

Reading: Question 1

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Dorothy West, "The Richer, The Poorer." ©1995 by Dorothy West. Originally published in 1958. In the story, Bess returns from Europe following the death of her husband to stay at the home of her sister, Lottie.

Lottie, trapped by the blood tie, knew she would not only have to send for her sister, but take her in when she returned. It didn't seem fair that Bess should reap the harvest of Lottie's lifetime of self-denial.

It took Lottie a week to get a bedroom ready, a week of hard work and hard cash. There was everything to do, everything to replace or paint. When she was through the room looked so fresh and new that Lottie felt she deserved it more than Bess.

She would let Bess have her room, but the mattress was so lumpy, the carpet so worn, the curtains so threadbare that Lottie's conscience pricked her. She supposed she would have to redo that room, too, and went about doing it with an eagerness that she mistook for haste.

When she was through upstairs, she was shocked to see how dismal downstairs looked by comparison. She tried to ignore it, but with nowhere to go to escape it, the contrast grew more intolerable.

She worked her way from kitchen to parlor, persuading herself she was only putting the rooms to rights to give herself something to do. At night she slept like a child after a long and happy day of playing house. She was having more fun than she had ever had in her life. She was living each hour for itself.

There was only a day now before Bess would arrive. Passing her gleaming mirrors, at first with vague awareness, then with painful clarity, Lottie saw herself as others saw her, and could not stand the sight.

She went on a spending spree from specialty shops to beauty salon, emerging transformed into a woman who believed in miracles.

She was in the kitchen basting a turkey when Bess rang the bell. Her heart raced, and she wondered if the heat from the oven was responsible.

She went to the door, and Bess stood before her. Stiffly she suffered Bess's embrace, her heart racing harder, her eyes suddenly smarting from the onrush of cold air.

“Oh, Lottie, it’s good to see you,” Bess said, but saying nothing about Lottie’s splendid appearance. Upstairs Bess, putting down her shabby suitcase, said, “I’ll sleep like a rock tonight,” without a word of praise for her lovely room. At the lavish table, top-heavy with turkey, Bess said, “I’ll take light and dark both,” with no marveling at the size of the bird.

With the glow of good food in her stomach, Bess began to spin stories. They were rich with places and people, most of them lowly, all of them magnificent. Her face reflected her telling, the joys and sorrows of her remembering, and above all, the love she lived by that enhanced the poorest place, the humblest person.

Then it was that Lottie knew why Bess had made no mention of her finery, or the shining room, or the twelve-pound turkey. She had not even seen them. Tomorrow she would see the room as it really looked, and Lottie as she really looked, and the warmed-over turkey in its second-day glory. Tonight she saw only what she had come seeking, a place in her sister’s home and heart.

She said, “That’s enough about me. How have the years used you?”

“It was me who didn’t use them,” said Lottie wistfully. “I saved for them. I saved for them. I forgot the best of them and would go without my ever spending a day or a dollar enjoying them. That’s my life story in those few words, a life never lived.

“Now it’s too near the end to try.”

Bess said, “To know how much there is to know is the beginning of learning to live. Don’t count the years that are left us. At our time of life it’s the days that count. You’ve too much catching up to do to waste a minute of a waking hour feeling sorry for yourself.”

Lottie grinned, a real wide open grin, “Well, to tell the truth I felt sorry for you. Maybe if I had any sense I’d feel sorry for myself, after all. I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how. If I land on my head, I guess it won’t matter. I feel giddy already, and I like it.”

Which choice best supports the idea that Lottie does not completely understand her true motives for behaving the way she does?

- A. {line:VH569236_2} (“It didn’t . . . self-denial”)
- B. {line:VH569236_3} (“It took . . . cash”)
- C. {line:VH569236_4} (“When . . . Bess”)
- D. {line:VH569236_5} (“She supposed . . . haste”)

Choice D is the best answer. The third paragraph recounts Lottie’s decision to refurbish her bedroom for Bess: “She supposed she would have to redo that room, too, and went about doing it with an eagerness that she mistook for haste.” This sentence describes Lottie’s misinterpretation of her own intentions, and therefore best supports the idea that Lottie does not completely understand her true motives for behaving the way she does.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don’t best support the idea that Lottie does not completely understand her true motives for behaving the way she does. Instead, they suggest Lottie’s resentment of Bess’s lifestyle (choice A), outline the money and effort Lottie invested in redoing her house (choice B), and indicate that Lottie feels she deserves a refurbished room more than Bess does (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 2

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

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It took Lottie a week to get a bedroom ready, a week of hard work and hard cash. There was everything to do, everything to replace or paint. When she was through the room looked so fresh and new that Lottie felt she deserved it more than Bess.

She would let Bess have her room, but the mattress was so lumpy, the carpet so worn, the curtains so threadbare that Lottie's conscience pricked her. She supposed she would have to redo that room, too, and went about doing it with an eagerness that she mistook for haste.

When she was through upstairs, she was shocked to see how dismal downstairs looked by comparison. She tried to ignore it, but with nowhere to go to escape it, the contrast grew more intolerable.

She worked her way from kitchen to parlor, persuading herself she was only putting the rooms to rights to give herself something to do. At night she slept like a child after a long and happy day of playing house. She was having more fun than she had ever had in her life. She was living each hour for itself.

There was only a day now before Bess would arrive. Passing her gleaming mirrors, at first with vague awareness, then with painful clarity, Lottie saw herself as others saw her, and could not stand the sight.

She went on a spending spree from specialty shops to beauty salon, emerging transformed into a woman who believed in miracles.

She was in the kitchen basting a turkey when Bess rang the bell. Her heart raced, and she wondered if the heat from the oven was responsible.

She went to the door, and Bess stood before her. Stiffly she suffered Bess's embrace, her heart racing harder, her eyes suddenly smarting from the onrush of cold air.

“Oh, Lottie, it’s good to see you,” Bess said, but saying nothing about Lottie’s splendid appearance. Upstairs Bess, putting down her shabby suitcase, said, “I’ll sleep like a rock tonight,” without a word of praise for her lovely room. At the lavish table, top-heavy with turkey, Bess said, “I’ll take light and dark both,” with no marveling at the size of the bird.

With the glow of good food in her stomach, Bess began to spin stories. They were rich with places and people, most of them lowly, all of them magnificent. Her face reflected her telling, the joys and sorrows of her remembering, and above all, the love she lived by that enhanced the poorest place, the humblest person.

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She said, “That’s enough about me. How have the years used you?”

“It was me who didn’t use them,” said Lottie wistfully. “I saved for them. I saved for them. I forgot the best of them and would go without my ever spending a day or a dollar enjoying them. That’s my life story in those few words, a life never lived.

“Now it’s too near the end to try.”

Bess said, “To know how much there is to know is the beginning of learning to live. Don’t count the years that are left us. At our time of life it’s the days that count. You’ve too much catching up to do to waste a minute of a waking hour feeling sorry for yourself.”

Lottie grinned, a real wide open grin, “Well, to tell the truth I felt sorry for you. Maybe if I had any sense I’d feel sorry for myself, after all. I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how. If I land on my head, I guess it won’t matter. I feel giddy already, and I like it.”

In the author’s description of Lottie’s activities in {line:VH569236_7} (“She . . . intolerable”), which pattern is established?

- A. With each day that passes, her feelings toward her sister become more ambivalent.
- B. With each enhancement she makes to her appearance, her self-confidence increases.
- C. With each improvement she makes to her home, she perceives another aspect to be inadequate.
- D. With each purchase she makes, her monetary difficulties become more apparent.

Choice C is the best answer. In the third paragraph, Lottie decides to give her bedroom to Bess, but after cataloging its inadequacies she decides to redo it as well. In the fourth paragraph, Lottie is shocked to see how “dismal” the downstairs looks by comparison, which leads her to improve other rooms in her house. Therefore, the following pattern is established in the author’s description of Lottie’s activities in the third and fourth paragraphs: with each improvement Lottie makes to her home, she perceives another aspect to be inadequate.

Choice A is incorrect because the third and fourth paragraphs don’t present Lottie as feeling increasing ambivalence toward her sister. Choice B is incorrect because Lottie reflects on her own appearance in the sixth and seventh paragraphs, but she doesn’t do this in the third and fourth paragraphs. Choice D is incorrect because the second paragraph describes the money Lottie spent refurbishing a bedroom, but the third and fourth paragraphs don’t depict Lottie making purchases or suffering from monetary difficulties.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 3

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She went to the door, and Bess stood before her. Stiffly she suffered Bess's embrace, her heart racing harder, her eyes suddenly smarting from the onrush of cold air.

“Oh, Lottie, it’s good to see you,” Bess said, but saying nothing about Lottie’s splendid appearance. Upstairs Bess, putting down her shabby suitcase, said, “I’ll sleep like a rock tonight,” without a word of praise for her lovely room. At the lavish table, top-heavy with turkey, Bess said, “I’ll take light and dark both,” with no marveling at the size of the bird.

With the glow of good food in her stomach, Bess began to spin stories. They were rich with places and people, most of them lowly, all of them magnificent. Her face reflected her telling, the joys and sorrows of her remembering, and above all, the love she lived by that enhanced the poorest place, the humblest person.

Then it was that Lottie knew why Bess had made no mention of her finery, or the shining room, or the twelve-pound turkey. She had not even seen them. Tomorrow she would see the room as it really looked, and Lottie as she really looked, and the warmed-over turkey in its second-day glory. Tonight she saw only what she had come seeking, a place in her sister’s home and heart.

She said, “That’s enough about me. How have the years used you?”

“It was me who didn’t use them,” said Lottie wistfully. “I saved for them. I saved for them. I forgot the best of them and would go without my ever spending a day or a dollar enjoying them. That’s my life story in those few words, a life never lived.

“Now it’s too near the end to try.”

Bess said, “To know how much there is to know is the beginning of learning to live. Don’t count the years that are left us. At our time of life it’s the days that count. You’ve too much catching up to do to waste a minute of a waking hour feeling sorry for yourself.”

Lottie grinned, a real wide open grin, “Well, to tell the truth I felt sorry for you. Maybe if I had any sense I’d feel sorry for myself, after all. I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how. If I land on my head, I guess it won’t matter. I feel giddy already, and I like it.”

As used in {line:VH569236_9}, “suffered” most nearly means

- A. endured.
- B. worsened.
- C. experienced.
- D. grieved.

Choice A is the best answer. The ninth paragraph states that Lottie “suffered Bess’s embrace.” In other words, Lottie perceived her sister’s hug as something that was difficult to tolerate. Thus the word “suffered,” as used in this sentence, most nearly means endured.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “suffered” means endured, not worsened (choice B), experienced (choice C), or grieved (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 4

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The primary purpose of the tenth paragraph (line:VH569236_10) is to

- A. emphasize the impressive quality of Lottie's home and the dinner she has prepared.
- B. indicate a contrast between the response Lottie expects and the one she receives.
- C. suggest Bess's conscious disregard for her sister's feelings.
- D. illustrate Bess's ability to make the best of a given situation.

Choice B is the best answer. Lottie's activities and thoughts in the preceding paragraphs indicate that she anticipates Bess reacting to her home in a certain way. The tenth paragraph narrates Bess's arrival at Lottie's home. Bess greets her sister while "saying nothing about Lottie's splendid appearance," announces she will sleep well "without a word of praise for her lovely room," and eats the turkey Lottie has prepared "with no marveling at the size of the bird." Thus the primary purpose of the tenth paragraph is to indicate a contrast between the response Lottie expects (praise for her appearance, her home, and her cooking) and the seemingly indifferent response she receives.

Choices A and D are incorrect because the tenth paragraph describes Lottie's home and the dinner she has prepared not to emphasize their impressive quality (choice A) or to illustrate Bess's ability to make the best of a given situation (choice D) but to indicate a contrast between the response to these things that Lottie expects and the response she receives. Choice C is incorrect because the twelfth paragraph, not the tenth, indicates that Bess's seemingly indifferent response to Lottie's effort isn't conscious.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 5

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She would let Bess have her room, but the mattress was so lumpy, the carpet so worn, the curtains so threadbare that Lottie's conscience pricked her. She supposed she would have to redo that room, too, and went about doing it with an eagerness that she mistook for haste.

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There was only a day now before Bess would arrive. Passing her gleaming mirrors, at first with vague awareness, then with painful clarity, Lottie saw herself as others saw her, and could not stand the sight.

She went on a spending spree from specialty shops to beauty salon, emerging transformed into a woman who believed in miracles.

She was in the kitchen basting a turkey when Bess rang the bell. Her heart raced, and she wondered if the heat from the oven was responsible.

She went to the door, and Bess stood before her. Stiffly she suffered Bess's embrace, her heart racing harder, her eyes suddenly smarting from the onrush of cold air.

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“Now it’s too near the end to try.”

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Lottie grinned, a real wide open grin, “Well, to tell the truth I felt sorry for you. Maybe if I had any sense I’d feel sorry for myself, after all. I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how. If I land on my head, I guess it won’t matter. I feel giddy already, and I like it.”

According to the passage, Bess tells stories that focus on

- A. fond reminiscences of people she and Lottie knew during childhood.
- B. lavish lodgings she has stayed in and their resemblance to Lottie's home.
- C. financial success she once had and her relative unconcern with its loss.
- D. meaningful relationships she has had and sights she has seen.

Choice D is the best answer. The eleventh paragraph summarizes the stories Bess tells over dinner: "They were rich with places and people, most of them lowly, all of them magnificent. Her face reflected . . . the love she lived by that enhanced the poorest place, the humblest person." Thus, according to the passage, Bess tells stories that focus on meaningful relationships she has had and sights she has seen.

Choice A is incorrect because, according to the passage, Bess tells stories that focus on people she has met in her travels, not people she and Lottie knew during childhood. Choice B is incorrect because, according to the passage, Bess recounts her visits to "lowly" places, not lavish lodgings. Choice C is incorrect because Bess's stories don't focus on her financial success and her unconcern with its loss.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 6

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As used in {line:VH569236_15}, “seen” most nearly means

- A. understood.
- B. noticed.
- C. matched.
- D. imagined.

Choice B is the best answer. The twelfth paragraph states, “Lottie knew why Bess had made no mention of her finery, or the shining room, or the twelve-pound turkey. She had not even seen them.” In other words, Bess hadn’t perceived, or noticed, these things. Thus the word “seen,” as used in this sentence, most nearly means noticed.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the sentence, “seen” means noticed, not understood (choice A), matched (choice C), or imagined (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 7

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Lottie, trapped by the blood tie, knew she would not only have to send for her sister, but take her in when she returned. It didn't seem fair that Bess should reap the harvest of Lottie's lifetime of self-denial.

It took Lottie a week to get a bedroom ready, a week of hard work and hard cash. There was everything to do, everything to replace or paint. When she was through the room looked so fresh and new that Lottie felt she deserved it more than Bess.

She would let Bess have her room, but the mattress was so lumpy, the carpet so worn, the curtains so threadbare that Lottie's conscience pricked her. She supposed she would have to redo that room, too, and went about doing it with an eagerness that she mistook for haste.

When she was through upstairs, she was shocked to see how dismal downstairs looked by comparison. She tried to ignore it, but with nowhere to go to escape it, the contrast grew more intolerable.

She worked her way from kitchen to parlor, persuading herself she was only putting the rooms to rights to give herself something to do. At night she slept like a child after a long and happy day of playing house. She was having more fun than she had ever had in her life. She was living each hour for itself.

There was only a day now before Bess would arrive. Passing her gleaming mirrors, at first with vague awareness, then with painful clarity, Lottie saw herself as others saw her, and could not stand the sight.

She went on a spending spree from specialty shops to beauty salon, emerging transformed into a woman who believed in miracles.

She was in the kitchen basting a turkey when Bess rang the bell. Her heart raced, and she wondered if the heat from the oven was responsible.

She went to the door, and Bess stood before her. Stiffly she suffered Bess's embrace, her heart racing harder, her eyes suddenly smarting from the onrush of cold air.

“Oh, Lottie, it’s good to see you,” Bess said, but saying nothing about Lottie’s splendid appearance. Upstairs Bess, putting down her shabby suitcase, said, “I’ll sleep like a rock tonight,” without a word of praise for her lovely room. At the lavish table, top-heavy with turkey, Bess said, “I’ll take light and dark both,” with no marveling at the size of the bird.

With the glow of good food in her stomach, Bess began to spin stories. They were rich with places and people, most of them lowly, all of them magnificent. Her face reflected her telling, the joys and sorrows of her remembering, and above all, the love she lived by that enhanced the poorest place, the humblest person.

Then it was that Lottie knew why Bess had made no mention of her finery, or the shining room, or the twelve-pound turkey. She had not even seen them. Tomorrow she would see the room as it really looked, and Lottie as she really looked, and the warmed-over turkey in its second-day glory. Tonight she saw only what she had come seeking, a place in her sister’s home and heart.

She said, “That’s enough about me. How have the years used you?”

“It was me who didn’t use them,” said Lottie wistfully. “I saved for them. I saved for them. I forgot the best of them and would go without my ever spending a day or a dollar enjoying them. That’s my life story in those few words, a life never lived.

“Now it’s too near the end to try.”

Bess said, “To know how much there is to know is the beginning of learning to live. Don’t count the years that are left us. At our time of life it’s the days that count. You’ve too much catching up to do to waste a minute of a waking hour feeling sorry for yourself.”

Lottie grinned, a real wide open grin, “Well, to tell the truth I felt sorry for you. Maybe if I had any sense I’d feel sorry for myself, after all. I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how. If I land on my head, I guess it won’t matter. I feel giddy already, and I like it.”

The change that Lottie undergoes in {line:VH569236_16} (“It was . . . like it”) is best described as one from

- A. pained regret to energetic renewal.
- B. deep bitterness to willing forgiveness.
- C. profound sorrow to restrained optimism.
- D. marked distrust to reluctant cooperation.

Choice A is the best answer. The fourteenth paragraph describes Lottie “wistfully” expressing her regret, “That’s my life story . . . a life never lived.” After Bess encourages Lottie to start living her life to its full potential in the sixteenth paragraph, the seventeenth paragraph describes a change in Lottie’s demeanor, accompanied by a fresh perspective on life and a display of energy: “Lottie grinned, a real wide open grin. . . . ‘I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how. . . . I feel giddy already, and I like it.’” Thus the change that Lottie undergoes in the fourteenth through seventeenth paragraphs is best described as a progression from pained regret to energetic renewal.

Choices B and D are incorrect because the change that Lottie undergoes in the fourteenth through seventeenth paragraphs isn’t best described as a progression from deep bitterness to willing forgiveness (choice B) or marked distrust to reluctant cooperation (choice D). Choice C is incorrect because the paragraphs don’t characterize Lottie as profoundly sorrowful, and her optimism is openly expressed, not restrained.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 8

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Dorothy West, "The Richer, The Poorer." ©1995 by Dorothy West. Originally published in 1958. In the story, Bess returns from Europe following the death of her husband to stay at the home of her sister, Lottie.

Lottie, trapped by the blood tie, knew she would not only have to send for her sister, but take her in when she returned. It didn't seem fair that Bess should reap the harvest of Lottie's lifetime of self-denial.

It took Lottie a week to get a bedroom ready, a week of hard work and hard cash. There was everything to do, everything to replace or paint. When she was through the room looked so fresh and new that Lottie felt she deserved it more than Bess.

She would let Bess have her room, but the mattress was so lumpy, the carpet so worn, the curtains so threadbare that Lottie's conscience pricked her. She supposed she would have to redo that room, too, and went about doing it with an eagerness that she mistook for haste.

When she was through upstairs, she was shocked to see how dismal downstairs looked by comparison. She tried to ignore it, but with nowhere to go to escape it, the contrast grew more intolerable.

She worked her way from kitchen to parlor, persuading herself she was only putting the rooms to rights to give herself something to do. At night she slept like a child after a long and happy day of playing house. She was having more fun than she had ever had in her life. She was living each hour for itself.

There was only a day now before Bess would arrive. Passing her gleaming mirrors, at first with vague awareness, then with painful clarity, Lottie saw herself as others saw her, and could not stand the sight.

She went on a spending spree from specialty shops to beauty salon, emerging transformed into a woman who believed in miracles.

She was in the kitchen basting a turkey when Bess rang the bell. Her heart raced, and she wondered if the heat from the oven was responsible.

She went to the door, and Bess stood before her. Stiffly she suffered Bess's embrace, her heart racing harder, her eyes suddenly smarting from the onrush of cold air.

“Oh, Lottie, it’s good to see you,” Bess said, but saying nothing about Lottie’s splendid appearance. Upstairs Bess, putting down her shabby suitcase, said, “I’ll sleep like a rock tonight,” without a word of praise for her lovely room. At the lavish table, top-heavy with turkey, Bess said, “I’ll take light and dark both,” with no marveling at the size of the bird.

With the glow of good food in her stomach, Bess began to spin stories. They were rich with places and people, most of them lowly, all of them magnificent. Her face reflected her telling, the joys and sorrows of her remembering, and above all, the love she lived by that enhanced the poorest place, the humblest person.

Then it was that Lottie knew why Bess had made no mention of her finery, or the shining room, or the twelve-pound turkey. She had not even seen them. Tomorrow she would see the room as it really looked, and Lottie as she really looked, and the warmed-over turkey in its second-day glory. Tonight she saw only what she had come seeking, a place in her sister’s home and heart.

She said, “That’s enough about me. How have the years used you?”

“It was me who didn’t use them,” said Lottie wistfully. “I saved for them. I saved for them. I forgot the best of them and would go without my ever spending a day or a dollar enjoying them. That’s my life story in those few words, a life never lived.

“Now it’s too near the end to try.”

Bess said, “To know how much there is to know is the beginning of learning to live. Don’t count the years that are left us. At our time of life it’s the days that count. You’ve too much catching up to do to waste a minute of a waking hour feeling sorry for yourself.”

Lottie grinned, a real wide open grin, “Well, to tell the truth I felt sorry for you. Maybe if I had any sense I’d feel sorry for myself, after all. I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how. If I land on my head, I guess it won’t matter. I feel giddy already, and I like it.”

Based on the passage, it can reasonably be inferred that Lottie’s behavior in the future will likely be guided by a

- A. profound sympathy for the misfortunes of others.
- B. sharper focus on her own shortcomings.
- C. thorough disregard for personal safety.
- D. new receptiveness to her sister's advice.

Choice D is the best answer. In the sixteenth paragraph, Bess encourages Lottie to start living her life to its full potential. In the following paragraph, Lottie says, "I know I'm too old to kick up my heels, but I'm going to let you show me how." In other words, Lottie has decided to let Bess teach her how to have fun. Thus it can reasonably be inferred that Lottie's behavior in the future will be guided by a new receptiveness to her sister's advice.

Choice A is incorrect because even though the eleventh paragraph depicts Bess lovingly describing some of the "lowly" people she has met, it can't reasonably be inferred from the passage that Lottie's behavior in the future will likely be guided by a profound sympathy for the misfortunes of others. Choice B is incorrect because the fourteenth and fifteenth paragraphs show Lottie's awareness of her failings but don't suggest that she will focus on them more in the future. Choice C is incorrect because in the last paragraph Lottie states that in seeking to live life more fully she may "land on [her] head," but this phrase is used metaphorically. It doesn't mean that Lottie's behavior in the future will likely be guided by a thorough disregard for personal safety.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 9

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Dorothy West, "The Richer, The Poorer." ©1995 by Dorothy West. Originally published in 1958. In the story, Bess returns from Europe following the death of her husband to stay at the home of her sister, Lottie.

Lottie, trapped by the blood tie, knew she would not only have to send for her sister, but take her in when she returned. It didn't seem fair that Bess should reap the harvest of Lottie's lifetime of self-denial.

It took Lottie a week to get a bedroom ready, a week of hard work and hard cash. There was everything to do, everything to replace or paint. When she was through the room looked so fresh and new that Lottie felt she deserved it more than Bess.

She would let Bess have her room, but the mattress was so lumpy, the carpet so worn, the curtains so threadbare that Lottie's conscience pricked her. She supposed she would have to redo that room, too, and went about doing it with an eagerness that she mistook for haste.

When she was through upstairs, she was shocked to see how dismal downstairs looked by comparison. She tried to ignore it, but with nowhere to go to escape it, the contrast grew more intolerable.

She worked her way from kitchen to parlor, persuading herself she was only putting the rooms to rights to give herself something to do. At night she slept like a child after a long and happy day of playing house. She was having more fun than she had ever had in her life. She was living each hour for itself.

There was only a day now before Bess would arrive. Passing her gleaming mirrors, at first with vague awareness, then with painful clarity, Lottie saw herself as others saw her, and could not stand the sight.

She went on a spending spree from specialty shops to beauty salon, emerging transformed into a woman who believed in miracles.

She was in the kitchen basting a turkey when Bess rang the bell. Her heart raced, and she wondered if the heat from the oven was responsible.

She went to the door, and Bess stood before her. Stiffly she suffered Bess's embrace, her heart racing harder, her eyes suddenly smarting from the onrush of cold air.

“Oh, Lottie, it’s good to see you,” Bess said, but saying nothing about Lottie’s splendid appearance. Upstairs Bess, putting down her shabby suitcase, said, “I’ll sleep like a rock tonight,” without a word of praise for her lovely room. At the lavish table, top-heavy with turkey, Bess said, “I’ll take light and dark both,” with no marveling at the size of the bird.

With the glow of good food in her stomach, Bess began to spin stories. They were rich with places and people, most of them lowly, all of them magnificent. Her face reflected her telling, the joys and sorrows of her remembering, and above all, the love she lived by that enhanced the poorest place, the humblest person.

Then it was that Lottie knew why Bess had made no mention of her finery, or the shining room, or the twelve-pound turkey. She had not even seen them. Tomorrow she would see the room as it really looked, and Lottie as she really looked, and the warmed-over turkey in its second-day glory. Tonight she saw only what she had come seeking, a place in her sister’s home and heart.

She said, “That’s enough about me. How have the years used you?”

“It was me who didn’t use them,” said Lottie wistfully. “I saved for them. I saved for them. I forgot the best of them and would go without my ever spending a day or a dollar enjoying them. That’s my life story in those few words, a life never lived.

“Now it’s too near the end to try.”

Bess said, “To know how much there is to know is the beginning of learning to live. Don’t count the years that are left us. At our time of life it’s the days that count. You’ve too much catching up to do to waste a minute of a waking hour feeling sorry for yourself.”

Lottie grinned, a real wide open grin, “Well, to tell the truth I felt sorry for you. Maybe if I had any sense I’d feel sorry for myself, after all. I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how. If I land on my head, I guess it won’t matter. I feel giddy already, and I like it.”

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

- A. {line:VH569236_17} (“Lottie . . . you”)
- B. {line:VH569236_18} (“Maybe . . . all”)
- C. {line:VH569236_19} (“I know . . . how”)
- D. {line:VH569236_20} (“If I . . . matter”)

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks what can be inferred about what will guide Lottie’s behavior in the future. The answer, that her behavior will be guided by a new receptiveness to her sister’s advice, is best supported in the last paragraph, where Lottie says to Bess, “I know I’m too old to kick up my heels, but I’m going to let you show me how.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they relay Lottie’s admission that she once pitied Bess (choice A), Lottie’s realization that she should feel sorry for herself instead (choice B), and Lottie’s resolution to live life more fully, no matter the embarrassment it may bring (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 10

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace without Conquest.” Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.” In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America’s word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” . . .

There are those who wonder why we have a responsibility there. Well, we have it there for the same reason that we have a responsibility for the defense of Europe. World War II was fought in both Europe and Asia, and

when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1954—in 1945 rather—after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination and a government that had been established not by China—for whom the Vietnamese have no great love—but by clearly indigenous forces that included some communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

For nine years following 1945 we denied the people of Vietnam the right of independence. For nine years we vigorously supported the French in their abortive effort to recolonize Vietnam. . . .

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. . . . We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. . . .

Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

In {line:VH367654_21}, {line:VH367654_22}, and {line:VH367654_23}, the repetitive declarations “We are there” and “We are also there” serve primarily to convey Johnson’s

- A. certainty regarding the course of action that he advocates.
- B. perplexity regarding the contradictory nature of a policy.
- C. cynicism toward his political opponents’ motives.
- D. confidence that his audience is in agreement with him.

Choice A is the best answer. In the second paragraph of Passage 1, Johnson says of American military presence in South Vietnam, “We are there because we have a promise to keep.” In the fifth paragraph of the passage, he asserts, “We are also there to strengthen world order,” and in the sixth paragraph, he adds, “We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance.” Each of these assertions outlines his reasons for US presence in South Vietnam and implies that he believes these assertions are correct, whether or not his audience might disagree. Thus, in these sentences, the repetitive declarations “we are there” and “we are also there” are used as a rhetorical device to convey Johnson’s certainty regarding the course of action that he advocates.

Choice B is incorrect because it isn’t Johnson in Passage 1 but rather King in Passage 2 who characterizes US policy as contradictory. Choice C is incorrect because in Passage 1, Johnson doesn’t suggest doubts about the sincerity of his opponents’ motives. Choice D is incorrect because Johnson’s repetitive declarations suggest an attempt to convince his audience, rather than conveying confidence that his audience agrees with him.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 11

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace without Conquest.” Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.” In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America’s word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” . . .

There are those who wonder why we have a responsibility there. Well, we have it there for the same reason that we have a responsibility for the defense of Europe. World War II was fought in both Europe and Asia, and

when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1954—in 1945 rather—after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination and a government that had been established not by China—for whom the Vietnamese have no great love—but by clearly indigenous forces that included some communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

For nine years following 1945 we denied the people of Vietnam the right of independence. For nine years we vigorously supported the French in their abortive effort to recolonize Vietnam. . . .

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. . . . We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. . . .

Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

Which choice provides the best evidence for the idea that Johnson believed that removing American support from South Vietnam would create more fighting rather than less?

- A. {line:VH367654_2} (“We have . . . independence”)
- B. {line:VH367654_3} (“We are . . . attacked”)
- C. {line:VH367654_4} (“Let . . . another”)
- D. {line:VH367654_5} (“There . . . Europe”)

Choice C is the best answer. The question asks about the best evidence for the idea that Johnson believed removing US support from South Vietnam would create more fighting rather than less. The sixth paragraph of Passage 1 supports this assertion: “Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another.” In this sentence, Johnson predicts that withdrawing US troops from Vietnam would lead to conflict in other countries.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the idea that Johnson believed removing US support from South Vietnam would lead to more fighting. Instead, they outline the ways in which America has aided the government of South Vietnam (choice A), assert that the US presence in Vietnam helps to reassure US allies around the world (choice B), and compare the United States’ responsibility toward Vietnam to its responsibility to the countries of Europe (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 12

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace without Conquest.” Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.” In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America’s word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” . . .

There are those who wonder why we have a responsibility there. Well, we have it there for the same reason that we have a responsibility for the defense of Europe. World War II was fought in both Europe and Asia, and

when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1954—in 1945 rather—after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination and a government that had been established not by China—for whom the Vietnamese have no great love—but by clearly indigenous forces that included some communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

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We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. . . . We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. . . .

Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

In Passage 1, Johnson implies that without the aid of the United States, South Vietnam would most likely

- A. merge its government with that of North Vietnam.
- B. begin to rebuild the physical foundation of its villages.
- C. seek alliances with communist regimes in the region.
- D. be conquered by stronger opponents.

Choice D is the best answer. In the fourth paragraph of Passage 1, Johnson asserts that if the United States failed to defend South Vietnam, it would “abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies.” Thus, in Passage 1, Johnson implies that without the aid of the United States, South Vietnam would most likely be conquered by stronger opponents.

Choices A and C are incorrect because Johnson implies that without the aid of the United States, North Vietnam would take over the government of South Vietnam, not that South Vietnam would voluntarily merge its government with that of North Vietnam (choice A) or seek alliances with communist regimes in the region (choice C). Choice B is incorrect because King discusses the physical damage to Vietnamese villages in Passage 2, but Johnson doesn’t do this in Passage 1.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 13

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, "Peace without Conquest." Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., "Beyond Vietnam." In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America's word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further." . . .

There are those who wonder why we have a responsibility there. Well, we have it there for the same reason that we have a responsibility for the defense of Europe. World War II was fought in both Europe and Asia, and

when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1954—in 1945 rather—after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination and a government that had been established not by China—for whom the Vietnamese have no great love—but by clearly indigenous forces that included some communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

For nine years following 1945 we denied the people of Vietnam the right of independence. For nine years we vigorously supported the French in their abortive effort to recolonize Vietnam. . . .

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. . . . We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. . . .

Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

As used in {line:VH367654_1}, “rests” most nearly means

- A. depends.
- B. focuses.
- C. reclines.
- D. ends.

Choice A is the best answer. The fifth paragraph of Passage 1 states, “Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked.” In other words, the well-being of these people relies on, or depends on, the support of the United States. Thus “rests,” as used in this context, most nearly means depends.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “rests” means depends, not focuses (choice B), reclines (choice C), or ends (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 14

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace without Conquest.” Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.” In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America’s word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” . . .

There are those who wonder why we have a responsibility there. Well, we have it there for the same reason that we have a responsibility for the defense of Europe. World War II was fought in both Europe and Asia, and

when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1954—in 1945 rather—after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination and a government that had been established not by China—for whom the Vietnamese have no great love—but by clearly indigenous forces that included some communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

For nine years following 1945 we denied the people of Vietnam the right of independence. For nine years we vigorously supported the French in their abortive effort to recolonize Vietnam. . . .

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. . . . We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. . . .

Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

King’s characterization of Americans as “strange liberators” (line:VH367654_9) is best described as

- A. disdainful, since King feels that the United States was tentative in its support of France’s efforts.
- B. cautionary, since King argues that Vietnam is ill-equipped for true independence.
- C. regretful, since King disapproves of Vietnam’s preference for an alliance with China over one with the United States.
- D. ironic, since King implies that United States actions have hindered the Vietnamese people’s quest for freedom.

Choice D is the best answer. In the second paragraph of Passage 2, King states that in spite of the stated intentions of the United States, the people of South Vietnam “must see Americans as strange liberators.” He explains that this is because when the Vietnamese people declared their independence in 1945, the United States “refused to recognize them,” and instead “decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony.” Therefore, King’s characterization of Americans in 1967 as “strange liberators” in the second paragraph is best described as ironic, since he implies that US actions have hindered the Vietnamese people’s quest for freedom.

Choice A is incorrect because King criticizes the United States for supporting France’s effort to regain Vietnam as a colony, not for tentatively supporting France’s efforts. Choice B is incorrect because King doesn’t argue that Vietnam is ill-equipped for true independence. Choice C is incorrect because King doesn’t express disapproval of Vietnam’s preference for an alliance with China over one with the United States.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 15

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace without Conquest.” Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.” In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America’s word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” . . .

There are those who wonder why we have a responsibility there. Well, we have it there for the same reason that we have a responsibility for the defense of Europe. World War II was fought in both Europe and Asia, and

when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1954—in 1945 rather—after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination and a government that had been established not by China—for whom the Vietnamese have no great love—but by clearly indigenous forces that included some communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

For nine years following 1945 we denied the people of Vietnam the right of independence. For nine years we vigorously supported the French in their abortive effort to recolonize Vietnam. . . .

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. . . . We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. . . .

Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

In Passage 2, King suggests a contradiction exists between

- A. French colonization and Japanese occupation.
- B. America’s stated principles and its actions.
- C. the communist revolution and the goals of Vietnamese peasants.
- D. the 1945 revolution and that of 1954.

Choice B is the best answer. In the second paragraph of Passage 2, King states, “Even though [the Vietnamese] quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony.” In these lines, King implies that US actions in Vietnam are at odds with the US’s alleged values.

Choice A is incorrect. King references both the French colonization and the Japanese occupation of Vietnam, but he doesn’t suggest a contradiction exists between these two periods in Vietnam’s history. Choice C is incorrect because King mentions the communist revolution in China to show that the Vietnamese independence movement predates it, not that the two movements are in opposition. Choice D is incorrect. King mentions 1945 and 1954 to stress the correspondence, not the contradiction, between the two years, since the Vietnamese people declared their independence from France in 1945 and French control officially ended in 1954.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 16

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace without Conquest.” Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.” In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America’s word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” . . .

There are those who wonder why we have a responsibility there. Well, we have it there for the same reason that we have a responsibility for the defense of Europe. World War II was fought in both Europe and Asia, and

when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1954—in 1945 rather—after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination and a government that had been established not by China—for whom the Vietnamese have no great love—but by clearly indigenous forces that included some communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

For nine years following 1945 we denied the people of Vietnam the right of independence. For nine years we vigorously supported the French in their abortive effort to recolonize Vietnam. . . .

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. . . . We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. . . .

Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

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

- A. {line:VH367654_12} (“I speak . . . now”)
- B. {line:VH367654_10} (“They . . . China”)
- C. {line:VH367654_11} (“Even . . . colony”)
- D. {line:VH367654_13} (“For . . . lives”)

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks what contradiction King suggests in Passage 2. The answer, that King suggests a contradiction exists between US actions and principles, is best supported in the second paragraph of Passage 2: “Even though [the Vietnamese] quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they establish King’s claim that he speaks about the Vietnamese people, not their government and military organizations (choice A), assert ironically that the US military must appear as strange liberators to the Vietnamese and provide some background to the Vietnamese struggle for independence (choice B), and emphasize the importance of land reform to the Vietnamese people (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 17

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace without Conquest.” Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.” In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise.

To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America’s word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” . . .

There are those who wonder why we have a responsibility there. Well, we have it there for the same reason that we have a responsibility for the defense of Europe. World War II was fought in both Europe and Asia, and

when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

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Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

Based on the passages, Johnson and King would both most likely claim to believe that the South Vietnamese

- A. need American assistance to guard against their more powerful adversaries.
- B. should be able to decide for themselves what kind of government to form.
- C. have seen their country destroyed by their allies.
- D. were substantially better off under colonial rule.

Choice B is the best answer. In the eighth paragraph of Passage 1, Johnson states, “[Americans] want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.” In the second paragraph of Passage 2, King asserts that the US failure to recognize Vietnam as independent in 1945 was tragic because “we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination.” Therefore, based on the passages, Johnson and King would both most likely claim to believe that the South Vietnamese should be able to decide for themselves what kind of government to form.

Choice A is incorrect because Johnson claims that the South Vietnamese need American assistance to guard against their more powerful adversaries, but King doesn’t do this. Choice C is incorrect because King indicates that the South Vietnamese have seen their country destroyed by their American allies, but Johnson doesn’t make this claim. Choice D is incorrect because neither Johnson nor King would likely claim to believe that the South Vietnamese were substantially better off under colonial rule.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 18

Questions 10-18 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1965 by US President Lyndon B. Johnson, “Peace without Conquest.” Passage 2 is adapted from a speech delivered in 1967 by Martin Luther King Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.” In 1954, Vietnam was separated into South Vietnam, which was allied with the United States and other noncommunist nations, and communist North Vietnam.

Passage 1

Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

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To dishonor that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

We are also there to strengthen world order. Around the globe, from Berlin to Thailand, are people whose well-being rests, in part, on the belief that they can count on us if they are attacked. To leave Viet-Nam to its fate would shake the confidence of all these people in the value of an American commitment and in the value of America’s word. The result would be an increased unrest and instability, and even wider war.

We are also there because there are great stakes in the balance. Let no one think for a moment that retreat from Viet-Nam would bring an end to conflict. The battle would be renewed in one country and then another. The central lesson of our time is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next. We must say in southeast Asia—as we did in Europe—in the words of the Bible: “Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further.” . . .

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when it ended we found ourselves with continued responsibility for the defense of freedom.

Our objective is the independence of South Viet-Nam, and its freedom from attack. We want nothing for ourselves—only that the people of South Viet-Nam be allowed to guide their own country in their own way.

We will do everything necessary to reach that objective. And we will do only what is absolutely necessary.

Passage 2

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

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Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call “fortified hamlets.” The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. . . . We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

Based on Passage 2, King would most likely respond to Johnson’s intention to “help South Viet-Nam defend its independence” (line:VH367654_20) by arguing that

- A.
in attempting to secure South Vietnam’s independence, the United States has caused profound damage to Vietnamese society.
- B.
the United States has never been sincere in its efforts to keep South Vietnam from falling to communism.
- C.
if the United States continues to defend South Vietnam, the current conflict will likely spread to other countries in Southeast Asia.
- D.
the United States will never completely secure South Vietnam’s independence as long as China remains a power in the region.

Choice A is the best answer. In the second paragraph of Passage 1, Johnson states, “[Americans] have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.” However, in the fourth paragraph of Passage 2, King argues that the United States, through its military intervention, has destroyed Vietnam’s “two most cherished institutions: the family and the village,” as well as “their land and their crops.” Thus, based on Passage 2, King would most likely respond to Johnson’s intention to “help South Vietnam defend its independence” by arguing that the United States has caused profound damage to Vietnamese society.

Choice B is incorrect because King doesn’t suggest that the US opposition to communism in South Vietnam is insincere. Choice C is incorrect because King doesn’t suggest that continued US support of South Vietnam could cause the war to spread outside of Vietnam. Choice D is incorrect because King doesn’t argue that South Vietnam’s independence hinges on the decline of China’s power.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 19

Questions 19-28 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Coral reefs face a plethora of threats, from ocean acidification to coastal development. But at least when it comes to direct assaults, some corals have well-armed defenders: coral guard-crabs. These buff little crustaceans take up residence within pocilloporid corals—the ones that look a bit like cauliflower or loose brains. In exchange for shelter and nutrients, the crabs ferociously defend their hosts from hungry enemies, such as snails and crown-of-thorns sea stars.

While the relationship between coral and crab has been known for a while, researchers have now found that it takes more than just one rank in the guard-crab army to keep a location secure. The discovery highlights the importance of biodiversity not just across an array of animal types, but also within a group of seemingly similar species.

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Tinier crustaceans had important roles to play, too. Smaller crabs (*Trapezia punctimanus* and small-sized *Trapezia serenei*) paid the most attention to munching snails (*Drupella cornus*), which the large crabs ignored. Medium-sized crabs (*Trapezia bidentata* and medium-sized *Trapezia serenei*), on the other hand, preferred to defend against cushion stars, but stayed inactive if the larger crown-of-thorns sea stars mounted an attack. In light of these various duties, the authors conclude that the crabs have evolved complementary roles “as well as a hierarchy of defensive effectiveness among different species and sizes.”

While clever, this complex strategy puts the corals in danger. Should one species of crab fall—whether due to climate change or another environmental threat—the corals would be left relatively defenseless against the corresponding predator. Increasing numbers of coral enemy outbreaks seem to be triggered by declines in [coral enemies'] predators due to overfishing or habitat destruction. That means attacks on corals could increase in frequency or intensity in the future, potentially overwhelming the guard-crabs.

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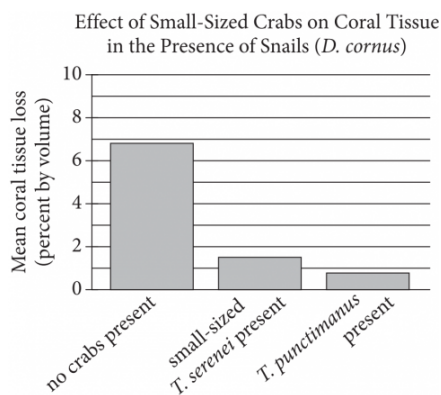
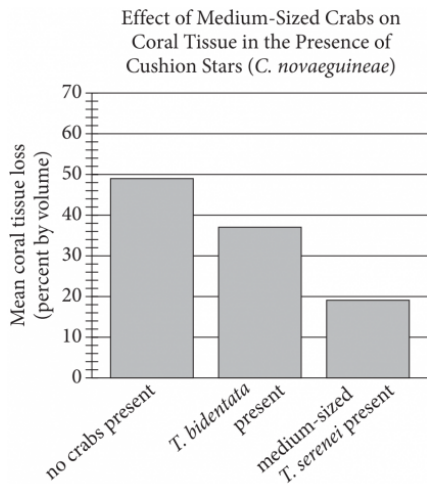


Figure 2



Adapted from C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore, “Species and Size Diversity in Protective Services Offered by Coral Guard-Crabs.” ©2014

by C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore.

As used in {line:VH527820_17}, “secure” most nearly means

- A. definite.
- B. reliable.
- C. concealed.
- D. protected.

Choice D is the best answer. The second paragraph states, “It takes more than just one rank in the guard-crab army to keep a location secure.” In other words, it takes more than one type of crab to keep a location protected, or safe. Thus “secure,” as used in this context, most nearly means protected.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “secure” means protected, not definite (choice A), reliable (choice B), or concealed (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 20

Questions 19-28 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Coral reefs face a plethora of threats, from ocean acidification to coastal development. But at least when it comes to direct assaults, some corals have well-armed defenders: coral guard-crabs. These buff little crustaceans take up residence within pocilloporid corals—the ones that look a bit like cauliflower or loose brains. In exchange for shelter and nutrients, the crabs ferociously defend their hosts from hungry enemies, such as snails and crown-of-thorns sea stars.

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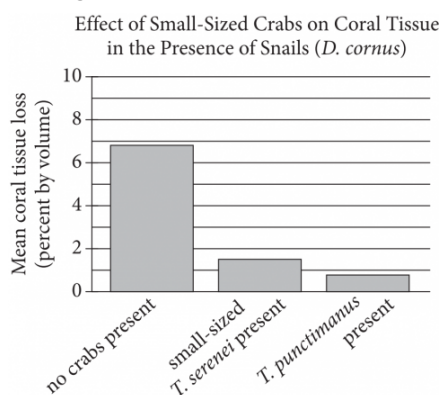
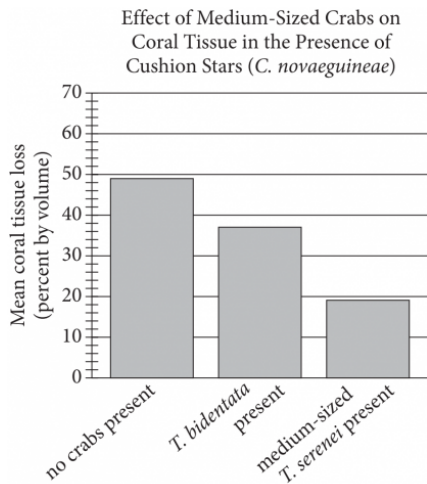


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Adapted from C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore, “Species and Size Diversity in Protective Services Offered by Coral Guard-Crabs.” ©2014

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It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that McKeon and Moore conducted their study in order to answer which question?

- A. How can scientists limit further damage to the coral reefs in Mo’orea?
- B. Do coral guard-crab species have distinctive roles in safeguarding coral reefs?
- C. Are there additional coral guard-crab species yet to be identified by scientists?
- D. What mean volume of coral tissue is lost annually in the Mo’orea coral reefs?

Choice B is the best answer. According to the third paragraph, “Often more than one crab species will occupy a single coral . . . [which] suggests that the crabs each have unique defensive strategies.” The paragraph goes on to report that McKeon and Moore carried out their experiments to learn whether this explanation could be substantiated. Thus it can reasonably be inferred from the passage that McKeon and Moore conducted their study in order to answer the question: Do coral guard-crab species have distinctive roles in safeguarding coral reefs?

Choice A is incorrect. The passage discusses how McKeon and Moore’s study highlights certain dangers to the coral reefs in Mo’orea, but doesn’t suggest that the scientists explicitly conducted their research to learn how to limit further damage to these reefs. Choice C is incorrect because it can’t reasonably be inferred from the passage whether there are additional coral guard-crab species yet to be identified by scientists. Choice D is incorrect. The purpose of the study wasn’t to determine the mean volume of coral tissue lost annually in the Mo’orea coral reefs, but to learn whether coral guard-crab species have distinctive roles in safeguarding coral reefs.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 21

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Coral reefs face a plethora of threats, from ocean acidification to coastal development. But at least when it comes to direct assaults, some corals have well-armed defenders: coral guard-crabs. These buff little crustaceans take up residence within pocilloporid corals—the ones that look a bit like cauliflower or loose brains. In exchange for shelter and nutrients, the crabs ferociously defend their hosts from hungry enemies, such as snails and crown-of-thorns sea stars.

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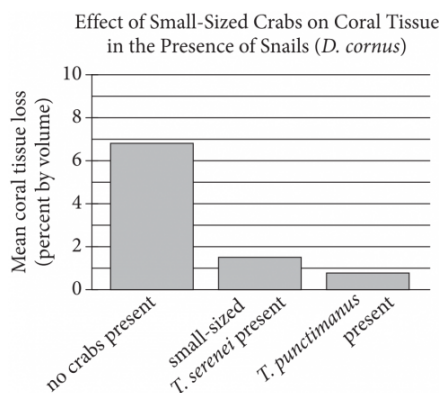
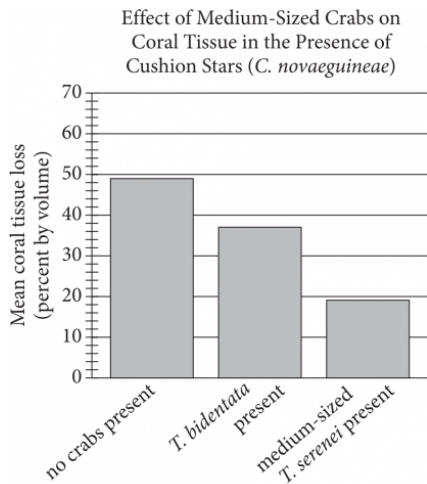


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The description in the fourth paragraph (line:VH527820_2) primarily emphasizes which characteristic of the crown-of-thorns sea stars?

- A. Their resilience
- B. Their destructiveness
- C. Their adaptability
- D. Their selectivity

Choice B is the best answer. The fourth paragraph of the passage describes crown-of-thorns sea stars as a “plague” of “voracious . . . venomous predators [that] have been known to decimate entire reefs.” This description primarily emphasizes the destructiveness of crown-of-thorns sea stars.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the description in the fourth paragraph emphasizes how destructive the crown-of-thorns sea stars are, not their resilience (choice A), adaptability (choice C), or selectivity (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 22

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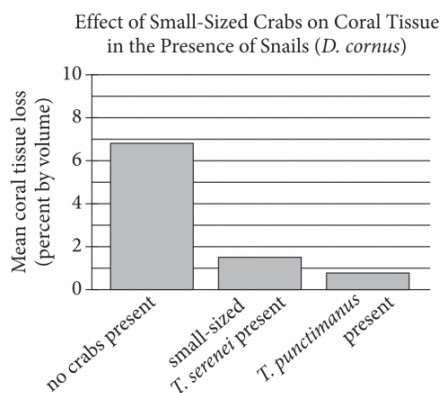
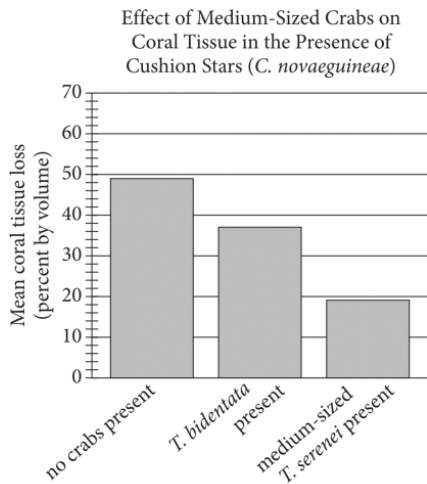


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Which choice best describes the way in which crown-of-thorns sea stars and pocilloporid corals interact, as presented in the passage?

- A. Sea stars shelter corals.
- B. Sea stars compete with corals for resources.
- C. Sea stars are consumed by corals.
- D. Sea stars prey on corals.

Choice D is the best answer. The fifth paragraph describes crown-of-thorns sea stars as “hungry predators” of corals. Thus the best description of the way crown-of-thorns sea stars and pocilloporid corals interact is that the sea stars prey on corals.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage indicates that corals shelter crabs, not that sea stars shelter corals. Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn’t indicate that that sea stars compete with corals for resources. Choice C is incorrect because the passage indicates that corals are consumed by sea stars, not that sea stars are consumed by corals.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 23

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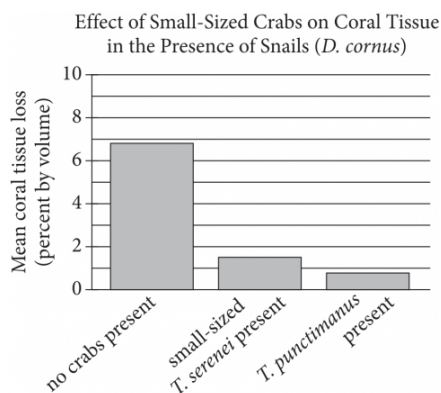
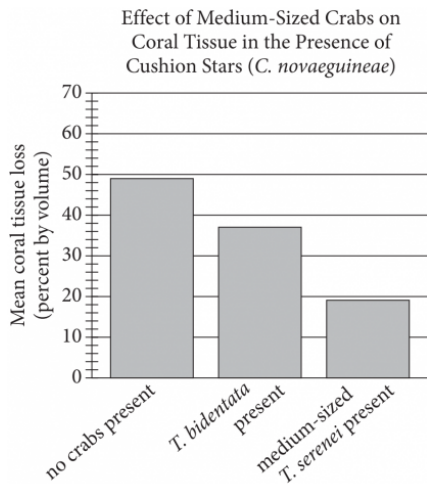


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As used in {line:VH527820_7}, “introduced” most nearly means

- A. added.
- B. initiated.
- C. acquainted.
- D. announced.

Choice A is the best answer. The fifth paragraph states that the researchers “introduced various hungry predators, including crown-of-thorns sea stars and cushion stars.” In other words, scientists put in, or added, predators. Thus “introduced,” as used in this context, most nearly means added.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “introduced” means added, not initiated (choice B), acquainted (choice C), or announced (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 24

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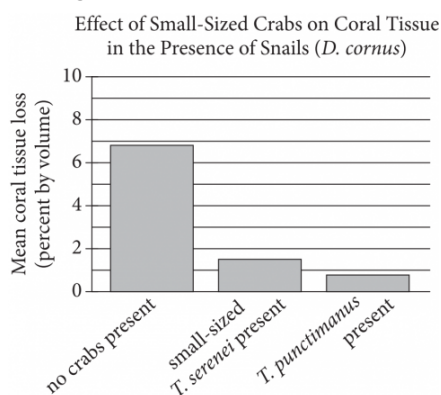
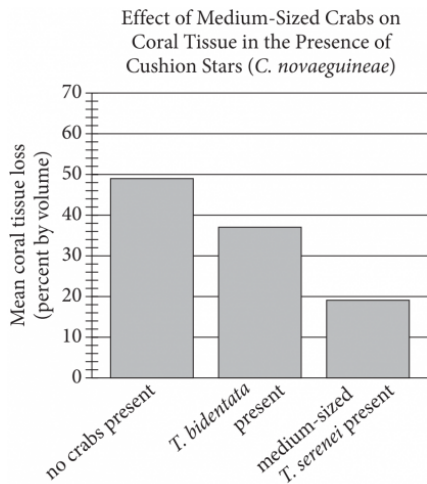


Figure 2



Adapted from C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore, “Species and Size Diversity in Protective Services Offered by Coral Guard-Crabs.” ©2014

by C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore.

Which choice best supports the idea that the emergence of particular characteristics in individual guard-crab species was likely influenced by other species?

- A. {line:VH527820_9} (“The results . . . arms”)
- B. {line:VH527820_10} (“Tinier . . . too”)
- C. {line:VH527820_11} (“In light . . . sizes”)
- D. {line:VH527820_12} (“That means . . . guard-crabs”)

Choice C is the best answer. The seventh paragraph states, “In light of these various duties, the authors conclude that the crabs have evolved complementary roles ‘as well as a hierarchy of defensive effectiveness among different species and sizes.’” In other words, the evolution of defensive roles in individual guard-crab species was affected by the defensive roles of other guard-crab species. Thus, it can be inferred from this sentence that the emergence of particular characteristics in individual guard-crab species was likely influenced by other species.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the idea that particular characteristics in individual guard-crab species were likely influenced by other species. Instead, they outline the study’s finding that larger crabs were needed to defend corals from sea stars, even in the presence of smaller crabs (choice A), introduce the idea that small crabs also played a role in defending corals (choice B), and predict a potential increase in corals’ susceptibility to predation if guard-crab populations are overwhelmed by growing numbers of coral predators (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 25

Questions 19-28 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Coral reefs face a plethora of threats, from ocean acidification to coastal development. But at least when it comes to direct assaults, some corals have well-armed defenders: coral guard-crabs. These buff little crustaceans take up residence within pocilloporid corals—the ones that look a bit like cauliflower or loose brains. In exchange for shelter and nutrients, the crabs ferociously defend their hosts from hungry enemies, such as snails and crown-of-thorns sea stars.

While the relationship between coral and crab has been known for a while, researchers have now found that it takes more than just one rank in the guard-crab army to keep a location secure. The discovery highlights the importance of biodiversity not just across an array of animal types, but also within a group of seemingly similar species.

More than 20 coral guard-crab species exist, and they come in many shapes and sizes. Often more than one crab species will occupy a single coral, and the diversity of pincers and claws suggests that the crabs each have unique defensive strategies. To find out for sure, Seabird McKeon and Jenna Moore of the National Museum of Natural History’s Smithsonian Marine Station headed to an enviable field site in Mo’orea, an island in French Polynesia where the majority of coral guard-crabs live.

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The scientists performed various experimental trials to tease out the relationship between the crabs, the corals and the predators. They focused their efforts on four species of crabs, and then divided those species into different size classes. They set up tanks that included corals plus one or more of the crab species and size classes. Then they introduced various

hungry predators, including crown-of-thorns sea stars and cushion stars (*Culcita novaeguineae*, a type of starfish that looks like an overstuffed pillow).

The results, described in the journal *PeerJ*, show even if other species of smaller crabs were present, without the powerhouse claws of the largest crab, the corals fell victim to the sea stars' prehensile arms. Over a two-week trial period, 64 percent of corals lacking the large guard-crabs were attacked by the sea stars, and they lost 22 percent of their tissue. Just 18 percent of corals with resident large crabs were attacked, and those victims were stripped of only 2 percent of their tissue.

Tinier crustaceans had important roles to play, too. Smaller crabs (*Trapezia punctimanus* and small-sized *Trapezia serenei*) paid the most attention to munching snails (*Drupella cornus*), which the large crabs ignored. Medium-sized crabs (*Trapezia bidentata* and medium-sized *Trapezia serenei*), on the other hand, preferred to defend against cushion stars, but stayed inactive if the larger crown-of-thorns sea stars mounted an attack. In light of these various duties, the authors conclude that the crabs have evolved complementary roles “as well as a hierarchy of defensive effectiveness among different species and sizes.”

While clever, this complex strategy puts the corals in danger. Should one species of crab fall—whether due to climate change or another environmental threat—the corals would be left relatively defenseless against the corresponding predator. Increasing numbers of coral enemy outbreaks seem to be triggered by declines in [coral enemies'] predators due to overfishing or habitat destruction. That means attacks on corals could increase in frequency or intensity in the future, potentially overwhelming the guard-crabs.

Figure 1

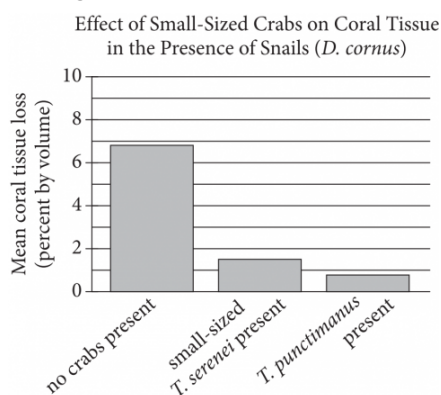
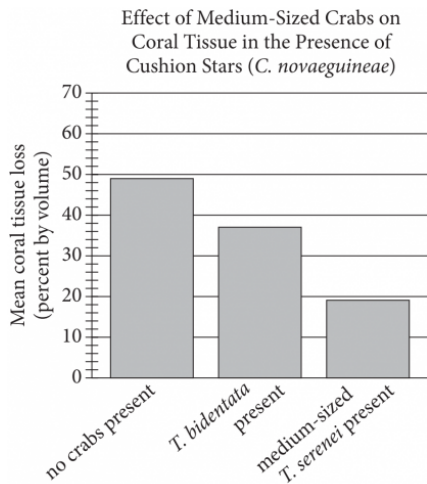


Figure 2



Adapted from C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore, “Species and Size Diversity in Protective Services Offered by Coral Guard-Crabs.” ©2014

by C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore.

The passage most strongly implies that the removal of large guard-crabs from a pocilloporid coral reef would affect the ecosystem in which of the following ways?

- A. Medium-sized crabs would attack the sea stars formerly targeted by the large crabs.
- B. The corals would be more vulnerable to sea stars, endangering the reef as a whole.
- C. The corals would develop other defenses, such as camouflage or toxic secretions.
- D. Predatory snails would proliferate, eventually attracting higher-order predators.

Choice B is the best answer. The sixth paragraph identifies large guard-crabs as the type of crabs that defend corals against predatory sea stars. The last paragraph goes on to explain, “Should one species of crab fall—whether due to climate change or another environmental threat—the corals would be left relatively defenseless against the corresponding predator.” Thus the passage most strongly implies that removing large guard-crabs from a pocilloporid coral reef would affect the ecosystem by leaving the corals more vulnerable to sea stars, endangering the reef as a whole.

Choices A and C are incorrect. The passage doesn’t imply that if large guard-crabs were removed from a pocilloporid coral reef, medium-sized crabs would attack the sea stars (choice A) or that the corals would develop other defenses (choice C). Instead, the passage implies that if the large crabs were removed, the corals would be defenseless against sea stars. Choice D is incorrect. The passage implies that smaller crabs defend against predatory snails, while large crabs defend against sea stars, so removing large crabs wouldn’t affect the population of predatory snails.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 26

Questions 19-28 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Rachel Nuwer, “Crabby Tenants Defend Corals from Marauding Predators.” ©2014 by Smithsonian Institution.

Coral reefs face a plethora of threats, from ocean acidification to coastal development. But at least when it comes to direct assaults, some corals have well-armed defenders: coral guard-crabs. These buff little crustaceans take up residence within pocilloporid corals—the ones that look a bit like cauliflower or loose brains. In exchange for shelter and nutrients, the crabs ferociously defend their hosts from hungry enemies, such as snails and crown-of-thorns sea stars.

While the relationship between coral and crab has been known for a while, researchers have now found that it takes more than just one rank in the guard-crab army to keep a location secure. The discovery highlights the importance of biodiversity not just across an array of animal types, but also within a group of seemingly similar species.

More than 20 coral guard-crab species exist, and they come in many shapes and sizes. Often more than one crab species will occupy a single coral, and the diversity of pincers and claws suggests that the crabs each have unique defensive strategies. To find out for sure, Seabird McKeon and Jenna Moore of the National Museum of Natural History’s Smithsonian Marine Station headed to an enviable field site in Mo’orea, an island in French Polynesia where the majority of coral guard-crabs live.

In recent years, Mo’orea coral reefs have suffered a plague of crown-of-thorns sea stars, spiny creatures that can grow to the size of a trash can lid. These voracious animals rove through reefs in groups of up to 200, and booms of these venomous predators have been known to decimate entire reefs.

The scientists performed various experimental trials to tease out the relationship between the crabs, the corals and the predators. They focused their efforts on four species of crabs, and then divided those species into different size classes. They set up tanks that included corals plus one or more of the crab species and size classes. Then they introduced various

hungry predators, including crown-of-thorns sea stars and cushion stars (*Culcita novaeguineae*, a type of starfish that looks like an overstuffed pillow).

The results, described in the journal *PeerJ*, show even if other species of smaller crabs were present, without the powerhouse claws of the largest crab, the corals fell victim to the sea stars' prehensile arms. Over a two-week trial period, 64 percent of corals lacking the large guard-crabs were attacked by the sea stars, and they lost 22 percent of their tissue. Just 18 percent of corals with resident large crabs were attacked, and those victims were stripped of only 2 percent of their tissue.

Tinier crustaceans had important roles to play, too. Smaller crabs (*Trapezia punctimanus* and small-sized *Trapezia serenei*) paid the most attention to munching snails (*Drupella cornus*), which the large crabs ignored. Medium-sized crabs (*Trapezia bidentata* and medium-sized *Trapezia serenei*), on the other hand, preferred to defend against cushion stars, but stayed inactive if the larger crown-of-thorns sea stars mounted an attack. In light of these various duties, the authors conclude that the crabs have evolved complementary roles “as well as a hierarchy of defensive effectiveness among different species and sizes.”

While clever, this complex strategy puts the corals in danger. Should one species of crab fall—whether due to climate change or another environmental threat—the corals would be left relatively defenseless against the corresponding predator. Increasing numbers of coral enemy outbreaks seem to be triggered by declines in [coral enemies'] predators due to overfishing or habitat destruction. That means attacks on corals could increase in frequency or intensity in the future, potentially overwhelming the guard-crabs.

Figure 1

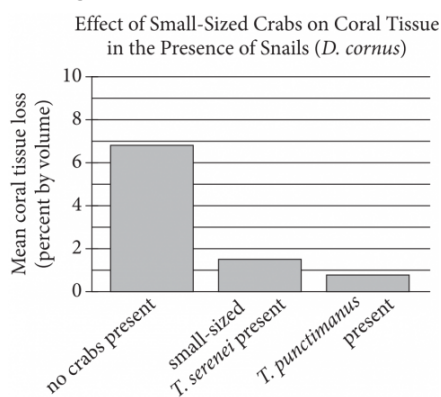
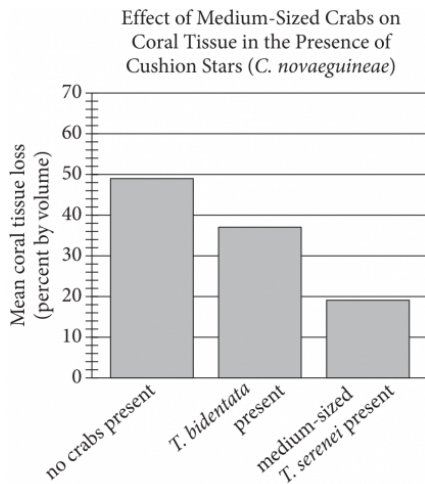


Figure 2



Adapted from C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore, “Species and Size Diversity in Protective Services Offered by Coral Guard-Crabs.” ©2014

by C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore.

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

- A. {line:VH527820_13} (“Smaller . . . ignored”)
- B. {line:VH527820_14} (“Medium-sized . . . attack”)
- C. {line:VH527820_21} (“Should . . . predator”)
- D. {line:VH527820_16} (“Increasing . . . destruction”)

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks how removing large guard-crabs from a pocilloporid coral reef would affect the ecosystem. The answer, that the corals would be more vulnerable to sea stars, endangering the reef as a whole, is best supported in the last paragraph: “Should one species of crab fall—whether due to climate change or another environmental threat—the corals would be left relatively defenseless against the corresponding predator.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they explain that smaller crabs defend corals against predatory snails (choice A) and that medium-sized crabs defend corals against cushion stars (choice B) and link recent increases in coral enemies to the overfishing and habitat destruction that have reduced the numbers of these enemies’ predators (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 27

Questions 19-28 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Coral reefs face a plethora of threats, from ocean acidification to coastal development. But at least when it comes to direct assaults, some corals have well-armed defenders: coral guard-crabs. These buff little crustaceans take up residence within pocilloporid corals—the ones that look a bit like cauliflower or loose brains. In exchange for shelter and nutrients, the crabs ferociously defend their hosts from hungry enemies, such as snails and crown-of-thorns sea stars.

While the relationship between coral and crab has been known for a while, researchers have now found that it takes more than just one rank in the guard-crab army to keep a location secure. The discovery highlights the importance of biodiversity not just across an array of animal types, but also within a group of seemingly similar species.

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In recent years, Mo’orea coral reefs have suffered a plague of crown-of-thorns sea stars, spiny creatures that can grow to the size of a trash can lid. These voracious animals rove through reefs in groups of up to 200, and booms of these venomous predators have been known to decimate entire reefs.

The scientists performed various experimental trials to tease out the relationship between the crabs, the corals and the predators. They focused their efforts on four species of crabs, and then divided those species into different size classes. They set up tanks that included corals plus one or more of the crab species and size classes. Then they introduced various

hungry predators, including crown-of-thorns sea stars and cushion stars (*Culcita novaeguineae*, a type of starfish that looks like an overstuffed pillow).

The results, described in the journal *PeerJ*, show even if other species of smaller crabs were present, without the powerhouse claws of the largest crab, the corals fell victim to the sea stars' prehensile arms. Over a two-week trial period, 64 percent of corals lacking the large guard-crabs were attacked by the sea stars, and they lost 22 percent of their tissue. Just 18 percent of corals with resident large crabs were attacked, and those victims were stripped of only 2 percent of their tissue.

Tinier crustaceans had important roles to play, too. Smaller crabs (*Trapezia punctimanus* and small-sized *Trapezia serenei*) paid the most attention to munching snails (*Drupella cornus*), which the large crabs ignored. Medium-sized crabs (*Trapezia bidentata* and medium-sized *Trapezia serenei*), on the other hand, preferred to defend against cushion stars, but stayed inactive if the larger crown-of-thorns sea stars mounted an attack. In light of these various duties, the authors conclude that the crabs have evolved complementary roles “as well as a hierarchy of defensive effectiveness among different species and sizes.”

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Figure 1

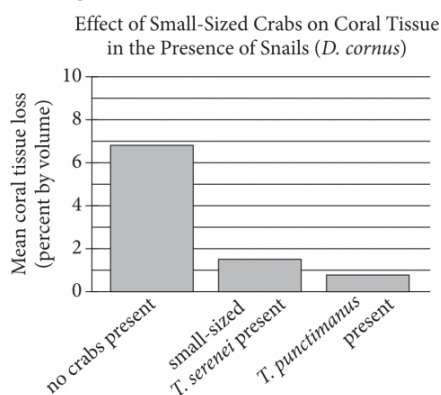
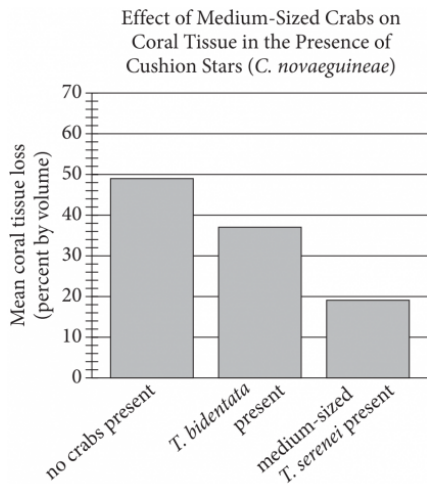


Figure 2



Adapted from C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore, "Species and Size Diversity in Protective Services Offered by Coral Guard-Crabs." ©2014

by C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore.

According to figure 1, the mean percent of tissue volume loss caused by *D. cornus* when small-sized *T. serenei* were present was within which range?

- A. Between 0% and 2%
- B. Between 2% and 3%
- C. Between 3% and 5%
- D. Between 5% and 7%

Choice A is the best answer. Figure 1 displays data on the effect of small-sized crabs on coral tissue in the presence of *D. cornus* snails. The column corresponding to the condition in which the crab species *T. serenei* was present shows the mean percent of coral tissue loss as approximately 1.5%. Thus the mean percent of tissue volume loss caused by *D. cornus* when small-sized *T. serenei* were present was between 0% and 2%.

Choices B and C are incorrect because figure 1 doesn't present any conditions under which the corals lost between 2% and 3% of their tissue (choice B) or between 3% and 5% (choice C). Choice D is incorrect because, according to figure 1, the amount of coral tissue lost was between 5% and 7% when no crabs were present.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 28

Questions 19-28 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Coral reefs face a plethora of threats, from ocean acidification to coastal development. But at least when it comes to direct assaults, some corals have well-armed defenders: coral guard-crabs. These buff little crustaceans take up residence within pocilloporid corals—the ones that look a bit like cauliflower or loose brains. In exchange for shelter and nutrients, the crabs ferociously defend their hosts from hungry enemies, such as snails and crown-of-thorns sea stars.

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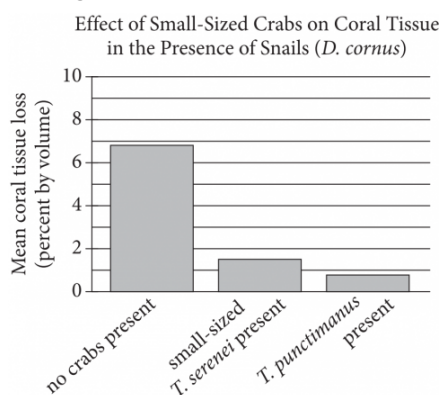
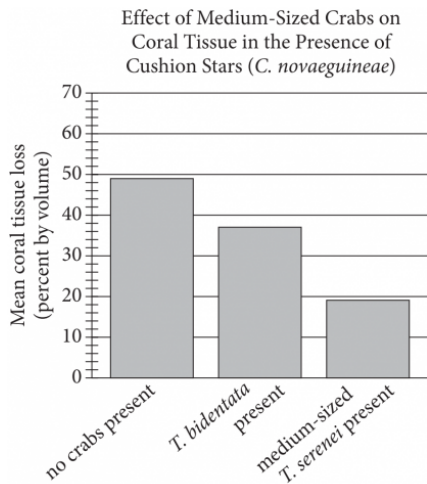


Figure 2



Adapted from C. Seabird McKeon and Jenna M. Moore, "Species and Size Diversity in Protective Services Offered by Coral Guard-Crabs." ©2014

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The data in figure 2 indicate that the coral in the study lost approximately how much tissue volume to cushion stars when no medium-sized crabs were present?

- A. 19%
- B. 36%
- C. 49%
- D. 70%

Choice C is the best answer. Figure 2 presents the effect of medium-sized crabs on coral tissue in the presence of cushion stars. According to the figure, when no medium-sized crabs were present, tissue loss was just under 50%. Therefore, the data in figure 2 indicate that the coral in the study lost approximately 49% of its tissue volume to cushion stars when no medium-sized crabs were present.

Choice A is incorrect because the data in figure 2 indicate that coral lost approximately 19% of its tissue in the presence of medium-sized *T. serenei*, not when there were no medium-sized crabs present. Choice B is incorrect because the data in figure 2 indicate that coral lost approximately 36% of its tissue in the presence of *T. bidentata*, not when there were no medium-sized crabs present. Choice D is incorrect because 70% is the highest value represented in the graph in figure 2, but no coral in the study actually lost 70% of its tissue.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 29

Questions 29-38 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Iris Bohnet, *What Works: Gender Equality by Design*. ©2016 by Iris Bohnet.

Today, more than half the countries in the world have adopted political quotas. They range from party quotas—a certain representation of female candidates on party lists, whether voluntarily adopted or mandated by law—to reserved seats for a fraction of women who must be represented in elected office. Some of this reflects the realization that the self-perpetuating effects of discrimination can only be broken if opportunities for the traditionally discriminated-against are created. If people assume women are unsuited to leadership, women invest less in leadership training and seek out fewer leadership opportunities. And when they do seek to become leaders and confront the stereotype, they are less likely to be chosen. Quotas can short-circuit this cycle. Far from elevating the under-qualified, quotas prove in fact to broaden the pool of qualified candidates.

This is perhaps why quotas have started to spread in the business world. In 2003 Norwegian legislation mandated that 40 percent of each sex be represented on its corporate boards. This was followed by similar laws in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain. Board quotas and related target-based schemes are currently under discussion in various other places, including Brazil, Canada, the Philippines, Scotland, and South Africa. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel surprised many with a change of heart when in 2014 she affirmed the plan to introduce board quotas of 30 percent for the largest German companies in the Bundestag:¹ “We can’t afford to do without the skills of women,” she said.

But was Chancellor Merkel right? Does the evidence suggest that a larger share of women on its corporate board is good for a company? The short answer is that based on the available data, it is almost impossible to prove either way. No study to date has been able to establish a causal relationship between corporate board diversity and company performance. Boards are not created randomly. If there was a relationship between board diversity and firm performance, we would not know whether it was the board that

affected the company or whether the company influenced the composition of the board.

Even though causality cannot be established with the available data, much research has gone into understanding whether there is a relationship between board diversity and company performance. Deborah Rhode and Amanda Packel of Stanford University provide an excellent review. The evidence is mixed. A number of studies report positive correlations between the fraction of female directors and company performance. Miriam Schwartz-Ziv's analysis of Israeli companies suggests that critical mass mattered and that companies with at least three female directors had higher ROEs (returns on equity) and net profit margins. Others have found no or negative correlations between gender diversity and performance.

Given the mixed evidence of individual studies, a meta-analysis combining the results of 140 studies is particularly helpful in this context. Across all studies, it finds a small positive relationship between female board representation and company profitability (measured by accounting returns). Market performance, on the other hand, was only positively related to board diversity in countries with greater gender parity and negatively otherwise. Investors' evaluations of a firm's future performance may well be influenced by gender norms prevalent in a given country. In more gender-equal countries, they expected gender diversity on corporate boards to be a good thing; in less gender-equal countries, they saw it as a disadvantage.



Source: Data from Linda-Eling Lee et al., Women on Boards: Global Trends in Gender Diversity on Corporate Boards. ©2015 by MSCI Inc.

- ¹ Federal government

The passage is written from the perspective of someone who is

- A. publishing a research study on corporate performance.
- B. knowledgeable about research on the makeup of corporate boards.
- C. active on a corporation's board of directors.
- D. proposing new regulations mandating quotas for corporate boards.

Choice B is the best answer. The passage discusses the effects of gender quotas for corporate boards on company performance and profitability. In the fourth paragraph, the author cites two studies on the relationship between board diversity and company performance, and in the last paragraph, she analyzes the results of 140 studies on the relationship between female board representation and company profitability. Thus the passage is written from the perspective of someone who is knowledgeable about research on the makeup of corporate boards.

Choice A is incorrect. The passage cites research studies on corporate performance but doesn't indicate that the author conducts such research. Choice C is incorrect because the passage doesn't indicate that the author is active on a corporate board of directors. Choice D is incorrect. Although the author demonstrates that there is some evidence to support the conclusion that gender diversity on corporate boards may positively correlate to company performance and profitability and refers to existing quotas and regulations in the first and second paragraphs, she doesn't propose new regulations mandating quotas for public boards.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 30

Questions 29-38 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Today, more than half the countries in the world have adopted political quotas. They range from party quotas—a certain representation of female candidates on party lists, whether voluntarily adopted or mandated by law—to reserved seats for a fraction of women who must be represented in elected office. Some of this reflects the realization that the self-perpetuating effects of discrimination can only be broken if opportunities for the traditionally discriminated-against are created. If people assume women are unsuited to leadership, women invest less in leadership training and seek out fewer leadership opportunities. And when they do seek to become leaders and confront the stereotype, they are less likely to be chosen. Quotas can short-circuit this cycle. Far from elevating the under-qualified, quotas prove in fact to broaden the pool of qualified candidates.

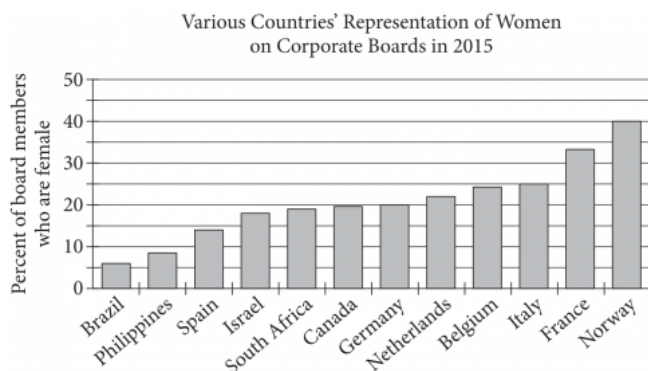
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Even though causality cannot be established with the available data, much research has gone into understanding whether there is a relationship between board diversity and company performance. Deborah Rhode and Amanda Packel of Stanford University provide an excellent review. The evidence is mixed. A number of studies report positive correlations between the fraction of female directors and company performance. Miriam Schwartz-Ziv's analysis of Israeli companies suggests that critical mass mattered and that companies with at least three female directors had higher ROEs (returns on equity) and net profit margins. Others have found no or negative correlations between gender diversity and performance.

Given the mixed evidence of individual studies, a meta-analysis combining the results of 140 studies is particularly helpful in this context. Across all studies, it finds a small positive relationship between female board representation and company profitability (measured by accounting returns). Market performance, on the other hand, was only positively related to board diversity in countries with greater gender parity and negatively otherwise. Investors' evaluations of a firm's future performance may well be influenced by gender norms prevalent in a given country. In more gender-equal countries, they expected gender diversity on corporate boards to be a good thing; in less gender-equal countries, they saw it as a disadvantage.



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The main effect of the term “short-circuit” in {line:VH656425_1} is to show that quotas can

- A. impede the development of an unfair trend.
- B. accelerate gains that are already being made.
- C. suppress a series of promising outcomes for women.
- D. reinforce stereotypes about the effectiveness of leaders.

Choice A is the best answer. In the first paragraph, the author suggests that without gender quotas, women are less likely to seek out training or opportunities to become leaders, and voters are less likely to see them as fit for leadership. However, “quotas can short-circuit this cycle.” In other words, quotas can break the negative pattern of gender discrimination, just as a short-circuit disrupts an electrical pathway. Thus the main effect of the term “short-circuit” in the first paragraph is to show that quotas can impede the development of an unfair trend.

Choice B is incorrect because the term “short-circuit” is used in relation to interrupting negative patterns of a lack of leadership by women, not the acceleration of women’s gains in leadership. Choice C is incorrect because the author uses “short-circuit” to show that quotas can impede the development of an unfair trend and this will encourage, not suppress, promising outcomes for women. Choice D is incorrect because the author suggests that quotas will break down stereotypes about women, not reinforce stereotypes about the effectiveness of leaders.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 31

Questions 29-38 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Iris Bohnet, *What Works: Gender Equality by Design*. ©2016 by Iris Bohnet.

Today, more than half the countries in the world have adopted political quotas. They range from party quotas—a certain representation of female candidates on party lists, whether voluntarily adopted or mandated by law—to reserved seats for a fraction of women who must be represented in elected office. Some of this reflects the realization that the self-perpetuating effects of discrimination can only be broken if opportunities for the traditionally discriminated-against are created. If people assume women are unsuited to leadership, women invest less in leadership training and seek out fewer leadership opportunities. And when they do seek to become leaders and confront the stereotype, they are less likely to be chosen. Quotas can short-circuit this cycle. Far from elevating the under-qualified, quotas prove in fact to broaden the pool of qualified candidates.

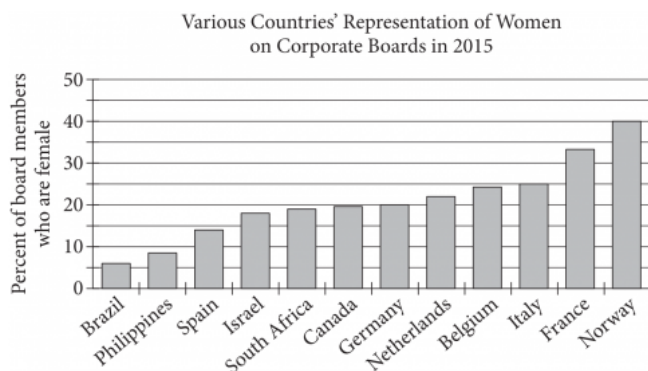
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As used in {line:VH656425_7}, “firm” most nearly means

- A. security.
- B. support.
- C. compact.
- D. organization.

Choice D is the best answer. The third paragraph states, “If there was a relationship between board diversity and firm performance, we would not know whether it was the board that affected the company or whether the company influenced the composition of the board.” In this sentence, the author uses the word “firm” to refer to a company. Thus the word “firm,” as used in this context, most nearly means organization.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “firm” means organization, not security (choice A), support (choice B), or compact (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 32

Questions 29-38 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Today, more than half the countries in the world have adopted political quotas. They range from party quotas—a certain representation of female candidates on party lists, whether voluntarily adopted or mandated by law—to reserved seats for a fraction of women who must be represented in elected office. Some of this reflects the realization that the self-perpetuating effects of discrimination can only be broken if opportunities for the traditionally discriminated-against are created. If people assume women are unsuited to leadership, women invest less in leadership training and seek out fewer leadership opportunities. And when they do seek to become leaders and confront the stereotype, they are less likely to be chosen. Quotas can short-circuit this cycle. Far from elevating the under-qualified, quotas prove in fact to broaden the pool of qualified candidates.

This is perhaps why quotas have started to spread in the business world. In 2003 Norwegian legislation mandated that 40 percent of each sex be represented on its corporate boards. This was followed by similar laws in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain. Board quotas and related target-based schemes are currently under discussion in various other places, including Brazil, Canada, the Philippines, Scotland, and South Africa. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel surprised many with a change of heart when in 2014 she affirmed the plan to introduce board quotas of 30 percent for the largest German companies in the Bundestag:¹ “We can’t afford to do without the skills of women,” she said.

But was Chancellor Merkel right? Does the evidence suggest that a larger share of women on its corporate board is good for a company? The short answer is that based on the available data, it is almost impossible to prove either way. No study to date has been able to establish a causal relationship between corporate board diversity and company performance. Boards are not created randomly. If there was a relationship between board diversity and firm performance, we would not know whether it was the board that

affected the company or whether the company influenced the composition of the board.

Even though causality cannot be established with the available data, much research has gone into understanding whether there is a relationship between board diversity and company performance. Deborah Rhode and Amanda Packel of Stanford University provide an excellent review. The evidence is mixed. A number of studies report positive correlations between the fraction of female directors and company performance. Miriam Schwartz-Ziv's analysis of Israeli companies suggests that critical mass mattered and that companies with at least three female directors had higher ROEs (returns on equity) and net profit margins. Others have found no or negative correlations between gender diversity and performance.

Given the mixed evidence of individual studies, a meta-analysis combining the results of 140 studies is particularly helpful in this context. Across all studies, it finds a small positive relationship between female board representation and company profitability (measured by accounting returns). Market performance, on the other hand, was only positively related to board diversity in countries with greater gender parity and negatively otherwise. Investors' evaluations of a firm's future performance may well be influenced by gender norms prevalent in a given country. In more gender-equal countries, they expected gender diversity on corporate boards to be a good thing; in less gender-equal countries, they saw it as a disadvantage.



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The main idea of the fourth paragraph ([line:VH656425_8](#)) is that

- A. many researchers have found a negative relationship between board diversity and company performance.
- B. the effects of board diversity on company performance have been studied many times with widely varying results.
- C. insufficient research has been conducted on the relationship between board diversity and company performance.
- D. a majority of researchers have found a positive relationship between board diversity and company performance.

Choice B is the best answer. According to the fourth paragraph, “Much research has gone into understanding whether there is a relationship between board diversity and company performance,” but the results have been mixed. Although many studies “report positive correlations between the fraction of female directors and company performance,” other studies “have found no or negative correlations between gender diversity and performance.” Thus the main idea of the fourth paragraph is that the effects of board diversity on company performance have been studied many times with widely varying results.

Choice A is incorrect because the fourth paragraph discusses studies that have found a negative relationship between board diversity and company performance and those that have found a positive correlation between board diversity and company performance. Choice C is incorrect because the author doesn’t argue in this paragraph that insufficient research has been conducted on the relationship between board diversity and company performance. Choice D is incorrect because the author asserts that many researchers, but not a majority, have found a positive relationship between board diversity and company performance.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 33

Questions 29-38 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Today, more than half the countries in the world have adopted political quotas. They range from party quotas—a certain representation of female candidates on party lists, whether voluntarily adopted or mandated by law—to reserved seats for a fraction of women who must be represented in elected office. Some of this reflects the realization that the self-perpetuating effects of discrimination can only be broken if opportunities for the traditionally discriminated-against are created. If people assume women are unsuited to leadership, women invest less in leadership training and seek out fewer leadership opportunities. And when they do seek to become leaders and confront the stereotype, they are less likely to be chosen. Quotas can short-circuit this cycle. Far from elevating the under-qualified, quotas prove in fact to broaden the pool of qualified candidates.

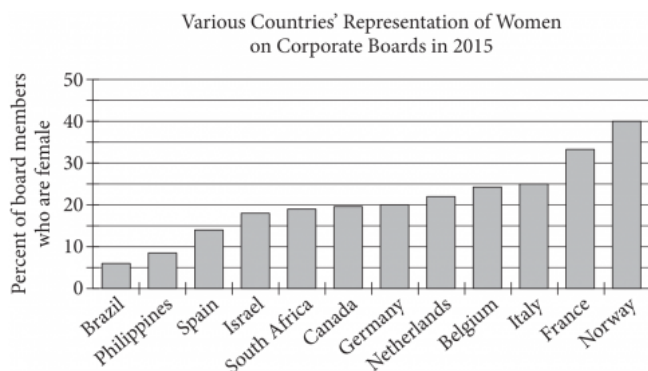
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In its discussion of corporate board diversity, the passage suggests that, on average, companies with

- A. more female board members are more profitable than those with fewer female board members.
- B. a majority of female directors are more profitable than companies with a majority of male directors.
- C. few female directors are unprofitable but only in countries with greater gender equality.
- D. no female directors are profitable but experience poor market performance.

Choice A is the best answer. In the last paragraph, the author discusses an analysis of the results of 140 studies on the relationship between female board representation and company profitability: “Across all studies, [the analysis] finds a small positive relationship between female board representation and company profitability (measured by accounting returns).” Since most of the studies show a positive correlation between company profit and the presence of women as board members, it can be inferred that, on average, companies with more female board members are more profitable than those with fewer female board members.

Choice B is incorrect because the passage suggests that companies with more female board members are more profitable on average, not that companies with a majority of female directors are more profitable than those with a majority of male directors. Choice C is incorrect because the fourth paragraph notes that market performance is only positively affected by greater board diversity in countries with greater nationwide gender parity; it doesn’t suggest that companies with few female directors are only unprofitable in countries with greater gender equality. Choice D is incorrect because the passage doesn’t suggest that companies with no female directors are profitable but experience poor market performance.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 34

Questions 29-38 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Today, more than half the countries in the world have adopted political quotas. They range from party quotas—a certain representation of female candidates on party lists, whether voluntarily adopted or mandated by law—to reserved seats for a fraction of women who must be represented in elected office. Some of this reflects the realization that the self-perpetuating effects of discrimination can only be broken if opportunities for the traditionally discriminated-against are created. If people assume women are unsuited to leadership, women invest less in leadership training and seek out fewer leadership opportunities. And when they do seek to become leaders and confront the stereotype, they are less likely to be chosen. Quotas can short-circuit this cycle. Far from elevating the under-qualified, quotas prove in fact to broaden the pool of qualified candidates.

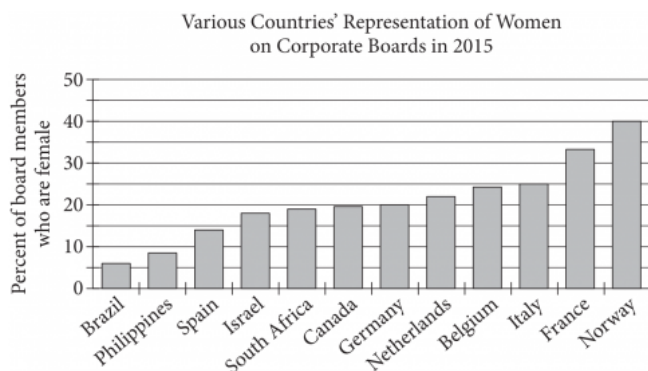
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Even though causality cannot be established with the available data, much research has gone into understanding whether there is a relationship between board diversity and company performance. Deborah Rhode and Amanda Packel of Stanford University provide an excellent review. The evidence is mixed. A number of studies report positive correlations between the fraction of female directors and company performance. Miriam Schwartz-Ziv's analysis of Israeli companies suggests that critical mass mattered and that companies with at least three female directors had higher ROEs (returns on equity) and net profit margins. Others have found no or negative correlations between gender diversity and performance.

Given the mixed evidence of individual studies, a meta-analysis combining the results of 140 studies is particularly helpful in this context. Across all studies, it finds a small positive relationship between female board representation and company profitability (measured by accounting returns). Market performance, on the other hand, was only positively related to board diversity in countries with greater gender parity and negatively otherwise. Investors' evaluations of a firm's future performance may well be influenced by gender norms prevalent in a given country. In more gender-equal countries, they expected gender diversity on corporate boards to be a good thing; in less gender-equal countries, they saw it as a disadvantage.



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

- A. {line:VH656425_9} (“If there . . . board”)
- B. {line:VH656425_10} (“Deborah . . . review”)
- C. {line:VH656425_11} (“Miriam . . . margins”)
- D. {line:VH656425_12} (“Across . . . returns”)

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks what the passage suggests in its discussion of corporate board diversity. The answer, that companies with more female board members are more profitable, on average, than those with fewer female board members, is best supported in the last paragraph, which refers to an analysis of 140 studies of gender representation on corporate boards: “Across all studies, [the analysis] finds a small positive relationship between female board representation and company profitability (measured by accounting returns).”

Choices A and B are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they argue that it’s impossible to know the causal relationship between board diversity and company performance (choice A) and introduce a study on board diversity and company performance (choice B). Choice C is incorrect. Although the cited lines discuss a study that showed a “critical mass . . . of at least three female directors” correlates with positive company performance, they don’t suggest that increasing the number of female directors beyond three results in greater profitability or that companies with more female directors are necessarily more profitable than those with fewer female directors.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 35

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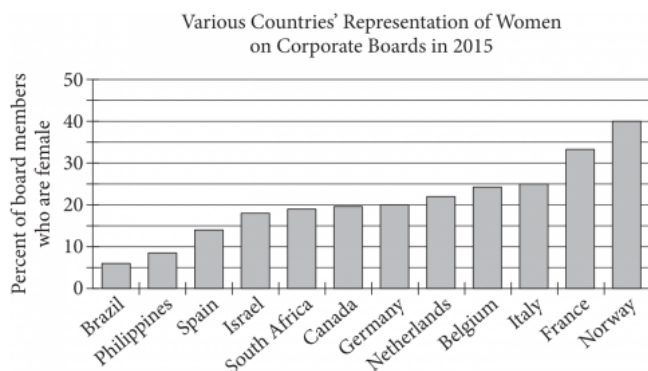
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The passage suggests that compared with a similar company in a country with a high degree of gender parity, a company with a diverse board of directors in a country with a low degree of gender parity would be more likely to have

- A. variable economic performance.
- B. weaker market performance.
- C. greater profitability.
- D. better returns on equity.

Choice B is the best answer. In the last paragraph, the author writes that “market performance . . . was only positively related to board diversity in countries with greater gender parity and negatively otherwise.” In other words, market performance correlated negatively with board diversity in countries with lower gender parity. Thus the passage suggests that compared with a similar company in a country with a high degree of gender parity, a company with a diverse board of directors in a country with a low degree of gender parity would be more likely to have weaker market performance.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the passage suggests that a company with a diverse board of directors in a country with a low degree of gender parity would likely have weaker market performance, not variable economic performance (choice A), greater profitability (choice C), or better returns on equity (choice D) than a similar company in a country with a high degree of gender parity.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 36

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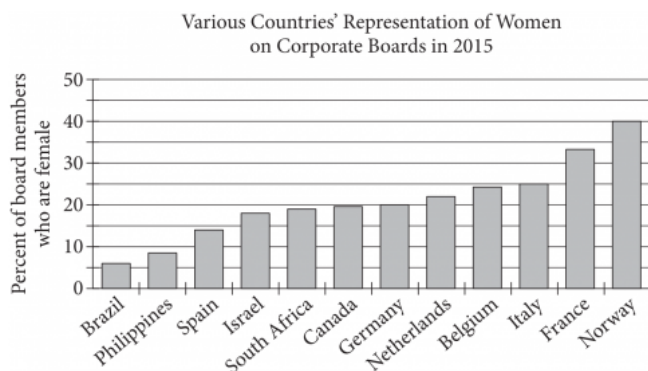
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Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A. {line:VH656425_13} (“Others . . . performance”)
- B. {line:VH656425_14} (“Given . . . context”)
- C. {line:VH656425_15} (“Market . . . otherwise”)
- D. {line:VH656425_16} (“Investors’ . . . country”)

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks what a company with a diverse board of directors in a country with a low degree of gender parity would be more likely to have, compared with a similar company in a country with a high degree of gender parity. The answer, that it would likely have weaker market performance, is best supported in the last paragraph: “Market performance, on the other hand, was only positively related to board diversity in countries with greater gender parity and negatively otherwise.”

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they report that some studies found no, or negative, correlations between gender diversity and company performance (choice A), introduce an analysis of 140 studies on the relationship between female board representation and company profitability (choice B), and explain that the lower market performance of firms with female board representation in countries with less gender parity may be explained by investors’ views on gender norms (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 37

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But was Chancellor Merkel right? Does the evidence suggest that a larger share of women on its corporate board is good for a company? The short answer is that based on the available data, it is almost impossible to prove either way. No study to date has been able to establish a causal relationship between corporate board diversity and company performance. Boards are not created randomly. If there was a relationship between board diversity and firm performance, we would not know whether it was the board that

affected the company or whether the company influenced the composition of the board.

Even though causality cannot be established with the available data, much research has gone into understanding whether there is a relationship between board diversity and company performance. Deborah Rhode and Amanda Packel of Stanford University provide an excellent review. The evidence is mixed. A number of studies report positive correlations between the fraction of female directors and company performance. Miriam Schwartz-Ziv's analysis of Israeli companies suggests that critical mass mattered and that companies with at least three female directors had higher ROEs (returns on equity) and net profit margins. Others have found no or negative correlations between gender diversity and performance.

Given the mixed evidence of individual studies, a meta-analysis combining the results of 140 studies is particularly helpful in this context. Across all studies, it finds a small positive relationship between female board representation and company profitability (measured by accounting returns). Market performance, on the other hand, was only positively related to board diversity in countries with greater gender parity and negatively otherwise. Investors' evaluations of a firm's future performance may well be influenced by gender norms prevalent in a given country. In more gender-equal countries, they expected gender diversity on corporate boards to be a good thing; in less gender-equal countries, they saw it as a disadvantage.



Source: Data from Linda-Eling Lee et al., Women on Boards: Global Trends in Gender Diversity on Corporate Boards. ©2015 by MSCI Inc.

- ¹ Federal government

According to the graph, in 2015 the percent of corporate board members in Italy who were women was approximately

- A. 5 percent.
- B. 15 percent.
- C. 25 percent.
- D. 35 percent.

Choice C is the best answer. The graph displays data on the representation of women on corporate boards in various countries in 2015. The column corresponding to Italy has a value of 25%. Thus the percentage of corporate board members in Italy who were women was approximately 25 percent.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the graph shows the percentage of corporate board members in Italy in 2015 who were women was approximately 25 percent, not 5 percent (choice A), 15 percent (choice B), or 35 percent (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 38

Questions 29-38 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Iris Bohnet, *What Works: Gender Equality by Design*. ©2016 by Iris Bohnet.

Today, more than half the countries in the world have adopted political quotas. They range from party quotas—a certain representation of female candidates on party lists, whether voluntarily adopted or mandated by law—to reserved seats for a fraction of women who must be represented in elected office. Some of this reflects the realization that the self-perpetuating effects of discrimination can only be broken if opportunities for the traditionally discriminated-against are created. If people assume women are unsuited to leadership, women invest less in leadership training and seek out fewer leadership opportunities. And when they do seek to become leaders and confront the stereotype, they are less likely to be chosen. Quotas can short-circuit this cycle. Far from elevating the under-qualified, quotas prove in fact to broaden the pool of qualified candidates.

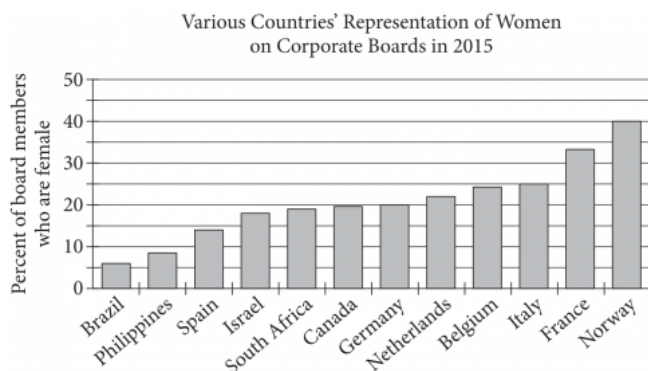
This is perhaps why quotas have started to spread in the business world. In 2003 Norwegian legislation mandated that 40 percent of each sex be represented on its corporate boards. This was followed by similar laws in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain. Board quotas and related target-based schemes are currently under discussion in various other places, including Brazil, Canada, the Philippines, Scotland, and South Africa. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel surprised many with a change of heart when in 2014 she affirmed the plan to introduce board quotas of 30 percent for the largest German companies in the Bundestag:¹ “We can’t afford to do without the skills of women,” she said.

But was Chancellor Merkel right? Does the evidence suggest that a larger share of women on its corporate board is good for a company? The short answer is that based on the available data, it is almost impossible to prove either way. No study to date has been able to establish a causal relationship between corporate board diversity and company performance. Boards are not created randomly. If there was a relationship between board diversity and firm performance, we would not know whether it was the board that

affected the company or whether the company influenced the composition of the board.

Even though causality cannot be established with the available data, much research has gone into understanding whether there is a relationship between board diversity and company performance. Deborah Rhode and Amanda Packel of Stanford University provide an excellent review. The evidence is mixed. A number of studies report positive correlations between the fraction of female directors and company performance. Miriam Schwartz-Ziv's analysis of Israeli companies suggests that critical mass mattered and that companies with at least three female directors had higher ROEs (returns on equity) and net profit margins. Others have found no or negative correlations between gender diversity and performance.

Given the mixed evidence of individual studies, a meta-analysis combining the results of 140 studies is particularly helpful in this context. Across all studies, it finds a small positive relationship between female board representation and company profitability (measured by accounting returns). Market performance, on the other hand, was only positively related to board diversity in countries with greater gender parity and negatively otherwise. Investors' evaluations of a firm's future performance may well be influenced by gender norms prevalent in a given country. In more gender-equal countries, they expected gender diversity on corporate boards to be a good thing; in less gender-equal countries, they saw it as a disadvantage.



Source: Data from Linda-Eling Lee et al., Women on Boards: Global Trends in Gender Diversity on Corporate Boards. ©2015 by MSCI Inc.

- ¹ Federal government

Based on the information in the graph, in the countries that the passage lists as having instituted quotas (line:VH656425_17), in 2015 the percent of corporate board members who were women ranged from approximately

- A. 6 percent to 25 percent.
- B. 14 percent to 25 percent.
- C. 14 percent to 40 percent.
- D. 33 percent to 40 percent.

Choice C is the best answer. In the second paragraph, the passage lists Norway, along with Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain, as having gender quotas in 2015. Among these countries, Spain had the lowest percentage of female corporate board members, according to the graph, with 14%, while Norway had the highest with 40%. Thus, based on the information in the graph, in the countries that the passage lists as having quotas in place in 2015, the percent of corporate board members who were women ranged from 14 percent to 40 percent.

Choice A is incorrect because Brazil had 6% female representation on corporate boards, according to the graph, but none of the countries listed in the second paragraph did; Italy had 25% female representation on corporate boards, but this isn't as high as Norway's at 40%. Choice B is incorrect because the lowest percentage of female corporate board members among the countries listed in the second paragraph was 14% for Spain, but Italy's 25% representation on corporate boards isn't as high as Norway's 40%. Choice D is incorrect because the graph shows Norway did have the highest percentage of female corporate board members at 40%, but France only had 33%, which isn't as low as Spain's 14%.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 39

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from James Urton, “Researchers Discover How Petunias Know When to Smell Good.” ©2015 by University of Washington.

A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators. Their findings connect the production and release of these fragrant chemicals to the innate circadian rhythms that pulse through all life on Earth.

The researchers studied these questions in the common garden petunia. This white-flowered hybrid releases an aromatic, sweet-smelling fragrance in the evening to attract insect pollinators, such as hawk moths.

“Plants emit these scents when they want to attract their pollinators,” said Takato Imaizumi, UW associate professor of biology and senior author on the paper. “It makes sense that they should time this with when the pollinators will be around.”

Imaizumi’s team discovered a major gene that controls when the petunia releases its fragrance. The gene—known by its acronym LHY—is found in many plant species and is a key component of the plant “circadian clock.”

Biologists have long recognized that creatures like plants, humans and even tiny bacteria all have circadian clocks—genes that keep their cells synchronized to the 24-hour cycle of life on Earth. These genes regulate cellular activities based on the time of day. Researchers had previously shown that LHY is a component of the circadian clock in other flowering plants, but this paper marks the first time biologists have connected LHY activity to flower scent.

“Now we’re finding out what the bridge is between the circadian clock and scent production and release,” said Myles Fenske, a UW doctoral student in biology and one of three lead authors on the paper.

Since no one had ever studied the LHY gene in petunias, Fenske and his fellow researchers gathered basic information about LHY to show that it has the same circadian functions as it does in other plant species. Many circadian clock genes are only active at specific times of the day, when they

influence the activity of other genes that control what cells are doing. The researchers in Imaizumi's lab discovered that the petunia LHY gene is most active in the morning, at the opposite time of day from when the petunia releases its fragrant evening scent.

Imaizumi and his team hypothesized that LHY's morning activity might repress the production of scented chemicals. When they prolonged LHY's activity into the evening, the petunias didn't release their fragrant chemicals at all.

"That was perfect," said Imaizumi. "It is exactly what I would hope to see."

If LHY's activity truly did have a negative effect on scent production, then petunia plants that lacked the LHY gene's burst of morning activity might produce and release their scents earlier in the day. Fenske and his colleagues created petunia plants with reduced LHY activity. Those plants produced and released fragrant chemicals four to eight hours earlier in the day.

Imaizumi's team even discovered how LHY represses floral scent production. It interferes with the activity of ODO1, another petunia gene that promotes the production and release of floral scents. By repressing ODO1 activity early in the day, LHY stops the floral scent assembly line in its tracks. When the LHY gene becomes less active later in the day, ODO1 is able to ramp up production of the fragrant chemicals just in time for the evening aromatic release.

Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant's circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

The main purpose of the passage is to discuss the discovery of

- A. factors that alter the chemical composition of fragrance in garden petunias.
- B. genes that influence the timing of scent release in garden petunias.
- C. a relationship between pollination rates and fragrance release in garden petunias.
- D. the processes that regulate the onset of flowering in garden petunias.

Choice B is the best answer. The passage discusses a research study on the timing of scent release in petunias. The fourth paragraph summarizes this research: “Imaizumi’s team discovered a major gene that controls when the petunia releases its fragrance.” The subsequent paragraphs discuss how Imaizumi and his team conducted their research and what they learned about how this gene functions and interacts with other genes. Therefore, the main purpose of the passage is to discuss the discovery of genes that influence the timing of scent release in garden petunias.

Choice A is incorrect because the main purpose of the passage is to discuss the discovery of genes that influence the timing of scent release in garden petunias, not factors that alter the chemical composition of their fragrance. Choice C is incorrect. The passage does indicate that fragrance release correlates to pollination rates in garden petunias, but this is a supporting point, not the main purpose. Choice D is incorrect because the passage discusses the regulation of fragrance release, not the onset of flowering, in garden petunias.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 40

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from James Urton, “Researchers Discover How Petunias Know When to Smell Good.” ©2015 by University of Washington.

A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators. Their findings connect the production and release of these fragrant chemicals to the innate circadian rhythms that pulse through all life on Earth.

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Imaizumi's team even discovered how LHY represses floral scent production. It interferes with the activity of ODO1, another petunia gene that promotes the production and release of floral scents. By repressing ODO1 activity early in the day, LHY stops the floral scent assembly line in its tracks. When the LHY gene becomes less active later in the day, ODO1 is able to ramp up production of the fragrant chemicals just in time for the evening aromatic release.

Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant's circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

As used in {line:VH367717_1}, "key mechanism" most nearly means

- A. crucial process.
- B. unusual tool.
- C. fundamental doctrine.
- D. efficient device.

Choice A is the best answer. The first sentence of the passage states, “A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators.” In other words, these scientists have identified a crucial, or important, process. Thus the phrase “key mechanism,” as used in this context, most nearly means crucial process.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the first paragraph, “key mechanism” means crucial process, not unusual tool (choice B), fundamental doctrine (choice C), or efficient device (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 41

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from James Urton, “Researchers Discover How Petunias Know When to Smell Good.” ©2015 by University of Washington.

A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators. Their findings connect the production and release of these fragrant chemicals to the innate circadian rhythms that pulse through all life on Earth.

The researchers studied these questions in the common garden petunia. This white-flowered hybrid releases an aromatic, sweet-smelling fragrance in the evening to attract insect pollinators, such as hawk moths.

“Plants emit these scents when they want to attract their pollinators,” said Takato Imaizumi, UW associate professor of biology and senior author on the paper. “It makes sense that they should time this with when the pollinators will be around.”

Imaizumi’s team discovered a major gene that controls when the petunia releases its fragrance. The gene—known by its acronym LHY—is found in many plant species and is a key component of the plant “circadian clock.”

Biologists have long recognized that creatures like plants, humans and even tiny bacteria all have circadian clocks—genes that keep their cells synchronized to the 24-hour cycle of life on Earth. These genes regulate cellular activities based on the time of day. Researchers had previously shown that LHY is a component of the circadian clock in other flowering plants, but this paper marks the first time biologists have connected LHY activity to flower scent.

“Now we’re finding out what the bridge is between the circadian clock and scent production and release,” said Myles Fenske, a UW doctoral student in biology and one of three lead authors on the paper.

Since no one had ever studied the LHY gene in petunias, Fenske and his fellow researchers gathered basic information about LHY to show that it has the same circadian functions as it does in other plant species. Many circadian clock genes are only active at specific times of the day, when they

influence the activity of other genes that control what cells are doing. The researchers in Imaizumi's lab discovered that the petunia LHY gene is most active in the morning, at the opposite time of day from when the petunia releases its fragrant evening scent.

Imaizumi and his team hypothesized that LHY's morning activity might repress the production of scented chemicals. When they prolonged LHY's activity into the evening, the petunias didn't release their fragrant chemicals at all.

"That was perfect," said Imaizumi. "It is exactly what I would hope to see."

If LHY's activity truly did have a negative effect on scent production, then petunia plants that lacked the LHY gene's burst of morning activity might produce and release their scents earlier in the day. Fenske and his colleagues created petunia plants with reduced LHY activity. Those plants produced and released fragrant chemicals four to eight hours earlier in the day.

Imaizumi's team even discovered how LHY represses floral scent production. It interferes with the activity of ODO1, another petunia gene that promotes the production and release of floral scents. By repressing ODO1 activity early in the day, LHY stops the floral scent assembly line in its tracks. When the LHY gene becomes less active later in the day, ODO1 is able to ramp up production of the fragrant chemicals just in time for the evening aromatic release.

Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant's circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

As used in {line:VH367717_7}, "marks" most nearly means

- A. grades.
- B. signifies.
- C. heeds.
- D. blots.

Choice B is the best answer. The fifth paragraph asserts, “This paper marks the first time biologists have connected LHY activity to flower scent.” In other words, the paper represents, or signifies, the first time biologists have made this connection. Thus the word “marks,” as used in this context, most nearly means signifies.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the fifth paragraph, “marks” means signifies, not grades (choice A), heeds (choice C), or blots (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 42

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from James Urton, “Researchers Discover How Petunias Know When to Smell Good.” ©2015 by University of Washington.

A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators. Their findings connect the production and release of these fragrant chemicals to the innate circadian rhythms that pulse through all life on Earth.

The researchers studied these questions in the common garden petunia. This white-flowered hybrid releases an aromatic, sweet-smelling fragrance in the evening to attract insect pollinators, such as hawk moths.

“Plants emit these scents when they want to attract their pollinators,” said Takato Imaizumi, UW associate professor of biology and senior author on the paper. “It makes sense that they should time this with when the pollinators will be around.”

Imaizumi’s team discovered a major gene that controls when the petunia releases its fragrance. The gene—known by its acronym LHY—is found in many plant species and is a key component of the plant “circadian clock.”

Biologists have long recognized that creatures like plants, humans and even tiny bacteria all have circadian clocks—genes that keep their cells synchronized to the 24-hour cycle of life on Earth. These genes regulate cellular activities based on the time of day. Researchers had previously shown that LHY is a component of the circadian clock in other flowering plants, but this paper marks the first time biologists have connected LHY activity to flower scent.

“Now we’re finding out what the bridge is between the circadian clock and scent production and release,” said Myles Fenske, a UW doctoral student in biology and one of three lead authors on the paper.

Since no one had ever studied the LHY gene in petunias, Fenske and his fellow researchers gathered basic information about LHY to show that it has the same circadian functions as it does in other plant species. Many circadian clock genes are only active at specific times of the day, when they

influence the activity of other genes that control what cells are doing. The researchers in Imaizumi's lab discovered that the petunia LHY gene is most active in the morning, at the opposite time of day from when the petunia releases its fragrant evening scent.

Imaizumi and his team hypothesized that LHY's morning activity might repress the production of scented chemicals. When they prolonged LHY's activity into the evening, the petunias didn't release their fragrant chemicals at all.

"That was perfect," said Imaizumi. "It is exactly what I would hope to see."

If LHY's activity truly did have a negative effect on scent production, then petunia plants that lacked the LHY gene's burst of morning activity might produce and release their scents earlier in the day. Fenske and his colleagues created petunia plants with reduced LHY activity. Those plants produced and released fragrant chemicals four to eight hours earlier in the day.

Imaizumi's team even discovered how LHY represses floral scent production. It interferes with the activity of ODO1, another petunia gene that promotes the production and release of floral scents. By repressing ODO1 activity early in the day, LHY stops the floral scent assembly line in its tracks. When the LHY gene becomes less active later in the day, ODO1 is able to ramp up production of the fragrant chemicals just in time for the evening aromatic release.

Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant's circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

The scientists discussed in the passage confirmed the negative effect of LHY on scent release in garden petunias by

- A. analyzing differences between the volume of scent released by unaltered garden petunias and those with increased LHY activity.
- B. tracking the number of visits from insect pollinators in both unaltered and reduced-LHY garden petunias over a 24-hour period.
- C. identifying the length of time pollinators visit garden petunias with unaltered and increased LHY activity.
- D. comparing the timing of scent release in garden petunias with normal LHY activity and those with reduced LHY activity.

Choice D is the best answer. According to the tenth paragraph, Fenske and his colleagues created petunia plants with reduced LHY activity, which caused these plants to release fragrant chemicals four to eight hours earlier in the day than plants with normal LHY activity. Thus the scientists discussed in the passage confirmed the negative effect of LHY on scent release in garden petunias by comparing the timing of scent release in garden petunias with normal LHY activity and those with reduced LHY activity.

Choice A is incorrect. Although the scientists discussed in the passage conducted a study in which LHY activity was prolonged, their research focused on the timing, not the volume, of scent release. Choices B and C are incorrect because the research by Imaizumi's team, as presented in the passage, didn't depend on tracking the number of visits from insect pollinators (choice B) or identifying the length of time pollinators visited petunias (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 43

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from James Urton, “Researchers Discover How Petunias Know When to Smell Good.” ©2015 by University of Washington.

A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators. Their findings connect the production and release of these fragrant chemicals to the innate circadian rhythms that pulse through all life on Earth.

The researchers studied these questions in the common garden petunia. This white-flowered hybrid releases an aromatic, sweet-smelling fragrance in the evening to attract insect pollinators, such as hawk moths.

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Biologists have long recognized that creatures like plants, humans and even tiny bacteria all have circadian clocks—genes that keep their cells synchronized to the 24-hour cycle of life on Earth. These genes regulate cellular activities based on the time of day. Researchers had previously shown that LHY is a component of the circadian clock in other flowering plants, but this paper marks the first time biologists have connected LHY activity to flower scent.

“Now we’re finding out what the bridge is between the circadian clock and scent production and release,” said Myles Fenske, a UW doctoral student in biology and one of three lead authors on the paper.

Since no one had ever studied the LHY gene in petunias, Fenske and his fellow researchers gathered basic information about LHY to show that it has the same circadian functions as it does in other plant species. Many circadian clock genes are only active at specific times of the day, when they

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Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant's circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

It can most reasonably be inferred from the passage that when the scientists altered garden petunias in order to prolong the activity of LHY into the evening, they also

- A. inhibited the activity of ODO1 in the altered plants.
- B. confirmed the presence of ODO1 in the altered plants.
- C. concentrated the fragrance produced by the altered plants.
- D. destroyed the ability of the altered plants to produce fragrance.

Choice A is the best answer. The eighth paragraph explains that scientists prolonged LHY production in petunias to test its effect on scent production. According to the eleventh paragraph, “[LHY] interferes with the activity of ODO1, another petunia gene that promotes the production and release of floral scents.” Therefore, it can be inferred that the scientists’ alteration of the petunia had the effect of inhibiting the activity of ODO1 in the altered plants.

Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn’t suggest that the presence of ODO1 in the petunia was ever in question. Choice C is incorrect because it can’t be inferred that the scientists concentrated the fragrance of their flowers when altering the petunias. Choice D is incorrect because although prolonging the activity of LHY also inhibited the activity of ODO1 in the altered plants, the passage doesn’t suggest that this destroyed the altered plants’ ability to produce fragrance.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 44

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from James Urton, “Researchers Discover How Petunias Know When to Smell Good.” ©2015 by University of Washington.

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Imaizumi and his team hypothesized that LHY’s morning activity might repress the production of scented chemicals. When they prolonged LHY’s activity into the evening, the petunias didn’t release their fragrant chemicals at all.

“That was perfect,” said Imaizumi. “It is exactly what I would hope to see.”

If LHY’s activity truly did have a negative effect on scent production, then petunia plants that lacked the LHY gene’s burst of morning activity might produce and release their scents earlier in the day. Fenske and his colleagues created petunia plants with reduced LHY activity. Those plants produced and released fragrant chemicals four to eight hours earlier in the day.

Imaizumi’s team even discovered how LHY represses floral scent production. It interferes with the activity of ODO1, another petunia gene that promotes the production and release of floral scents. By repressing ODO1 activity early in the day, LHY stops the floral scent assembly line in its tracks. When the LHY gene becomes less active later in the day, ODO1 is able to ramp up production of the fragrant chemicals just in time for the evening aromatic release.

Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant’s circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

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

- A. {line:VH367717_17} (“Their . . . Earth”)
- B. {line:VH367717_19} (“The gene . . . clock”)
- C. {line:VH367717_10} (“Researchers . . . scent”)
- D. {line:VH367717_11} (“It interferes . . . scents”)

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks what scientists also achieved when they altered garden petunias to prolong the activity of LHY. The answer, that they also inhibited the activity of ODO1 in the altered plants, is best supported in the eleventh paragraph: “[LHY] interferes with the activity of ODO1, another petunia gene that promotes the production and release of floral scents.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they frame the researchers’ findings in terms of circadian rhythms (choice A), introduce the discovery of LHY and suggest its importance to plants’ circadian clocks (choice B), and highlight the significance of Imaizumi’s team’s discovery with regard to the influence of LHY on flower scent production (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 45

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from James Urton, “Researchers Discover How Petunias Know When to Smell Good.” ©2015 by University of Washington.

A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators. Their findings connect the production and release of these fragrant chemicals to the innate circadian rhythms that pulse through all life on Earth.

The researchers studied these questions in the common garden petunia. This white-flowered hybrid releases an aromatic, sweet-smelling fragrance in the evening to attract insect pollinators, such as hawk moths.

“Plants emit these scents when they want to attract their pollinators,” said Takato Imaizumi, UW associate professor of biology and senior author on the paper. “It makes sense that they should time this with when the pollinators will be around.”

Imaizumi’s team discovered a major gene that controls when the petunia releases its fragrance. The gene—known by its acronym LHY—is found in many plant species and is a key component of the plant “circadian clock.”

Biologists have long recognized that creatures like plants, humans and even tiny bacteria all have circadian clocks—genes that keep their cells synchronized to the 24-hour cycle of life on Earth. These genes regulate cellular activities based on the time of day. Researchers had previously shown that LHY is a component of the circadian clock in other flowering plants, but this paper marks the first time biologists have connected LHY activity to flower scent.

“Now we’re finding out what the bridge is between the circadian clock and scent production and release,” said Myles Fenske, a UW doctoral student in biology and one of three lead authors on the paper.

Since no one had ever studied the LHY gene in petunias, Fenske and his fellow researchers gathered basic information about LHY to show that it has the same circadian functions as it does in other plant species. Many circadian clock genes are only active at specific times of the day, when they

influence the activity of other genes that control what cells are doing. The researchers in Imaizumi's lab discovered that the petunia LHY gene is most active in the morning, at the opposite time of day from when the petunia releases its fragrant evening scent.

Imaizumi and his team hypothesized that LHY's morning activity might repress the production of scented chemicals. When they prolonged LHY's activity into the evening, the petunias didn't release their fragrant chemicals at all.

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Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant's circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

The author most likely compares floral scent production to an "assembly line" because an assembly line suggests a

- A. standard procedure ensuring a regular supply of plant nutrients.
- B. well-run mechanism in which a plant's genes are easily interchanged.
- C. routinely occurring process functioning within a plant's cells.
- D. recurring task that is controlled by the introduction of a plant's primary pollinator.

Choice C is the best answer. The eleventh paragraph describes how the petunia gene ODO1 promotes floral scent production and explains that “by repressing ODO1 activity early in the day, LHY stops the floral scent assembly line in its tracks.” An assembly line is an industrial production process that consists of a sequence of steps, so the comparison suggests a routinely occurring process functioning within a plant's cells.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because “assembly line” isn't used in the passage to describe the production of plant nutrients (choice A), the interchange of plant genes (choice B), or a recurring task that is controlled by the introduction of a plant's primary pollinator (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 46

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from James Urton, “Researchers Discover How Petunias Know When to Smell Good.” ©2015 by University of Washington.

A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators. Their findings connect the production and release of these fragrant chemicals to the innate circadian rhythms that pulse through all life on Earth.

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influence the activity of other genes that control what cells are doing. The researchers in Imaizumi's lab discovered that the petunia LHY gene is most active in the morning, at the opposite time of day from when the petunia releases its fragrant evening scent.

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Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant's circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

As presented in the passage, which choice best expresses the perspective of Imaizumi and his team regarding the LHY and ODO1 genes?

- A. The functions of the LHY and ODO1 genes are well understood in flowering plants, but more research is needed in order to determine their role in garden petunias.
- B. The importance of the LHY and ODO1 genes in scent production among garden petunias has been overestimated by scientists.
- C. The LHY and ODO1 genes most likely interact in similar ways in other flowering plants as they do in garden petunias.
- D. The LHY and ODO1 genes most likely exert a greater influence on floral scent in garden petunias than in less aromatic flowering plants.

Choice C is the best answer. The last paragraph discusses the relationship of LHY and ODO1: “Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant’s circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents.” It can reasonably be inferred from these lines that Imaizumi and his team think that the two genes most likely interact in similar ways in other flowering plants as they do in garden petunias.

Choice A is incorrect because Imaizumi and his team consider the functions of LHY and ODO1 in garden petunias to be well established, not in need of further research. Choice B is incorrect because Imaizumi and his team don’t consider the importance of LHY and ODO1 to be overestimated by scientists. Choice D is incorrect because the passage doesn’t suggest that Imaizumi and his team concluded that the two genes exert a greater influence on floral scent in garden petunias than in less aromatic flowering plants.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 47

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage.

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A team of University of Washington biologists has identified a key mechanism plants use to decide when to release their floral scents to attract pollinators. Their findings connect the production and release of these fragrant chemicals to the innate circadian rhythms that pulse through all life on Earth.

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Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant’s circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents. If so, then changes to the strength or timing of the LHY-ODO1 bridge may explain how flowers change the timing of scent production as they evolve.

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

- A. {line:VH367717_15} (“Imaizumi . . . chemicals”)
- B. {line:VH367717_22} (“By repressing . . . tracks”)
- C. {line:VH367717_23} (“When . . . release”)
- D. {line:VH367717_16} (“Since . . . scents”)

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks about the perspective of Imaizumi and his team regarding the LHY and ODO1 genes. The answer, that they believe the LHY and ODO1 genes most likely interact in similar ways in other flowering plants as they do in garden petunias, is best supported in the last paragraph: “Since genes like LHY and ODO1 are present in most—if not all—flowering plants, Imaizumi and his team believe that the interactions between these two genes may be a common mechanism for a plant’s circadian clock to influence or control the production of fragrant floral scents.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they present the team’s initial hypothesis that LHY activity might suppress scent production (choice A), compare floral scent production to an assembly line to suggest a routine process that is inhibited by LHY activity (choice B), and explain that lower LHY levels later in the day allow ODO1 genes to increase scent production in time for an evening release (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Medium