Sophomore PSAT Training Packet

Social Studies Department Answer Key
Question 10

As used in line 10, “plot” most nearly means
(A) mark.
(B) form.
(C) plan.
(D) claim.

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Information and Ideas / Interpreting words and phrases in context
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph discusses the “vast informal economy driven by human relationships” (lines 6-7) that existed in the Soviet Union as a result of the gaps in the official economy. Lines 9-10 state that “The Soviet people didn’t plot how they would build these [social] networks.” In this context, the word “plot” means “plan”; the paragraph is implying that the informal economy grew up spontaneously, without premeditation or planning.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in this context “plot” does not mean mark, form, or claim.

Question 11

The references to the shoemaker, the programmer, and the apple farmer in lines 37-40 (“We can easily . . . community”) primarily serve to
(A) illustrate the quality of products and services in countries around the world.
(B) emphasize the broad reach of technologies used to connect people.
(C) demonstrate that recommendations made online are trustworthy.
(D) call attention to the limits of the expansion of the global economy.

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Rhetoric / Analyzing text structure
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer. The third paragraph of the passage (lines 27-46) describes how new technologies are affecting new economies, as people are using social media to vet people and businesses through eBay, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. The author uses broad examples (a business in South America, a person in Asia, and a farmer in the reader’s local community) to imply that these technologies have a global reach.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage provides no comment about the quality of products or services. Choice C is incorrect because the passage never alludes to
the trustworthiness of online recommendations. Choice D is incorrect because the idea that the new global economy will have only a limited expansion is oppositional to the passage’s main points.

Question 12

The passage’s discussion of life in the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s primarily serves to
(A) introduce the concept of social networking.
(B) demonstrate that technology has improved social connections.
(C) list differences between the Soviet Union and other countries.
(D) emphasize the importance of examining historical trends.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Rhetoric / Analyzing text structure
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. The Soviet Union of the 1960s and 1970s was most notable for the disparity between its official economy and a second, unofficial one. The author explains how unwanted items sold at state stores were not the “nice furnishings” found in people’s homes. These “nice furnishings” were a result of the Soviet Union’s unofficial economy driven by social networking, or “relationship-driven economics” (lines 16-17).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the author does not use the discussion of life in the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s to show how technology has changed social conditions, how the Soviet Union was different from other countries, or how important it is to consider historical trends.

Question 13

As used in line 45, “post” most nearly means
(A) publish.
(B) transfer.
(C) assign.
(D) denounce.

Item Difficulty: Easy
Content: Information and Ideas / Interpreting words and phrases in context
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. The third paragraph of the passage (lines 27-46) describes how new technology has impacted the economy. The author states that
people can use websites to post descriptions of projects, which means that people can write these descriptions and publish them online.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in this context “post” does not mean transfer, assign, or denounce.

**Question 14**

The author indicates that, in comparison to individuals, traditional organizations have tended to be
(A) more innovative and less influential.
(B) larger in size and less subject to regulations.
(C) less reliable and less interconnected.
(D) less efficient and more expensive.

**Item Difficulty: Medium**
*Content: Information and Ideas / Understanding relationships*
*Best Answer: D*

Choice D is the best answer. The passage explains that socially driven economies create new societies where “amplified individuals—individuals empowered with technologies and the collective intelligence of others in their social network—can take on many functions that previously only large organizations could perform, often more efficiently, at lower cost or no cost at all, and with much greater ease” (lines 66-72). It is clear from these lines that the author views some large organizations as less efficient and more expensive than individuals.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the passage offers no evidence that the author believes traditional organizations are more innovative, less regulated, or less reliable than individuals.

**Question 15**

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
(A) Lines 22-26 (“Empowered . . . connectedness”)
(B) Lines 40-42 (“We no longer . . . ideas”)
(C) Lines 47-50 (“We are moving . . . structuring”)
(D) Lines 66-72 (“amplified . . . ease”)

**Item Difficulty: Medium**
*Content: Information and Ideas / Citing textual evidence*
*Best Answer: D*
Choice D is the best answer. Lines 66-72 explain how socially driven economies are creating societies where individuals no longer rely on traditional organizations to perform specific tasks. Instead, individuals can use technology and social relationships to more efficiently perform these tasks at a lower cost.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not directly compare individuals to traditional organizations.

Question 16

The author recognizes counterarguments to the position she takes in the passage by
(A) acknowledging the risks and drawbacks associated with new technologies and social networks.
(B) admitting that some people spend too much time unproductively on the Internet.
(C) drawing an analogy between conditions today and conditions in the Soviet Union of the 1960s and 1970s.
(D) conceding that the drawbacks of socialstructing may prove over time to outweigh the benefits.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Rhetoric / Analyzing arguments
Best Answer: A

Choice A is the best answer. While the author argues throughout the passage that new technologies benefit modern economies, she also recognizes that some people believe this new technology “distances us from the benefits of face-to-face communication and quality social time” (lines 86-87).

Choice B is incorrect because the author provides no evidence of Internet overuse. Choice C is incorrect because the author provides an example of the Soviet Union of the 1960s and 1970s to explain an economic process called “socialstructing.” Choice D is incorrect because the author concludes that socialstructing may ultimately be “opening up new opportunities to create, learn, and share” (lines 91-92).
Question 17

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
(A) Lines 35-37 (“We can look . . . videos”)
(B) Lines 74-76 (“a world . . . hackers”)
(C) Lines 79-84 (“They . . . science”)
(D) Lines 85-87 (“Much . . . time”)

Choice D is the best answer as it acknowledges that people have identified some risks and drawbacks to using new technology to form social connections. Some people believe that new technology distances users from the advantages of “face-to-face communication and quality social time” (lines 86-87).

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not show that the author recognized counterarguments to her argument. Choices A and B provide examples of the impact and use of the new technologies, and choice C summarizes the benefits of social structing.

Question 18

Which statement best summarizes the information presented in the graph?
(A) Far more people around the world own computers and cell phones today than in 2005.
(B) The number of people sharing digital information has more than tripled since 2005.
(C) The volume of digital information created and shared has increased tremendously in recent years.
(D) The amount of digital information created and shared is likely to be almost 8 zettabytes in 2015.

Choice C is the best answer. The graph shows a steady increase in digital information created and shared in recent years, beginning with less than one zettabyte in 2005 and rising to nearly 8 zettabytes projected for 2015.
Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not summarize the information presented in the graph. Choices A and B provide details that, while likely true, cannot be directly inferred from the information in the graph, and choice D provides a detail from the graph but not a summary of it.

**Question 19**

According to the graph, which statement is true about the amount of digital information projected to be created and shared globally in 2012?

(A) Growth in digital information creation and sharing was projected to be wildly out of proportion to growth in 2011 and 2013E.

(B) The amount of digital information created and shared was projected to begin a new upward trend.

(C) The amount of digital information created and shared was projected to peak.

(D) The amount of digital information created and shared was projected to pass 2 zettabytes for the first time.

**Item Difficulty: Medium**

**Content: Synthesis / Analyzing quantitative information**

**Best Answer: D**

Choice D is the best answer. The graph shows that the amount of digital information projected to be created and shared in 2012 is about 2.5 zettabytes. Since the graph shows a steady increase in the creation and sharing of digital information, and the digital information created and shared in 2011 was approximately 1.75 zettabytes, the graph shows that the 2012 projections pass the 2 zettabyte barrier for the first time.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows the projected 2012 numbers to be part of a steady increase consistent with the 2011 and 2013E numbers. Choice B is incorrect because the graph projects the 2012 number to continue the increase started in 2005. Choice C is incorrect because the 2012 numbers are projected to continue increasing through at least 2015.
Choice A is the best answer because the graph shows that six of the seven bears experienced increased plasma cholesterol during hibernation; the seventh bear experienced neither an increase nor a decrease in plasma cholesterol.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they are not supported by the graph.

Question 29

Which choice best describes the structure of the first paragraph?
(A) A personal history is narrated, historical examples are given, and a method is recommended.
(B) A position is stated, historical context is given, and earnest advice is given.
(C) Certain principles are stated, opposing principles are stated, and a consensus is reached.
(D) A historical period is described, and its attributes are reviewed.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Rhetoric / Analyzing text structure
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer. In the first paragraph, Andrew Carnegie states his position that the changes in society that are occurring are “not to be deplored, but welcomed as highly beneficial” (lines 12-13). After providing historical context on the interactions between rich and poor, Carnegie concludes the first paragraph by giving earnest advice: “It is a waste of time to criticize the inevitable” (lines 27-28).

Choice A is incorrect because the first paragraph emphasizes the current realities of humanity as a whole—the very “conditions of human life” (lines 4-5)—but not any one personal history. Choice C is incorrect because the first paragraph describes the author’s personal opinion and his conclusion, not a conclusion reached by a consensus. Choice D is incorrect because the first paragraph focuses more on “our age” (line 1) than on the past.
Question 30

The author most strongly implies which of the following about “the ties of brotherhood” (line 2)?
(A) They were always largely fictitious and are more so at present.
(B) They are stronger at present than they ever were before.
(C) They are more seriously strained in the present than in the past.
(D) They will no longer be able to bring together the rich and the poor.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Information and Ideas / Reading closely
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. Carnegie states in lines 1-4 that a serious problem of his time was how to distribute wealth so that “the ties of brotherhood may still bind together the rich and poor in harmonious relationship.” In other words, he was concerned that the “ties of brotherhood” between rich and poor were not as strong as they used to be.

Choice A is incorrect because Carnegie implies that changes in modern society have negatively impacted the relationship between the rich and poor, but he does not suggest that such a relationship never existed. Choice B is incorrect because the passage implies that “the ties of brotherhood” are weaker than they were previously. Choice D is incorrect because Carnegie states that these ties continue and “may still bind together the rich and poor in harmonious relationship.”

Question 31

The author uses “dwelling, dress, food, and environment” (lines 7-8) as examples of
(A) things more valued in the present than in the past.
(B) bare necessities of life.
(C) things to which all people are entitled.
(D) possible indications of differences in status.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Rhetoric / Analyzing text structure
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer. Carnegie explains that the contrast between the rich and poor is greater than in the past: “In former days there was little difference between the dwelling, dress, food, and environment of the chief and those of his retainers...” (lines 6-9). Carnegie uses the examples of “dwelling, dress, food, and environment” to show the difference in status between the rich and the poor.
Choice A is incorrect because Carnegie does not suggest that basic necessities, like food and housing, are more valued in the present than they were in the past. Choice B is incorrect because, while these aspects of life are basic necessities, they are used here as examples of areas in which differences in status might be evident. Choice C is incorrect because Carnegie is not using these examples to suggest that “dwelling, dress, food, and environment” are things to which all people are entitled.

Question 32
The author describes the people who live in the “houses of some” (line 15) as interested in the

(A) materials from which their houses are constructed.
(B) size of their homes.
(C) advantages of culture.
(D) pedigree of their guests.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Information and Ideas / Reading closely
Best Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. In lines 14-18 Carnegie states that it is “essential, for the progress of the race that the houses of some should be homes for all that is highest and best in literature and the arts, and for all the refinements of civilization, rather than that none should be so.” Carnegie is suggesting that “houses of some” should be filled with people who care a great deal about culture, or the “highest and best in literature and the arts.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because lines 14-18 explicitly state that the people who live in the “houses of some” care a great deal about culture, not that they care about what materials their homes are made of, the size of those homes, or the pedigree of their guests.

Question 33
Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

(A) Lines 9-10 (“the palace . . . laborer”)
(B) Lines 15-16 (“all . . . arts”)
(C) Lines 18-19 (“Much . . . squalor”)
(D) Lines 19-20(“Without . . . Maecenas”)

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Information and Ideas / Citing textual evidence
Best Answer: B
Choice B is the best answer. In lines 15-16 Carnegie advocates that the “houses of some” should be filled with people who care a great deal about culture, such as “all that is highest and best in literature and the arts.”

Choices A and C are incorrect because lines 9-10 and 18-19 highlight a disparity in wealth between the rich and poor but do not specifically mention people who live in the “houses of some.” Choice D is incorrect because in lines 19-20 Carnegie is suggesting that patrons of the arts exist because of wealth.

Question 34

The author uses the phrase “good old times” (line 20) as an example of
(A) a cliché that still has life and usefulness left in it.
(B) a bit of folk wisdom from his childhood.
(C) something said by those who have acquired great riches.
(D) something said by people who do not share his viewpoint.

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Rhetoric / Analyzing word choice
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer. Carnegie uses quotation marks around the phrase the “good old times” to suggest that others refer to the past as the “good old times.” However, Carnegie states that these “‘good old times’ were not good old times. Neither master nor servant was as well situated then as to-day” (lines 20-22), which suggests that Carnegie does not believe that things were better in the past.

Choice A is incorrect because Carnegie immediately refutes the usefulness of the cliché by saying that the “‘good old times’ were not good old times.” Choice B is incorrect because the passage provides no evidence that the saying comes from Carnegie’s childhood. Choice C is incorrect because there is no evidence that the phrase the “good old times” is a cliché used by the wealthy.

Question 35

What is the author’s main point about the disadvantages of the modern economic system?
(A) It provides only a few people with the advantages of culture.
(B) It replicates many of the problems experienced in the past.
(C) It creates divisions between different categories of people.
(D) It gives certain people great material advantages over others.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Information and Ideas / Determining central ideas and themes
Best Answer: C
Choice C is the best answer. Lines 47-60 explain that by Carnegie’s time standards of living had raised significantly, and that the cost of this increase is that “All intercourse between [rich and poor] is at an end. Rigid castes are formed . . .” (lines 65-66). A disadvantage of the modern economic system, in other words, is that divisions exist between classes and types of people.

Choice A is incorrect because Carnegie says it is “essential” that some people have access to high culture (line 14). Choice B is incorrect because Carnegie argues that the “conditions of human life have not only been changed, but revolutionized, within the past few hundred years” (lines 4-6) and does not suggest that the modern economic system replicates past problems. Choice D is incorrect because Carnegie writes “Much better this great irregularity than universal squalor” (lines 18-19).

Question 36

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
(A) Lines 37-39 (“The master . . . conditions”)
(B) Lines 43-45 (“There was . . . State”)
(C) Lines 46-47 (“The inevitable . . . prices”)
(D) Lines 65-66 (“All intercourse . . . end”)

Item Difficulty: Hard
Content: Information and Ideas / Citing textual evidence
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 47-60 explain that by Carnegie’s time standards of living had raised significantly, with lines 61-62 then explaining that those increases came at a cost: “The price we pay for this salutary change is, no doubt, great.” Lines 65-66 explains what that cost, or disadvantage, is: “All intercourse between [rich and poor] is at an end.” A disadvantage of the modern economic system, in other words, is that it creates divisions between classes and types of people.

Choice A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not provide evidence that Carnegie believes there are disadvantages to the modern economic system. Choices A and B are incorrect because lines 37-39 and 43-45 explain what life was like “Formerly,” in the time of master and apprentice, before the modern economic system came to exist. Choice C is incorrect because lines 46-47 also describes a condition of a time before the modern economic system.
Question 37

As used in line 82, “in its train” is closest in meaning to
(A) before it.
(B) with it.
(C) anticipating it.
(D) advancing it.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Information and Ideas / Interpreting words and phrases in context
Best Answer: B

Choice B is the best answer. In the final paragraph of the passage, Carnegie writes of the “law of competition” (lines 76-77), explaining that the law has some costs but also provides improved living conditions for everyone “in its train.” Saying these conditions come “in the train” of the law means they accompany the law or come with it.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in this context “in its train” does not mean precede the law, predict the arrival of the law, or help advance the law.

Question 38

The author of Passage 1 suggests that the usefulness of de-extinction technology may be limited by the
(A) amount of time scientists are able to devote to genetic research.
(B) relationship of an extinct species to contemporary ecosystems.
(C) complexity of the DNA of an extinct species.
(D) length of time that a species has been extinct.

Item Difficulty: Medium
Content: Information and Ideas / Reading closely
Best Answer: D

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 9-11 explain that, although some extinct species can be brought back to life, “Only species whose DNA is too old to be recovered, such as dinosaurs, are the ones to consider totally extinct, bodily and genetically.” The determining factor is the length of time that species has been extinct.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because lines 9-11 explicitly state that only DNA that is “too old to be recovered” determines whether a species can be brought back to life, not the amount of time scientists devote to genetic research, the relationship between an extinct species and contemporary ecosystems, or how complex a species’ DNA might be.
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QUESTION 11.

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 11-12, the author introduces the main purpose of the passage, which is to examine the “different views on where ethics should apply when someone makes an economic decision.” The passage examines what historical figures Adam Smith, Aristotle, and John Stuart Mill believed about the relationship between ethics and economics.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they identify certain points addressed in the passage (cost-benefit analysis, ethical economic behavior, and the role of the free market), but do not describe the passage's main purpose.

QUESTION 12.

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 4-5, the author suggests that people object to criticizing ethics in free markets because they believe free markets are inherently ethical, and therefore, the role of ethics in free markets is unnecessary to study. In the opinion of the critics, free markets are ethical because they allow individuals to make their own choices about which goods to purchase and which goods to sell.

Choices A and B are incorrect because they are not objections that criticize the ethics of free markets. Choice C is incorrect because the author does not present the opinion that free markets depend on devalued currency.

QUESTION 13.

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 4-5, the author states that some people believe that free markets are “already ethical” because they “allow for personal choice.” This statement provides evidence that some people believe criticizing the ethics of free markets is unnecessary because free markets permit individuals to make their own choices.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence of an objection to a critique of the ethics of free markets.

QUESTION 14.

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 6-7, the author states that people “have accepted the ethical critique and embraced corporate social responsibility.” In this context, people “embrace,” or readily adopt, corporate social responsibility by acting in a certain way.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in this context “embraced” does not mean lovingly held, eagerly hugged, or reluctantly used.
QUESTION 15.

**Choice C is the best answer.** The third and fourth paragraphs of the passage present Adam Smith's and Aristotle's different approaches to defining ethics in economics. The fifth paragraph offers a third approach to defining ethical economics, how “instead of rooting ethics in character or the consequences of actions, we can focus on our actions themselves. From this perspective some things are right, some wrong” (lines 45-48).

Choice A is incorrect because the fifth paragraph does not develop a counterargument. Choices B and D are incorrect because although “character” is briefly mentioned in the fifth paragraph, its relationship to ethics is examined in the fourth paragraph.

QUESTION 16.

**Choice A is the best answer.** In lines 57-59, the author states that “Many moral dilemmas arise when these three versions pull in different directions but clashes are not inevitable.” In this context, the three different perspectives on ethical economics may “clash,” or conflict, with one another.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in this context “clashes” does not mean mismatches, collisions, or brawls.

QUESTION 17.

**Choice C is the best answer.** In lines 59-64, the author states, “Take fair trade coffee . . . for example: buying it might have good consequences, be virtuous, and also be the right way to act in a flawed market.” The author is suggesting that in the example of fair trade coffee, all three perspectives about ethical economics—Adam Smith’s belief in consequences dictating action, Aristotle’s emphasis on character, and the third approach emphasizing the virtue of good actions—can be applied. These three approaches share “common ground” (line 64), as they all can be applied to the example of fair trade coffee without contradicting one another.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not show how the three different approaches to ethical economics share common ground. Choice A simply states that there are “different views on ethics” in economics, choice B explains the third ethical economics approach, and choice D suggests that people “behave like a herd” when considering economics.

QUESTION 18.

**Choice C is the best answer.** In lines 83-88, the author states that psychology can help “define ethics for us,” which can help explain why people “react in disgust at economic injustice, or accept a moral law as universal.”
Choices A and B are incorrect because they identify topics discussed in the final paragraph (human quirks and people's reaction to economic injustice) but not its main idea. Choice D is incorrect because the final paragraph does not suggest that economists may be responsible for reforming the free market.

**QUESTION 19.**

**Choice A is the best answer.** The data in the graph show that in Tanzania between the years 2000 and 2008, fair trade coffee profits were around $1.30 per pound, while profits of regular coffee were in the approximate range of 20–60 cents per pound.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they are not supported by information in the graph.

**QUESTION 20.**

**Choice B is the best answer.** The data in the graph indicate that between 2002 and 2004 the difference in per-pound profits between fair trade and regular coffee was about $1. In this time period, fair trade coffee was valued at around $1.30 per pound and regular coffee was valued at around 20 cents per pound. The graph also shows that regular coffee recorded the lowest profits between the years 2002 and 2004, while fair trade coffee remained relatively stable throughout the entire eight-year span (2000 to 2008).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not indicate the greatest difference between per-pound profits for fair trade and regular coffee.

**QUESTION 21.**

**Choice C is the best answer.** In lines 59-61, the author defines fair trade coffee as “coffee that is sold with a certification that indicates the farmers and workers who produced it were paid a fair wage.” This definition suggests that purchasing fair trade coffee is an ethically responsible choice, and the fact that fair trade coffee is being produced and is profitable suggests that ethical economics is still a consideration. The graph's data support this claim by showing how fair trade coffee was more than twice as profitable as regular coffee.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph suggests that people acting on empathy (by buying fair trade coffee) is productive for fair trade coffee farmers and workers. Choices B and D are incorrect because the graph does not provide support for the idea that character or people's fears factor into economic choices.
QUESTION 32.

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 25-29, Burke describes the contract between a person and society as one that is “not a partnership in things subservient only to the gross animal existence of a temporary and perishable nature. It is a partnership in all science; a partnership in all art; a partnership in every virtue, and in all perfection.” Describing that contract as a partnership in all things indicates its seriousness, while describing it as not being a “temporary and perishable nature” implies its permanence.

Choice A is incorrect because line 27 states that the contract between a person and society is not “temporary or perishable,” meaning it is not brief. Choices B and C are incorrect because the passage does not compare the contracts in terms of complexity or precision.

QUESTION 33.

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 1-9, Burke explains that people have “consecrated the state” to “avoid . . . the evils of inconstancy and versatility,” and that people should examine “the faults of the state . . . with pious awe and trembling solitude.” Burke then explains that society is taught to “look with horror on those children of their country who want to hack that aged parent in pieces” (lines 10-12). Burke is arguing that children want to revise the state, or “this aged parent,” by amending its faults. In this context, “state” refers to a political entity, or government, that attempts to protect its citizens from “the evils of inconstancy and versatility.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in this context, “state” does not mean style of living, position in life, or temporary condition.

QUESTION 34.

Choice A is the best answer. In lines 17-29, Burke argues that “subordinate contracts,” are simply business agreements over traded goods, while the state is not merely “a partnership agreement in a trade . . . or some other such low concern . . . but a partnership in all science; a partnership in all art;
a partnership in every virtue, and in all perfection.” In this context, Burke is stating that the state is not a contract consisting of “low” or petty concerns.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in this context, “low” does not mean weak, inadequate, or depleted.

QUESTION 35.

Choice D is the best answer. In lines 41-43, Paine asserts that “Every age and generation must be as free to act for itself, in all cases, as the ages and generations which preceded it.” He later states that deceased citizens of a state should no longer have “any authority in directing who shall be its governors, or how its government shall be organized, or how administered” (lines 61-63). Paine doesn’t believe, in other words, that the decisions of previous generations should dictate the conditions of modern life and government.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not accurately characterize the way Paine views historical precedents.

QUESTION 36.

Choice B is the best answer. In lines 30-34, Burke describes societal contracts as long-term agreements that preserve the interests of past generations and link the living and the dead into a “partnership.” Paine, however, states that past generations have no “control” over the decisions made by living (line 71) because the dead have “no longer any participation in the concerns of this world” (lines 59-60).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not accurately characterize how Paine would respond to Burke’s claim that societal contracts link past and current generations.

QUESTION 37.

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 67-72 provide the best evidence that Paine would respond to Burke’s statement that society is a “partnership” between past and current generations (lines 30-34) with the explanation that the current generation cannot know what judgments the dead would make about contemporary issues. In these lines Paine explains: “What possible obligation, then, can exist between them; what rule or principle can be laid down, that two nonentities, the one out of existence, and the other not in, and who never can meet in this world, that the one should control the other to the end of time?”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the lines cited do not provide the best evidence that Paine would respond to Burke’s statement that society is a “partnership” between past and current generations (lines 30-34) by arguing that the current generation cannot know what judgments the dead would make about contemporary issues.
QUESTION 38.

Choice D is the best answer. Paine concludes Passage 2 with the argument that because social issues change over time, the living should not try to adhere to decisions made by former generations (lines 73-80). Burke, however, states that living citizens exist within a “universal kingdom” (line 35) comprised of the living, the dead, and those who are not yet born. Burke argues that the living do not have the right to change their government based on “their speculations of a contingent improvement” (lines 36-37). Therefore, Burke would disapprove of Paine’s concluding argument, as he believes the living do not have sufficient justification for changing the existing governmental structure.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because they do not accurately describe how Burke would likely have responded to Paine’s remarks in the final paragraph of Passage 2.

QUESTION 39.

Choice D is the best answer. Lines 34-38 provide the best evidence that Burke would disapprove of Paine’s remarks in the final paragraph of Passage 2: “The municipal corporations of that universal kingdom are not morally at liberty at [the living’s] pleasure, and on their speculations of a contingent improvement, wholly to separate and tear asunder the bands of their subordinate community.” In these lines, Burke is arguing that the living do not have sufficient justification to change the existing governmental structure.

Choices A, B, and C do not provide the best evidence that Burke would disapprove of Paine’s remarks in the final paragraph of Passage 2, as Burke believes the living do not have sufficient justification for changing the existing governmental structure.

QUESTION 40.

Choice A is the best answer. The primary argument of Passage 1 is that an inviolable contract exists between a people and its government, one that is to be “looked on with other reverence” (lines 24-25). Passage 1 suggests that this contract exists between past and future generations as well; in effect, current and future generations should be governed by decisions made in the past. Passage 2 challenges these points, as it argues that current and future generations are not obligated to preserve past generations’ beliefs: “The Parliament or the people of 1688, or of any other period, had no more right to dispose of the people of the present day, or to bind or to control them in any shape whatever, than the parliament or the people of the present day have to dispose of, bind, or control those who are to live a hundred or a thousand years hence” (lines 48-54).
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Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because Passage 2 does not offer an alternative approach to Passage 1, support an idea introduced in Passage 1, or exemplify an attitude promoted in Passage 1.

QUESTION 41.

Choice B is the best answer. Passage 1 argues that the government is sacred (lines 3-6) and that no person should interfere with it (lines 6-9). Passage 2 argues that people have the right to make changes to their government: “The circumstances of the world are continually changing, and the opinions of men change also; and as government is for the living, and not for the dead, it is the living only that has any right in it” (lines 73-76).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not identify the main purpose of both passages.