthropogenic events are.

### Text 2

A team of researchers led by Lilly Damany-Pearce at the University of Exeter conducted a series of satellite and surface-based observations to determine the effect of a series of Australian wildfires on the temperature of Earth's lower stratosphere. By observing photos from the satellites and inputting atmospheric data in a cutting-edge climate model, Damany Pearce and her team were able to establish a causal connection between the ignition of the wildfires and the subsequent rise in mean lower stratosphere temperature during the exact same period.

Based on the texts, how would Damany Pearce and her team most likely describe the view of the scientists presented in Text 1?

- A) It likely is only relevant to wildfires rather than other environmental events.
- B) It has merit as a viewpoint due to the evidence collected by Damany-Pearce and her team.
- C) It has dubious value even though Damany-Pearce and her team seem to have discovered corroborating evidence.
- D) It may seem appealing, but it is contradictory to Damany-Pearce and her team's findings.

#### 4. Main Idea

6

Several scholars have argued that conditions in England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries—namely, burgeoning literacy amid running conflicts between England’s Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and Danish invaders—were especially conducive to the production of the Old English epic poem *Beowulf*, and they have dated the poem’s composition accordingly. It is not inconceivable that *Beowulf* emerged from such a context, but privileging contextual fit over the linguistic evidence of an eighth- or even seventh-century composition requires a level of justification that thus far has not been presented.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A) Although there are some grounds for believing that *Beowulf* was composed between the late ninth and early eleventh centuries, advocates for that view tend to rely on evidence that has been called into question by advocates for an earlier date.
- B) Although several scholars have dated *Beowulf* to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, others have argued that doing so privileges a controversial interpretation of the social conditions of the period.
- C) Although the claim of a late ninth- through early eleventh-century composition date for *Beowulf* has some plausibility, advocates for the claim have not compellingly addressed evidence suggesting an earlier date.
- D) Although *Beowulf* fits well with the historical context of England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, it fits equally well with the historical context of England in the seventh and eighth centuries.

#### 5. Claims

7

Although most songbirds build open, cupped nests, some species build domed nests with roofs that provide much more protection. Many ecologists have assumed that domed nests would provide protection from weather conditions and thus would allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than species that build open nests do. To evaluate this assumption, a research team led by evolutionary biologist Iliana Medina analyzed data for over 3,000 species of songbirds.

Which finding from Medina and her colleagues’ study, if true, would most directly challenge the assumption in the underlined sentence?

- A) Species that build open nests tend to have higher extinction rates than species that build domed nests.
- B) Species that build open nests tend to be smaller in size than species that build domed nests.
- C) Species that build open nests tend to use fewer materials to build their nests than species that build domed nests do.
- D) Species that build open nests tend to have larger ranges than species that build domed nest.

## 6. Charts and Graphs

8

E-book Sales as a Percentage of Total Unit Sales in All Book Formats for a Large US Trade Publisher, by Genre, 2006, 2011, 2016

| Genre                       | 2006 | 2011 | 2016 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|
| science fiction and fantasy | 0.6  | 27.7 | 36.7 |
| cookbooks                   | 0    | 2.9  | 10.5 |
| travel guides               | 0    | 5.5  | 24.6 |
| romance                     | 0.3  | 40.6 | 56.2 |

E-books became an increasingly popular means of reading in the United States in the 2000s and 2010s, though that popularity was concentrated in titles that, like those in most fiction genres, are meant to be read straight through from beginning to end. For books in nonfiction genres that do not tell stories and require the reader to flip back and forth through a volume, e-books were significantly less commercially successful. This can be seen by comparing

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Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to illustrate the claim?

- A) the percentage of 2016 cookbook sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 science fiction and fantasy sales that were e-books.
- B) the percentage of 2006 romance sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 romance sales that were e-books.
- C) the percentage of 2006 romance sales that were e-books with the 2006 science fiction and fantasy sales that were e-books.
- D) the percentage of 2011 travel guide sales that were e-books with the percentage of 2016 travel guide sales that were e-books

## 7. Conclusion

9

When the Vinland Map, a map of the world purported to date to the mid-1400s, surfaced in 1957, some scholars believed it demonstrated that European knowledge of the eastern coast of present-day North America predated Christopher Columbus's 1492 arrival. In 2021, a team including conservators Marie-France Lemay and Paula Zyats and materials scientist Anikó Bezur performed an extensive analysis of the map and the ink used. They found that the ink contains titanium dioxide, a compound that was first introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. Therefore, the team concluded that \_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) mid-1400s Europeans could not have known about the eastern coast of present-day North America.
- B) the Vinland Map could not have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.
- C) mapmakers must have used titanium compounds in their ink in the 1400s.
- D) there isn't enough information to determine when the ink was created

## Part 2 Grammar / Punctuation (about 14 questions)

### Sample 1

10

The radiation that \_\_\_\_\_ during the decay of radioactive atomic nuclei is known as gamma radiation.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) occur
- B) have occurred
- C) occurs
- D) are occurring



### Sample 2

11

In the early twentieth century, Joseph Kekuku and other Hawaiian \_\_\_\_\_ in the mainland United States to the bright and lilting sound of the *kīkī kila*, or Hawaiian steel guitar. The instrument soon became a fixture in American blues and country music.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) musicians introduced audiences
- B) musicians' introduced audiences'
- C) musician's introduced audience's
- D) musicians' introduced audiences

### Part 3 Transitions (about 3 questions)

12

Phytoplankton play a crucial role in the ocean's uptake of carbon from the atmosphere. When alive, these tiny marine organisms absorb atmospheric carbon via photosynthesis. \_\_\_\_\_ after they die, the phytoplankton sink to the seafloor, where the carbon in their cells gets stored in sediment, preventing it from cycling back into the atmosphere.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) Specifically,
- B) By contrast,
- C) Then
- D) Nevertheless,

### Part 4 Bullet Points List (about 3 questions)

13

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Cities tend to have a wide range of flowering vegetation in parks, yards, and gardens.
- This vegetation provides a varied diet for honeybees, strengthening bees' immune systems.
- On average, 62.5 percent of bees in an urban area will survive a harsh winter.
- Rural areas are often dominated by monoculture crops such as corn or wheat.
- On average, only 40 percent of honeybees in a rural area will survive a harsh winter.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about honeybees. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Cities tend to have a wider range of flowering vegetation than do rural areas, which are often dominated by monoculture crops.
- B) In urban areas, over 60 percent of honeybees, on average, will survive a harsh winter, whereas in rural areas, only 40 percent will.
- C) The strength of honeybees' immune systems depends on what the bees eat, and a varied diet is more available to bees in an urban area than to those in a rural area.
- D) Honeybees are more likely to thrive in cities than in rural areas because the varied diet available in urban areas strengthens the bees' immune systems

Sample Questions Types Answer Key and Explanation

|      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. C | 10. C |
| 2. B | 7. D | 11. A |
| 3. A | 8. A | 12. C |
| 4. A | 9. B | 13. D |
| 5. B |      |       |

QUESTION 1

**Choice D** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text’s discussion of Sam Gilliam’s artworks. As used in this context, “creating” means producing or bringing something into existence. The text indicates that Gilliam is an artist who made draped canvases and, later, quilt-like paintings. This context supports the idea that Gilliam explored different styles in his art by creating special types of paintings.

**Choice A** is incorrect because the text indicates that Gilliam actually explored and pursued the creation of quilt-like paintings; he wasn’t just “predicting,” or declaring in advance, the existence of these paintings. **Choice B** is incorrect because in this context “refusing” would mean rejecting, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that Gilliam rejected his quilt-like paintings. Instead, the text indicates that he was exploring and pursuing a new art style in these paintings. **Choice C** is incorrect because in this context “hiding” would mean concealing from view, and there is nothing in the text to suggest that Gilliam attempted to conceal his quilt-like paintings. Instead, the text indicates that he was exploring and pursuing a new art style in these paintings.

QUESTION 2

**Choice B** This is a Vocabulary question, so follow the basic approach. Treat smeared as if it were a blank and highlight that Mr. Tooter Williams wore a straw hat with a blue ribbon, an expression of serene content, and a glass amethyst on his third finger. A good word for the annotation box based off this would be that fortune has “blessed” him with prosperity. Eliminate (A) because it is the opposite tone of “blessed.” Keep (B) because gifted is a good synonym for “blessed.” Eliminate (C) because assaulted is the opposite tone of “blessed.” Eliminate (D) because criticized is the opposite tone of “blessed.”

QUESTION 3

**Choice A** is the best answer because it most accurately describes the text’s purpose, which is to discuss the important role Barrier Williams played in supporting many other Black women as they relocated to the northern United States during the early years of the Great Migration. After introducing Barrier Williams, the text describes how she helped find jobs for other Black women, who in many cases relocated in search of better employment prospects than the South could offer at the time. The text indicates that by doing so, she eased these women’s transition as their circumstances changed.

**Choice B** is incorrect. Although the text mentions Barrier Williams’s work as a political activist and writer for the *Chicago Defender*, it doesn’t discuss any professional connections she made in these roles or indicate that she used any such connections in her work to secure employment for other Black women. **Choice C** is incorrect. Although the text discusses a factor that caused many women to relocate during the Great Migration, their difficulty finding employment in the South, the text doesn’t indicate that this factor motivated the start of the Great Migration. Moreover, the text doesn’t discuss the factors that motivated Black men to migrate. **Choice D** is incorrect. Although the text mentions the difficult employment prospects for Black women in the domestic and agricultural sectors in the South during the Great Migration, the text’s main purpose isn’t to provide an overview of the employment challenges Black women faced in these sectors. Rather, it provides this information to show that Barrier Williams played a crucial role in supporting many Black women who relocated to the North by helping them achieve one of their main goals, securing a job.

## QUESTION 4

**Choice A** is the best answer because it most accurately describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole. The text begins with the underlined question, “How lifelike are they?” The text then explains that many computer animators pose this question about the environments and lighting that they create for animated films, striving for realistic animation of those components even if the characters themselves aren’t portrayed in realistic terms. The focus of the text then shifts to describe how some animators strive to create environments and lighting that reflect the film’s unique stories rather than making them appear realistic. Therefore, the function of the underlined question is to reflect a primary goal that many computer animators have for certain components of the animations they produce.

**Choice B** is incorrect because, as the text makes clear, the underlined question is one posed by computer animators who wish to create realistic backgrounds and lighting effects, not by those who, instead, wish to create effects that reflect films’ unique stories and aren’t necessarily realistic; this latter group of animators is discussed later in the text. **Choice C** is incorrect. As the text explains, many computer animators strive for realistic environments and lighting, while others do not; this difference of approach relates to whether these components should be realistic, not to how realism can be achieved using current technology, and the text never suggests that animators are uncertain how to achieve it. **Choice D** is incorrect because the underlined question pertains to the perspective of computer animators, not the audience, and the text never considers audience’s reactions to characters in animated films.

## QUESTION 5

**Choice B** This is a Dual Texts question, so follow the basic approach. Highlight the view referenced in Text 1: Some scientists caution that sudden environmental events in a specific region can have global implications. Highlight what Damany-Pearce and her team in Text 2 say about the same idea or viewpoint: they were able to establish a causal connection between the ignition of the wildfires and the subsequent rise in mean lower stratosphere temperature. Write in the annotation box that the two texts “agree-Text 2 provides example of Text 1.” Eliminate (A) because only is extreme: Text 2 never states that only wildfires can affect global temperature. Keep (B) because it is consistent with the annotation. Eliminate (C) because it is Half Right: Damany-Pearce and her team have discovered corroborating evidence, so that would not make the view dubious, or doubtful. Eliminate (D) because it is also Half-Right: the theory is indeed appealing, but it is not contradictory to what Damany-Pearce and her team found.

## QUESTION 6

**Choice C** is the best answer because it most accurately states the main idea of the text. The text states that some scholars have dated the composition of *Beowulf* to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries due to the poem’s fit with that period’s historical context. The text goes on to say that while it is “not inconceivable that *Beowulf* emerged from such a context”—that is, it is possible that *Beowulf* was composed during the late ninth through eleventh centuries—there is linguistic evidence that the poem was composed earlier, in the seventh or eighth century. According to the text, favoring the historical context over the linguistic evidence requires justification that scholars have not yet supplied. In other words, the text suggests that scholars who favor the later composition date need to explain why the poem’s fit with historical context should take precedence over the linguistic evidence, but they have not yet done so. Thus, the main idea of the text is that while there is some plausibility to the later composition date, advocates for the later date have not compellingly addressed evidence suggestive of an earlier date.

**Choice A** is incorrect because the text says that scholars who date the poem to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries have failed to account for the linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed earlier, not that the evidence those scholars cite in favor of their view is unreliable or that anyone has cast doubt on that evidence. In other words, the text does not suggest that there are problems with the evidence cited by advocates of the later composition date, only that there is other evidence of an earlier composition date that those advocates need to consider. **Choice B** is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that those scholars who date the poem to the late ninth through early eleventh centuries are giving priority to a controversial view of the social conditions at that time. The text makes no reference to any controversy about how scholars interpret that historical period. Instead, the text suggests that scholars who date the poem on the basis of its fit with the historical context of England in the late ninth through early eleventh centuries have failed to account for linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed earlier. **Choice D** is incorrect because the text says nothing about how well the poem fits the historical context of England in the seventh and eighth centuries, let alone that it fits that historical

context as well as it fits the historical context of the late ninth through early eleventh centuries. Rather, the text says that there is linguistic evidence that the poem may have been composed in the seventh or eighth century.

## QUESTION 7

**Choice D** is the best answer because it presents a finding that, if true, would challenge the assumption that many ecologists have made about the connection between the building of domed nests and geographic range in songbirds. The text says that many ecologists have assumed that since domed nests provide protection from weather conditions, songbird species that build such nests should be able to have larger geographic ranges than songbird species that build open nests do. If Medina and her colleagues found that species that build open nests tend to have larger geographic ranges than species that build domed nests do, their finding would show the opposite of what the ecologists have assumed. It would therefore challenge the ecologists' assumption.

**Choice A** is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that there's a relationship between songbird species' extinction rates and their geographic ranges. The finding that species that build open nests tend to have higher extinction rates than species that build domed nests do would therefore have no clear bearing on the ecologists' assumption that domed nests allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than those of species that build open nests. **Choice B** is incorrect because nothing in the text suggests that there's a relationship between songbird species' sizes and their geographic ranges. The finding that species that build open nests tend to be smaller in size than species that build domed nests are would therefore have no clear bearing on the ecologists' assumption that domed nests allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than those of species that build open nests. **Choice C** is incorrect because although the text indicates that many ecologists have assumed that there's a connection between how songbird species build their nests and the species' geographic ranges, the text says that this assumption is based on the shape of the nests—that is, whether the nests are domed or open—not the number of materials used. The finding that species that build open nests tend to use fewer materials to build their nests than species that build domed nests do would therefore have no clear bearing on the ecologists' assumption that domed nests allow species that build them to have larger geographic ranges than those of species that build open nests.

## QUESTION 8

**Choice A** is the best answer because it uses data from the table to effectively support the claim that book genres that typically require the reader to start at the beginning of the story and read straight through are more commercially successful as e-books than other genres. For each of three years, the table presents four book genres and the percentage of total sales for each genre in e-book format. Cookbooks, a nonfiction genre, do not require the reader to read straight through. According to the table, 10.5 percent of total cookbook sales in 2016 were in the e-book format. The 2016 percentage of e-book sales was 36.7 percent in the science fiction and fantasy genre, which are typically stories read straight through from start to finish. The higher percentage of total sales of the story-based e-books in 2016 supports the claim in the text.

**Choice B** is incorrect because it compares the e-book sales of romance books in 2006 to those in 2016. Romance books are meant to be read straight through from start to finish. The text claims that books that are not stories and do not require reading straight through are not as commercially successful in e-book format as those that do. As this choice is only comparing e-book sales for one genre, it does not support the claim. **Choice C** is incorrect because both science fiction and fantasy and romance novels are fiction books meant to be read straight through from beginning to end. The text claims that books that are not stories and do not require reading straight through are less commercially successful in e-book format than those that do. As this choice does not compare e-book sales of story genres to e-book sales in genres that are not stories, it does not support the claim. **Choice D** is incorrect. Although the data in the table show that the travel guide e-books made up a greater percentage of total sales in 2016 than in 2011, this doesn't illustrate the claim in the text that e-books in nonfiction genres not meant to be read straight through are less commercially successful. The claim cannot be supported without comparing the percentage of e-book sales between fiction and nonfiction book genres from the table.

## QUESTION 9

**Choice B** is the best answer because it most logically completes the text's discussion of Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur's 2021 analysis of the Vinland Map. The text indicates that while some scholars have believed that the map was drawn in the mid-1400s, the 2021 analysis showed the presence of the compound titanium dioxide in the ink used to draw the map. The text goes on to say that titanium dioxide wasn't used to manufacture ink until the early 1900s, which means that ink containing this compound couldn't

have been available to mapmakers in the 1400s. Since mapmakers in the mid-1400s couldn't have used ink with titanium dioxide, it follows that the Vinland Map couldn't have been drawn by mid-1400s mapmakers.

*Choice A* is incorrect because the 2021 finding that the ink used to draw the Vinland Map wasn't available until the early 1900s doesn't imply that Europeans in the mid-1400s couldn't have known about the eastern coast of North America. While this finding suggests that the map couldn't have been created in the mid-1400s, it doesn't preclude the possibility that Europeans nevertheless had knowledge—and perhaps even drew other maps that are no longer in existence or are yet to be discovered by researchers—of the eastern coast of present-day North America as early as the mid-1400s. *Choice C* is incorrect because there's nothing in the text that suggests that the 2021 discovery of the presence of titanium dioxide in the ink used to draw the Vinland Map caused Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur to question or reach a new conclusion about when mapmakers began using ink containing titanium compounds. Instead, the text indicates that titanium dioxide wasn't used in ink before the early 1900s. This knowledge led the team

to conclude that the map, which was drawn with ink containing titanium dioxide, couldn't have been created in the mid-1400s. *Choice D* is incorrect because although the text doesn't indicate that Lemay, Zyats, and Bezur established an exact date for the creation of the ink that was used to draw the Vinland Map, the text does say that titanium dioxide was introduced in ink manufacturing in the early 1900s. This fact provides enough information to determine that the ink that was used to draw the map was created no earlier than the early 1900s. This finding, in turn, led the team to conclude that the Vinland Map couldn't have been drawn in the mid-1400s.

## QUESTION 10

**Choice C** is the best answer. The convention being tested is subject-verb agreement. The singular verb “occurs” agrees in number with the singular subject “radiation.”

*Choice A* is incorrect because the plural verb “occur” doesn't agree in number with the singular subject “radiation.” *Choice B* is incorrect because the plural verb “have occurred” doesn't agree in number with the singular subject “radiation.” *Choice D* is incorrect because the plural verb “are occurring” doesn't agree in number with the singular subject “radiation.”

## QUESTION 11

**Choice A** is the best answer. The convention being tested is the use of plural nouns. The plural nouns “musicians” and “audiences” correctly indicate that there were multiple musicians introducing the music to multiple audiences.

*Choice B* is incorrect because the context requires the plural nouns “musicians” and “audiences,” not the plural possessive nouns “musicians'” and “audiences'.” *Choice C* is incorrect because the context requires the plural nouns “musicians” and “audiences,” not the singular possessive nouns “musician's” and “audience's.” *Choice D* is incorrect because the context requires the plural noun “musicians,” not the plural possessive noun “musicians'.”

## QUESTION 12\*\*\*

**Choice C** is the best answer. “Then” logically signals that the event described in this sentence—carbon in phytoplankton cells being trapped in sediment after the organisms have died—occurs later in a chronological sequence than the event described in the previous sentence (phytoplankton absorbing carbon while alive).

*Choice A* is incorrect because “specifically” illogically signals that the information that follows provides specific, precise details elaborating on the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. *Choice B* is incorrect because “by contrast” illogically signals that the information that follows contrasts with the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. There is no contrast: in both life and death, phytoplankton contribute to the ocean's carbon uptake. *Choice D* is incorrect because “nevertheless” illogically signals that the information that follows is in spite of the previous information about what phytoplankton do when alive. Instead, this sentence explains what happens after phytoplankton die—a later step in the chronological sequence of events. There is no contrast: in both life and death, phytoplankton contribute to the ocean's carbon uptake.

## QUESTION 13

Choice D is the best answer because the sentence makes and supports a generalization about honeybees. It claims that honeybees living in urban areas are more likely to thrive than rural bees, and it supports the claim with information about the effect of a varied diet on urban bees' immune systems.

*Choice A* is incorrect. While the sentence makes a generalization, it doesn't mention honeybees. *Choice B* is incorrect. While the sentence provides data about honeybee survival, it doesn't make a generalization about honeybees based on this information. *Choice C* is incorrect. While the sentence makes a generalization about honeybees' diets and immune systems, it doesn't provide adequate support for this generalization.

## **Reading and Writing Department Practice**

### **Module 2 pages 16-27**

#### **English Department**

##### **Module 2**

Any question labeled **Humanities** (2, 7, 15, 29, 31) and all **Standard English** questions (19-27).

#### **Social Studies Department**

##### **Module 2**

Any question labeled **Social Studies** (1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 13, 18, 33)

#### **Science Department**

##### **Module 2**

Any question labeled **Science** (3, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 28, 30, 32)