

# SAT Prep

## Information and Ideas 1



# Information and Ideas 1

<b>Content Domain</b>	<b>Skill/Knowledge Testing Points</b>	<b>Operational Question Distribution</b>
Information and Ideas	Central Ideas and Details Command of Evidence Textual Quantitative	≈26% /12–14 questions
Craft & Structure	Words in Context Text Structure and Purpose Cross-Text Connections	≈28% /13–15 questions
Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis Transitions	≈20% /8–12 questions
Standard English Conventions	Boundaries Form, Structure, and Sense	≈26% /11–15 questions



# Information and Ideas 1

## Topics

- Central Ideas and Details
- Inferences

# Information and Ideas 1

## Central Ideas and Details

What are "*Central Ideas and Details*" questions?

On the Reading and Writing Section of your SAT, some questions will present a short passage for you to read. The passage may be excerpted from **a work of literature or a scholarly essay**.

Once you read the passage, you'll be asked either to identify **the main idea of the text** or to answer a specific question based **on the text**.



# Information and Ideas 1

## Sample Question:

Many intellectual histories of the *Black Power Movement* of the 1960s and 1970s rely heavily on essays and other explicitly ideological works as primary sources, a tendency that can overrepresent the perspectives of a small number of thinkers, most of whom were male. Historian Ashley D. Farmer has shown that expanding the array of primary sources to encompass more types of print material—including political cartoons, advertisements, and artwork—leads to a much better understanding of the *Movement* and the crucial and diverse roles that Black women played in shaping it.

**Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?**

- A. Before Farmer’s research, historians had largely ignored the intellectual dimensions of the *Black Power Movement*.
- B. Farmer’s methods and research have enriched the historical understanding of the *Black Power Movement* and Black women’s contributions to it.
- C. Other historians of the *Black Power Movement* have criticized Farmer’s use of unconventional primary sources.
- D. The figures in the *Black Power Movement* whom historians tend to cite would have agreed with Farmer’s conclusions about women’s roles in the Movement.



# Information and Ideas 1

## How should we think about “Central Ideas and Details” questions?

*Central Ideas and Details* questions focus on reading comprehension, and they do so in a fairly straightforward way.

We won't need any outside knowledge. We won't need to analyze the text too deeply or do any complex reasoning. We'll simply need to read the passage carefully.

### Central Ideas

*Central Ideas* questions ask us to identify the *main idea* of the passage. Since the passages for these questions are fairly short, finding this *main idea* shouldn't be too tricky.

### The main idea should

- cover a majority of the details introduced in the text.
- mention any particular points of emphasis from the text.

### The main idea should not

- focus too intently on just one detail from the text.
- introduce new ideas not addressed within the text.
- contradict information from the text.



# Information and Ideas 1

## Details

*Details* questions ask us to answer a specific question about an idea contained in the passage. *Details* questions can usually be answered using information from one particular sentence in the text.

These questions will contain words, phrases, or ideas that direct us to the appropriate part of the text. Once there, we simply need to find the correct detail needed to answer the question.

# Information and Ideas 1

## How to approach “Central Ideas and Details” questions

To solve a *Central Ideas and Details* question, consider following these steps:

### **Step 1:** *Summarize the text in your own words*

Don't just skim the passage. Read it closely and try to summarize the ideas you encounter in your own words. By the time you finish reading, you should have a strong understanding of the information contained in the passage.

### **Step 2:** *Determine the task*

The question that follows the passage will reveal your task.

Does it ask about the "main idea"? Or does it ask about a particular piece of information?

### **Step 3:** *Revisit the text*

If the question is about the main idea, then revisit your summary of the text to find the overarching theme. If the question asks about something specific, then head to that section of the passage to search out the correct detail.

### **Step 4:** *Predict and eliminate*

Based on your understanding of the passage, you should be able to answer the question fairly accurately without even looking at the choices. If someone asked you to summarize the text, what would you say?



# Information and Ideas 1

## Tips

**Stay specific:** Don't stray beyond the focus of the passage. Eliminate choices that broaden or blur the ideas discussed in the text. And look out for small twists and turns that make a choice *seem* relevant when it actually expresses something unsupported by the passage.

**Keep your prediction as short and simple as possible:** Keep simplifying your prediction until you can sum it up in one brief idea, then use that prediction as a test. The more concise your prediction, the quicker and easier it will be to check it against the choices.

**Use keywords as a map:** When a question asks about a detail from the passage, it will often do so by referencing keywords and phrases from the text. Find those words in the passage: they'll direct you towards the answer you seek!

# Information and Ideas 1

## Sample Question: Main Ideas

Many intellectual histories of the *Black Power Movement* of the 1960s and 1970s rely heavily on essays and other explicitly ideological works as primary sources, a tendency that can overrepresent the perspectives of a small number of thinkers, most of whom were male. Historian Ashley D. Farmer has shown that expanding the array of primary sources to encompass more types of print material—including political cartoons, advertisements, and artwork—leads to a much better understanding of the *Movement* and the crucial and diverse roles that Black women played in shaping it.

**Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?**

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- D. The figures in the *Black Power Movement* whom historians tend to cite would have agreed with Farmer’s conclusions about women’s roles in the Movement.



# Information and Ideas 1

## Sample question– Details

The following text is adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1883 novel *Treasure Island*. Bill is a sailor staying at the Admiral Benbow, an inn run by the narrator’s parents.

Every day when [Bill] came back from his stroll he would ask if any seafaring men had gone by along the road. At first, we thought it was the want of company of his own kind that made him ask this question, but at last, we began to see he was desirous to avoid them. When a seaman did [stay] at the Admiral Benbow (as now and then some did) he would look in at him through the curtained door before he entered the parlor, and he was always sure to be as silent as a mouse when any such was present.

**According to the text, why does Bill regularly ask about “seafaring men”?**

- A. He isn’t sure that other guests at the inn will be welcoming of sailors.
- B. He’s trying to secure a job as part of the crew on a new ship.
- C. He’s hoping to find an old friend and fellow sailor.
- D. He doesn’t want to encounter any other sailor unexpectedly.



# Information and Ideas 1

1. The following text is adapted from María Cristina Mena’s 1914 short story “The Vine-Leaf.” It is a saying in the capital of Mexico that Dr. Malsufrido carries more family secrets under his hat than any archbishop. The doctor’s hat is, appropriately enough, uncommonly capacious, rising very high, and sinking so low that it seems to be supported by his ears and eyebrows, and it has a furry look, as if it had been brushed the wrong way, which is perhaps what happens to it if it is ever brushed at all. When the doctor takes it off, the family secrets do not fly out like a flock of parrots, but remain nicely bottled up beneath a dome of old and highly polished ivory.

**Based on the text, how do people in the capital of Mexico most likely regard Dr. Malsufrido?**

- A. Few feel concerned that he will divulge their confidences.
- B. Many have come to tolerate him despite his disheveled appearance.
- C. Most would be unimpressed by him were it not for his professional expertise.
- D. Some dislike how freely he discusses his own family.



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2. The ice melted on a Norwegian mountain during a particularly warm summer in 2019, revealing a 1,700-year-old sandal to a mountaineer looking for artifacts. The sandal would normally have degraded quickly, but it was instead well preserved for centuries by the surrounding ice. According to archaeologist Espen Finstad and his team, the sandal, like those worn by imperial Romans, wouldn't have offered any protection from the cold in the mountains, so some kind of insulation, like fabric or animal skin, would have needed to be worn on the feet with the sandal.

**What does the text indicate about the discovery of the sandal?**

- A. The discovery revealed that the Roman Empire had more influence on Norway than archaeologists previously assumed.
- B. The sandal would have degraded if it hadn't been removed from the ice.
- C. Temperatures contributed to both protecting and revealing the sandal.
- D. Archaeologists would have found the sandal eventually without help from the general public.



# Information and Ideas 1

3. NASA's *Cassini* probe has detected an unusual wobble in the rotation of *Mimas*, Saturn's smallest moon. Using a computer model to study *Mimas*'s gravitational interactions with Saturn and tidal forces, geophysicist Alyssa Rhoden and colleagues have proposed that this wobble could be due to a liquid ocean moving beneath the moon's icy surface. The researchers believe other moons should be examined to see if they too might have oceans hidden beneath their surfaces.

**Which choice best states the main idea of the text?**

- A. Rhoden and colleagues were the first to confirm that several of Saturn's moons contain hidden oceans.
- B. Research has failed to identify signs that there is an ocean hidden beneath the surface of *Mimas*.
- C. Rhoden and colleagues created a new computer model that identifies moons with hidden oceans without needing to analyze the moons' rotation.
- D. Research has revealed that an oddity in the rotation of *Mimas* could be explained by an ocean hidden beneath its surfaces.



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4. In a study of new technology adoption, Davit Marikyan et al. examined negative disconfirmation (which occurs when experiences fall short of one’s expectations) to determine whether it could lead to positive outcomes for users. The team focused on established users of “smart home” technology, which presents inherent utilization challenges but tends to attract users with high expectations, often leading to feelings of dissonance. The researchers found that many users employed cognitive mechanisms to mitigate those feelings, ultimately reversing their initial sense of disappointment.

**Which choice best states the main idea of the text?**

- A. Research suggests that users with high expectations for a new technology can feel content with that technology even after experiencing negative disconfirmation.
- B. Research suggests that most users of smart home technology will not achieve a feeling of satisfaction given the utilization challenges of such technology.
- C. Although most smart home technology is aimed at meeting or exceeding users’ high expectations, those expectations in general remain poorly understood.
- D. Although negative disconfirmation has often been studied, little is known about the cognitive mechanisms shaping users’ reactions to it in the context of new technology adoption.



# Information and Ideas 1

5. The following text is adapted from Edgar Allan Poe’s 1849 story *Landor’s Cottage*. During a pedestrian trip last summer, through one or two of the river counties of New York, I found myself, as the day declined, somewhat embarrassed about the road I was pursuing. The land undulated very remarkably; and my path, for the last hour, had wound about and about so confusedly, in its effort to keep in the valleys, that I no longer knew in what direction lay the sweet village of B——, where I had determined to stop for the night.

**Which choice best states the main idea of the text?**

- A. The narrator explains the difficulties he encountered on a trip and how he overcame them.
- B. The narrator describes what he saw during a long trip through a frequently visited location.
- C. The narrator recalls fond memories of a journey that he took through some beautiful river counties.
- D. The narrator remembers a trip he took and admits to getting lost.





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6. Artist Justin Favela explained that he wanted to reclaim the importance of the piñata as a symbol in Latinx culture. To do so, he created numerous sculptures from strips of tissue paper, which is similar to the material used to create piñatas. In 2017, Favela created an impressive life-size piñata-like sculpture of the *Gypsy Rose lowrider car*, which was displayed at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, California. *The Gypsy Rose lowrider* was famously driven by Jesse Valadez, an early president of the Los Angeles Imperials Car Club.

**According to the text, which piece of Favela’s art was on display in the Petersen Automotive Museum in 2017?**

- A. A painting of Los Angeles
- B. A painting of a piñata
- C. A sculpture of Jesse Valadez
- D. A sculpture of a lowrider car



# Information and Ideas 1

What are "Inference" questions?

**Inference** questions will provide an unfinished passage that introduces information about an unfamiliar topic. Based on that information, you'll be asked to select the choice that **most logically completes the text**.



# Information and Ideas 1

## Sample Question:

Adaptations to cold temperatures have high metabolic costs. It is expensive, in terms of energy use, for land plants and animals to withstand very cold temperatures, and it gets more expensive the colder it gets, which means that the lower the air temperature, the fewer species have evolved to survive it. This factor, in conjunction with the decline in air temperature with increasing elevation, explains the distribution of species diversity in mountain ecosystems: you find fewer species high up a mountain than at the mountain's base because \_\_\_\_\_

## Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. there are relatively few environments hospitable to species that are adapted to live in low air temperatures.
- B. there are relatively few species with the adaptations necessary to tolerate the temperatures at high elevations.
- C. adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive in rocky environments are metabolically costly.
- D. some mountain environments are at elevations so high that no plants or animals can survive them.



# Information and Ideas 1

## How should we think about Inference questions?

Inference questions are all about how we connect information and ideas to create arguments.

Break arguments into two basic parts: **Premises** and **Conclusions**.

**Premises** are the facts on which an argument is based. When premises are connected, they should provide strong evidence for the argument's conclusion.

The **Conclusion** is the heart of the argument. It's the overall claim that the argument's author is trying to support.

An inference passage will present a set of premises, and you have to determine the appropriate conclusion, or an inference passage will include the conclusion, and you have to identify a gap in the premises that must be filled.

*Either way, the basic task is the same: you need to identify what is missing from the argument and fill that gap with one of the choices.*



# Information and Ideas 1

## How to approach Inference questions

To solve an Inference question, consider following these steps:

### **Step 1:** *Separate the text into bullet points*

Everything you need to successfully answer an Inference question is contained within the provided passage.

Therefore, to find the answer, you'll need to read closely and carefully consider the information contained in the text.

A great way to do this is to take each idea in the passage and turn it into its own bullet point. This will create a step-by-step progression for the argument being made and allow you to see where any gaps might exist.

### **Step 2:** *Examine the argument*

Consider each piece of information offered in the passage. Then consider how those pieces fit together. Do they add up to something? What's the connection between them?

Each Inference question is like a mystery. Everything you need to solve that mystery is provided for you. You just need to be a detective and piece the clues together! By the end of this step, you should have a solid understanding of the argument being made. This should give you some idea of what might fit in the blank. At the very least, you'll be better prepared to recognize what *doesn't* fit in the blank.



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## **Step 3:** *Explore the choices*

Look at the choices one by one. Ask yourself if the information contained in the choice completes the argument in the passage.

**Step 4:** *Select the choice that strengthens the argument* The choice you select should fit in fairly obviously with the information provided in the passage. But even further, the choice you select, when combined with the rest of the passage, should make the argument both clearer and stronger. Once you find such a choice, you can select it with confidence!



# Information and Ideas 1

## Tips and Strategies

### Stay specific

Don't stray beyond what can be inferred. Be cautious with words like "most" or "many" when a passage only discusses one thing in particular. And look out for small twists and turns that make a choice *seem* relevant when it actually changes the focus of the argument.

### Lean on transitions

Pay close attention to the transition words used throughout an inferences passage. These transitions will show you how the ideas in the passage are related. In particular, the transition words used before the blank at the end of the passage will provide a useful clue to what information you're looking for.

This tells us that we're looking for further **support** for a conclusion that's already introduced in the passage.

- Transitions like "therefore", "thus", and "this suggests/implies" will introduce **conclusions**.
- Transitions like "because", "due to", and "since" will introduce **further support**.



# Information and Ideas 1

## Tips and Strategies

### Let the punctuation help

Similar to transitions, punctuation marks give shape to the ideas in the passage and show how those details are connected. Colons, semicolons, and dashes can all be used to inject conclusions, examples, and exceptions. Take a closer look at these punctuation marks to see what type of information they signal within the text.





# Information and Ideas 1

## Solve Inference Example 1:

Many animals, including humans, must sleep, and sleep is known to have a role in everything from healing injuries to encoding information in long-term memory. But some scientists claim that, from an evolutionary standpoint, deep sleep for hours at a time leaves an animal so vulnerable that the known benefits of sleeping seem insufficient to explain why it became so widespread in the animal kingdom. These scientists therefore imply that \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. it is more important to understand how widespread prolonged deep sleep is than to understand its function.
- B. prolonged deep sleep is likely advantageous in ways that have yet to be discovered.
- C. many traits that provide significant benefits for an animal also likely pose risks to that animal.
- D. most traits perform functions that are hard to understand from an evolutionary standpoint.



# Information and Ideas 1

## Solve Inference Example 2:

Companies whose products are similar to competing products often pursue a marketing strategy of brand differentiation, trying to get consumers to associate their brand with unique attributes (e.g., to think of their brand of rice as the healthy brand, when in fact there is little difference among brands of the same type of rice). Jaywant Singh and Francesca Dall’Olmo Riley investigated consumer perceptions of such products, finding that consumers view competing brands as having largely the same attributes and that any differences in the strength of consumers’ associations of brands with attributes are explained by differences in market share—the more popular a brand is, the stronger people’s associations with it are—suggesting that \_\_\_\_\_

### Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A. consumers tend to perceive products with high market share more positively than they perceive products with low market share.
- B. marketing aimed at brand differentiation influences consumers’ perceptions of branded products but not consumers’ purchasing behavior.
- C. marketing efforts focused on brand differentiation do not have much effect on consumers’ perceptions of branded products’ attributes.
- D. differences in consumers’ perceptions of products’ attributes are less influenced by brand differentiation than by actual differences between products.



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13. Tides can deposit large quantities of dead vegetation within a salt marsh, smothering healthy plants and leaving a salt panne—a depression devoid of plants that tends to trap standing water—in the marsh’s interior. Ecologist Kathryn Beheshti and colleagues found that burrowing crabs living within these pannes improve drainage by loosening the soil, leading the pannes to shrink as marsh plants move back in. At salt marsh edges, however, crab-induced soil loosening can promote marsh loss by accelerating erosion, suggesting that the burrowing action of crabs \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. can be beneficial to marshes with small pannes but can be harmful to marshes with large pannes.
- B. may promote increases in marsh plants or decreases in marsh plants, depending on the crabs’ location.
- C. tends to be more heavily concentrated in areas of marsh interiors with standing water than at marsh edges.
- D. varies in intensity depending on the size of the panne relative to the size of the surrounding marsh.



# Information and Ideas 1

14. As the name suggests, dramaturges originated in theater, where they continue to serve a variety of functions: conducting historical research for directors, compiling character biographies for actors, and perhaps most importantly, helping writers of plays and musicals to hone the works' stories and characters. Performance scholar Susan Manning observes that many choreographers, like playwrights and musical theater writers, are concerned with storytelling and characterization. In fact, some choreographers describe the dances they create as expressions of narrative through movement; it is, therefore, unsurprising that \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. some directors and actors rely too heavily on dramaturges to complete certain research tasks.
- B. choreographers developing dances with narrative elements frequently engage dramaturges to assist in refining those elements.
- C. dramaturges can have a profound impact on the artistic direction of plays and musicals.
- D. dances by choreographers who incorporate narrative elements are more accessible to audiences than dances by choreographers who do not.



# Information and Ideas 1

15. *Off-Off-Broadway* theaters emerged in the late 1950s as a rebellion against mainstream Broadway theaters in New York, freeing artists to create productions that were more experimental than typical Broadway shows. One such artist was playwright María Irene Fornés. Working with *Off-Off Broadway* theaters enabled Fornés not only to direct her own plays but also to direct them exactly as she intended them to be staged, regardless of how strange the results might have seemed to audiences accustomed to Broadway shows. In this way, Fornés \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. would have been more famous if she had created plays that were mainstream instead of experimental.
- B. recognized that staging an *Off-Off Broadway* play was more complicated than staging a Broadway play.
- C. wrote plays that would have been too expensive to produce if someone else had directed the production.
- D. illustrates the artistic opportunity offered by *Off-Off Broadway* theaters.



# Information and Ideas 1

16. Researchers Suchithra Rajendran and Maximilian Popfinger modeled varying levels of passenger redistribution from short-haul flights (flights of 50 to 210 minutes, from takeoff to landing) to high-speed rail trips. Planes travel faster than trains, but air travel typically requires 3 hours of lead time for security, baggage handling, and boarding that rail travel doesn't, so short-haul routes take similar amounts of time by air and by rail. However, the model suggests that as rail passenger volumes approach current capacity limits, long lead times emerge. Therefore, for rail to remain a viable alternative to short-haul flights, \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. rail systems should offer fewer long-haul routes and airlines should offer more long-haul routes.
- B. rail systems may need to schedule additional trains for these routes.
- C. security, baggage handling, and boarding procedures used by airlines may need to be implemented for rail systems.
- D. passengers who travel by rail for these routes will need to accept that lead times will be similar to those for air travel.



# Information and Ideas 1

17. In their book *Smart Pricing*, Jagmohan Raju and Z. John Zhang consider musicians’ use of the non-traditional “*pay as you wish*” pricing model. This model generally offers listeners the choice to pay more or less than a suggested price for a song or album—or even to pay nothing at all. As the authors note, that’s the option most listeners chose for an album by the band Harvey Danger. Only about 1% opted to pay for the album, resulting in earnings below the band’s expectations. But the authors also discuss musician Jane Siberry, who saw significant earnings from her “*pay as you wish*” online music store as a result of many listeners choosing to pay more than the store’s suggested prices. Hence, the “*pay as you wish*” model may \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. hold greater financial appeal for bands than for individual musicians.
- B. cause most musicians who use the model to lower the suggested prices of their songs and albums over time.
- C. prove financially successful for some musicians but disappointing for others.
- D. more strongly reflect differences in certain musicians’ popularity than traditional pricing models do.



# Information and Ideas 1

18. In many cultures, a handshake can create trust between people. Engineer João Avelino and his team are designing a robot to shake hands with a human in order to improve human-robot interactions. The robot hand adjusts its movements and pressure to better imitate the feel of a human hand. The researchers want the robot's handshake to feel realistic because \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. people are less likely to interact with robots that don't look like humans.
- B. it's easier to program a robot to perform handshakes than it is to program a robot to perform some other types of greetings.
- C. the robot in the researchers' study may have uses other than interacting with humans.
- D. lifelike handshakes may make people more comfortable interacting with robots.





# Information and Ideas 1

7. In a paper about p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells (one of several perovskite cell architectures designed to collect and store solar power), Lyndsey McMillon-Brown et al. describe a method for fabricating the cell’s electronic transport layer (ETL) using a spray coating. Conventional ETL fabrication is accomplished using a solution of nanoparticles. The process can result in a loss of up to 80% of the solution, increasing the cost of manufacturing at scale—an issue that may be obviated by spray coating fabrication, which the researchers describe as “highly reproducible, concise, and practical.”

**What does the text most strongly suggest about conventional ETL fabrication?**

- A. It typically entails a greater loss of nanoparticle solution than do other established approaches for ETL fabrication.
- B. It is less suitable for manufacturing large volumes of planar p-i-n perovskite solar cells than an alternative fabrication method may be.
- C. It is somewhat imprecise and therefore limits the potential effectiveness of p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells at capturing and storing solar power.
- D. It is more expensive when manufacturing at scale than are processes for fabricating ETLs used in other perovskite solar cell architectures.



# Information and Ideas 1

8. In many of his sculptures, artist Richard Hunt uses broad forms rather than extreme accuracy to hint at specific people or ideas. In his first major work, *Arachne* (1956), Hunt constructed the mythical character Arachne, a weaver who was changed into a spider, by welding bits of steel together into something that, although vaguely human, is strange and machine-like. And his large bronze sculpture *The Light of Truth* (2021) commemorates activist and journalist Ida B. Wells using mainly flowing, curved pieces of metal that create stylized flame.

**Which choice best states the text’s main idea about Hunt?**

- A. He often depicts the subjects of his sculptures using an unrealistic style.
- B. He uses different kinds of materials depending on what kind of sculpture he plans to create.
- C. He tends to base his art on important historical figures rather than on fictional characters.
- D. He has altered his approach to sculpture over time, and his works have become increasingly abstract.



# Information and Ideas 1

9. The following text is from Edith Nesbit’s 1902 novel *Five Children and It*. Five young siblings have just moved with their parents from London to a house in the countryside that they call the White House. It was not really a pretty house at all; it was quite ordinary, and mother thought it was rather inconvenient, and was quite annoyed at there being no shelves, to speak of, and hardly a cupboard in the place. Father used to say that the ironwork on the roof and coping was like an architect’s nightmare. But the house was deep in the country, with no other house in sight, and the children had been in London for two years, without so much as once going to the seaside even for a day by an excursion train, and so the White House seemed to them a sort of Fairy Palace set down in an Earthly Paradise.

**Which choice best states the main idea of the text?**

- A. The house is beautiful and well built, but the children miss their old home in London.
- B. The children don’t like the house nearly as much as their parents do.
- C. Each member of the family admires a different characteristic of the house.
- D. Although their parents believe the house has several drawbacks, the children are enchanted by it.



# Information and Ideas 1

10. Disco remains one of the most ridiculed popular music genres of the late twentieth century. But as scholars have argued, the genre is far less superficial than many people believe. Take the case of disco icon Donna Summer: she may have been associated with popular songs about love and heartbreak (subjects hardly unique to disco, by the way), but like many Black women singers before her, much of her music also reflects concerns about community and identity. These concerns are present in many of the genre's greatest songs, and they generally don't require much digging to reveal.

**What does the text most strongly suggest about the disco genre?**

- A. It gave rise to a Black women's musical tradition that has endured even though the genre itself faded in the late twentieth century.
- B. It has been unjustly ignored by most scholars despite the importance of the themes addressed by many of the genre's songs.
- C. It has been unfairly dismissed for the inclusion of subject matter that is also found in other musical genres.
- D. It evolved over time from a superficial genre focused on romance to a genre focused on more serious concerns.



# Information and Ideas 1

11. To protect themselves when being attacked, hagfish—jawless marine animals that resemble eels—will release large quantities of slimy, mucus-like threads. Because these threads are unusually strong and elastic, scientist Atsuko Negishi and her colleagues have been trying to recreate them in a lab as an eco-friendly alternative to petroleum-based fibers that are often used in fabrics. The researchers want to reproduce the threads in the lab because farming hagfish for their slime would be expensive and potentially harmful to the hagfish.

**Which choice best states the text’s main idea?**

- A. Hagfish are not well suited to being raised in captivity.
- B. The ability of hagfish to slime their attackers compensates for their being jawless.
- C. Hagfish have inspired researchers to develop a new petroleum-based fabric.
- D. The slimy threads that hagfish release might help researchers create a new kind of fabric.



# Information and Ideas 1

12. In 2022, researchers rediscovered ancient indigenous glyphs, or drawings, on the walls of a cave in Alabama. The cave's ceiling was only a few feet high, affording no position from which the glyphs, being as wide as ten feet, could be viewed or photographed in their entirety. However, the researchers used a technique called photogrammetry to assemble numerous photos of the walls into a 3D model. They then worked with representatives of tribes originally from the region, including the Chickasaw Nation, to understand the significance of the animal and humanoid figures adorning the cave.

**According to the text, what challenge did the researchers have to overcome to examine the glyphs?**

- A. The cave was so remote that the researchers couldn't easily reach it.
- B. Some of the glyphs were so faint that they couldn't be photographed.
- C. The cave's dimensions prevented the researchers from fully viewing the glyphs.
- D. The researchers were unable to create a 3D model of the cave.



# Information and Ideas 1

19. The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is projected to maintain operation until at least 2030, but it has already revolutionized high-resolution imaging of solar-system bodies in visible and ultraviolet (UV) light wavelengths, notwithstanding that only about 6% of the bodies imaged by the HST are within the solar system. NASA researcher Cindy L. Young and colleagues assert that a new space telescope dedicated exclusively to solar-system observations would permit an extensive survey of minor solar-system bodies and long-term UV observation to discern how solar-system bodies change over time. Young and colleagues' recommendation therefore implies that the HST \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. will likely continue to be used primarily to observe objects outside the solar system.
- B. will no longer be used to observe solar system objects if the telescope recommended by Young and colleagues is deployed.
- C. can be modified to observe the features of solar system objects that are of interest to Young and colleagues.
- D. lacks the sensors to observe the wavelengths of light needed to discern how solar system bodies change over time.



# Information and Ideas 1

20. Arthur Conan Doyle’s stories about detective Sherlock Holmes were published between 1887 and 1927. They have inspired countless successful adaptations, including comic strips, movies, and a television series *Sherlock Hound*, directed by Hayao Miyazaki, who is celebrated for his animated movies. Until 2014, these stories were copyrighted. The right to adapt was only available to those who could afford the copyright fee and gain approval from the strict copyright holders of Doyle’s estate. Some journalists predict that the number of Sherlock Holmes adaptations is likely to increase since the end of copyright means that \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. producing adaptations will become easier and less expensive.
- B. people will become more interested in detective stories than they were in the 1800s.
- C. the former copyright holders of Doyle’s estate will return fees they collected.
- D. Doyle’s original stories will become hard to find.





# Information and Ideas 1

21. “*Gestures*” in painting are typically thought of as bold, expressive brushstrokes. In the 1970s, American painter Jack Whitten built a 12-foot (3.7-meter) tool he named the “developer” to apply paint to an entire canvas in one motion, resulting in his series of “slab” paintings from that decade. Whitten described this process as making an entire painting in “one gesture,” signaling a clear departure from the prevalence of gestures in his work from the 1960s. Some art historians claim this shift represents a “removing gesture” from the process. Therefore, regardless of whether using the developer constitutes a gesture, both Whitten and these art historians likely agree that \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. any tool that a painter uses to create an artwork is capable of creating gestures.
- B. Whitten’s work from the 1960s exhibits many more gestures than his work from the 1970s does.
- C. Whitten became less interested in exploring the role of gesture in his work as his career progressed.
- D. Whitten’s work from the 1960s is much more realistic than his work from the 1970s is.



# Information and Ideas 1

22. In her 2021 article *Throwaway History: Towards a Historiography of Ephemera*, scholar Anne Garner discusses John Johnson (1882–1956), a devoted collector of items intended to be discarded, including bus tickets and campaign pamphlets. Johnson recognized that scholarly institutions considered his expansive collection of ephemera to be worthless—indeed, it wasn’t until 1968, after Johnson’s death, that Oxford University’s Bodleian Library acquired the collection, having grasped the items’ potential value to historians and other researchers. Hence, the example of Johnson serves to \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. represent the challenge of incorporating examples of ephemera into the collections of libraries and other scholarly institutions.
- B. illustrate both the relatively low scholarly regard in which ephemera was once held and the later recognition of ephemera’s possible utility.
- C. lend support to arguments by historians and other researchers who continue to assert that ephemera holds no value for scholars.
- D. demonstrate the difficulties faced by contemporary historians in conducting research at the Bodleian Library without access to ephemera.



# Information and Ideas 1

23. Martin Dančák, Wewin Tjiasmanto, and colleagues have identified a new carnivorous plant species (*Nepenthes pudica*) in Indonesia. Like other carnivorous plants, *N. pudica* has pitfall traps, or pitchers, that capture prey, but unlike others, the pitchers of *N. pudica* are located underground. The researchers unearthed the new species on fairly dry ridges with surfaces that host few other plants and animals. Therefore, the researchers hypothesize that the *N. pudica* species likely \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. is buried by nearby animals as they forage along the ridges for food.
- B. evolved to have underground traps to access more prey than would surface traps.
- C. formed pitchers early in development to absorb more moisture.
- D. represents one of many undiscovered carnivorous plant species in the region.



# Information and Ideas 1

24. Barefoot running, the act of running without footwear, has increased in popularity since the year 2000, with exercise enthusiasts looking to reduce the repetitive stress injuries caused by padded running footwear. However, the practice dates back thousands of years, with some long-established Latin American and African groups utilizing barefoot running even up to the present day despite the availability of modern footwear in those regions. This suggests that before the year 2000, \_\_\_\_\_

**Which choice most logically completes the text?**

- A. certain practitioners of barefoot running in different regions of the world have discovered its benefits.
- B. barefoot running has made exercise more accessible to those who cannot afford expensive footwear.
- C. barefoot running will soon surpass other methods of exercise as awareness of its benefits becomes more prevalent.
- D. footwear manufacturers could increase profits if they created region-specific running shoe designs.



*Thank you*