

Reading: Question 1

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Ruth Ozeki, *A Tale for the Time Being*. ©2013 by Ruth Ozeki Lounsbury. This passage is set in British Columbia. Ruth has discovered a bag containing a book on a beach.

“In search of lost time,” Ruth said, translating the tarnished gilt title, embossed on the book’s red cloth spine. “I’ve never read it.”

“I haven’t, either,” said Oliver. “I don’t think I’ll be trying it in French, though.”

“Mm,” she said, agreeing, but then she opened the cover, anyway, curious to see if she could understand just the first few lines. She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page. It felt like a desecration, and it shocked her so much she almost dropped the book.

Print is predictable and impersonal, conveying information in a mechanical transaction with the reader’s eye.

Handwriting, by contrast, resists the eye, reveals its meaning slowly, and is as intimate as skin.

Ruth stared at the page. The purple words were mostly in English, with some Japanese characters scattered here and there, but her eye wasn’t really taking in their meaning as much as a felt sense, murky and emotional, of the writer’s presence. The fingers that had gripped the purple gel ink pen must have belonged to a girl, a teenager. Her handwriting, these loopy purple marks impressed onto the page, retained her moods and anxieties, and the moment Ruth laid eyes on the page, she knew without a doubt that the girl’s fingertips were moist and soft, and that she had bitten her nails down to the quick.

Ruth looked more closely at the letters. They were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too), but they stood more or less upright and marched gamely across the page at a good clip, not in a hurry, but not dawdling, either. Sometimes at the end of a line, they crowded each other a little, like people jostling to get onto an elevator or into a subway car, just as the doors were closing. Ruth’s curiosity was piqued. It

was clearly a diary of some kind. She examined the cover again. Should she read it? Deliberately now, she turned to the first page, feeling vaguely prurient, like an eavesdropper. Novelists spend a lot of time poking their noses into other people’s business. Ruth was not unfamiliar with this feeling.

Hi!, she read. My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? . . .

“Flotsam,” Oliver said. He was examining the barnacles that had grown onto the surface of the outer plastic bag. “I can’t believe it.”

Ruth glanced up from the page. “Of course it’s flotsam,” she said. “Or jetsam.” The book felt warm in her hands, and she wanted to continue reading but heard herself asking, instead, “What’s the difference, anyway?”

“Flotsam is accidental, stuff found floating at sea. Jetsam’s been jettisoned. It’s a matter of intent. So you’re right, maybe this is jetsam.” He laid the bag back down onto the table. “I think it’s starting.”

“What’s starting?”

“Drifters,” he said. “Escaping the orbit of the Pacific Gyre . . .”

His eyes were sparkling and she could tell he was excited. She rested the book in her lap. “What’s a gyre?”

“There are eleven great planetary gyres,” he said. “Two of them flow directly toward us from Japan and diverge just off the British Columbia coastline. The smaller one, the Aleut Gyre, goes north toward the Aleutian Islands. The larger one goes south. It’s sometimes called the Turtle Gyre, because the sea turtles ride it when they migrate from Japan to Baja.”

He held up his hands to describe a big circle. “Imagine the Pacific,” Oliver said. “The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise.” His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean’s flow.

Which choice best supports the conclusion that Ruth first believes the diary is very old?

- A. {line:VH309717_1} (“She was . . . page”)
- B. {line:VH309717_2} (“Print . . . eye”)
- C. {line:VH309717_4} (“It was . . . kind”)
- D. {line:VH309717_5} (“He was . . . bag”)

Choice A is the best answer. The third paragraph states that when Ruth opens the diary, “She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely

unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page.” This description best supports the conclusion that she initially believes the diary is very old.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the cited lines do not support the claim that Ruth first believes the diary is antiquated. Instead, they present the characteristics of print (choice B), indicate that the book was a diary (choice C), and describe the condition of the bag (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 2

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“I haven’t, either,” said Oliver. “I don’t think I’ll be trying it in French, though.”

“Mm,” she said, agreeing, but then she opened the cover, anyway, curious to see if she could understand just the first few lines. She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page. It felt like a desecration, and it shocked her so much she almost dropped the book.

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Ruth looked more closely at the letters. They were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too), but they stood more or less upright and marched gamely across the page at a good clip, not in a hurry, but not dawdling, either. Sometimes at the end of a line, they crowded each other a little, like people jostling to get onto an elevator or into a subway car, just as the doors were closing. Ruth’s curiosity was piqued. It

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Hi!, she read. My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? . . .

"Flotsam," Oliver said. He was examining the barnacles that had grown onto the surface of the outer plastic bag. "I can't believe it."

Ruth glanced up from the page. "Of course it's flotsam," she said. "Or jetsam." The book felt warm in her hands, and she wanted to continue reading but heard herself asking, instead, "What's the difference, anyway?"

"Flotsam is accidental, stuff found floating at sea. Jetsam's been jettisoned. It's a matter of intent. So you're right, maybe this is jetsam." He laid the bag back down onto the table. "I think it's starting."

"What's starting?"

"Drifters," he said. "Escaping the orbit of the Pacific Gyre . . ."

His eyes were sparkling and she could tell he was excited. She rested the book in her lap. "What's a gyre?"

"There are eleven great planetary gyres," he said. "Two of them flow directly toward us from Japan and diverge just off the British Columbia coastline. The smaller one, the Aleut Gyre, goes north toward the Aleutian Islands. The larger one goes south. It's sometimes called the Turtle Gyre, because the sea turtles ride it when they migrate from Japan to Baja."

He held up his hands to describe a big circle. "Imagine the Pacific," Oliver said. "The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise." His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean's flow.

As used in {line:VH309717_6}, "conveying" most nearly means

- A. bearing.
- B. communicating.
- C. projecting.
- D. conducting.

Choice B is the best answer. The fourth paragraph states that "print is predictable and impersonal, conveying information in a mechanical transaction with the reader's eye." In other

words, print provides information to the reader. Thus the word “conveying,” as used in this sentence, most nearly means communicating.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “conveying” means communicating, not bearing (choice A), projecting (choice C), or conducting (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 3

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

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“In search of lost time,” Ruth said, translating the tarnished gilt title, embossed on the book’s red cloth spine. “I’ve never read it.”

“I haven’t, either,” said Oliver. “I don’t think I’ll be trying it in French, though.”

“Mm,” she said, agreeing, but then she opened the cover, anyway, curious to see if she could understand just the first few lines. She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page. It felt like a desecration, and it shocked her so much she almost dropped the book.

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Ruth looked more closely at the letters. They were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too), but they stood more or less upright and marched gamely across the page at a good clip, not in a hurry, but not dawdling, either. Sometimes at the end of a line, they crowded each other a little, like people jostling to get onto an elevator or into a subway car, just as the doors were closing. Ruth’s curiosity was piqued. It

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Hi!, she read. My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? . . .

"Flotsam," Oliver said. He was examining the barnacles that had grown onto the surface of the outer plastic bag. "I can't believe it."

Ruth glanced up from the page. "Of course it's flotsam," she said. "Or jetsam." The book felt warm in her hands, and she wanted to continue reading but heard herself asking, instead, "What's the difference, anyway?"

"Flotsam is accidental, stuff found floating at sea. Jetsam's been jettisoned. It's a matter of intent. So you're right, maybe this is jetsam." He laid the bag back down onto the table. "I think it's starting."

"What's starting?"

"Drifters," he said. "Escaping the orbit of the Pacific Gyre . . ."

His eyes were sparkling and she could tell he was excited. She rested the book in her lap. "What's a gyre?"

"There are eleven great planetary gyres," he said. "Two of them flow directly toward us from Japan and diverge just off the British Columbia coastline. The smaller one, the Aleut Gyre, goes north toward the Aleutian Islands. The larger one goes south. It's sometimes called the Turtle Gyre, because the sea turtles ride it when they migrate from Japan to Baja."

He held up his hands to describe a big circle. "Imagine the Pacific," Oliver said. "The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise." His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean's flow.

The narrator distinguishes between print and handwriting (line:VH309717_7) primarily to illustrate

- A. how writers reveal specific mannerisms through text.
- B. how readers interact with different types of text.
- C. why readers find it difficult to decipher handwritten text.
- D. why readers classify printed text as more durable than handwritten text.

Choice B is the best answer. The fourth and fifth paragraphs contrast the characteristics of print and handwriting by drawing specific attention to their effects on readers. The fourth paragraph

claims that print conveys meaning to a reader impersonally, while the fifth paragraph suggests that handwriting conveys meaning more intimately. Thus the narrator distinguishes between print and handwriting primarily to illustrate how readers interact with different types of text.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect. The distinction detailed in the fourth and fifth paragraphs revolves around readers' reactions to print and handwriting, not writers' mannerisms (choice A). The distinction also doesn't suggest anything about the difficulty of deciphering handwriting (choice C), and doesn't compare the durability of printed and handwritten texts (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 4

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

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“In search of lost time,” Ruth said, translating the tarnished gilt title, embossed on the book’s red cloth spine. “I’ve never read it.”

“I haven’t, either,” said Oliver. “I don’t think I’ll be trying it in French, though.”

“Mm,” she said, agreeing, but then she opened the cover, anyway, curious to see if she could understand just the first few lines. She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page. It felt like a desecration, and it shocked her so much she almost dropped the book.

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Ruth looked more closely at the letters. They were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too), but they stood more or less upright and marched gamely across the page at a good clip, not in a hurry, but not dawdling, either. Sometimes at the end of a line, they crowded each other a little, like people jostling to get onto an elevator or into a subway car, just as the doors were closing. Ruth’s curiosity was piqued. It

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Hi!, she read. My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? . . .

"Flotsam," Oliver said. He was examining the barnacles that had grown onto the surface of the outer plastic bag. "I can't believe it."

Ruth glanced up from the page. "Of course it's flotsam," she said. "Or jetsam." The book felt warm in her hands, and she wanted to continue reading but heard herself asking, instead, "What's the difference, anyway?"

"Flotsam is accidental, stuff found floating at sea. Jetsam's been jettisoned. It's a matter of intent. So you're right, maybe this is jetsam." He laid the bag back down onto the table. "I think it's starting."

"What's starting?"

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His eyes were sparkling and she could tell he was excited. She rested the book in her lap. "What's a gyre?"

"There are eleven great planetary gyres," he said. "Two of them flow directly toward us from Japan and diverge just off the British Columbia coastline. The smaller one, the Aleut Gyre, goes north toward the Aleutian Islands. The larger one goes south. It's sometimes called the Turtle Gyre, because the sea turtles ride it when they migrate from Japan to Baja."

He held up his hands to describe a big circle. "Imagine the Pacific," Oliver said. "The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise." His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean's flow.

As used in {line:VH309717_9}, "impressed" most nearly means

- A. designed.
- B. emphasized.
- C. forced.
- D. inscribed.

Choice D is the best answer. The sixth paragraph states that the writer's "handwriting, these loopy purple marks impressed onto the page, retained her moods and anxieties." In other words,

the writer had physically marked the page with her handwriting. Thus the word “impressed,” as used in this sentence, most nearly means inscribed.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “impressed” means inscribed, not designed (choice A), emphasized (choice B), or forced (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 5

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

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“In search of lost time,” Ruth said, translating the tarnished gilt title, embossed on the book’s red cloth spine. “I’ve never read it.”

“I haven’t, either,” said Oliver. “I don’t think I’ll be trying it in French, though.”

“Mm,” she said, agreeing, but then she opened the cover, anyway, curious to see if she could understand just the first few lines. She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page. It felt like a desecration, and it shocked her so much she almost dropped the book.

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Ruth looked more closely at the letters. They were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too), but they stood more or less upright and marched gamely across the page at a good clip, not in a hurry, but not dawdling, either. Sometimes at the end of a line, they crowded each other a little, like people jostling to get onto an elevator or into a subway car, just as the doors were closing. Ruth’s curiosity was piqued. It

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Hi!, she read. My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? . . .

"Flotsam," Oliver said. He was examining the barnacles that had grown onto the surface of the outer plastic bag. "I can't believe it."

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"What's starting?"

"Drifters," he said. "Escaping the orbit of the Pacific Gyre . . ."

His eyes were sparkling and she could tell he was excited. She rested the book in her lap. "What's a gyre?"

"There are eleven great planetary gyres," he said. "Two of them flow directly toward us from Japan and diverge just off the British Columbia coastline. The smaller one, the Aleut Gyre, goes north toward the Aleutian Islands. The larger one goes south. It's sometimes called the Turtle Gyre, because the sea turtles ride it when they migrate from Japan to Baja."

He held up his hands to describe a big circle. "Imagine the Pacific," Oliver said. "The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise." His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean's flow.

The phrase in parentheses in {line:VH309717_10} primarily serves to suggest Ruth is

- A. deciding whether to read Nao's diary.
- B. adapting to Nao's shifting moods.
- C. criticizing Nao's messy handwriting.
- D. forming an idea of Nao's characteristics.

Choice D is the best answer. The sixth paragraph suggests that Ruth was able to learn a lot about Nao, the girl who wrote the diary, just by examining Nao's handwriting. Ruth continues to

speculate in the seventh paragraph when she notes that Nao's letters "were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too)." Thus the phrase in parentheses primarily serves to suggest that Ruth is forming an idea of Nao's characteristics because she is imagining what Nao must be like.

Choice A is incorrect because Ruth considers whether to read Nao's diary later in the seventh paragraph. Choice B is incorrect because the passage doesn't indicate whether Nao's moods had shifted. Choice C is incorrect because the phrase in parentheses refers to Nao herself, not her handwriting.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 6

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“I haven’t, either,” said Oliver. “I don’t think I’ll be trying it in French, though.”

“Mm,” she said, agreeing, but then she opened the cover, anyway, curious to see if she could understand just the first few lines. She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page. It felt like a desecration, and it shocked her so much she almost dropped the book.

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Ruth looked more closely at the letters. They were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too), but they stood more or less upright and marched gamely across the page at a good clip, not in a hurry, but not dawdling, either. Sometimes at the end of a line, they crowded each other a little, like people jostling to get onto an elevator or into a subway car, just as the doors were closing. Ruth’s curiosity was piqued. It

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Hi!, she read. My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? . . .

“Flotsam,” Oliver said. He was examining the barnacles that had grown onto the surface of the outer plastic bag. “I can’t believe it.”

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“Flotsam is accidental, stuff found floating at sea. Jetsam’s been jettisoned. It’s a matter of intent. So you’re right, maybe this is jetsam.” He laid the bag back down onto the table. “I think it’s starting.”

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He held up his hands to describe a big circle. “Imagine the Pacific,” Oliver said. “The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise.” His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean’s flow.

Which choice best describes how Ruth approaches the idea of reading the diary?

- A. She feels entitled to study Nao’s writing but is worried about translating it.
- B. She fails to contemplate whether Nao’s diary should be viewed only by its owner.
- C. Her hesitation to read the diary is overcome by a desire to pry into Nao’s affairs.
- D. Her consideration for Nao’s privacy is based on her own experience as a novelist.

Choice C is the best answer. The seventh paragraph describes Ruth’s curiosity about the book. She can tell that it’s a diary, and she is hesitant to read it at first because she feels “like an

eavesdropper.” However, the seventh paragraph also implies that Ruth is a novelist, and notes that “novelists spend a lot of time poking their noses into other people’s business.” The next paragraph reveals that Ruth does read the diary. Thus, how Ruth approaches the idea of reading the diary can best be described by saying that her initial hesitation to read the diary is overcome by a desire to pry into Nao’s affairs.

Choice A is incorrect because the only translation mentioned in the passage is that of the title on the book’s cover. Choice B is incorrect because Ruth clearly does question whether she should read the diary. Choice D is incorrect because Ruth’s experience as a novelist actually motivates her to put aside her concern for Nao’s privacy.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 7

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“I haven’t, either,” said Oliver. “I don’t think I’ll be trying it in French, though.”

“Mm,” she said, agreeing, but then she opened the cover, anyway, curious to see if she could understand just the first few lines. She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page. It felt like a desecration, and it shocked her so much she almost dropped the book.

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Ruth looked more closely at the letters. They were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too), but they stood more or less upright and marched gamely across the page at a good clip, not in a hurry, but not dawdling, either. Sometimes at the end of a line, they crowded each other a little, like people jostling to get onto an elevator or into a subway car, just as the doors were closing. Ruth’s curiosity was piqued. It

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"Flotsam," Oliver said. He was examining the barnacles that had grown onto the surface of the outer plastic bag. "I can't believe it."

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"What's starting?"

"Drifters," he said. "Escaping the orbit of the Pacific Gyre . . ."

His eyes were sparkling and she could tell he was excited. She rested the book in her lap. "What's a gyre?"

"There are eleven great planetary gyres," he said. "Two of them flow directly toward us from Japan and diverge just off the British Columbia coastline. The smaller one, the Aleut Gyre, goes north toward the Aleutian Islands. The larger one goes south. It's sometimes called the Turtle Gyre, because the sea turtles ride it when they migrate from Japan to Baja."

He held up his hands to describe a big circle. "Imagine the Pacific," Oliver said. "The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise." His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean's flow.

It can reasonably be inferred that Nao would react to her diary being read with

- A. embarrassment, because she reflects on personal matters.
- B. approval, because she addresses an imagined reader in her writing.
- C. alarm, because she describes her moods and anxieties.
- D. surprise, because she is unaware that readers are inquisitive.

Choice B is the best answer. The eighth paragraph quotes Nao directly addressing a hypothetical reader of her diary in a friendly manner. Therefore, it can reasonably be inferred that Nao would

approve of her diary being read.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage doesn't indicate that Nao is embarrassed or that she reflects on personal matters. Choice C is incorrect because the passage only says that Nao's handwriting reveals her moods and anxieties, not that Nao describes them. Choice D is incorrect because the eighth paragraph suggests that Nao expects someone to read her diary.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 8

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Ruth Ozeki, *A Tale for the Time Being*. ©2013 by Ruth Ozeki Lounsbury. This passage is set in British Columbia. Ruth has discovered a bag containing a book on a beach.

“In search of lost time,” Ruth said, translating the tarnished gilt title, embossed on the book’s red cloth spine. “I’ve never read it.”

“I haven’t, either,” said Oliver. “I don’t think I’ll be trying it in French, though.”

“Mm,” she said, agreeing, but then she opened the cover, anyway, curious to see if she could understand just the first few lines. She was expecting to see an age-stained folio, printed in an antique font, so she was entirely unprepared for the adolescent purple handwriting that sprawled across the page. It felt like a desecration, and it shocked her so much she almost dropped the book.

Print is predictable and impersonal, conveying information in a mechanical transaction with the reader’s eye.

Handwriting, by contrast, resists the eye, reveals its meaning slowly, and is as intimate as skin.

Ruth stared at the page. The purple words were mostly in English, with some Japanese characters scattered here and there, but her eye wasn’t really taking in their meaning as much as a felt sense, murky and emotional, of the writer’s presence. The fingers that had gripped the purple gel ink pen must have belonged to a girl, a teenager. Her handwriting, these loopy purple marks impressed onto the page, retained her moods and anxieties, and the moment Ruth laid eyes on the page, she knew without a doubt that the girl’s fingertips were moist and soft, and that she had bitten her nails down to the quick.

Ruth looked more closely at the letters. They were round and a little bit sloppy (as she now imagined the girl must be, too), but they stood more or less upright and marched gamely across the page at a good clip, not in a hurry, but not dawdling, either. Sometimes at the end of a line, they crowded each other a little, like people jostling to get onto an elevator or into a subway car, just as the doors were closing. Ruth’s curiosity was piqued. It

was clearly a diary of some kind. She examined the cover again. Should she read it? Deliberately now, she turned to the first page, feeling vaguely prurient, like an eavesdropper. Novelists spend a lot of time poking their noses into other people’s business. Ruth was not unfamiliar with this feeling.

Hi!, she read. My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? . . .

“Flotsam,” Oliver said. He was examining the barnacles that had grown onto the surface of the outer plastic bag. “I can’t believe it.”

Ruth glanced up from the page. “Of course it’s flotsam,” she said. “Or jetsam.” The book felt warm in her hands, and she wanted to continue reading but heard herself asking, instead, “What’s the difference, anyway?”

“Flotsam is accidental, stuff found floating at sea. Jetsam’s been jettisoned. It’s a matter of intent. So you’re right, maybe this is jetsam.” He laid the bag back down onto the table. “I think it’s starting.”

“What’s starting?”

“Drifters,” he said. “Escaping the orbit of the Pacific Gyre . . .”

His eyes were sparkling and she could tell he was excited. She rested the book in her lap. “What’s a gyre?”

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He held up his hands to describe a big circle. “Imagine the Pacific,” Oliver said. “The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise.” His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean’s flow.

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

- A. {line:VH309717_12} (“and the . . . quick”)
- B. {line:VH309717_13} (“Ruth . . . sloppy”)
- C. {line:VH309717_14} (“Novelists . . . business”)
- D. {line:VH309717_15} (“Hi! . . . is”)

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks what can reasonably be inferred about how Nao would react to her diary being read. The answer, that Nao would approve because she

addresses an imagined reader, is best supported in the eighth paragraph, where her diary is quoted: “Hi! . . . My name is Nao, and I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? . . .”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don't support the answer to the previous question. Instead they describe Ruth's impression of Nao's fingers based on her handwriting (choice A), the sloppiness of Nao's letters (choice B), and the inquisitiveness of novelists (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 9

Questions 1-9 are based on the following passage.

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He held up his hands to describe a big circle. "Imagine the Pacific," Oliver said. "The Turtle Gyre goes clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre goes counterclockwise." His hands moved in the great arcs and spirals of the ocean's flow.

In the passage, Oliver indicates that the two Pacific gyres

- A. rotate in opposite directions.
- B. are named for their points of origin.
- C. are used by turtles to migrate to Baja.
- D. end near the British Columbia coastline.

Choice A is the best answer. In the last four paragraphs, Oliver discusses the two Pacific gyres: the Turtle Gyre and the Aleut Gyre. In the last paragraph he states that the Turtle Gyre flows

clockwise, and the Aleut Gyre flows counterclockwise. Thus, Oliver indicates that the two Pacific gyres rotate in opposite directions.

Choice B is incorrect because Oliver states that the Turtle Gyre is named for the sea turtles that ride it when they migrate, not for its point of origin. Choice C is incorrect because Oliver indicates that turtles only use the Turtle Gyre to migrate to Baja, not the Aleut Gyre. Choice D is incorrect because Oliver describes the two gyres as diverging near the British Columbia coastline, not ending there.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 10

Questions 10-19 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Daniel H. Pink, *To Sell Is Human: The Surprising Truth about Moving Others*. ©2012 by Daniel H. Pink.

The notion that extraverts—people who are very outgoing and talkative—are the finest salespeople is so obvious that we've overlooked one teensy flaw. There's almost no evidence that it's actually true.

When social scientists have investigated the relationship between extraversion and sales success, they've found the link, at best, flimsy. For instance, while supervisors often give extraverts high ratings, several researchers have found that extraversion has “no statistically significant relationship . . . with sales performance” and that “extraversion is not related to sales volume.” One of the most comprehensive investigations—a set of three meta-analyses of thirty-five separate studies involving 3,806 salespeople—found that the correlation between extraversion and sales was essentially nonexistent. (Positive correlations are measured on a scale that goes from 0 to 1, with higher numbers—say, 0.62—indicating close correlations and 0 no correlation at all. Across the thirty-five studies, the correlation between extraversion and sales performance was a minuscule 0.07.)

Does this mean that introverts—those soft-spoken souls more at home in a study carrel than at a party—are better at moving others? Not at all. In fact, the evidence, which is emerging in new research, reveals something far more intriguing.

Adam Grant is a management professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and one of America's top young social psychologists. Some of his previous research had examined extraversion and he'd become curious that a trait so widely associated with sales didn't have much connection to success in that realm. So he decided to find out why.

Grant collected data from a software company that operates call centers to sell its products. He began by asking more than three hundred sales representatives to complete several personality assessments, including one

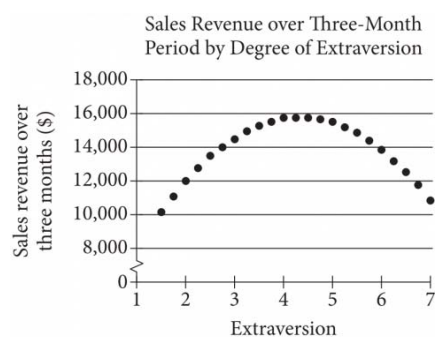
that social scientists use to measure where people fall on the introversion-extraversion spectrum. This particular assessment lists statements such as “I am the life of the party” and “I am quiet around strangers” and asks participants to rate themselves on a 1-to-7 scale, with their answers resulting in a numerical measure of extraversion. Then Grant tracked the sales representatives’ revenues over the next three months.

Perhaps not surprisingly, introverted sales reps didn’t perform as well as extraverted ones, earning an average of \$120 per hour in revenue compared with \$125 per hour for their more outgoing colleagues. But neither did nearly as well as a third group: the ambiverts.

Ambi-whats?

These are people who are neither overly extraverted nor wildly introverted. Go back to that 1-to-7 introversion-extraversion scale. Ambiverts sit roughly in the center. They’re not 1s or 2s, but they’re not 6s or 7s. In Grant’s study, these Goldilocks personalities—not too hot, not too cold—earned an average of nearly \$155 per hour, easily besting their counterparts. In fact, the salespeople who had the highest average revenue—\$208 per hour—had extraversion scores between 4.0 and 4.5, smack at the midpoint.

“These findings call into question the longstanding belief that the most productive salespeople are extraverted,” Grant writes. According to a large study of European and American customers, the “most destructive” behavior of salespeople wasn’t being ill-informed. It was an excess of assertiveness and zeal that led to contacting customers too frequently. Extraverts, in other words, often stumble over themselves. They can talk too much and listen too little, which dulls their understanding of others’ perspectives. They can fail to strike the proper balance between asserting and holding back, which can be read as pushy and drive people away.



(scale of 1-7; 7 = most extraverted) Adapted from Adam M. Grant, “Rethinking the Extraverted Sales Ideal: The Ambivert Advantage.” ©2013 by Adam M.

Grant.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. propose a theory that accounts for a recent trend in a profession.
- B. present several hypotheses about the existence of a new personality type.
- C. describe research that undermines a popular belief about a profession.
- D. summarize findings that challenge a controversial study about a personality type.

Choice C is the best answer. The passage discusses research regarding where the best salespeople fall on the introversion-extraversion scale. The first paragraph notes a widely held belief that extraverts are the best salespeople. The second paragraph indicates, however, that the link between extraversion and sales success is “at best, flimsy.” The passage goes on to describe research conducted by Adam Grant, which found that extraverts are only modestly more successful at sales than introverts, and that the most successful salespeople are ambiverts, people who fall at the midpoint of the introversion-extraversion scale. Therefore, the primary purpose of the passage is to describe research that undermines a popular belief about a profession.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because the passage doesn’t discuss a recent trend in a professional field (choice A), present hypotheses about a new personality type (choice B), or summarize the findings that challenge Grant’s studies about a personality type (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 11

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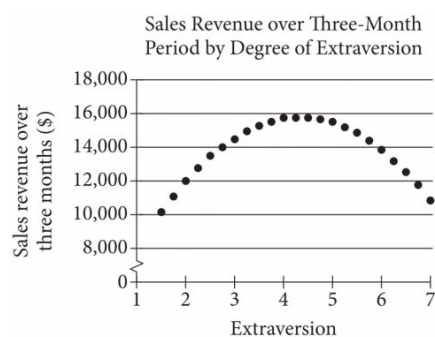
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(scale of 1-7; 7 = most extraverted) Adapted from Adam M. Grant, “Rethinking the Extraverted Sales Ideal: The Ambivert Advantage.” ©2013 by Adam M.

Grant.

As used in {line:VH617586_50}, “finest” most nearly means

- A. purest.
- B. subtlest.
- C. ablest.
- D. fanciest.

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph states that “the notion that extraverts—people who are very outgoing and talkative—are the finest salespeople is so obvious” that people overlook the fact that there is almost no evidence that this is true. In other words, people firmly believe extraverts are the most skilled salespeople. Thus the word “finest,” as used in this sentence, most nearly means ablest.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “finest” means ablest, not purest (choice A), subtlest (choice B), or fanciest (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 12

Questions 10-19 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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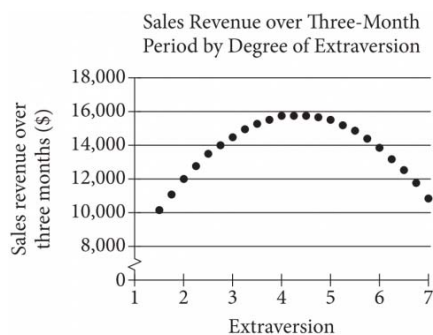
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The parenthetical statements in {line:VH617586_20} (“Positive . . . minuscule 0.07”) mainly serve to

- A. provide quantitative information to emphasize a finding presented earlier.
- B. clarify why experts found a small positive correlation between sales performance and personality type.
- C. distinguish between the scale used for the three meta-analyses discussed earlier and the scale used in Grant’s study discussed later.
- D. explain how researchers compiled the data to calculate statistical values reported in the study.

Choice A is the best answer. The second paragraph states that studies have indicated that there is essentially no correlation between extraversion and sales performance or volume. The parenthetical statements in the second paragraph explain how correlations are measured and defined, and then state that “across the thirty-five studies, the correlation between extraversion and sales performance was a minuscule 0.07.” Specific numbers are provided in the parentheses to illustrate a point about extraversion that was made previously. Thus the parenthetical statements primarily serve to provide quantitative information to emphasize a finding presented earlier.

Choice B is incorrect. Although the parenthetical statements indicate a very small positive correlation, they don’t clarify why the researchers found such a small correlation. Choice C is incorrect because the statements only reference one established scale. Choice D is incorrect because the statements don’t discuss how the researchers’ data were compiled.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 13

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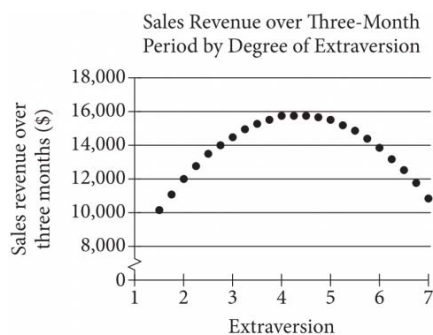
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Grant.

As used in {line:VH617586_1}, “moving” most nearly means

- A. persuading.
- B. advancing.
- C. transporting.
- D. vacating.

Choice A is the best answer. The second paragraph indicates that there is essentially no correlation between extraversion and sales ability, and the third paragraph asks, “Does this mean that introverts—those soft-spoken souls more at home in a study carrel than at a party—are better at moving others?” In other words, it asks whether introverts are better than extraverts at motivating people to make purchases. Thus “moving,” as used in this context, most nearly means persuading.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “moving” means persuading, not advancing (choice B), transporting (choice C), or vacating (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 14

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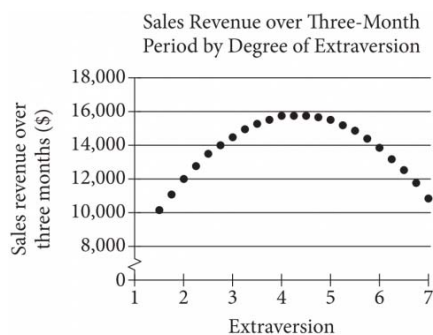
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Grant.

The perspective adopted by the author in {line:VH617586_28} is best characterized as that of a

- A. researcher who questions the validity of a finding.
- B. general reader who is presented with an unfamiliar term.
- C. social historian who investigates the origin of a technical term.
- D. scientist who formulates a hypothesis about a phenomenon.

Choice B is the best answer. The sixth paragraph introduces the term “ambiverts,” and the seventh paragraph asks, “Ambi-whats?” The eighth paragraph answers that question by explaining what sort of people the term “ambiverts” refers to. The seventh paragraph is framed as a question with undertones of perplexity, so the perspective adopted by the author is best characterized as that of a general reader who is presented with an unfamiliar term.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the author is humorously asking a question in the seventh paragraph in anticipation of a definition, not questioning the validity of a finding (choice A), investigating the origin of a technical term (choice C), or formulating a hypothesis (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 15

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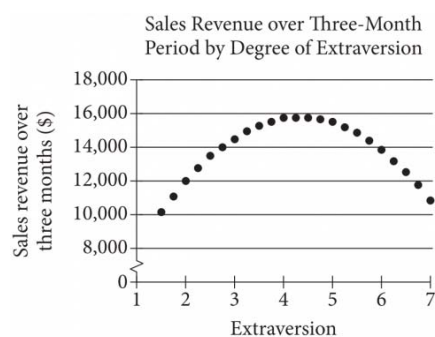
that social scientists use to measure where people fall on the introversion-extraversion spectrum. This particular assessment lists statements such as “I am the life of the party” and “I am quiet around strangers” and asks participants to rate themselves on a 1-to-7 scale, with their answers resulting in a numerical measure of extraversion. Then Grant tracked the sales representatives’ revenues over the next three months.

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Which choice best supports Grant’s claim in {line:VH617586_40} (“These . . . writes”)?

- A. {line:VH617586_38} (“Perhaps . . . colleagues”)
- B. {line:VH617586_8} (“Go back . . . center”)
- C. {line:VH617586_9} (“They’re . . . or 7s”)
- D. {line:VH617586_10} (“In Grant’s . . . counterparts”)

Choice D is the best answer. The eighth paragraph indicates Grant’s research found that people in the middle of the 1-to-7 introversion-extraversion scale (i.e., people who are neither introverts nor extraverts) earned the most hourly revenue from sales: “In Grant’s study, these Goldilocks personalities—not too hot, not too cold—earned an average of nearly \$155 per hour, easily besting their counterparts.” Therefore, the cited lines best support Grant’s claim that his “findings call into question the longstanding belief that the most productive salespeople are extraverted.”

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don’t support Grant’s claim about the most productive salespeople. Instead they point out that introverts unsurprisingly earned less than their extraverted colleagues (choice A), ask the reader to focus on the 1-to-7 introversion-extraversion scale (choice B), and indicate that ambiverts are neither 1s and 2s nor 6s and 7s on that scale (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 16

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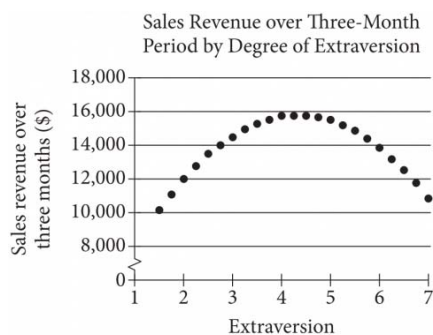
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Based on the passage, which choice best describes the relationship between Grant's study and the study of European and American customers presented in the last paragraph?

- A.
The study of customers offers a more detailed analysis of the scale used in Grant's study.
- B.
The study of customers shows research on personality types excluded by Grant's study.
- C.
The study of customers challenges the method used to assess extraversion in Grant's study.
- D. The study of customers helps to account for the findings in Grant's study.

Choice D is the best answer. The last paragraph indicates that Grant's findings challenge the belief that the best salespeople are extraverts. It goes on to discuss a study of European and American customers that explains why extraverts may not be the best salespeople: their extraversion might lead them to be too pushy, which is off-putting to customers. Thus the best description of the relationship between the two studies is that the study of customers helps to account for the findings of Grant's study because it offers support for Grant's findings.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the passage doesn't indicate that the study of customers uses the same scale as Grant's study (choice A), say that the study of customers used personality types excluded in Grant's study (choice B), or suggest that the study of customers challenges Grant's method of assessing extraversion (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 17

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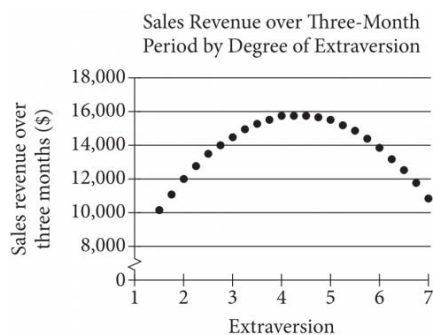
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Grant.

According to the graph, the amount of revenue generated by a salesperson with an extraversion rating of 7 was within which interval?

- A. \$8,000–\$10,000
- B. \$10,000–\$12,000
- C. \$12,000–\$14,000
- D. \$14,000–\$16,000

Choice B is the best answer. The graph shows the sales revenue in dollars over a three-month period by degree of extraversion; the degree of extraversion is measured on a scale of 1 to 7, with 7 being the most extraverted. The data point for a salesperson with an extraversion rating of 7 shows sales revenue slightly above \$10,000 and clearly below \$12,000. Thus, the amount of revenue generated by a salesperson with an extraversion rating of 7 was within the \$10,000–\$12,000 interval.

Choice A is incorrect because the graph shows that the salespeople with an extraversion rating of 7 generated an amount of revenue that was slightly above \$10,000. Choices C and D are incorrect because the graph shows that salespeople with an extraversion rating of 7 generated an amount of revenue that was clearly below \$12,000.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 18

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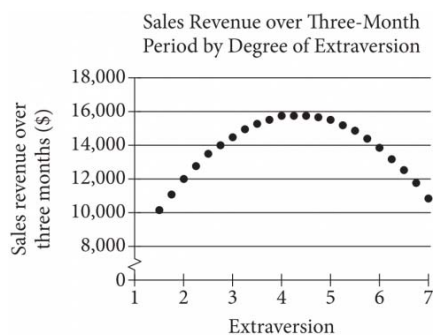
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The passage best supports which statement about salespeople such as those who generated average revenue of approximately \$15,000 or more over three months, as shown in the graph?

- A. Many social scientists mistakenly regard such salespeople as less persuasive than those who are ambiverts.
- B. Many customers mistakenly regard such salespeople as less knowledgeable than those who are more introverted.
- C. Many supervisors mistakenly regard such salespeople as less effective than those who are very outgoing.
- D. Many salespeople mistakenly regard such colleagues as less diligent than those who are more extraverted.

Choice C is the best answer. The first and second paragraphs note that extraverts are commonly believed to be the best salespeople, even by supervisors. The graph, however, reveals that the salespeople who generated the greatest average amount of revenue over three months (above \$15,000) were those who fell near the midpoint of the introversion-extraversion scale, and therefore weren't extraverts. Thus the passage best supports the claim that many supervisors mistakenly regard the salespeople who generated average revenue of approximately \$15,000 or more over three months as less effective than those who are very outgoing.

Choice A is incorrect because the salespeople who generated an average of \$15,000 or more in revenue over three months were ambiverts. Choices B and D are incorrect because the passage doesn't suggest that customers regard the most productive salespeople as less knowledgeable than introverts (choice B), or mention salespeople's assessments of how diligent their colleagues are (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 19

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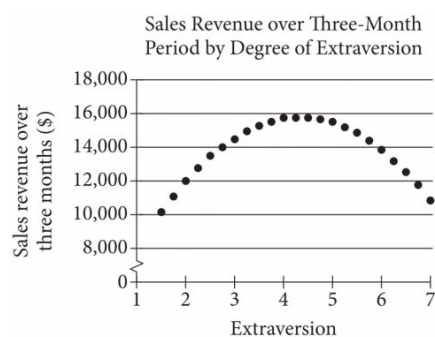
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Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A. {line:VH617586_54} (“When . . . flimsy”)
- B. {line:VH617586_52} (“For instance . . . volume”)
- C. {line:VH617586_53} (“Does . . . all”)
- D. {line:VH617586_55} (“According . . . ill-informed”)

Choice B is the best answer. The previous question asks which statement about salespeople who generated average revenue of approximately \$15,000 or more over three months the passage best supports. The answer, that many supervisors mistakenly regard such salespeople as less effective than those who are very outgoing, is best supported by the second paragraph, which states: “For instance, while supervisors often give extraverts high ratings, several researchers have found that extraversion has ‘no statistically significant relationship . . . with sales performance’ and that ‘extraversion is not related to sales volume.’”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t support the answer to the previous question. Instead, they point out that researchers have found little, if any, link between extraversion and sales success (choice A), ask whether the lack of a correlation between extraversion and sales success means introverts are more persuasive salespeople (choice C), and indicate that a study of European and American customers found that being ill-informed wasn’t the “most destructive” behavior of salespeople (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 20

Questions 20-29 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Dennis Normile, “Close Look at Young Star Finds a Chemical Surprise.” ©2014 by American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The basics of star formation are easy. Find an unusually dense region within a molecular cloud filled with dust and gas in interstellar space and let gravity do the rest. The gas and dust will eventually coalesce into a doughnut-shaped envelope that encircles an inner rotating disk. As material accumulates over hundreds of thousands of years, the central region collapses into a star while the disk solidifies into planets.

Astronomers have understood this overall scenario for decades, but the details are fuzzy because telescopes haven't been good enough to check theorists' computer models. That changed in 2011 with the partial completion of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA). The telescope, a collection of radio antennas, is being erected on the Chajnantor Plain, 5000 meters above sea level in the Chilean Andes, where the dry, sparse air causes minimal distortion of the faint waves from the far reaches of the universe. Using 24 of the antennas—the final array will have 66—an international group led by astrophysicists at the University of Tokyo has taken the most detailed look yet at the heart of a star-forming region and found a chemical surprise.

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A central idea of the passage is that the ALMA telescope

- A. has provided new details about the composition of gases around young stars.
- B. is limited to observing stars that are less than 450 light-years from Earth.
- C. has found that there are too few hydrogen molecules in interstellar space.
- D. allows astrophysicists to determine the density of stars as they form.

Choice A is the best answer. The first and second paragraphs indicate that astronomers have long understood the basics of star formation, but that telescopes weren't good enough to verify theorists' models until ALMA, in 2011. The passage goes on to discuss details ALMA revealed about the chemical makeup of the gases in a particular star- and planet-forming system. Thus a central idea of the passage is that the ALMA telescope has provided new details about the composition of gases around young stars.

Choice B is incorrect because the passage indicates that ALMA has been used to view Taurus, which is approximately 450 light-years from Earth. Choices C and D are incorrect because the passage doesn't suggest that there are too few hydrogen molecules in interstellar space (choice C), or say whether ALMA allows astrophysicists to determine the density of stars when they form (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 21

Questions 20-29 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Dennis Normile, “Close Look at Young Star Finds a Chemical Surprise.” ©2014 by American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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The image of a "doughnut-shaped envelope" in {line:VH642635_1} mainly serves to

- A. help readers visualize an unfamiliar situation.
- B. describe a tool used in a field of research.
- C. introduce humor into what is otherwise a serious scientific discussion.
- D. characterize the limits of current scientific knowledge.

Choice A is the best answer. The first paragraph describes star and planet formation, which may be unfamiliar processes to readers. The "doughnut-shaped envelope" image is used as a simpler, more accessible way to describe the process. Thus, this image mainly serves to help readers visualize an unfamiliar situation.

Choice B is incorrect because the image is used to describe the shape gas and dust coalesce into in a star- and planet-forming region, not to describe a tool used in a field of research. Choice C is incorrect because the image is intended to help readers visualize the situation, not to introduce humor into the discussion. Choice D is incorrect because the passage is about how ALMA has helped astronomers move beyond prior limits of scientific knowledge, and the image serves to help readers visualize something scientists already knew.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 22

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As used in {line:VH642635_4}, "check" most nearly means

- A. maintain.
- B. adopt.
- C. obstruct.
- D. verify.

Choice D is the best answer. The second paragraph states that "astronomers have understood this overall scenario" relating to the basics of star formation "for decades, but the details are fuzzy because telescopes haven't been good enough to check theorists' computer models." In other words, telescopes haven't been able to confirm the scientific models. Thus the word "check," as used in this sentence, most nearly means verify.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of the passage, "check" means verify, not maintain (choice A), adopt (choice B), or obstruct (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 23

Questions 20-29 are based on the following passage.

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According to the passage, what is an advantage of placing ALMA at a location high above sea level?

- A. There are few distractions from work at the remote observation site.
- B. There are fewer disturbing effects caused by Earth's atmosphere.
- C. Reflection of sunlight off the ocean is minimized at that altitude.
- D. Distances to star-forming regions are slightly reduced.

Choice B is the best answer. The second paragraph suggests that ALMA is being erected in the Chilean Andes, 5,000 meters above sea level, because dry and sparse air there "causes minimal distortion of the faint waves from the far reaches of the universe." Thus, according to the passage, an advantage of placing ALMA at a location high above sea level is that there are fewer disturbing effects caused by Earth's atmosphere.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the passage doesn't mention distractions from work (choice A), sunlight being reflected off the ocean (choice C), or whether a 5,000-meter difference in distance would be helpful when viewing a region that is 450 light-years away (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 24

Questions 20-29 are based on the following passage.

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As used in {line:VH642635_5}, "stage" most nearly means

- A. phase.
- B. platform.
- C. portion.
- D. place.

Choice A is the best answer. The third paragraph states, "As is typical at such an early stage, the star is encircled by an envelope and disk of gas and dust." In other words, it is normal for a star to be encircled by these things at such an early point in its development. Thus the word "stage," as used in this sentence, most nearly means phase.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the passage, "stage" means phase, not platform (choice B), portion (choice C), or place (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 25

Questions 20-29 are based on the following passage.

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Based on the passage, in which region surrounding other young stars should astronomers search if they wish to confirm the discovery around the young star in Taurus?

- A. The rapidly spinning inner disk
- B. The central section of the envelope
- C. The area of contact between the disk and the envelope
- D. The boundary where the envelope meets interstellar space

Choice C is the best answer. The third paragraph describes how astronomers had previously thought that the envelope and disk would be made up of gaseous hydrogen and dust particles, but the researchers using ALMA "detected something different—sulfur monoxide gas—in a narrow band where the envelope meets the disk." Thus the passage suggests that astronomers who wish to confirm the discovery around the young star in Taurus should search for sulfur monoxide gas in the "narrow band," which is the area of contact between the disk and the envelope.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in the third paragraph, Nami Sakai explains that "collisions between particles in the envelope and those in the rapidly spinning disk generate heat that thaws frozen sulfur monoxide molecules stuck to dust grains." Thus, the sulfur monoxide gas is found only in the area of contact between the disk and envelope, not in the rapidly spinning inner disk (choice A), the central section of the envelope (choice B), or the boundary where the envelope meets interstellar space (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 26

Questions 20-29 are based on the following passage.

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

- A. {line:VH642635_10} ("The gas . . . disk")
- B. {line:VH642635_11} ("The new . . . system")
- C. {line:VH642635_12} ("To the surprise . . . disk")
- D. {line:VH642635_13} ("Knowing . . . formed")

Choice C is the best answer. The previous question asks which region surrounding young stars astronomers should search if they want to confirm the discovery around the young star in Taurus. The answer, that they should search the area of contact between the disk and the envelope, is best supported in the third paragraph: "To the surprise of the University of Tokyo group, ALMA detected something different—sulfur monoxide gas—in a narrow band where the envelope meets the disk."

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because they don't provide evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they describe the forms the gas and dust coalesce into as a new star is forming (choice A), state that ALMA's power allowed the research team to discover the chemical composition of gases at various locations (choice B), and detail the significance of coming to know the chemical composition of the gases around young stars (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 27

Questions 20-29 are based on the following passage.

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The main purpose of the third paragraph (line:VH642635_14) is to

- A. describe how dense molecular clouds acquire dust and particles from interstellar space.
- B. inform readers that scientists find gaseous hydrogen in all regions of interstellar space.
- C. introduce the techniques used to build telescopes such as ALMA.
- D. describe what ALMA enabled scientists to discover near a newly formed star.

Choice D is the best answer. ALMA is introduced in the second paragraph, and the third paragraph describes how it was used, highlighting ALMA's unexpected detection of sulfur monoxide gas while investigating Taurus. Thus the main purpose of the third paragraph is to describe what ALMA enabled scientists to discover near a newly formed star.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage doesn't indicate how molecular clouds acquire dust and particles. Choice B is incorrect because the passage briefly mentions gaseous hydrogen as something researchers had expected to find where the envelope and disk meet, and to help explain their surprise when they unexpectedly found sulfur monoxide. Choice C is incorrect because the third paragraph doesn't discuss the techniques used to build ALMA or other such telescopes.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 28

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Based on the passage, what can reasonably be inferred about how astrophysicists view ALMA?

- A. They believe that using it may yield a great deal of surprising data.
- B. They do not think that they will be able to improve the technology on which it relies.
- C. They worry that it is not powerful enough to determine the composition of dust particles.
- D. They think that it will be quickly replaced by a more sophisticated array.

Choice A is the best answer. The last paragraph quotes two astrophysicists who praise the research involving ALMA. One of these astrophysicists, Stéphane Guilloteau, says, "This work shows that ALMA will provide ample observational evidence' that will challenge theoretical models," and that "This paper is a beautiful example of the new discovery [capabilities] offered by ALMA." These quotations illustrate ALMA's impact and novelty. Thus it can be inferred that astrophysicists believe that using ALMA may yield a great deal of surprising data.

Choices B and D are incorrect because the passage doesn't indicate that astrophysicists think they will be unable to improve on ALMA's technology (choice B), or that they think ALMA will be quickly replaced by more sophisticated technology (choice D). Choice C is incorrect because the passage doesn't address a worry that ALMA isn't powerful enough to determine the composition of dust particles.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 29

Questions 20-29 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Dennis Normile, “Close Look at Young Star Finds a Chemical Surprise.” ©2014 by American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The basics of star formation are easy. Find an unusually dense region within a molecular cloud filled with dust and gas in interstellar space and let gravity do the rest. The gas and dust will eventually coalesce into a doughnut-shaped envelope that encircles an inner rotating disk. As material accumulates over hundreds of thousands of years, the central region collapses into a star while the disk solidifies into planets.

Astronomers have understood this overall scenario for decades, but the details are fuzzy because telescopes haven’t been good enough to check theorists’ computer models. That changed in 2011 with the partial completion of the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA). The telescope, a collection of radio antennas, is being erected on the Chajnantor Plain, 5000 meters above sea level in the Chilean Andes, where the dry, sparse air causes minimal distortion of the faint waves from the far reaches of the universe. Using 24 of the antennas—the final array will have 66—an international group led by astrophysicists at the University of Tokyo has taken the most detailed look yet at the heart of a star-forming region and found a chemical surprise.

The researchers trained ALMA on a very young star still forming in the constellation Taurus, about 450 light-years from Earth. As is typical at such an early stage, the star is encircled by an envelope and disk of gas and dust. The new telescope’s power enabled the team to identify the chemical composition of the gases at different locations throughout this star- and planet-forming system. Previously, astronomers thought that the envelope and disk must be made up of the same gaseous molecules of hydrogen found throughout interstellar space plus dust particles made up of other elements. To the surprise of the University of Tokyo group, ALMA detected something different—sulfur monoxide gas—in a narrow band where the envelope meets the disk. Collisions between particles in the envelope and those in the rapidly spinning disk generate heat that thaws frozen sulfur

monoxide molecules stuck to dust grains, explains Nami Sakai, an astrophysicist at the University of Tokyo. Sulfur monoxide can't be detected when it is frozen to dust grains. But ALMA can spot it in its gaseous state. Knowing just what gases are swirling around young stars should lead to a better understanding of where and how elements found in planets, comets, and asteroids are formed. Sakai and colleagues report their findings online at Nature.

"These are beautiful data and very interesting results," says Ewine van Dishoeck, an astrophysicist at the Leiden Observatory in the Netherlands. "This work shows that ALMA will provide ample observational evidence" that will challenge theoretical models, adds astrophysicist Stéphane Guilloteau of University of Bordeaux in France. "This paper is a beautiful example of the new discovery [capabilities] offered by ALMA."

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

- A. {line:VH642635_16} ("Using . . . surprise")
- B. {line:VH642635_17} ("The researchers . . . Earth")
- C. {line:VH642635_18} ("These . . . Netherlands")
- D. {line:VH642635_19} ("This paper . . . ALMA")

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks what can be inferred about how astrophysicists view ALMA. The answer, that they believe using it may yield a great deal of surprising data, is best supported in the last paragraph by a quotation from Stéphane Guilloteau: "This paper is a beautiful example of the new discovery [capabilities] offered by ALMA."

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the cited lines don't provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Choice A does indicate that ALMA has resulted in a surprise; however, it doesn't describe how astrophysicists view ALMA. Choice B explains what a particular group of researchers focused ALMA on. Choice C gives one astrophysicist's opinion about the research described in the previous paragraph, but this opinion doesn't indicate anticipation or expectation of future surprises.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 30

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

It is clear that, if we are going to live, or have any private comforts, there must be dinners cooked, children's faces must be washed, and there must be a home—a home to which the mind of the weary husband will turn to bear him up and urge him on in his toils for the inmates of that sanctuary—a home where he can for a time forget, in his wife's and children's society, the toils and troubles of this weary world—a home which he can never leave without carrying with him a new grace, a new strength, drawn from Woman's influence, to enable him victoriously and manfully to withstand the trials and temptations of the world. Now, if Women are given the right to vote, to electioneer, to become stateswomen, why it is an incontrovertible fact (that is, if they attend properly to politics) that the dinners must go uncooked, the children's faces unwashed, and home be forgotten—unless, indeed, the men exchange duties with them, as was proposed at the Convention, and stay at home and help their wives cook and wash the dishes.

So far from thinking Women "slaves," I do not see how it can appear in such a light to any thinking mind, any true-hearted woman. There is something so superior about Woman that would make one shrink as from profanation at the idea of her mingling in public with "the sterner and worsen sex"—a spiritualization that raises her far above the intrigues of politicians and the vulgarity of rowdies—a superiority which, if not acknowledged in words, is confessed in actions, even by men who, however degraded they may be, refrain from the slightest word or action that could be comment[ed] upon, in the presence of a woman.

The Women of the Worcester Convention seem to have entirely overlooked the immense power given to women in the form of Home Influence. What power can be greater than a mother's holy and elevated example[?]. . .

We must also remember, that if women gained these absurd “rights,” they would be obliged to maintain them; and this they have not the strength to do; for which of the women at the Worcester Convention could knock a man down if he chose to stand up? and what man would come forward to protect a woman as long as she claimed to herself the right of self-protection?

Passage 2

That the full and equal enjoyment of Political Franchises would improve the lot of Woman, may be doubtful; but we are willing to give the Democratic theory a full and fair trial. Whenever so many Women shall petition for the Right of Suffrage as to indicate that a majority of the sex virtually concur in the demand, then we shall insist that the Franchise shall be extended to them. Being a disciple of the faith which holds that ‘all just government is founded on the consent of the governed,’ we could do not less, even though we knew that the Women would make a bad use of the power thus accorded them. Right first; Expediency afterward.

As to our correspondent’s fear that buttered toast will run short, and children’s faces get crusted over, in case the Political Rights of Women are recognized as equal to and identical with those of Men, we do not share it. We know people who supposed that, when Slavery was abolished, there could be no more boots blacked, no wood chopped, bacon fried, et cetera. But we see that all needful operations go on, though Slavery is abolished throughout this region. We see not why it may not be so in case the slavery of Woman should in like manner be abolished. . . .

Political franchises are but means to an end, which end is the securing of social and personal rights. Other classes have found the Elective Franchise serviceable toward the attainment of these rights, and we see not why it would lose its efficacy in the hands of Women. And as to the exposure of Women to insult and outrage in the Town or Ward Meeting, or at the Election, we trust the effect would be just opposite to that anticipated—namely, that men would be constrained by the presence of ladies to keep sober and behave themselves. The presence of Woman has this effect ever in those public assemblages honored by her presence; and we trust its virtue is far from having been exhausted.

As to Woman having to fight and knock down to maintain their Rights if once conceded, we don’t believe a word of it. Knock down whom? Certainly

not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

One of the main ideas of Passage 1 is that

- A. children will suffer unduly if their mothers work outside the home.
- B. women in fact possess greater political power than men.
- C. home life would be harmed if women were allowed to exercise political authority.
- D. involvement in politics is equally challenging for men and women.

Choice C is the best answer. The first paragraph of Passage 1 asserts that if women are given the right to vote, meals will not be cooked, children will not be cared for, and home life in general will suffer. Thus, one of the main ideas of Passage 1 is that home life would be harmed if women were allowed to exercise political authority.

Choice A is incorrect because the subject of Passage 1 is whether women should gain political rights, not whether they should work outside the home. Choice B is incorrect because the passage states that women are in some ways superior to men, not that their political power is greater than men's. Choice D is incorrect because there is no suggestion in the passage that political involvement poses equal challenges for men and women.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 31

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

It is clear that, if we are going to live, or have any private comforts, there must be dinners cooked, children's faces must be washed, and there must be a home—a home to which the mind of the weary husband will turn to bear him up and urge him on in his toils for the inmates of that sanctuary—a home where he can for a time forget, in his wife's and children's society, the toils and troubles of this weary world—a home which he can never leave without carrying with him a new grace, a new strength, drawn from Woman's influence, to enable him victoriously and manfully to withstand the trials and temptations of the world. Now, if Women are given the right to vote, to electioneer, to become stateswomen, why it is an incontrovertible fact (that is, if they attend properly to politics) that the dinners must go uncooked, the children's faces unwashed, and home be forgotten—unless, indeed, the men exchange duties with them, as was proposed at the Convention, and stay at home and help their wives cook and wash the dishes.

So far from thinking Women "slaves," I do not see how it can appear in such a light to any thinking mind, any true-hearted woman. There is something so superior about Woman that would make one shrink as from profanation at the idea of her mingling in public with "the sterner and worsen sex"—a spiritualization that raises her far above the intrigues of politicians and the vulgarity of rowdies—a superiority which, if not acknowledged in words, is confessed in actions, even by men who, however degraded they may be, refrain from the slightest word or action that could be comment[ed] upon, in the presence of a woman.

The Women of the Worcester Convention seem to have entirely overlooked the immense power given to women in the form of Home Influence. What power can be greater than a mother's holy and elevated example[?]. . .

We must also remember, that if women gained these absurd “rights,” they would be obliged to maintain them; and this they have not the strength to do; for which of the women at the Worcester Convention could knock a man down if he chose to stand up? and what man would come forward to protect a woman as long as she claimed to herself the right of self-protection?

Passage 2

That the full and equal enjoyment of Political Franchises would improve the lot of Woman, may be doubtful; but we are willing to give the Democratic theory a full and fair trial. Whenever so many Women shall petition for the Right of Suffrage as to indicate that a majority of the sex virtually concur in the demand, then we shall insist that the Franchise shall be extended to them. Being a disciple of the faith which holds that ‘all just government is founded on the consent of the governed,’ we could do not less, even though we knew that the Women would make a bad use of the power thus accorded them. Right first; Expediency afterward.

As to our correspondent’s fear that buttered toast will run short, and children’s faces get crusted over, in case the Political Rights of Women are recognized as equal to and identical with those of Men, we do not share it. We know people who supposed that, when Slavery was abolished, there could be no more boots blacked, no wood chopped, bacon fried, et cetera. But we see that all needful operations go on, though Slavery is abolished throughout this region. We see not why it may not be so in case the slavery of Woman should in like manner be abolished. . . .

Political franchises are but means to an end, which end is the securing of social and personal rights. Other classes have found the Elective Franchise serviceable toward the attainment of these rights, and we see not why it would lose its efficacy in the hands of Women. And as to the exposure of Women to insult and outrage in the Town or Ward Meeting, or at the Election, we trust the effect would be just opposite to that anticipated—namely, that men would be constrained by the presence of ladies to keep sober and behave themselves. The presence of Woman has this effect ever in those public assemblages honored by her presence; and we trust its virtue is far from having been exhausted.

As to Woman having to fight and knock down to maintain their Rights if once conceded, we don’t believe a word of it. Knock down whom? Certainly

not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

As used in {line:VH358567_1}, “clear” most nearly means

- A. untroubled.
- B. innocent.
- C. smooth.
- D. obvious.

Choice D is the best answer. The first paragraph of Passage 1 begins, “It is clear that, if we are going to live, or have any private comforts, there must be dinners cooked, children’s faces must be washed, and there must be a home.” In other words, it’s evident that these things are necessary for there to be private comforts. Thus the word “clear,” in the context of this sentence, most nearly means obvious.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “clear” means obvious, not untroubled (choice A), innocent (choice B), or smooth (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 32

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

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Passage 2

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As to our correspondent’s fear that buttered toast will run short, and children’s faces get crusted over, in case the Political Rights of Women are recognized as equal to and identical with those of Men, we do not share it. We know people who supposed that, when Slavery was abolished, there could be no more boots blacked, no wood chopped, bacon fried, et cetera. But we see that all needful operations go on, though Slavery is abolished throughout this region. We see not why it may not be so in case the slavery of Woman should in like manner be abolished. . . .

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not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

What main effect do the words “weary,” “toils,” and “troubles,” used in {line:ntsref-1} have on the tone of the first paragraph of Passage 1?

- A. They create a somber tone that reinforces the importance of the home as a retreat from the outside world.
- B. They create a sinister tone that suggests the danger of privileging the needs of children over those of adults.
- C. They create an aggravated tone that conveys irritation with the stresses of marriage.
- D. They create a discontented tone that underscores the hopelessness of domestic life.

Choice A is the best answer. In the first paragraph of Passage 1, “weary” is used to describe a tired husband and a gloomy outside world. Similarly, “toils” and “troubles” are used to describe the challenges of everyday life. The paragraph then locates the comfort and escape from these challenges in “that sanctuary” of the home. Thus the main effect the words “weary,” “toils,” and “troubles” have is to create a somber tone that reinforces the importance of the home as a retreat from the outside world.

Choice B is incorrect because the paragraph refers to children’s needs without suggesting that there is any danger in privileging them over the needs of adults. Choices C and D are incorrect because marriage (choice C) and domestic life (choice D) are depicted as escapes for men from the world’s troubles.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 33

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

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The Women of the Worcester Convention seem to have entirely overlooked the immense power given to women in the form of Home Influence. What power can be greater than a mother's holy and elevated example[?]. . .

We must also remember, that if women gained these absurd “rights,” they would be obliged to maintain them; and this they have not the strength to do; for which of the women at the Worcester Convention could knock a man down if he chose to stand up? and what man would come forward to protect a woman as long as she claimed to herself the right of self-protection?

Passage 2

That the full and equal enjoyment of Political Franchises would improve the lot of Woman, may be doubtful; but we are willing to give the Democratic theory a full and fair trial. Whenever so many Women shall petition for the Right of Suffrage as to indicate that a majority of the sex virtually concur in the demand, then we shall insist that the Franchise shall be extended to them. Being a disciple of the faith which holds that ‘all just government is founded on the consent of the governed,’ we could do not less, even though we knew that the Women would make a bad use of the power thus accorded them. Right first; Expediency afterward.

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not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

In Passage 2, Greeley indicates that women must be given the right to vote when the majority of women demand it because

- A. women have been granted that right by the courts.
- B. granting that right is consistent with the idea of a government based on democratic principles.
- C. men have done a poor job of electing able officials without women's participation.
- D. the United States is out of step with other great nations in which women can vote.

Choice B is the best answer. The first paragraph of Passage 2 states that democratic governments are "founded on the consent of the governed," and that the majority of women support the demand for women's suffrage. Therefore, Greeley considers women's suffrage a right that needs to be upheld. Thus, in Passage 2, Greeley indicates that women must be given the right to vote when most women demand it because granting that right is consistent with the idea of a government based on democratic principles.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because Passage 2 doesn't indicate that the courts have granted women the right to vote (choice A), suggest that men have done a poor job of electing able officials (choice C), or discuss other nations (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 34

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

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Passage 2

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not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

Which statement can reasonably be inferred from Passage 2 about Greeley's position on women's right to vote?

- A. Although Greeley suspects he will be ostracized for supporting women's suffrage, he is willing to incur the risk.
- B. Although Greeley assumes that women, once granted the vote, will lose interest in politics, he considers it unfair to treat them as second-class citizens.
- C. Although Greeley has reservations about women properly exercising their right to vote, he feels that women are entitled to that right.
- D. Although Greeley is personally opposed to women's involvement in activities outside the home, he is sympathetic to women's desire to engage in politics.

Choice C is the best answer. In the first paragraph of Passage 2, Greeley writes that because he believes that "all just government is founded on the consent of the governed" he must support women's right to vote even though he acknowledges that women might "make a bad use of the power thus accorded them." Thus it can be reasonably inferred that although Greeley has reservations about women properly exercising their right to vote, he feels that women are entitled to that right.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because Greeley doesn't indicate that he expects to be ostracized (choice A), suggest that women will lose interest in politics after gaining the right to vote (choice B), or express opposition to women's involvement in activities outside the home (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 35

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

It is clear that, if we are going to live, or have any private comforts, there must be dinners cooked, children's faces must be washed, and there must be a home—a home to which the mind of the weary husband will turn to bear him up and urge him on in his toils for the inmates of that sanctuary—a home where he can for a time forget, in his wife's and children's society, the toils and troubles of this weary world—a home which he can never leave without carrying with him a new grace, a new strength, drawn from Woman's influence, to enable him victoriously and manfully to withstand the trials and temptations of the world. Now, if Women are given the right to vote, to electioneer, to become stateswomen, why it is an incontrovertible fact (that is, if they attend properly to politics) that the dinners must go uncooked, the children's faces unwashed, and home be forgotten—unless, indeed, the men exchange duties with them, as was proposed at the Convention, and stay at home and help their wives cook and wash the dishes.

So far from thinking Women "slaves," I do not see how it can appear in such a light to any thinking mind, any true-hearted woman. There is something so superior about Woman that would make one shrink as from profanation at the idea of her mingling in public with "the sterner and worsen sex"—a spiritualization that raises her far above the intrigues of politicians and the vulgarity of rowdies—a superiority which, if not acknowledged in words, is confessed in actions, even by men who, however degraded they may be, refrain from the slightest word or action that could be comment[ed] upon, in the presence of a woman.

The Women of the Worcester Convention seem to have entirely overlooked the immense power given to women in the form of Home Influence. What power can be greater than a mother's holy and elevated example[?]. . .

We must also remember, that if women gained these absurd “rights,” they would be obliged to maintain them; and this they have not the strength to do; for which of the women at the Worcester Convention could knock a man down if he chose to stand up? and what man would come forward to protect a woman as long as she claimed to herself the right of self-protection?

Passage 2

That the full and equal enjoyment of Political Franchises would improve the lot of Woman, may be doubtful; but we are willing to give the Democratic theory a full and fair trial. Whenever so many Women shall petition for the Right of Suffrage as to indicate that a majority of the sex virtually concur in the demand, then we shall insist that the Franchise shall be extended to them. Being a disciple of the faith which holds that ‘all just government is founded on the consent of the governed,’ we could do not less, even though we knew that the Women would make a bad use of the power thus accorded them. Right first; Expediency afterward.

As to our correspondent’s fear that buttered toast will run short, and children’s faces get crusted over, in case the Political Rights of Women are recognized as equal to and identical with those of Men, we do not share it. We know people who supposed that, when Slavery was abolished, there could be no more boots blacked, no wood chopped, bacon fried, et cetera. But we see that all needful operations go on, though Slavery is abolished throughout this region. We see not why it may not be so in case the slavery of Woman should in like manner be abolished. . . .

Political franchises are but means to an end, which end is the securing of social and personal rights. Other classes have found the Elective Franchise serviceable toward the attainment of these rights, and we see not why it would lose its efficacy in the hands of Women. And as to the exposure of Women to insult and outrage in the Town or Ward Meeting, or at the Election, we trust the effect would be just opposite to that anticipated—namely, that men would be constrained by the presence of ladies to keep sober and behave themselves. The presence of Woman has this effect ever in those public assemblages honored by her presence; and we trust its virtue is far from having been exhausted.

As to Woman having to fight and knock down to maintain their Rights if once conceded, we don’t believe a word of it. Knock down whom? Certainly

not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

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

- A. {line:VH358567_10} (“Being . . . them”)
- B. {line:VH358567_11} (“Right . . . afterward”)
- C. {line:VH358567_12} (“As to . . . share it”)
- D. {line:VH358567_13} (“We see . . . abolished”)

Choice A is the best answer. The previous question asks what can be inferred from Passage 2 about Greeley’s position on women’s right to vote. The answer, that although he has reservations about women exercising their right to vote he believes they should have that right, is best supported in the first paragraph of Passage 2, where he writes, “Being a disciple of the faith which holds that ‘all just government is founded on the consent of the governed,’ we could do not less, even though we knew that the Women would make a bad use of the power thus accorded them.” Greeley believes that women might not use their right to vote appropriately, but still deserve that right in a democratic society.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they state that what is right should take precedence over what is expedient (choice B) and express skepticism about the concerns that traditional women’s work in the home will not continue to be performed if women get the right to vote (choices C and D).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 36

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

It is clear that, if we are going to live, or have any private comforts, there must be dinners cooked, children's faces must be washed, and there must be a home—a home to which the mind of the weary husband will turn to bear him up and urge him on in his toils for the inmates of that sanctuary—a home where he can for a time forget, in his wife's and children's society, the toils and troubles of this weary world—a home which he can never leave without carrying with him a new grace, a new strength, drawn from Woman's influence, to enable him victoriously and manfully to withstand the trials and temptations of the world. Now, if Women are given the right to vote, to electioneer, to become stateswomen, why it is an incontrovertible fact (that is, if they attend properly to politics) that the dinners must go uncooked, the children's faces unwashed, and home be forgotten—unless, indeed, the men exchange duties with them, as was proposed at the Convention, and stay at home and help their wives cook and wash the dishes.

So far from thinking Women "slaves," I do not see how it can appear in such a light to any thinking mind, any true-hearted woman. There is something so superior about Woman that would make one shrink as from profanation at the idea of her mingling in public with "the sterner and worsen sex"—a spiritualization that raises her far above the intrigues of politicians and the vulgarity of rowdies—a superiority which, if not acknowledged in words, is confessed in actions, even by men who, however degraded they may be, refrain from the slightest word or action that could be comment[ed] upon, in the presence of a woman.

The Women of the Worcester Convention seem to have entirely overlooked the immense power given to women in the form of Home Influence. What power can be greater than a mother's holy and elevated example[?]. . .

We must also remember, that if women gained these absurd “rights,” they would be obliged to maintain them; and this they have not the strength to do; for which of the women at the Worcester Convention could knock a man down if he chose to stand up? and what man would come forward to protect a woman as long as she claimed to herself the right of self-protection?

Passage 2

That the full and equal enjoyment of Political Franchises would improve the lot of Woman, may be doubtful; but we are willing to give the Democratic theory a full and fair trial. Whenever so many Women shall petition for the Right of Suffrage as to indicate that a majority of the sex virtually concur in the demand, then we shall insist that the Franchise shall be extended to them. Being a disciple of the faith which holds that ‘all just government is founded on the consent of the governed,’ we could do not less, even though we knew that the Women would make a bad use of the power thus accorded them. Right first; Expediency afterward.

As to our correspondent’s fear that buttered toast will run short, and children’s faces get crusted over, in case the Political Rights of Women are recognized as equal to and identical with those of Men, we do not share it. We know people who supposed that, when Slavery was abolished, there could be no more boots blacked, no wood chopped, bacon fried, et cetera. But we see that all needful operations go on, though Slavery is abolished throughout this region. We see not why it may not be so in case the slavery of Woman should in like manner be abolished. . . .

Political franchises are but means to an end, which end is the securing of social and personal rights. Other classes have found the Elective Franchise serviceable toward the attainment of these rights, and we see not why it would lose its efficacy in the hands of Women. And as to the exposure of Women to insult and outrage in the Town or Ward Meeting, or at the Election, we trust the effect would be just opposite to that anticipated—namely, that men would be constrained by the presence of ladies to keep sober and behave themselves. The presence of Woman has this effect ever in those public assemblages honored by her presence; and we trust its virtue is far from having been exhausted.

As to Woman having to fight and knock down to maintain their Rights if once conceded, we don’t believe a word of it. Knock down whom? Certainly

not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

Based on Passage 2, Greeley would most likely view the concerns about women's neglect of household duties expressed in Passage 1 as

- A. amusing, because they suggest an inability to conceive of men undertaking such duties.
- B. pervasive, because many people have publicly expressed such concerns.
- C. troubling, because they hint at larger fears that are not so easily overcome.
- D. exaggerated, because past concerns of a similar nature have proved to be overblown.

Choice D is the best answer. In the second paragraph of Passage 2, Greeley points out that many people had feared that when slavery was abolished, the work that had been performed by slaves would go undone. However, he notes that this work is still getting done. Thus Greeley would most likely view the concerns about household duties expressed in Passage 1 as exaggerated, because past concerns of a similar nature have proved to be overblown.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because Greeley doesn't consider whether men might take over some of these duties (choice A), discuss how widespread such views are (choice B), or suggest that there are larger fears that are not so easily overcome (choice C).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 37

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

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We must also remember, that if women gained these absurd “rights,” they would be obliged to maintain them; and this they have not the strength to do; for which of the women at the Worcester Convention could knock a man down if he chose to stand up? and what man would come forward to protect a woman as long as she claimed to herself the right of self-protection?

Passage 2

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As to our correspondent’s fear that buttered toast will run short, and children’s faces get crusted over, in case the Political Rights of Women are recognized as equal to and identical with those of Men, we do not share it. We know people who supposed that, when Slavery was abolished, there could be no more boots blacked, no wood chopped, bacon fried, et cetera. But we see that all needful operations go on, though Slavery is abolished throughout this region. We see not why it may not be so in case the slavery of Woman should in like manner be abolished. . . .

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not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

The author of Passage 1 would most likely concede that Greeley's claim regarding women's potential exposure to insult and outrage is

- A. somewhat plausible, since men rarely consider the needs of anyone but themselves.
- B. mostly correct, since men's pride usually ensures chivalrous behavior.
- C. generally true, since men's behavior would be tempered by women's virtuousness.
- D. largely accurate, since most men would be likely to ignore the threat of public censure.

Choice C is the best answer. In the third paragraph of Passage 2 Greeley claims, regarding women being exposed to insult and outrage, that if they became involved in the political process, "the effect would be just opposite to that anticipated—namely, that men would be constrained by the presence of ladies to keep sober and behave themselves." The author of Passage 1 accepts that "there is something so superior about Woman. . . a superiority which, if not acknowledged in words, is confessed in actions, even by men who, however degraded they may be, refrain from the slightest word or action that could be comment[ed] upon, in the presence of a woman." Therefore, the author of Passage 1 would likely concede that Greeley's claim regarding women's potential exposure to insult and outrage is generally true, since men's behavior would be tempered by women's virtuousness.

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Passage 1 acknowledges that even degraded men refrain from such behavior in the presence of women. Choice B is incorrect because the author believes that women's superiority, not pride or any disposition toward chivalrous behavior, would cause men to refrain from insult or outrage. Choice D is incorrect because men would refrain from such behavior because they feared censure.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 38

Questions 30-38 are based on the following passages.

Passage 1 is adapted from 'A' [Anonymous], "Letter to Horace Greeley at the New-York Daily Tribune on the National Woman's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts." Originally published in 1850. Passage 2 is adapted from Horace Greeley, "Remarks to 'A.'" Originally published in 1850.

Passage 1

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not those who cheerfully concede them all they ask; and if there are any of the other sort, such brutes as choose to commence the game of knocking down, [they] would be very sure to get enough of it before coming to the Women.

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

- A. {line:VH358567_16} (“So far . . . true-hearted woman”)
- B. {line:VH358567_17} (“There . . . a woman”)
- C. {line:VH358567_18} (“We must . . . to do”)
- D. {line:VH358567_19} (“for which . . . self-protection”)

Choice B is the best answer. The previous question asks what the author of Passage 1 would most likely concede regarding women’s potential exposure to insult and outrage. The answer, that the author would likely concede that Greeley’s claim is generally true, since men’s behavior would be tempered by women’s virtuousness, is best supported in the second paragraph of Passage 1. The author states: “There is something so superior about Woman that would make one shrink as from profanation at the idea of mingling in public with ‘the sterner and worsen sex’—a spiritualization that raises her far above the intrigues of politicians and the vulgarity of rowdies—a superiority which, if not acknowledged in words, is confessed in actions, even by men who, however degraded they may be, refrain from the slightest word or action that could be comment[ed] upon, in the presence of a woman.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they reject the notion that women are “slaves” (choice A), suggest that women wouldn’t be able to retain political rights if they ever obtained them (choice C), and give the author’s reasons for thinking that women wouldn’t be able to retain those rights (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 39

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Rachel Nuwer, “‘Wereplant’ Releases Its Pollen by the Light of the Full Moon.” ©2015 by The Smithsonian Institution. *Ephedra foeminea* is a Mediterranean shrub.

Ephedra’s relatives, which first arose about 130 million years ago in the Early Cretaceous, likely served as dinosaur food. Like others of their kind, *Ephedra* plants don’t have flowers and instead secrete droplets of pollen-laden liquid from their cones. Some species let the wind ferry drops between cones, but the liquid is also high in sugar, which attracts insects.

Catarina Rydin, a botanist at the University of Stockholm, suspects that *Ephedra* might have saved itself from extinction by shifting from a predominantly insect-pollinated system to one dependent on wind, based on observations she has made in the fossil record. “Historically, climate change has occurred repeatedly, not least in the aftermath of the meteorite impact 65 million years ago, and wind-pollination may have been a safer method to ensure reproduction during such times,” she says. “It is thus possible that insect-pollinated species of *Ephedra* had a greater risk of becoming extinct.”

To better understand the plants and their evolution, Rydin and her doctoral student, Kristina Bolinder, headed down to Greece, where they scrambled over rocks to count insects and keep an eye out for pollen droplets. They had already determined that *E. distachya*, one of *E. foeminea*’s close relatives, sent its pollen riding on the wind—a finding that matches most other *Ephedra* species researchers have taken the time to study. But *E. foeminea*’s pollination methods remained more elusive. Even after its cones appeared, they refused to open, and the usual suspects among insect pollinators seemed uninterested.

One night over a Greek dinner, the two began musing about something they’d recently read about nocturnal insects using the moon to navigate. Suddenly an idea struck: Could *E. foeminea*’s pollination somehow be connected to the lunar cycle? “It started as a joke that evening, I should say,” Rydin says.

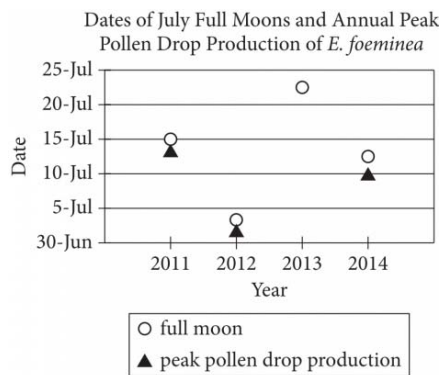
Still, the joke seemed plausible enough that she and Bolinder decided to investigate. They eagerly bided their time in the field, reading up about

nocturnal pollination and counting down the nights until the July full moon. On that long-awaited evening, the researchers strategically positioned themselves in an open field of *E. foeminea* and waited. As the moon rose in the cloudless sky, its soft glow revealed droplets of pollen, which shimmered and sparkled on the brightly colored cones. “We may be biased,” Rydin says, “but we found it ever so beautiful.”

Whereas most nocturnally blooming plants have white flowers to help pollinators find them in the dark, *E. foeminea*’s cones are red and yellow, and they emit no discernable scent. “It became clear to us that the glittering probably is the means of nocturnal attraction that we had searched for but not found before,” Rydin says. That display likely acts as a homing beacon for insects, including the flies and moths that the researchers observed alighting on *E. foeminea* that evening.

Although the light of the half moon would likely be sufficient to illuminate the pollen, the full moon alone remains up throughout the entire night, so the researchers think that *E. foeminea* maximizes the effect for efficiency. “Only at full moon do the insects have a moon to navigate by during the entire night,” Rydin says.

So far, the researchers only have that one spectacular display, backed up by a scattering of historical data that seems to support the pattern. While some pollen drops did appear during the full moons of August and September, there were significantly fewer cones, suggesting that *E. foeminea*, like its relatives, peaks in summer. As such, many mysteries remain.



Note: Pollen drop production data not available for 2013.

Adapted from Catarina Rydin and Kristina Bolinder, “Moonlight Pollination in the Gymnosperm *Ephedra* (Gnetales).” ©2015 by The Royal Society.

Based on the passage, what led Rydin and Bolinder initially to hypothesize that *E. foeminea* pollination is in some way connected to the moon?

- A. Fellow scientists recommended that hypothesis as a possibility.
- B. They noticed a decrease in daytime insect activity during a full moon.
- C. Other researchers had linked nocturnal insect behavior to the moon.
- D. They observed a reflective quality in the pollen.

Choice C is the best answer. The fourth paragraph states that Rydin and Bolinder discussed “something they’d recently read about nocturnal insects using the moon to navigate,” which sparked the idea that *E. foeminea*’s pollination might be related to the lunar cycle. Thus what led them to hypothesize that *E. foeminea* pollination is connected in some way to the moon was their knowledge that other researchers had linked nocturnal insect behavior to the moon.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the passage doesn’t indicate that other scientists had recommended the hypothesis (choice A) or that Rydin and Bolinder noticed a decrease in daytime insect activity during a full moon (choice B). Choice D is incorrect because Rydin and Bolinder noticed a reflective quality in the pollen only after they had the idea that the pollination might be linked to the moon.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 40

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Rachel Nuwer, “‘Wereplant’ Releases Its Pollen by the Light of the Full Moon.” ©2015 by The Smithsonian Institution. *Ephedra foeminea* is a Mediterranean shrub.

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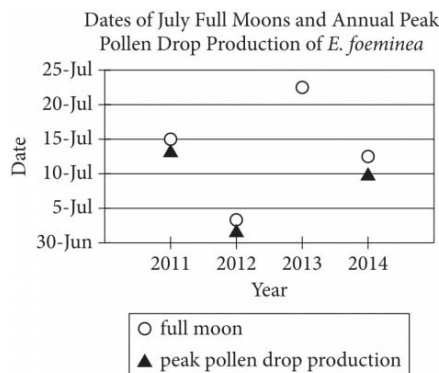
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Adapted from Catarina Rydin and Kristina Bolinder, “Moonlight Pollination in the Gymnosperm *Ephedra* (Gnetales).” ©2015 by The Royal Society.

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

- A. {line:VH527905_6} (“Even . . . uninterested”)
- B. {line:VH527905_7} (“One . . . navigate”)
- C. {line:VH527905_8} (“As the . . . cones”)
- D. {line:VH527905_9} (“That . . . evening”)

Choice B is the best answer. The previous question asks what led Rydin and Bolinder to hypothesize that *E. foeminea* pollination is connected to the moon. The answer, that other researchers had linked nocturnal insect behavior to the moon, is best supported in the fourth paragraph: “One night over a Greek dinner, the two began musing about something they’d recently read about nocturnal insects using the moon to navigate.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the cited lines don’t provide the best evidence for the answer to the previous question. Instead, they indicate that *E. foeminea*’s cones failed to open and that insect pollinators were not attracted to them (choice A), describe how pollen glowed on *E. foeminea*’s cones as the full moon rose (choice C), and hypothesize that the glistening pollen acts as a beacon for certain insects (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 41

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Rachel Nuwer, “‘Wereplant’ Releases Its Pollen by the Light of the Full Moon.” ©2015 by The Smithsonian Institution. *Ephedra foeminea* is a Mediterranean shrub.

Ephedra’s relatives, which first arose about 130 million years ago in the Early Cretaceous, likely served as dinosaur food. Like others of their kind, *Ephedra* plants don’t have flowers and instead secrete droplets of pollen-laden liquid from their cones. Some species let the wind ferry drops between cones, but the liquid is also high in sugar, which attracts insects.

Catarina Rydin, a botanist at the University of Stockholm, suspects that *Ephedra* might have saved itself from extinction by shifting from a predominantly insect-pollinated system to one dependent on wind, based on observations she has made in the fossil record. “Historically, climate change has occurred repeatedly, not least in the aftermath of the meteorite impact 65 million years ago, and wind-pollination may have been a safer method to ensure reproduction during such times,” she says. “It is thus possible that insect-pollinated species of *Ephedra* had a greater risk of becoming extinct.”

To better understand the plants and their evolution, Rydin and her doctoral student, Kristina Bolinder, headed down to Greece, where they scrambled over rocks to count insects and keep an eye out for pollen droplets. They had already determined that *E. distachya*, one of *E. foeminea*’s close relatives, sent its pollen riding on the wind—a finding that matches most other *Ephedra* species researchers have taken the time to study. But *E. foeminea*’s pollination methods remained more elusive. Even after its cones appeared, they refused to open, and the usual suspects among insect pollinators seemed uninterested.

One night over a Greek dinner, the two began musing about something they’d recently read about nocturnal insects using the moon to navigate. Suddenly an idea struck: Could *E. foeminea*’s pollination somehow be connected to the lunar cycle? “It started as a joke that evening, I should say,” Rydin says.

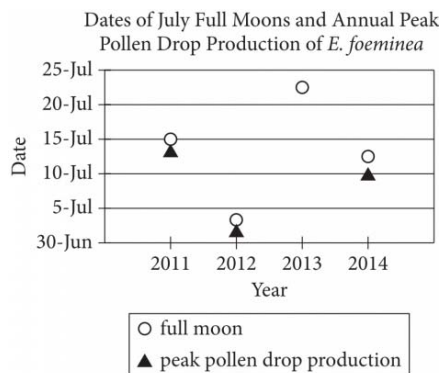
Still, the joke seemed plausible enough that she and Bolinder decided to investigate. They eagerly bided their time in the field, reading up about

nocturnal pollination and counting down the nights until the July full moon. On that long-awaited evening, the researchers strategically positioned themselves in an open field of *E. foeminea* and waited. As the moon rose in the cloudless sky, its soft glow revealed droplets of pollen, which shimmered and sparkled on the brightly colored cones. “We may be biased,” Rydin says, “but we found it ever so beautiful.”

Whereas most nocturnally blooming plants have white flowers to help pollinators find them in the dark, *E. foeminea*’s cones are red and yellow, and they emit no discernable scent. “It became clear to us that the glittering probably is the means of nocturnal attraction that we had searched for but not found before,” Rydin says. That display likely acts as a homing beacon for insects, including the flies and moths that the researchers observed alighting on *E. foeminea* that evening.

Although the light of the half moon would likely be sufficient to illuminate the pollen, the full moon alone remains up throughout the entire night, so the researchers think that *E. foeminea* maximizes the effect for efficiency. “Only at full moon do the insects have a moon to navigate by during the entire night,” Rydin says.

So far, the researchers only have that one spectacular display, backed up by a scattering of historical data that seems to support the pattern. While some pollen drops did appear during the full moons of August and September, there were significantly fewer cones, suggesting that *E. foeminea*, like its relatives, peaks in summer. As such, many mysteries remain.



Note: Pollen drop production data not available for 2013.

Adapted from Catarina Rydin and Kristina Bolinder, “Moonlight Pollination in the Gymnosperm *Ephedra* (Gnetales).” ©2015 by The Royal Society.

The passage suggests that Rydin and Bolinder might have had a “biased” perspective during their full moon observation because they

- A. were happy because it seemed that their hunch was about to be confirmed.
- B. regretted their inability to find a pollination source.
- C. appreciated the way the light from the pollen droplets helped them to identify the insects.
- D. were anxious to share their discovery of a new pollination method.

Choice A is the best answer. The fifth paragraph describes how Rydin and Bolinder “eagerly” waited in the field for the full moon to arrive for some sign that *E. foeminea* pollination might occur nocturnally. They noted that as the full moon rose, droplets of pollen shimmered and sparkled on the plant’s cones. “‘We may be biased,’ Rydin says, ‘but we found it ever so beautiful.’” Thus the passage suggests that Rydin and Bolinder might have had a “biased” perspective during their full moon observation because they were happy that their hunch about nocturnal pollination was about to be confirmed.

Choice B is incorrect because Rydin and Bolinder were able to find a pollination source. Choice C is incorrect because they were excited about how the moonlight illuminated the pollen; there is no indication that the moonlight helped them identify insects. Choice D is incorrect because the method of nocturnal pollination wasn’t new—other researchers had previously described it.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 42

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Rachel Nuwer, “‘Wereplant’ Releases Its Pollen by the Light of the Full Moon.” ©2015 by The Smithsonian Institution. *Ephedra foeminea* is a Mediterranean shrub.

Ephedra’s relatives, which first arose about 130 million years ago in the Early Cretaceous, likely served as dinosaur food. Like others of their kind, *Ephedra* plants don’t have flowers and instead secrete droplets of pollen-laden liquid from their cones. Some species let the wind ferry drops between cones, but the liquid is also high in sugar, which attracts insects.

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To better understand the plants and their evolution, Rydin and her doctoral student, Kristina Bolinder, headed down to Greece, where they scrambled over rocks to count insects and keep an eye out for pollen droplets. They had already determined that *E. distachya*, one of *E. foeminea*’s close relatives, sent its pollen riding on the wind—a finding that matches most other *Ephedra* species researchers have taken the time to study. But *E. foeminea*’s pollination methods remained more elusive. Even after its cones appeared, they refused to open, and the usual suspects among insect pollinators seemed uninterested.

One night over a Greek dinner, the two began musing about something they’d recently read about nocturnal insects using the moon to navigate. Suddenly an idea struck: Could *E. foeminea*’s pollination somehow be connected to the lunar cycle? “It started as a joke that evening, I should say,” Rydin says.

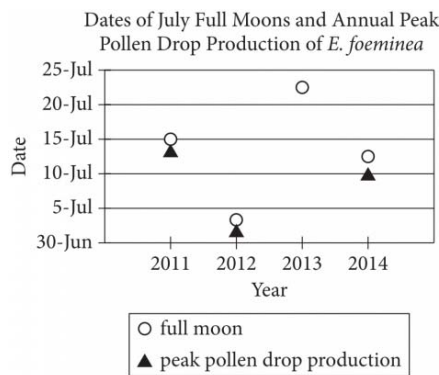
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nocturnal pollination and counting down the nights until the July full moon. On that long-awaited evening, the researchers strategically positioned themselves in an open field of *E. foeminea* and waited. As the moon rose in the cloudless sky, its soft glow revealed droplets of pollen, which shimmered and sparkled on the brightly colored cones. “We may be biased,” Rydin says, “but we found it ever so beautiful.”

Whereas most nocturnally blooming plants have white flowers to help pollinators find them in the dark, *E. foeminea*’s cones are red and yellow, and they emit no discernable scent. “It became clear to us that the glittering probably is the means of nocturnal attraction that we had searched for but not found before,” Rydin says. That display likely acts as a homing beacon for insects, including the flies and moths that the researchers observed alighting on *E. foeminea* that evening.

Although the light of the half moon would likely be sufficient to illuminate the pollen, the full moon alone remains up throughout the entire night, so the researchers think that *E. foeminea* maximizes the effect for efficiency. “Only at full moon do the insects have a moon to navigate by during the entire night,” Rydin says.

So far, the researchers only have that one spectacular display, backed up by a scattering of historical data that seems to support the pattern. While some pollen drops did appear during the full moons of August and September, there were significantly fewer cones, suggesting that *E. foeminea*, like its relatives, peaks in summer. As such, many mysteries remain.



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Adapted from Catarina Rydin and Kristina Bolinder, “Moonlight Pollination in the Gymnosperm *Ephedra* (Gnetales).” ©2015 by The Royal Society.

Based on the passage, what is the most likely reason *E. foeminea*’s pollen display does not occur during the half moon?

- A. The half moon is not bright enough to aid the insects in navigation.
- B. The half moon interferes with the insects' daily cycle of activity.
- C. The half moon is visible for fewer hours of the night than the full moon is.
- D. The half moon does not have the gravitational pull of the full moon.

Choice C is the best answer. The seventh paragraph claims that the light of the half moon would probably be bright enough to make the pollen glisten, but "the full moon alone remains up throughout the entire night, so the researchers think that *E. foeminea* maximizes the effect for efficiency." Only the full moon would allow insects to navigate effectively all night long. Thus the most likely reason *E. foeminea*'s pollination doesn't occur during a half moon is that the half moon is visible for fewer hours of the night than the full moon is.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage states that the half moon would likely be bright enough to aid the insects' navigation. Choices B and D are incorrect because the passage doesn't say the half moon interferes with insects' daily cycle of activity (choice B), or discuss the moon's gravitational pull (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 43

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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Ephedra's relatives, which first arose about 130 million years ago in the Early Cretaceous, likely served as dinosaur food. Like others of their kind, *Ephedra* plants don't have flowers and instead secrete droplets of pollen-laden liquid from their cones. Some species let the wind ferry drops between cones, but the liquid is also high in sugar, which attracts insects.

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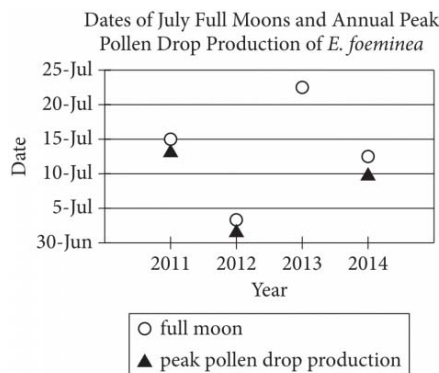
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Adapted from Catarina Rydin and Kristina Bolinder, “Moonlight Pollination in the Gymnosperm *Ephedra* (Gnetales).” ©2015 by The Royal Society.

The main effect of using the phrase “shimmered and sparkled” (line:VH527905_31) and the word “glittering” (line:VH527905_32) to describe *E. foeminea*’s pollen droplets is to

- A. explain why the droplets were functional in spite of an unpleasant odor.
- B. pinpoint a result of evolutionary change since the Early Cretaceous period.
- C. hint at why scientists were driven to discover Ephedra's pollination process.
- D. provide a vivid description of the qualities that attracted insects to the droplets.

Choice D is the best answer. The fifth paragraph discusses the search for evidence of *E. foeminea*'s nocturnal pollination by insects. The researchers became excited when they discovered that the full moon's light "revealed droplets of pollen, which shimmered and sparkled on the brightly colored cones." Rydin then states in the sixth paragraph that the "glittering" was probably the means of nocturnal attraction. Thus the main effect of using the phrase "shimmered and sparkled" and the word "glittering" to describe *E. foeminea*'s pollen droplets is to provide a vivid description of the qualities that attracted insects to the droplets.

Choice A is incorrect because the sixth paragraph states that *E. foeminea*'s cones have no detectable scent. Choice B is incorrect because the passage discusses the evolutionary change from pollination by insects to pollination by the wind; however, the cited terms indicate that *E. foeminea*'s pollination is still carried out by insects. Choice C is incorrect because the cited terms vividly describe what the researchers discovered, not why they were driven to make such a discovery.

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 44

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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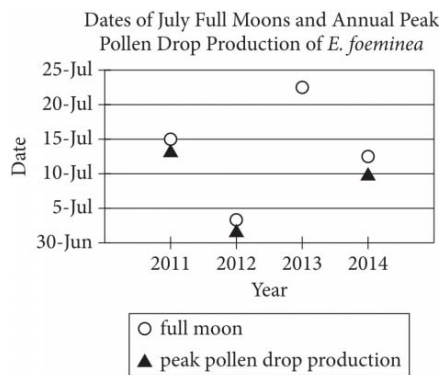
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Adapted from Catarina Rydin and Kristina Bolinder, “Moonlight Pollination in the Gymnosperm *Ephedra* (Gnetales).” ©2015 by The Royal Society. As used in {line:VH527905_13}, “backed up” most nearly means

- A. reversed.
- B. reinforced.
- C. blocked.
- D. substituted.

Choice B is the best answer. The last paragraph states that at this point the researchers have only “that one spectacular display, backed up by a scattering of historical data that seems to support the pattern.” In other words, their one observation of the phenomenon is supported by a small amount of other historical data. Thus “backed up,” as used in the context of the sentence, most nearly means reinforced.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in the context of the passage, “backed up” means reinforced, not reversed (choice A), blocked (choice C), or substituted (choice D).

Question Difficulty: Easy

Reading: Question 45

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

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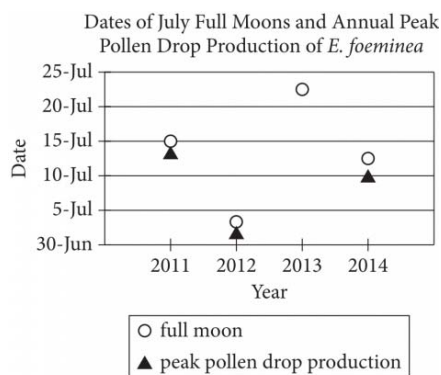
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Which statement most accurately describes *E. foeminea*’s pollen drop production as depicted in the graph?

- A. It peaks shortly before the full moon.
- B. It peaks shortly after the full moon.
- C. It peaks at exactly the same time each year.
- D. It peaks at different times among various populations.

Choice A is the best answer. The graph depicts July full moons for 2011 to 2014 and *E. foeminea*'s annual peak pollen drop production for all those years except 2013, for which data aren't available. The graph also depicts data points for the date of the full moon and the date of the annual peak pollen drop production in each of the years for which data are available. The peak pollen drop production data points appear very slightly below each year's July full moon data points. Therefore the graph depicts that *E. foeminea*'s pollen drop production peaks shortly before the full moon.

Choice B is incorrect because *E. foeminea*'s annual peak pollen drop production is depicted just below, and thus shortly before, not after, the relevant year's July full moon. Choice C is incorrect because the graph indicates that both the full moon and peak pollen drop production occur on different days for each year depicted. Choice D is incorrect because the graph doesn't depict different populations.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Reading: Question 46

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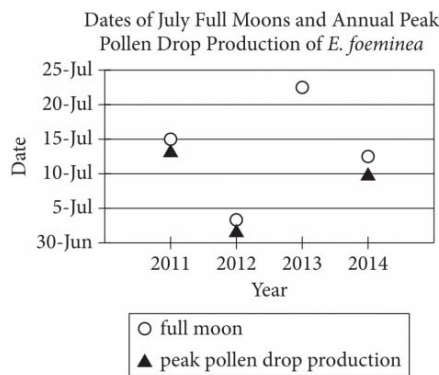
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Which finding shown in the graph supports the passage’s assertion that *E. foeminea* shares characteristics with some other *Ephedra* species?

- A. *E. foeminea*'s peak pollen drop production coincides with full moons.
- B. *E. foeminea*'s peak pollen drop production occurs in July.
- C. The timing of *E. foeminea*'s peak pollen drop production varies from year to year.
- D.

The association of *E. foeminea*'s peak pollen drop production with the full moon has become weaker over time.

Choice B is the best answer. The last paragraph states, "While some pollen drops did appear during the full moons of August and September, there were significantly fewer cones, suggesting that *E. foeminea*, like its relatives, peaks in summer." The graph shows that for each of the years for which there are data, *E. foeminea*'s annual peak pollen drop production occurs in July. Thus the finding in the graph that supports the assertion that *E. foeminea* shares characteristics with some other *Ephedra* species is that *E. foeminea*'s peak pollen drop production occurs in July.

Choice A is incorrect because the passage doesn't indicate whether other *Ephedra* species' peak pollen drop production coincides with full moons. Choice C is incorrect because the graph shows that the timing of *E. foeminea*'s peak pollen drop production varies from year to year only to the extent that each year's July full moon varies year to year, and that is only slightly; also, the passage doesn't indicate that *Ephedra* species' peak pollen drop production varies from year to year. Choice D is incorrect because the graph doesn't indicate that the association of peak pollen drop production with the full moon has become weaker over time for either *E. foeminea* or other *Ephedra* species.

Question Difficulty: Hard

Reading: Question 47

Questions 39-47 are based on the following passage and supplementary material.

This passage is adapted from Rachel Nuwer, “‘Wereplant’ Releases Its Pollen by the Light of the Full Moon.” ©2015 by The Smithsonian Institution. *Ephedra foeminea* is a Mediterranean shrub.

Ephedra’s relatives, which first arose about 130 million years ago in the Early Cretaceous, likely served as dinosaur food. Like others of their kind, *Ephedra* plants don’t have flowers and instead secrete droplets of pollen-laden liquid from their cones. Some species let the wind ferry drops between cones, but the liquid is also high in sugar, which attracts insects.

Catarina Rydin, a botanist at the University of Stockholm, suspects that *Ephedra* might have saved itself from extinction by shifting from a predominantly insect-pollinated system to one dependent on wind, based on observations she has made in the fossil record. “Historically, climate change has occurred repeatedly, not least in the aftermath of the meteorite impact 65 million years ago, and wind-pollination may have been a safer method to ensure reproduction during such times,” she says. “It is thus possible that insect-pollinated species of *Ephedra* had a greater risk of becoming extinct.”

To better understand the plants and their evolution, Rydin and her doctoral student, Kristina Bolinder, headed down to Greece, where they scrambled over rocks to count insects and keep an eye out for pollen droplets. They had already determined that *E. distachya*, one of *E. foeminea*’s close relatives, sent its pollen riding on the wind—a finding that matches most other *Ephedra* species researchers have taken the time to study. But *E. foeminea*’s pollination methods remained more elusive. Even after its cones appeared, they refused to open, and the usual suspects among insect pollinators seemed uninterested.

One night over a Greek dinner, the two began musing about something they’d recently read about nocturnal insects using the moon to navigate. Suddenly an idea struck: Could *E. foeminea*’s pollination somehow be connected to the lunar cycle? “It started as a joke that evening, I should say,” Rydin says.

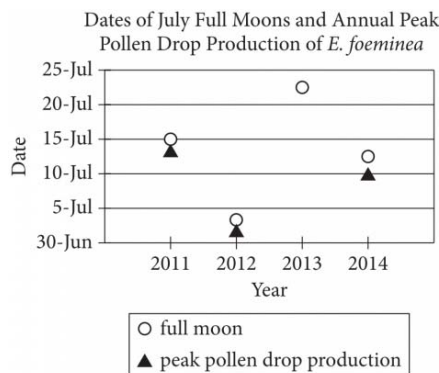
Still, the joke seemed plausible enough that she and Bolinder decided to investigate. They eagerly bided their time in the field, reading up about

nocturnal pollination and counting down the nights until the July full moon. On that long-awaited evening, the researchers strategically positioned themselves in an open field of *E. foeminea* and waited. As the moon rose in the cloudless sky, its soft glow revealed droplets of pollen, which shimmered and sparkled on the brightly colored cones. “We may be biased,” Rydin says, “but we found it ever so beautiful.”

Whereas most nocturnally blooming plants have white flowers to help pollinators find them in the dark, *E. foeminea*’s cones are red and yellow, and they emit no discernable scent. “It became clear to us that the glittering probably is the means of nocturnal attraction that we had searched for but not found before,” Rydin says. That display likely acts as a homing beacon for insects, including the flies and moths that the researchers observed alighting on *E. foeminea* that evening.

Although the light of the half moon would likely be sufficient to illuminate the pollen, the full moon alone remains up throughout the entire night, so the researchers think that *E. foeminea* maximizes the effect for efficiency. “Only at full moon do the insects have a moon to navigate by during the entire night,” Rydin says.

So far, the researchers only have that one spectacular display, backed up by a scattering of historical data that seems to support the pattern. While some pollen drops did appear during the full moons of August and September, there were significantly fewer cones, suggesting that *E. foeminea*, like its relatives, peaks in summer. As such, many mysteries remain.



Note: Pollen drop production data not available for 2013.

Adapted from Catarina Rydin and Kristina Bolinder, “Moonlight Pollination in the Gymnosperm *Ephedra* (Gnetales).” ©2015 by The Royal Society.

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

- A. {line:VH527905_35} (“Like . . . cones”)
- B. {line:VH527905_14} (“They had . . . study”)
- C. {line:VH527905_15} (“They eagerly . . . moon”)
- D. {line:VH527905_17} (“While . . . summer”)

Choice D is the best answer. The previous question asks which finding in the graph supports the passage’s assertion that *E. foeminea* shares characteristics with some other *Ephedra* species. The answer, that its peak pollen drop production occurs in July (which is depicted in the graph), is best supported in the last paragraph: “While some pollen drops did appear during the full moons of August and September, there were significantly fewer cones, suggesting that *E. foeminea*, like its relatives, peaks in summer.”

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 indicate that *Ephedra* plants secrete pollen drops from their cones rather than produce flowers (choice A), state that *E. distachya*, one of *E. foeminea*’s close relatives, employs wind pollination (choice B), and describe how Rydin and Bolinder spent their time in the field as they awaited the July full moon (choice C). None of these statements is supported by a finding in the graph.

Question Difficulty: Medium