

availability, or psychological impacts of the lifestyle of living in a tiny home.

13. **(D)** The claim is based on a correlation between dancing and brain health. Only choice (D) addresses both dancing and dementia (brain illness).
14. **(B)** The claim is that Canada may soon experience the devastating destruction of oak wilt disease because the effects of climate change may bring oak wilt further north. Finding evidence that the insects that carry the oak wilt environmental DNA (possibly sap beetles) have migrated near the Canadian border would suggest that the disease could, indeed, be at Canada's doorstep.
15. **(B)** The claim includes that the events leading to completed English prose made the English language a unifying force instrumental in defeating the Danes and establishing England as one nation rather than many independent kingdoms. Allowing only the noble classes to be educated would serve to divide, not unify, the people.
16. **(A)** The claim is that America's democratic system provides no checks and balances against potential tyranny. Tyranny is governmental rule that is cruel and/or oppressive, often with power used in an unreasonable or arbitrary manner. We can infer by his reasoning that the speaker views the majority rule concept in America as an opportunity for tyranny because if someone is mistreated there is no one to plead his or her cause against the majority.
17. **(C)** The claim is that the term "Melungeon" has been overused (implying that the term has been applied to and/or claimed by people with no real connections to this group) and only the people living in a specified area before 1944 can truly be called "Melungeon." Choices (A), (B), and (D) support this idea by emphasizing the uniqueness of the Newman's Ridge group and how the name has been misused over the years. Choice (C), however, by inference suggests that because they migrated from their Tennessee homes after 1844, their

descendants, who would also be of Melungeon lineage, would be entitled to the name.

18. **(C)** The claim is that prolonged exposure in wet clothing to cold weather conditions allowed the people to contract deadly viruses. Choices (A) and (B) are off topic. Choice (D) provides a possible explanation for why these people were able to survive with little clothing before the arrival of the western culture, presumably a period in which they were not exposed to viruses. However, choice (C) directly addresses the claim.
19. **(B)** Choices (A) and (D) relate to allowing high speeds on toll roads. Choice (C) is more germane to law enforcement issues; however, choice (B) addresses the logic of allowing speeds that can result in greater injuries than slower speeds.
20. **(B)** Both choices (A) and (C) would support objections to moving to DST based on health reasons. Choice (D) is a reasonable objection; however, it is not based on health reasons. Only choice (B) addresses health: we can infer that outdoor activities are healthier than watching television.
21. **(A)** Given that the two ships were “sisters,” meaning that they were of the same class and almost identical in design, the captain—who was able to bring the *Olympic* safely home after a collision—might have logically assumed that the *Titanic* would also be as sturdy against collisions and be “unsinkable.”
22. **(D)** The claim is that vehicles with stick shifts provide better fuel economy and are even safer than automatics. The GHSA’s suggestion implies that for a select group (namely, first-time drivers) a stick shift might be a safety issue until they learn the basics of driving.
23. **(D)** The claim is that some of Gall’s ideas are turning out to be correct. The descriptive highlights of some of his ideas include that “the two anatomists began emphasizing the significance of the areas of the brain, especially the cortex, in relation to mental functions.”

24. (A) The AWG produces clean (potable) drinking water. However, the potential exists for the machine to capture and grow contaminants, making the water unsafe. Although seriously egregious contaminants were not found during the test, the fact of high microbial numbers (A) present does support the concerns that the potential for the water to be unsafe is there.
25. (C) The counselor wants the school's diet to combine both whole healthy plant foods with whole healthy animal foods. Choices (A) and (B) address only vegetarianism. Choice (D) undermines vegetarianism. Only choice (C) directly supports the key elements of a plant-forward omnivorous whole-foods diet.

## Inferences

In these questions you will be combining clues in the text with your own sense of logic and reason to “read between the lines” of what the author is saying. You should look for implications and suggestive statements that point to what the writer is really saying.

## Practice

Each question has one or more passages. Carefully read each passage and question, and choose the best answer to the question based on the passage.

1. This passage is from OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency (2000), “Nuclear Energy in a Sustainable Development Perspective,” [www.oecd-nea.org/sd](http://www.oecd-nea.org/sd).

“Groundwater resources in the U.S., for instance, are often overused because of subsidies, a lack of tradable rights to water (‘use it or lose it’), and a lack of clear property rights to water tables. Overfishing in

the oceans provides a better example. It is easy to imagine that cattle might be scarce, just as buffalo became scarce, if they were owned in common and were taken from one vast domain, rather than being privately owned on separate ranches. While the exact analogue to barbed wire for fishing grounds in the ocean may be hard to conceive, assigning ownership rights to the ocean should not be much more difficult than assigning ownership rights to the radio frequency spectrum, as is currently being done throughout the world.” The implication is clear: \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) people have little incentive to conserve cattle.
- (B) cattle are much easier to kill than buffalo.
- (C) public or common ownership is better than private ownership.
- (D) private ownership is better than public or common ownership.

2. This passage is from OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency (2000), “Nuclear Energy in a Sustainable Development Perspective,” [www.oecd-nea.org/sd](http://www.oecd-nea.org/sd).

“There is much enthusiasm for ‘getting the incentives right.’ This produces nods of agreement on the general level, and furious disagreement about its specific application. ‘Getting the incentives right’ should mean chiefly assigning property rights to environmental goods, rather than using government power to set the ‘correct price’ for the use of a commonly held environmental good. Any so-called ‘market-based incentive’ policy that involves government setting the ‘correct price’ to establish a ‘level playing field’ is inherently flawed, because it misunderstands the nature of markets and prices. The government will always lack the necessary knowledge to set the ‘right’ price, and such policies will usually introduce new distortions into the marketplace that will likely be counterproductive and wasteful of resources.” Consequently,

\_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) one of the most important roles of government in the conservation of unsustainable resources is to assign property rights to environmental goods
- (B) if property rights are assigned to environmental goods, there will be no more instances of unsustainable resource use
- (C) the private market has no role in the conservation of unsustainable resources
- (D) only government has the expertise, access to information, and manpower to set the price of a commonly held economic good

3. This passage is from Preston Dyches, “*Cassini Catches Titan Naked in the Solar Wind*,” *NASA News and Features*, January 28, 2015.

“Titan spends about 95 percent of the time within Saturn’s magnetosphere. But during a *Cassini* flyby on Dec. 1, 2013, the giant moon happened to be on the sunward side of Saturn when a powerful outburst of solar activity reached the planet. The strong surge in the solar wind so compressed the sun-facing side of Saturn’s magnetosphere that the bubble’s outer edge was pushed inside the orbit of Titan. This left the moon exposed to, and unprotected from, the raging stream of energetic solar particles.” These observations lead us to believe that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) the strength of the solar wind varies
- (B) the solar wind does not affect the atmosphere of planets in orbit around the sun
- (C) the solar wind is stronger at Saturn than at Earth
- (D) no known force can affect the solar wind

4. This passage is from Preston Dyches, “*Cassini Catches Titan Naked in the Solar Wind*,” *NASA News and Features*, January 28, 2015.

“Using its magnetometer instrument, which is akin to an exquisitely sensitive compass, *Cassini* has observed Titan (Saturn’s largest moon) many times during the mission’s decade in the Saturn system, but always within Saturn’s magnetosphere. The spacecraft has not been

able to detect a magnetic field coming from Titan itself. In its usual state, Titan is cloaked in Saturn's magnetic field." This circumstance therefore implies that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) Titan may have a magnetic field that is difficult to detect because of Saturn's powerful magnetic field
- (B) Titan definitely does not have its own magnetic field
- (C) Titan definitely has its own magnetic field
- (D) scientists will never be able to determine if Titan has its own magnetic field

5. In *No-No Boy*, published by the University of Washington Press, copyright © 2001, John Okada describes the effects of World War II on the people of Japanese and Chinese heritage living in the United States during those years.

"First, the real Japanese-Japanese were rounded up. . . . Then the alien Japanese, the ones who had been in America for two, three, or even four decades. . . . And so, a few months after the seventh day of December of the year nineteen forty-one, the only Japanese left on the west coast of the United States was Matsusaburo Inabukuro who, while it has been forgotten whether he was Japanese-American or American-Japanese, picked up an 'I am Chinese'—not American or American-Chinese or Chinese-American but 'I am Chinese'—button and got a job in a California shipyard." The implications here are that wearing the button \_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) helped him get the job because people believed that he wasn't Japanese
- (B) had no effect on his job application because people thought he was a Japanese person trying to make people believe he was a Chinese person
- (C) helped him get the job because people believed that a Chinese person in America was likely to be an American citizen

(D) may have helped him in the short term but ultimately would end in his dismissal

6. This passage is from Lewis Thomas, *The Medusa and the Snail*, copyright ©1974. In it, he chronicles the advent of what many consider “modern medicine.”

“Then, sometime in the early nineteenth century, it was realized by a few of the leading figures in medicine that almost all of the complicated treatments then available for disease did not really work, and the suggestion was made by several courageous physicians that most of them actually did more harm than good. Simultaneously, the surprising discovery was made that certain diseases were self-limited, got better by themselves, possessed a ‘natural history.’” The inference of calling the physicians “courageous” is that the author believes that it took courage for physicians to

\_\_\_\_\_.

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) risk injuring their own health by administering new drugs to patients
  - (B) suggest that the methods used in their profession were almost completely wrong since doing so would make them unpopular with other members of the profession and possibly endanger their standing in the medical profession
  - (C) suggest that the profession should try new methods of treating patients
  - (D) admit to their fellow professionals that they had been wrong in their criticism of accepted medical practice
7. In *No-No Boy*, published by the University of Washington Press, copyright © 2001, John Okada describes the effects of World War II on the people of Japanese and Chinese heritage living in the United States during those years.

“By now, the snowball was big enough to wipe out the rising sun. The big rising sun would take a little more time, but the little rising sun

which was the Japanese in countless Japanese communities in the coastal states of Washington, Oregon, and California presented no problem. The whisking and transporting of Japanese and the construction of camps with barbed wire and ominous towers supporting fully armed soldiers in places like Idaho and Wyoming and Arizona, places which even Hollywood scorned for background, had become skills which demanded the utmost of America's great organizing ability." This "snowball" likely refers to

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Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) the accumulating tears of Japanese family members who have seen their relatives moved to relocation camps
- (B) the steadily increasing, accumulating efforts of Americans to defeat the Japanese
- (C) the steadily growing efforts of Americans to relocate Japanese aliens living in America
- (D) the steadily accumulating efforts of Japanese aliens living in America to return to Japan to fight for their country

8. This passage is from Elizabeth Zubritsky, "NASA Finds Friction from Tides Could Help Distant Earths Survive, and Thrive," NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

"As anybody who has started a campfire by rubbing sticks knows, friction generates heat. Now, computer modeling by NASA scientists shows that friction could be the key to survival for some distant Earth-sized planets traveling in dangerous orbits.

"The findings are consistent with observations that Earth-sized planets appear to be very common in other star systems. . . .

"Simulations of young planetary systems indicate that giant planets often upset the orbits of smaller inner worlds. Even if those interactions aren't immediately catastrophic, they can leave a planet in a treacherous eccentric orbit—a very elliptical course that raises the

odds of crossing paths with another body, being absorbed by the host star, or getting ejected from the system.”

The author goes on to describe research centered on tidal stresses (producing friction and heat) on planets that can move some planets into safer (round) orbits. The implication of this research is that

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Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) nearly all the Earth-size planets in a typical star system are in a circular orbit
- (B) Earth-size planets are rare
- (C) all of the Earth-size planets that exist in other star systems were once in elliptical orbits around their host star
- (D) some of the Earth-like planets in other star systems have always been in a circular orbit, while others were previously in elliptical orbits

9. This passage is from Suparna Choudhury, “Culturing the Adolescent Brain: What Can Neuroscience Learn from Anthropology?” in *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*, 2010.

In this article, the author says, “If we assume that a transitional period of the life cycle, akin to adolescence, organized around puberty and of variable length, exists almost universally, the next question is what forms it takes and whether its features, too, are universal.

Ethnographic research in Samoa conducted by anthropologist Margaret Mead brought the issue of cultural difference in the experience of adolescence to the fore.” After examining some of Mead’s work as well as studies by others, she concludes that “in summary, adolescence conceptualized as a prolonged period of identity development linked to increased autonomy, intergenerational conflict, peer-relatedness and social psychological anxieties, is not the norm across cultures. Indeed, these features seem to depend on degrees of individualism, social/economic role expectations, gender and class. A historical appreciation of adolescence as a category of science as well as cross-cultural investigations of the experience of

adolescence demonstrates that characteristics associated with this developmental stage may not only have biological bases but also social and cultural origins.” These comments imply that the author believes that

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Which choice most logically completes the text?

- (A) one of the main features of adolescence everywhere is rebellion by young people against parental authority
- (B) adolescence as a distinct period of life is unique to industrialized societies
- (C) adolescence occurs in every culture (or at least nearly every culture), but the form that it takes varies from culture to culture
- (D) adolescence as a distinct period of life occurs only in “individualistic” societies

10. This selection is from John L. O’Sullivan, “The Great Nation of Futurity.” It was originally published in 1839.

Speaking of America, O’Sullivan wrote: “. . . our national birth was the beginning of a new history, the formation and progress of an untried political system, which separates us from the past and connects us with the future only; and so far as regards the entire development of the natural rights of man, in moral, political, and national life, we may confidently assume that our country is destined to be the great nation of futurity. It is so destined because the principle upon which a nation is organized fixes its destiny, and that of equality is perfect, is universal. It presides in all the operations of the physical world, and it is also the conscious law of the soul—the self-evident dictates of morality, which accurately defines the duty of man to man, and consequently man’s rights as man. Besides, the truthful annals of any nation furnish abundant evidence that its happiness, its greatness, its duration, were always proportionate to the democratic equality in its system of government.” The author’s position on the future of America implies that

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