

SAT Prep

Expression of Ideas 1



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Topic:

Rhetorical Synthesis

What are "Rhetorical Synthesis" questions?

On the Reading and Writing section of your SAT, some questions will provide you with a series of bulleted notes that contain related information about an unfamiliar topic. The question will then ask you to **effectively use relevant information from the notes** to accomplish a particular goal.



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

- Maika'i Tubbs is a Native Hawaiian sculptor and installation artist.
- His work has been shown in the United States, Canada, Japan, and Germany, among other places.
- Many of his sculptures feature discarded objects.
- His work Erasure (2008) includes discarded audiocassettes, tapes, and magnets.
- His work Home Grown (2009) includes discarded pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two works. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Erasure (2008) uses discarded objects such as audiocassettes, tapes, and magnets; Home Grown (2009), however, includes pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.
- B. Like many of Tubbs's sculptures, both Erasure and Home Grown include discarded objects: Erasure uses audiocassette tapes, and Home Grown uses plastic forks.
- C. Tubbs's work, which often features discarded objects, has been shown both within the United States and abroad.
- D. Tubbs completed Erasure in 2008 and Home Grown in 2009.



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How should we think about Rhetorical Synthesis questions?

Rhetorical Synthesis questions throw a lot of information at us. The key to success on these questions is to ignore all the details at first and to focus on the goal identified in the question prompt.

If we understand how Rhetorical Synthesis **questions are structured**, finding this goal is easy.

Question structure: Every Rhetorical Synthesis question has the same parts:

- An introduction
- A series of bulleted facts
- A question prompt
- The choices



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Many test-takers will instinctively be drawn to the bulleted information first. However, we should instead focus on the question prompt.

The question prompt will identify a goal for our solution sentence. For example, we might be asked to **emphasize a similarity or difference**, or **introduce a study and its findings**, or **provide an explanation and example** of some particular idea.

Only one of the choices will accomplish this goal. In fact, if we're short on time but are focused on the identified goal and explore the choices, we can often answer Rhetorical Synthesis questions *without ever reading the bulleted information*.



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How to approach Rhetorical Synthesis questions

If we actually had to compose the answer to a Rhetorical Synthesis question, our job would be much harder and more open-ended. We need to examine the presented information closely, decide which information is most relevant, and write a clear and concise sentence of our own making.

But since Rhetorical Synthesis questions are multiple-choice, we can avoid all that complexity and be much more systematic.

To solve a Rhetorical Synthesis question, follow these three steps:

Step 1: *Identify the goal*

Start by reading the question prompt. What does the correct choice need to accomplish?

This goal will be plainly stated. For instance, in the example item at the start of this lesson, the goal is "**to emphasize a similarity between the two works**".

If you find yourself confused by the stated goal, you can get some more context by reading the bulleted information. But you won't need to understand all those details to be able to complete the next step.



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Step 2: *Test the choices*

All of the choices will present a grammatically accurate sentence that represents information from the bullets. This means we don't need to determine whether or not the sentences contain errors. We only need to focus on the goal.

Read through each choice. As you do, ask yourself, "does this sentence accomplish the identified goal?" If the answer is no, eliminate that option.

Step 3: *Select the choice that matches*

Once you've tested each answer choice, you should find that only one choice successfully accomplishes the goal defined in the question. You can select that choice with confidence!



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Tips and Strategies

Simplify the goal: The simpler you can make the goal, the easier it will be to test the choices. For example, if the question wants to "emphasize a difference between *thing X* and *thing Y*", we can simplify our test to just "difference".

Does each choice describe "difference"? If not, we can eliminate it.

Simplifying the goal can help us eliminate a few choices very quickly. But we may have to reexamine the complete goal to distinguish between the remaining choices.

Be strict: Don't be generous with choices that "kind of" or "almost" accomplish the goal. If a choice doesn't completely address all parts of the goal, we can eliminate it. Details matter!

Ignore the grammar: All of the choices will be well-written and grammatically correct. Make your choice based on the information the choices contain, not how good they sound in the sentence.



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1. While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:
- Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs.
 - Coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems that provide habitats to 25% of all marine species.
 - Reefs can include up to 8,000 species of fish, such as toadfish, seahorses, and clown triggerfish.
 - The Amazon Reef is a coral reef in Brazil.
 - It is one of the largest known reefs in the world.

The student wants to introduce the scientist and her field of study to a new audience. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Located in Brazil, the Amazon Reef is one of the largest known coral reefs in the world.
- B. Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs, vital underwater ecosystems that provide homes to 25% of all marine species.
- C. Providing homes to 25% of all marine species, including up to 8,000 species of fish, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems and thus of great interest to marine biologists.
- D. As Camille Jazmin Gaynus knows well, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems, providing homes to thousands of species of fish.



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2. While researching a topic, the student has taken the following notes:
- As engineered structures, many bird nests are uniquely flexible yet cohesive.
 - A research team led by Yashraj Bhosale wanted to better understand the mechanics behind these structural properties.
 - Bhosale’s team used laboratory models that simulated the arrangement of flexible sticks into nest-like structures.
 - The researchers analyzed the points where sticks touched one another.
 - When the pressure was applied to the model nests, the number of contact points between the sticks increased, making the structures stiffer.

The student wants to present the primary aim of the research study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The researchers used laboratory models that simulated the arrangement of flexible sticks and analyzed the points where sticks touched one another.
- B. As analyzed by Bhosale’s team, bird nests are uniquely flexible yet cohesive engineered structures.
- C. Bhosale’s team wanted to better understand the mechanics behind bird nests’ uniquely flexible yet cohesive structural properties.
- D. After analyzing the points where sticks touched, the researchers found that the structures became stiffer when pressure was applied.

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

- Platinum is a rare and expensive metal.
- It is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions.
- Platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
- Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum with liquid gallium.
- Their catalyst was highly effective and required only trace amounts of platinum (0.0001% of the atoms in the mixture).

The student wants to explain an advantage of the new platinum catalyst developed by Jianbo Tang and his colleagues. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Like other platinum catalysts, the new platinum catalyst requires a particular amount of the metal to be effective.
- B. Platinum is a rare and expensive metal that is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions; however, platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
- C. While still highly effective, the new platinum catalyst requires far less of the rare and expensive metal than do other platinum catalysts.
- D. Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum, a rare and expensive metal, with liquid gallium.

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4. While researching a topic, the student has taken the following notes:
- Annie Wu is a prominent American flutist who graduated from the New England Conservatory.
 - She has won multiple national flute competitions.
 - She is best known for a 2011 YouTube video that has been viewed over two million times.
 - The video shows her performing Three Beats for Beatbox Flute, an original work by composer Greg Pattillo.
 - Wu combines flute playing and beatboxing in the video.

The student wants to emphasize Wu’s most well-known achievement. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Among her many achievements, prominent American flutist Annie Wu graduated from the New England Conservatory and has won multiple national flute competitions.
- B. Composer Greg Pattillo’s original work Three Beats for Beatbox Flute combines flute playing and beatboxing.
- C. Annie Wu is best known for a 2011 YouTube video performance of Three Beats for Beatbox Flute that has been viewed over two million times.
- D. Annie Wu, who has won multiple national flute competitions, has also combined flute playing and beatboxing.

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5. While researching a topic, the student has taken the following notes:
- In 1971, experimental musician Pauline Oliveros created Sonic Meditations.
 - Sonic Meditations is not music but rather a series of sound-based exercises called meditations.
 - Each meditation consists of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.
 - The instructions for Meditation V state, “walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears.”
 - Those for Meditation XVIII state, “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”

The student wants to provide an explanation and an example of Oliveros’s Sonic Meditations. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Sonic Meditations is not music but rather a series of sound-based meditations that consist of instructions; Meditation XVIII, for instance, instructs participants to “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”
- B. While both meditations consist of instructions, Meditation XVIII instructs participants to “listen,” whereas Meditation V instructs participants to “walk.”
- C. In 1971, Oliveros created Sonic Meditations, a series of meditations that consist of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.
- D. “Walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears” is one example of the instructions found in Oliveros’s Sonic Meditations.

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6. While researching a topic, the student has taken the following notes:
- A wok is a cooking pan that originated in China during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE).
 - The wok’s round, wide base helps to cook food evenly.
 - The wok’s high, angled sides help to contain oil splatters.
 - Grace Young is a cook and culinary historian.
 - Her book *The Breath of a Wok* (2004) traces the history of the wok.

The student wants to describe the wok’s shape. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Grace Young’s 2004 book, *The Breath of a Wok*, traces the history of the cooking pan.
- B. A wok is a cooking pan with a round, wide base and high, angled sides.
- C. The design of a wok, a type of cooking pan that originated in China during the Han dynasty, helps the pan cook food evenly and contains oil splatters.
- D. Able to cook food evenly and contain oil splatters, the wok is the subject of Grace Young’s 2004 book.

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

- In 1897, African American inventor Andrew Beard invented an automatic coupler.
- It improved on the existing design of train car couplers.
- It made the job of connecting train cars safer.
- In 1938, African-American inventor Frederick Jones invented a mobile refrigeration system.
- It improved on the existing design of food transport trucks.
- It enabled trucks to carry perishable foods farther.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between Beard’s invention and Jones’s invention. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Jones’s mobile refrigeration system, which he invented in 1938, made it possible for food transport trucks to carry perishable foods farther.
- B. In 1897, Beard invented an automatic coupler, which made the job of connecting train cars safer.
- C. Beard’s automatic coupler and Jones’s mobile refrigeration system both improved on existing designs.
- D. Beard’s invention made the job of connecting train cars safer, whereas Jones’s invention enabled food transport trucks to carry perishables farther.

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8. While researching a topic, the student has taken the following notes:
- A thermal inversion is a phenomenon where a layer of the atmosphere is warmer than the layer beneath it.
 - In 2022, a team of researchers studied the presence of thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants.
 - Gas giants are planets largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
 - The team found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were also likely to contain heat-absorbing metals.
 - One explanation for this relationship is that these metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere, where their absorbed heat causes an increase in temperature.

The student wants to present the study's findings to an audience already familiar with thermal inversions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Gas giants were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals when they featured a layer of atmosphere warmer than the layer beneath it, researchers found; this phenomenon is known as a thermal inversion.
- B. The team studied thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants, which are largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
- C. Researchers found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals, which may reside in the planets' upper atmospheres.
- D. Heat-absorbing metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere.

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

- Muslins are woven cotton fabrics with a variety of uses.
- Dhaka muslin is a handmade fabric produced in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It has an extremely fine weave and is primarily used to make luxury clothing.
- Sheeting muslin is a machine-made fabric produced in factories.
- It has a coarse weave and is primarily used to upholster furniture and create backdrops for theatre sets.

The student wants to emphasize the difference between the two muslins. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Muslins can be used in a variety of ways, from making luxury clothing to upholstering furniture and creating backdrops for theater sets.
- B. Sheeting muslin is machine-made, has a coarse weave, and is used for furniture and theater sets.
- C. Dhaka muslin is a handmade fabric with an extremely fine weave while sheeting muslin is machine-made with a coarse weave.
- D. Dhaka muslin and sheeting muslin are two different types of woven cotton fabrics.

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

- The painter Frida Kahlo is one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century.
- She was born in Coyoacán, Mexico, in 1907.
- She is best known for her vivid and richly symbolic self-portraits.
- The Two Fridas (1939) features two versions of Kahlo sitting together.
- One version wears a European-style dress and the other a traditional Tehuana dress.

The student wants to introduce Kahlo to an audience unfamiliar with the artist. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The 1939 painting The Two Fridas is one example of a self-portrait by Frida Kahlo.
- B. One painting by Frida Kahlo features two versions of herself, with one version wearing a European-style dress and the other a traditional Tehuana dress.
- C. Known for being vivid and richly symbolic, Frida Kahlo’s self-portraits include The Two Fridas (1939).
- D. One of the most influential artists of the twentieth century, Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is best known for her self-portraits, which are vivid and richly symbolic.

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

- In 1978, Sámi activists staged protests to block the construction of a dam on the Alta River in Norway.
- The dam would disrupt Sámi fishing and reindeer herding.
- The dam was ultimately built, but the Alta conflict had a lasting impact.
- It brought international attention to the issue of Sámi rights.
- It led to a set of 2005 legal protections establishing Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources.

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

- A. Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources received international attention and legal protections as a result of the Alta conflict.
- B. During the Alta conflict, Sámi activists staged protests to block the construction of a dam on the Alta River in Norway that would disrupt local fishing and reindeer herding.
- C. Although the dam that the Sámi activists had protested was ultimately built, the Alta conflict had a lasting impact.
- D. The Alta conflict had a lasting impact, resulting in international attention and legal protections for Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources.

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

- In 2013, paleontology professor Hesham Sallam and his students from Mansoura University in Egypt made a discovery.
- The team found a partial dinosaur skeleton at a site in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis.
- The skeleton belonged to a dinosaur species that lived approximately 80 million years ago.
- The new species was named Mansourasaurus to recognize the team that discovered it.

The student wants to explain the origin of the species name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The new species was named Mansourasaurus to recognize the team that discovered it, a professor and students from Mansoura University.
- B. Mansourasaurus, a species that lived approximately 80 million years ago, was discovered in 2013 by Egyptian paleontologist Hesham Sallam and a team of university students.
- C. Mansourasaurus, a new species discovered in Egypt in 2013, lived approximately 80 million years ago.
- D. A partial dinosaur skeleton found in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis belonged to a species named Mansourasaurus.

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

- From Tuesday, April 12th to Thursday, April 14th, Valhalla Apartment Company will be repaving your parking space and surrounding areas.
- The north end of the complex (parking spaces 1-60) will be cordoned off for repaving and resealing.
- Parking will be limited, so we suggest Emerald and Diamond streets as additional parking locations.
- Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to make your community better!

The student wants to maintain the tone consistent throughout his notes. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. During these three days, park your car on the south end of the complex!
- B. We ask that you park on the south end of the complex.
- C. Get your car out of the way and park on the south end of the complex.
- D. We beseech you to kindly park on the south end of the complex.

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

- When your mind is clear, you can conquer mountains and deadlines.

The student wants to maintain the rhetorical wordplay that characterizes the previous sentence. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Do not procrastinate, because you will experience an obstructed route and scrambled calendar.
- B. If you procrastinate, you obstruct your route and scramble your calendar.
- C. Your route and your calendar are in danger of being obstructed if you procrastinate.
- D. If you procrastinate, you obstruct your route and your calendar.

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

- Later in the morning, we retire to my father's office. It is a small room, tucked into the side of a quiet corridor, but this subtlety belies the chaotic life inside.
- Shelves line the walls, overflowing with books and papers and pictures from when we were young.
- Articles stack into tiny towering ziggurats, tabs wisp like curls from the sides, a computer rears large in the chaos. I smile: my desk is just like it.

In order to suggest a level of chaotic life inside the room, the student wants to invest the desk, an inanimate object, with human qualities. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. In the center, a gigantic desk plants its feet to bear what looks like the weight of a paper world on its back.
- B. A gigantic desk, located in the middle of the room, is covered with papers like a house is covered with paint.
- C. There are so many papers on the gigantic desk in the middle of the room that I can barely see my father when he is sitting on the other side.
- D. I usually associate paper with lightness, but there are so many piles on top of the gigantic desk that I am surprised it does not break.

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

- When planning a trip to a U.S. National Park, don't forget about Glacier National Park in Montana, where activities and a magnificent setting await you.
- While hiking, discover lakes colored a stunning turquoise. Bird Woman Falls, the crown jewel of Glacier, is not to be missed; this waterfall drops 500 feet from a hanging valley beneath the stunning Mount Oberlin.

The student wants to maintain the stylistic pattern established earlier in his notes. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The park features several endangered species, including the gray wolf, which recolonized in the park in the 1980s.
- B. The park features abundant wildlife, and one or two bear attacks occur each year on average.
- C. The park features over a thousand species of plants including trees, lichens, and herbs.
- D. And don't pass up an opportunity to take a sunset cruise on St. Mary's Lake.

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

- I have an orange. It is cold, compact, firm to the touch. A keen scent leaks from the pores, staining the air wild and sharp and citrus-sweet.
- It is a mammoth of its breed: if I stare just long enough, it looks like a tiny sumo wrestler who has neither hands nor legs nor appendages of any kind, only a tiny flame-tufted head perched on his titanic body.
- But I digress. I only meant to say that I have an orange, and I am content.

The student wants to reinvent the commonplace of an orange by comparing its skin to a familiar object in a surprising way. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. Its skin curls around the fruit so tightly that it is difficult to peel away.
- B. Its skin reminds me of a grapefruit skin, which has a similar texture.
- C. Its skin is speckled with small indentations that can barely be felt.
- D. Its skin is inversely pimpled like sandpaper turned inside out.

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

- In the poem "Resolution and Independence," William Wordsworth teaches his audience that beauty is not a matter of appearance: although it is present in a tranquil morning or the bright energy of a young poet, it is not contained by these things.
- We deal with the temporal nature of what we are given by understanding that the gift goes deeper than what we can see.
- The essential beauty underneath all appearance-

In order to communicate the complexity of Wordsworth's message, the student wants to make a contradictory statement which contains an element of truth. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. that which remains steadfast in the face of change- can exist beneath, and even because of, the ugliest exterior.
- B. that which remains steadfast in the face of change- is an important and often overlooked element in human society.
- C. that which remains steadfast in the face of change- can be found in both individual people and the physical world.
- D. that which remains steadfast in the face of change- must not be equated with the type of beauty that resides in appearance only.

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

- Sunrises are, I admit, generally very majestic. But usually (if I have my way) anything that occurs before 8 a.m. is wasted on me.

In order to emphasize the contrast between a sunrise and the author's attitude, the student wants to use two adjectives that are derived from the same root word. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. When the sun begins his incredible ascent, I prefer to be an inglorious huddle of sheets, crusted with sleep and wilfully blind.
- B. When the sun begins his incredible ascent, I prefer to be glorious ascent, I prefer to be an inglorious.
- C. When the sun begins his incredible ascent, I prefer to be glorious ascent, I prefer to be a ragged.
- D. When the sun begins his incredible ascent, I prefer to be stunning ascent, I prefer to be a pitiful.

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

- Drought, an extended period of dry weather, affects many regions of the United States every year.
- One of the worst droughts in U.S. history, the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, forced many residents of the Southern Plains to migrate west in search of more liveable conditions.
- The abundance of dry soil and sand created a storm of "black blizzards."

The student wants to maintain a neutral tone. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In a response that was too little, too late, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration organized efforts to plant trees and to educate farmers about soil conservation and farming practices, such as crop rotation.
- B. In response to this devastation, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration organized efforts to plant trees and to educate farmers about soil conservation and farming practices, such as crop rotation. However, the region was not able to grow crops successfully until the return of normal rainfall in 1939.
- C. In response to this devastation, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration bravely organized efforts to plant trees and to educate farmers about excellent soil conservation and farming practices, such as crop rotation.
- D. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration responded by organizing efforts to plant trees and to educate farmers about soil conservation and farming practices, such as crop rotation, but these efforts were completely useless.

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

- To write is to hate and love at the same time: the endless process of revision requires the ability to create and destroy in the same thought.

The student wants to capture a sense of wistfulness by choosing several words which begin with the same consonant. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. But it is a wonder to feel the world at your fingertips with words, even if you cannot hold it in your hands.
- B. It is remarkable to feel the universe at the tips of your fingers with words, even if you cannot hold it in your hands.
- C. Words can be used to touch the universe with your fingertips, even if you cannot hold it in your hands.
- D. Touching the world through language is an incredible feeling, even if you cannot hold it in your hands.

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

- According to the World Heritage Site, there are three things everyone must do when they visit the city of Prague in the Czech Republic: Walk along the Charles Bridge. See a production at the State Opera House.

The student wants to maintain the stylistic pattern established earlier in the sentence. Which choice best accomplishes the goal?

- A. Eating goulash and dumplings is also an imperative.
- B. Goulash and dumplings must also be eaten
- C. Eat a meal of goulash and dumplings.
- D. A meal of goulash and dumplings is essential.

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

- I woke up before my alarm, made a roast beef sandwich for lunch, arrived at the bus stop with minutes to spare, and cruised into my office on the 7th floor.
- That's when I realized that I had forgotten my briefcase, along with the crucial notes for my 9 a.m. presentation.

In order to achieve irony, the student wants to juxtapose two words that are typically contradictory. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. Well, this was just completely awful!
- B. Well, this was just wonderful news!
- C. Well, this was just an unfortunate circumstance!
- D. Well, this was just perfectly terrible!

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

- Malcolm liked to count things. To him, the height of excitement was buying a fresh box of pencils, sharpening them, and promptly adding them to his massive collection of writing implements.

In the sentence, the student wants to capture a sense of boredom by repeating the initial consonants. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. He reveled in careful consideration of all things, the smaller the better.
- B. He reveled in monotony, minutiae, the matter-of-fact and methodical.
- C. He reveled in monotony, the commonplace, and the humdrum.
- D. He reveled in the matter-of-fact aspects of an average existence.

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

- Stephanie, to Guillermo Torres, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Torres of Crater City. Stephanie is a graduate of the University of Utah and is a social worker at St. Paul’s Hospital.
- Guillermo graduated from Beckman College and is employed with Kane Pharmaceuticals. The families are eagerly looking forward to an October wedding.

The student wants to express enthusiasm consistent with the tone of a formal engagement announcement. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

A. Mr. and Mrs. Joel Andersen of Sunnyville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter,

B. Mr. and Mrs. Joel Andersen of Sunnyville are required to announce the engagement of their daughter,

C. Mr. and Mrs. Joel Andersen of Sunnyville are announcing the engagement of their daughter,

D. Mr. and Mrs. Joel Andersen of Sunnyville are totally stoked to announce the engagement of their daughter,

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

- This movement called the Great Migration would transform urban America.
- In particular, Detroit, Chicago, and other midwestern industrial cities experienced significant demographic changes.

The student wants to set up the examples discussed in the following sentence. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. It will also recast the social and political order of the country as a whole.
- B. It will also recast the social and political order of every city it touched.
- C. It will also recast how people interacted socially and politically.
- D. It will also recast the social and political order of everyday life.

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

- Andy Warhol explained that the soup had personal significance to him as a consumer, “Because I used to drink it.”

The student wants to most effectively set up the information that follows in the sentence. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Born in Pittsburgh in 1928,
- B. A leading figure in the American pop art movement,
- C. When asked why he chose to paint cans of Campbell’s soup,
- D. Most commonly known for his colorful celebrity portraits,

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

- We tend to think of invertebrates as little things like garden slugs. But this view is as misguided as if we formed our view of vertebrates.
- The largest invertebrate on Earth, the giant squid, can grow to a length of sixty feet.

The student wants the best supporting example for the main idea of his notes. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Our opinion is based only on fish, without ever considering birds.
- B. Our opinion is based only on cats, without ever considering dogs.
- C. Our opinion is based only on mice, without ever considering elephants.
- D. Our opinion is based only on humans, without ever considering other animals.

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29. While researching the topic, the student has taken the following notes:

- Dalí was known mainly as a painter, but he made frequent forays into other artistic mediums and enjoyed collaborating with other artists.

The student wants to include an example that supports the claim in his notes. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. In 1945, Dalí designed a dream sequence for the film *Spellbound* by the famous Hollywood director Alfred Hitchcock.
- B. Many of the bizarre images Dalí painted, like the melting clocks in his work *The Persistence of Memory*, remain cultural icons today.
- C. But it was Dalí's dramatic flair and style, as much as his artwork, that made him so well-known and has kept him so well-remembered.
- D. Many popular modern artists, including Jeff Koons and Damien Hirst, point to Dalí as a central influence on their work.

Expression of Ideas 1

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

- Nineteenth-century Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky spent nine years as a political prisoner in Siberia. In the consideration of his writing, the details of that stressful experience have largely overshadowed the importance of his return to society.
- When he came back to St. Petersburg in late 1859, Dostoyevsky plunged back into the debates about human nature and society that preoccupied educated Russians.
- He also founded a new political journal, a courageous move for a man whose similar earlier actions had led to his imprisonment.
- Such experiences would help form the basis of his most famous novels, *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*.

The student wants to highlight the most stressful experience of Fyodor Dostoyevsky. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Fyodor Dostoyevsky returned to St. Petersburg in late 1859.
- B. Fyodor Dostoyevsky spent nine years as a political prisoner in Siberia.
- C. Fyodor Dostoyevsky founded a new political journal, a courageous move for a man whose similar earlier actions had led to his imprisonment.
- D. Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s experiences would help form the basis of his most famous novels, *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Expression of Ideas 1

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

- Some researchers think one of the most likely mechanisms is empathetic mimicry: people unconsciously copy the facial expressions, body language, and other behaviors of those around them, often with remarkable speed and accuracy.
- This can cause people, through a kind of neural feedback, to actually experience the emotions associated with the particular behavior they are mimicking.
- In other words, if someone else smiles, then we are likely to smile in response, and the act of smiling can actually make us happy!

The student wants the best introduction for his notes. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. How can happiness be contagious?
- B. Is it impolite to copy the behavior of those around us?
- C. Can research reliably identify what makes people happy?
- D. Can people lie with their facial expressions?

Expression of Ideas 1

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

- Beloved U.S. painter Grandma Moses began her career at the age of 78 in the year 1938.
- Moses enshrined in her work bits of folk song and folklore, old traditions, and images and myths from her life. At first glance, these quaint themes might seem at odds with the tastes of a sophisticated twentieth-century audience.
- But Moses' renewal of nineteenth-century themes gained popularity with an American public that was struggling to cope with World War II-era social and geopolitical challenges.

The student wants a conclusion that states the main claim. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. Her success paralleled and reinforced that of other artists of the time who depicted American life in a nostalgic light, such as Norman Rockwell.
- B. Moses would sustain a successful career as an artist until 1960 when she died at the age of 101.
- C. Rather than focus on art that reflected their volatile present moment, her audience could briefly escape to a simpler time.
- D. At the same time, artists like Edward Hopper were approaching subjects of American life with melancholy realism.

Expression of Ideas 1

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

- Frank William Abagnale, Jr. is an American security consultant who is famous for his former identity as a con artist, check-forgery, impostor, and escape artist.
- He claims to have assumed eight different false identities in his life, successfully impersonating an airline pilot, a doctor, a U.S. Bureau of Prisons agent, and a lawyer.
- He was the target of a long-running and long-frustrated FBI investigation during his career as an impostor.

The student wants to best maintain the style and tone used in his notes. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. He made a break for it from police custody twice before he was 21 years old.
- B. He took flight from police custody twice before he was 21 years old.
- C. He escaped from police custody twice before he was 21 years old.
- D. He flew the coop from police custody twice before he was 21 years old.

Expression of Ideas 1

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

- Despite the ease and speed of electronic communication, we should all send a letter through the mail every now and then.
- A personal letter not only breaks up the monotony of paper bills and ads but also builds a stronger bond between loved ones.
- It may take a little extra effort and care to handwrite a message, dig up a stamp, and walk a letter to the mailbox, but that effort will not go unappreciated.

The student wants a conclusion that maintains the style and tone of the text. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. So next time you want to reach out to a loved one, consider snail mail!
- B. So next time you want to correspond with a loved one, consider snail mail!
- C. So next time you want to dispatch communication to a loved one, consider snail mail!
- D. So next time you want to epistolize with a loved one, consider snail mail!

Expression of Ideas 1

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

- In 1939, Yankee great Lou Gehrig was an eye of the storm due to his tremendous baseball career and his battle with motor neuron disease; he became the first Major League Baseball player to have his number retired.

The student wants to add a sentence that is not too wordy. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A. He was always loved and adored by fans.
- B. He was a baseball player who was always loved by fans.
- C. He was always adored by fans.
- D. He was at all times loved and adored by fans of baseball.



Thank you