



GRE

Sample Questions for the Revised Graduate Record Examinations General Test

Large Print (18 point) Edition

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Suggestions for Users of This Material:

It is suggested that you print this material and arrange it so that the odd-numbered pages are on the right side and the even-numbered pages on the left side. Some material has been formatted so that related information is presented on pages that face one another when arranged as described.

Changes in the General Test

The revised GRE General Test will reflect changes made to the verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing measures. These changes reflect a desire to increase the validity of the test, enhance test security, provide faculty with better information about applicants' performance, increase worldwide access to the test, and make better use of advances in technology and psychometric design. As part of these changes, a range of new question types will be introduced in the verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning sections, and the topics in the analytical writing section will be revised in order to elicit more focused responses.

Description of the Revised General Test

The verbal reasoning measure is designed to assess the fundamental abilities required for understanding written texts and reasoning about them. Questions will measure your ability to interpret, analyze, and evaluate texts of various lengths and to reason with words in solving problems. There is a balance of passages across different subject matter areas, including humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences, but the questions do not assess specific content knowledge.

The **quantitative reasoning** measure is designed to assess your ability to solve problems in a quantitative setting, using quantitative reasoning, elementary mathematical concepts, and basic mathematical skills. The mathematical content required does not go beyond the mathematics usually studied in high school and includes arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis. For individuals taking the test by computer, an online calculator will be provided for use in the quantitative sections. For individuals testing in alternate formats, a hand-held basic calculator (one that supports order of operations is recommended), including a talking calculator if approved as an accommodation, will be permitted in the quantitative sections.

The **analytical writing** section tests your critical thinking and analytical writing skills. It assesses your ability to articulate and support complex ideas, analyze an argument, and sustain a focused and coherent discussion. It does not assess specific content knowledge.

Sample Questions from the Revised GRE General Test

The questions that follow represent the full range of question types that will appear on the revised GRE General Test.

Sample Test Instructions

In an actual test, you will have the additional time approved by Educational Testing Service to complete the test. Breaks, including lunch breaks, must occur at the end of sections.

These sample questions may include certain types of test questions that would not be used in an actual test administered in an alternate format because they have been determined to be less suitable for presentation in such formats.

If you are using the large print edition along with another format of the sample questions, you may notice some differences in the wording of some questions. Differences in wording between the large print edition and other editions are the result of adaptations made for each format. In addition, the order of questions has been slightly modified for the alternate format versions of this material. That modification was done in order to group together some questions that share a common set of directions.

Analytical Writing Sample Questions

The Analytical Writing portion of the GRE consists of two writing topics, an Issue topic and an Argument topic.

Sample Issue Topic Directions

You will be given a brief quotation that states or implies an issue of general interest and specific instructions on how to respond to that issue. Plan and compose a response in which you develop a position on the issue according to the specific instructions. A response to any other issue will receive a score of zero. Standard timing for an issue topic is 30 minutes.

Make sure that you respond to the specific instructions and support your position on the issue with reasons and examples drawn from such areas as your reading, experience, observations, and/or academic studies.

GRE readers, who are college and university faculty, will read your response and evaluate its overall quality according to how well you do each of the following:

- Respond to the specific instructions on the issue
- Consider the complexities of the issue
- Organize, develop, and express your ideas
- Support your position with relevant reasons and/or examples
- Control the elements of standard written English

Before you begin writing, you may want to think for a few minutes about the issue and the instructions and then plan your response. Be sure to develop your position fully and organize it coherently, but leave time to reread what you have written and make any revisions you think are necessary.

Sample Issue Topic:

“The best ideas arise from a passionate interest in commonplace things.”

Write an essay in which you take a position on the statement given. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true.

Sample Argument Topic Directions

You will be given a short passage that presents an argument, or an argument to be completed, and specific instructions on how to respond to that passage. Plan and compose a response in which you analyze the passage according to the specific instructions. A response to any other argument will receive a score of zero. Standard timing for an argument topic is 30 minutes.

Note that you are NOT being asked to present your own views on the subject. Make sure that you respond to the specific instructions and support your analysis with relevant reasons and/or examples.

GRE readers, who are college and university faculty, will read your analysis and evaluate its overall quality according to how well you do each of the following:

- Respond to the specific instructions on the passage
- Identify and analyze important features of the passage
- Organize, develop, and express your analysis
- Support your analysis with relevant reasons and/or examples
- Control the elements of standard written English

Before you begin writing, you may want to think for a few minutes about the passage and the instructions and then plan your response. Be sure to develop your analysis fully and organize it coherently, but leave time to reread what you have written and make any revisions you think are necessary.

Sample Argument Topic:

The argument to be analyzed is as follows:

Hospital statistics regarding people who go to the emergency room after roller-skating accidents indicate the need for more protective equipment. Within that group of people, 75 percent of those who had accidents in streets or parking lots had not been wearing any protective clothing (helmets, knee pads, etc.) or any light-reflecting material (clip-on lights, glow-in-the-dark wrist pads, etc.). Clearly, the statistics indicate that by investing in high-quality protective gear and reflective equipment, roller skaters will greatly reduce their risk of being severely injured in an accident.

Write a response in which you examine the argument's unstated assumptions, making sure to explain how the argument depends on the assumptions and what the implications are if the assumptions prove unwarranted.

Sample Quantitative Reasoning Questions

Directions for questions 1 through 10

Each of the following questions asks you to compare two quantities, Quantity A and Quantity B, and determine whether:

Quantity A is greater;

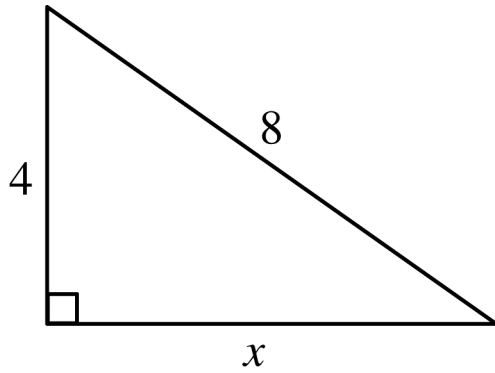
Quantity B is greater;

The two quantities are equal; or

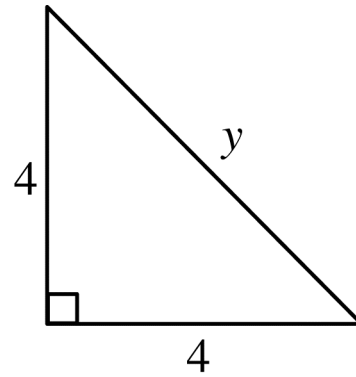
The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

A question may have additional information given that concerns one or both of the quantities to be compared.

A symbol that is used more than once in a question has the same meaning every time it is used in the question.



Quantity A



Quantity B

1.

x

y

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
- (B) Quantity B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

$$(x - 2y)(x + 2y) = 4$$

Quantity A

Quantity B

2.

$$x^2 - 4y^2$$

8

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
- (B) Quantity B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

A certain recipe requires $\frac{3}{2}$ cups of sugar and makes 2 dozen cookies. (1 dozen = 12)

Quantity A

Quantity B

3. The amount of sugar required for the same recipe to make 30 cookies

2 cups

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
- (B) Quantity B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

A power station is located on the boundary of a square region that measures 10 miles on each side. Three substations are located inside the square region.

Quantity A

Quantity B

4. The sum of the distances from the power station to each of the substations

30 miles

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
(B) Quantity B is greater.
(C) The two quantities are equal.
(D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

$$6 < x < 7$$
$$y = 8$$

Quantity A

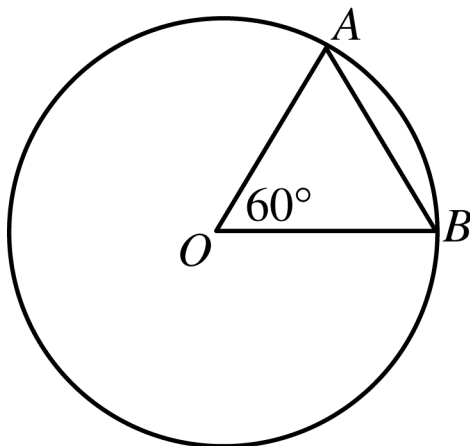
Quantity B

5.

$$\frac{x}{y}$$

0.85

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
- (B) Quantity B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.



O is the center of the circle and the perimeter of $\triangle AOB$ is 6.

Quantity A

Quantity B

6. The circumference of the circle

12

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
- (B) Quantity B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

Quantity A

Quantity B

7. The standard deviation of a set of 5 different integers each of which is between 0 and 10

The standard deviation of a set of 5 different integers each of which is between 10 and 20

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
 - (B) Quantity B is greater.
 - (C) The two quantities are equal.
 - (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.
-

$$x > 1$$

Quantity A

Quantity B

8. $x(x^2)^4$

$$(x^3)^3$$

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
- (B) Quantity B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

$$x \neq 0$$

Quantity A

Quantity B

9. $|x| + |-2|$ $|x - 2|$

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
 - (B) Quantity B is greater.
 - (C) The two quantities are equal.
 - (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.
-

$$7x + 3y = 12$$

$$3x + 7y = 8$$

Quantity A

Quantity B

10. $x - y$ 1

- (A) Quantity A is greater.
- (B) Quantity B is greater.
- (C) The two quantities are equal.
- (D) The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.

This question has five answer choices. Select **all** of the answer choices that are correct. The correct answer to a question of this type could consist of one, two, three, four, or all five of the answer choices.

11. In triangle ABC , the measure of angle A is 25° and the measure of angle B is greater than 90° . Which of the following could be the measure of angle C ?

Indicate **all** possible values.

- (A) 12°
- (B) 15°
- (C) 45°
- (D) 50°
- (E) 70°

In this question, you are given information, five answer choices, and a statement with two blanks. Select from among the five answer choices to “fill in the blanks” in the statement so that the resulting statement is true.

House Prices	Number of Houses
\$100,000 - \$133,000	12
\$134,000 - \$166,000	25
\$167,000 - \$199,000	8

12. The table shows the distribution of prices of 45 houses for sale in a certain region.

Select two of the following choices and place them in the blanks below so that the resulting statement is true.

- (A) \$175,000
- (B) \$185,000
- (C) \$190,000
- (D) at most \$42,000
- (E) at least \$57,000

If the highest price of the 45 houses is _____, then the range of the prices of the 45 houses is _____.

This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

13. In the sunshine, an upright pole 12 feet tall is casting a shadow 8 feet long. At the same time, a nearby upright pole is casting a shadow 10 feet long. If the lengths of the shadows are proportional to the heights of the poles, what is the height, in feet, of the taller pole?
- (A) 10
 - (B) 12
 - (C) 14
 - (D) 15
 - (E) 18

This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

14. If a is the smallest prime number greater than 21 and b is the largest prime number less than 16, then $ab =$

- (A) 299
- (B) 323
- (C) 330
- (D) 345
- (E) 351

This question does not have any answer choices. To answer this question enter an integer or a decimal in the answer space provided. A correct answer to a question of this type can be either an integer or a decimal, and can be positive, negative, or zero. A correct answer to this type of question can contain from one to eight digits, and can contain a negative sign and/or a decimal point.

15. The total amount of Judy's water bill for the last quarter of the year was \$40.50. The bill consisted of a fixed charge of \$13.50 plus a charge of \$0.0075 per gallon for the water used in the quarter. For how many gallons of water was Judy charged for the quarter?

gallons

This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

Data set S : 28, 23, 30, 25, 27

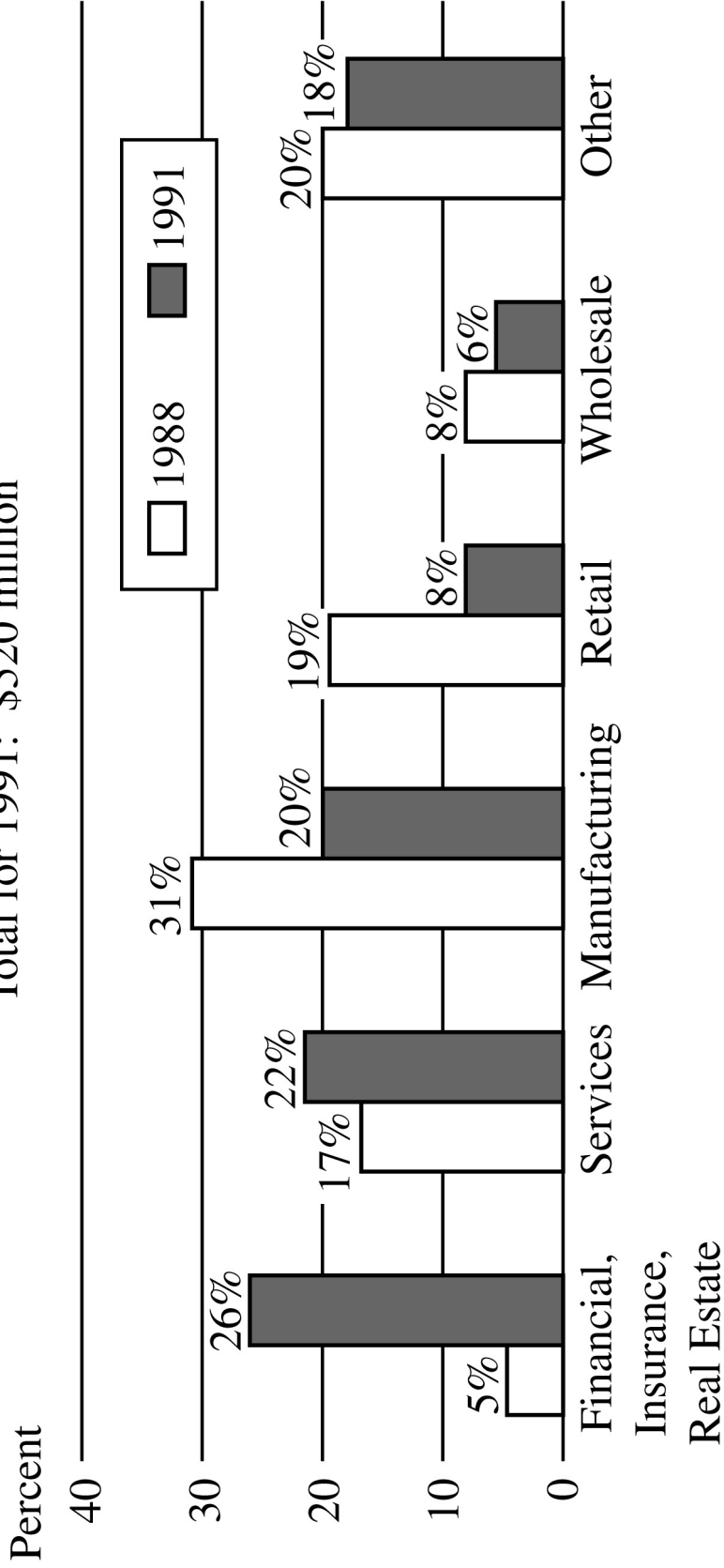
Data set R : 22, 19, 15, 17, 20

16. The median of data set S is how much greater than the median of data set R ?
- (A) 8
 - (B) 10
 - (C) 12
 - (D) 13
 - (E) 15

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Corporate Support for the Arts by Sector in 1988 and 1991

Total for 1988: \$630 million
 Total for 1991: \$520 million



Questions 17-21 refer to the graph on the facing page. In order to fit on the page, the graph has been turned 90 degrees.

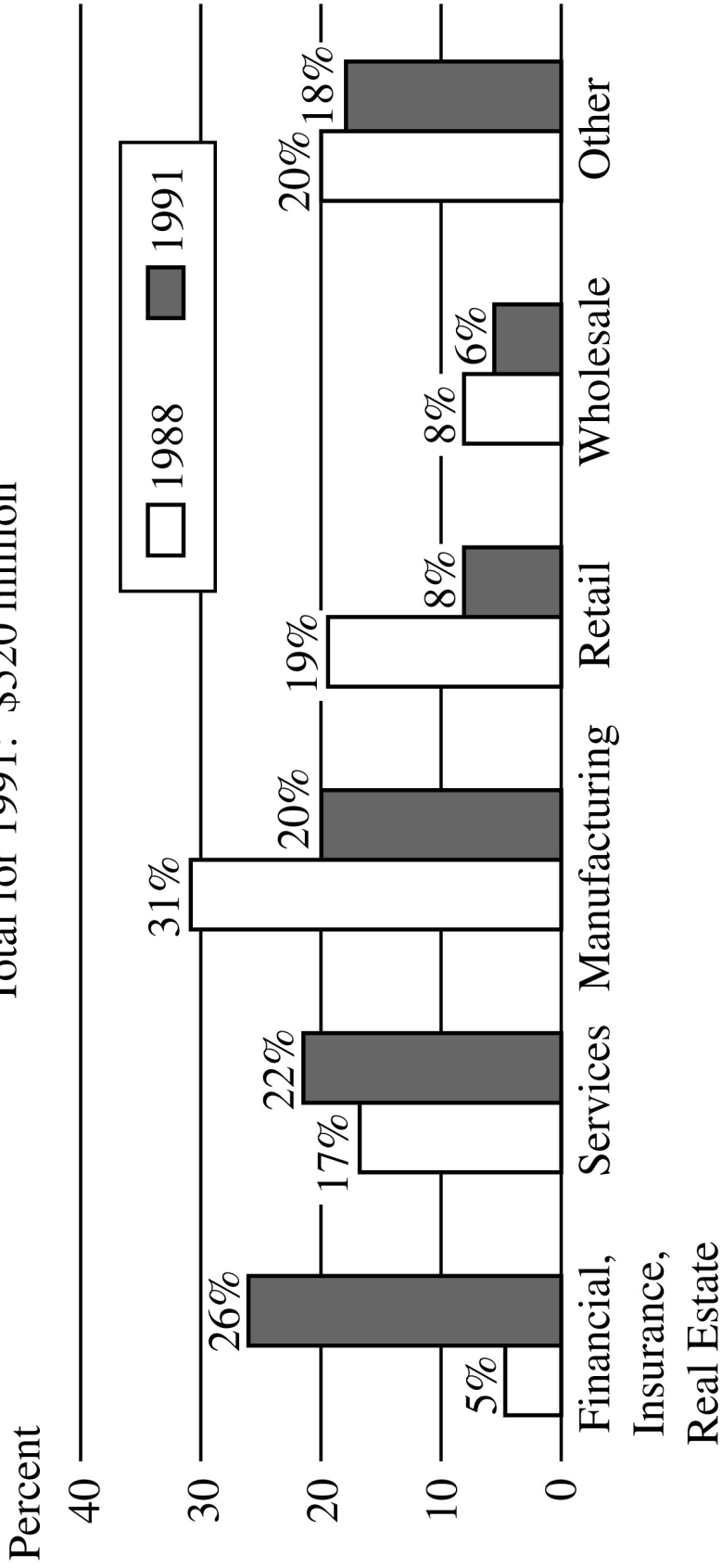
This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

17. The two corporate sectors that increased their support for the arts from 1988 to 1991 made a total contribution in 1991 of approximately how many million dollars?
- (A) 112
 - (B) 125
 - (C) 200
 - (D) 250
 - (E) 315

Corporate Support for the Arts by Sector in 1988 and 1991

Total for 1988: \$630 million

Total for 1991: \$520 million



The graph for this question is repeated on the facing page.

This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

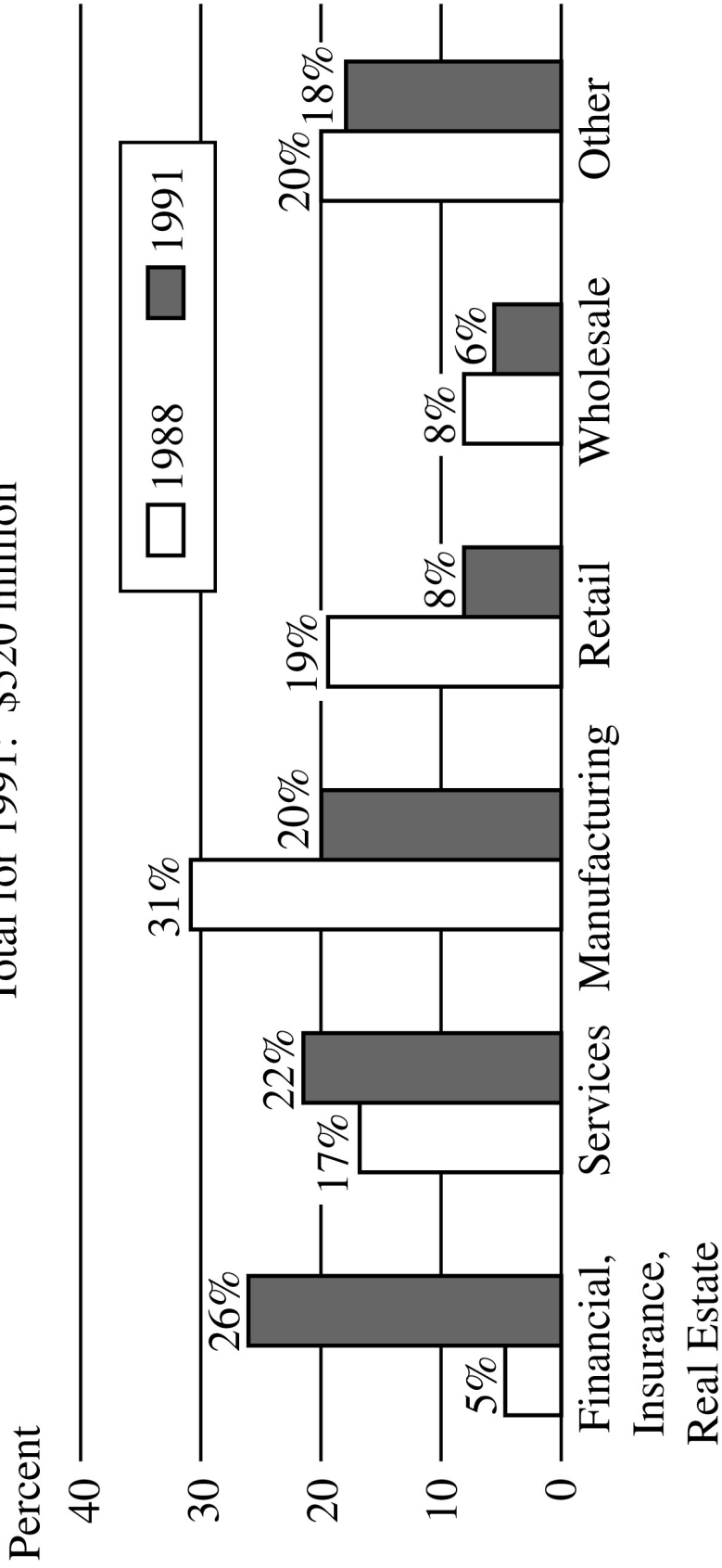
18. How many of the six corporate sectors listed each contributed more than \$60 million to the arts in both 1988 and 1991 ?

- (A) One
- (B) Two
- (C) Three
- (D) Four
- (E) Five

Corporate Support for the Arts by Sector in 1988 and 1991

Total for 1988: \$630 million

Total for 1991: \$520 million



The graph for these questions is repeated on the facing page.

This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

19. Approximately how many million dollars more did the wholesale sector contribute to the arts in 1988 than in 1991 ?
- (A) 10.4
 - (B) 12.6
 - (C) 14.0
 - (D) 16.5
 - (E) 19.2
-

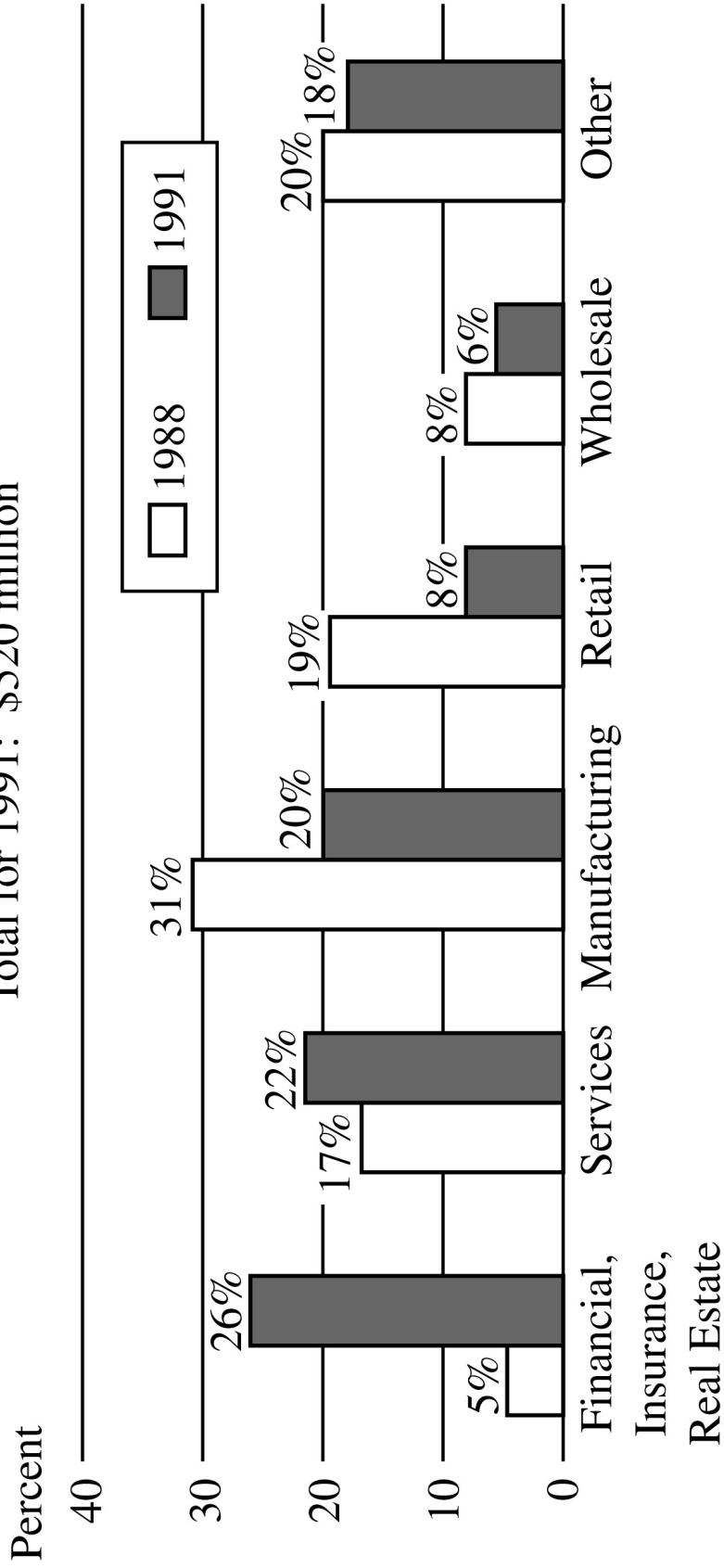
This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

20. From 1988 to 1991, which corporate sector decreased its support for the arts by the greatest dollar amount?
- (A) Services
 - (B) Manufacturing
 - (C) Retail
 - (D) Wholesale
 - (E) Other

Corporate Support for the Arts by Sector in 1988 and 1991

Total for 1988: \$630 million

Total for 1991: \$520 million



The graph for this question is repeated on the facing page.

This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

21. Of the retail sector's 1991 contribution to the arts, $\frac{1}{4}$ went to symphony orchestras and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the remainder went to public television. Approximately how many million dollars more did the retail sector contribute to public television that year than to symphony orchestras?

- (A) 5.2
- (B) 6.3
- (C) 10.4
- (D) 13.0
- (E) 19.5

In this question you are given information and three equations. For each of the equations you are asked to determine whether the equation must be true, must be false, or could be either true or false.

In this question, the symbol \otimes denotes an operation on two numbers.

22. The symbol \otimes represents one of the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, and $3 \otimes 1 = 3$.

For each of the following equations, indicate whether the equation must be true, must be false, or could be either true or false.

Equation	Must Be True	Must Be False	Could Be True or False
$6 \otimes 2 = 3$			
$6 \otimes 2 = 4$			
$6 \otimes 2 = 12$			

This question does not have any answer choices. To answer this question enter an integer or a decimal in the answer space provided. A correct answer to a question of this type can be either an integer or a decimal, and can be positive, negative, or zero. A correct answer to this type of question can contain from one to eight digits, and can contain a negative sign and/or a decimal point.

23. The average (arithmetic mean) of the 11 numbers in a list is 14. If the average of 9 of the numbers in the list is 9, what is the average of the other 2 numbers?

This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

24. Of the 750 participants in a professional meeting, 450 are females and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the female and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the male participants are less than thirty years old. If one of the participants will be randomly selected to receive a book prize, what is the probability that the person selected will be less than thirty years old?

(A) $\frac{1}{8}$

(B) $\frac{1}{3}$

(C) $\frac{3}{8}$

(D) $\frac{2}{5}$

(E) $\frac{3}{4}$

This question has five answer choices. Select the best **one** of the answer choices given.

25. In the xy -plane, what is the slope of the line whose equation is $3x - 2y = 8$?

(A) -4

(B) $-\frac{8}{3}$

(C) $\frac{2}{3}$

(D) $\frac{3}{2}$

(E) 2

End of Sample Quantitative Reasoning Questions. An answer key will follow the Sample Verbal Reasoning Questions.

Sample Verbal Reasoning Questions

Directions for questions 1 through 5:

Each of the following questions includes a sentence with a blank indicating that something has been omitted. Following the sentence will be a list of six words or phrases, each of which could be used to complete the sentence. Select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. It is truly paradoxical that the Amazon, the lushest of all rainforests, is rooted in the most _____ of all soils.
 - A. acidic
 - B. coarse
 - C. stark
 - D. impoverished
 - E. infertile
 - F. austere

Select **two** answer choices for each question on this page.

2. Cynics believe that people who _____ compliments do so in order to be praised twice.
- A. conjure up
 - B. covet
 - C. deflect
 - D. grasp
 - E. shrug off
 - F. understand
3. A restaurant's menu is generally reflected in its decor; however, despite this restaurant's _____ appearance it is pedestrian in the menu it offers.
- A. elegant
 - B. tawdry
 - C. modern
 - D. traditional
 - E. conventional
 - F. chic

Select **two** answer choices for each question on this page.

4. International financial issues are typically _____ by the United States media because they are too technical to make snappy headlines and too inaccessible to people who lack a background in economics.

- A. neglected
- B. slighted
- C. overrated
- D. hidden
- E. criticized
- F. repudiated

5. While in many ways their personalities could not have been more different—she was ebullient where he was glum, relaxed where he was awkward, garrulous where he was _____—they were surprisingly well suited.

- A. solicitous
- B. munificent
- C. irresolute
- D. laconic
- E. fastidious
- F. taciturn

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Questions 6 through 8 are based on the following reading passage:

Music critics have consistently defined James P. Johnson as a great early jazz pianist, originator of the 1920's Harlem "stride" style, and an important blues and jazz composer. In addition, however, Johnson was an innovator in classical music, composing symphonic music that incorporated American, and especially African-American, traditions.

Such a blend of musical elements was not entirely new: by 1924 both Milhaud and Gershwin had composed classical works that incorporated elements of jazz. Johnson, a serious musician more experienced than most classical composers with jazz, blues, spirituals, and popular music, was particularly suited to expand Milhaud's and Gershwin's experiments. In 1927 he completed his first large-scale work, the blues- and jazz-inspired *Yamekraw*, which included borrowings from spirituals and Johnson's own popular songs. *Yamekraw*, premiered successfully in Carnegie Hall, was a major achievement for Johnson, becoming his most frequently performed extended work. It demonstrated vividly the possibility of assimilating contemporary popular music into the symphonic tradition.

6. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The passage states that Johnson composed all of the following EXCEPT

- A. jazz works
 - B. popular songs
 - C. symphonic music
 - D. spirituals
 - E. blues pieces
7. Consider each of the three choices separately and select all that apply.

The author suggests which of the following about most classical composers of the early 1920's?

- A. They were strongly influenced by the musical experiments of Milhaud and Gershwin.
- B. They had little working familiarity with such forms of American music as jazz, blues, and popular songs
- C. They made few attempts to introduce innovations into the classical symphonic tradition

The passage is repeated for your convenience.

Music critics have consistently defined James P. Johnson as a great early jazz pianist, originator of the 1920's Harlem "stride" style, and an important blues and jazz composer. In addition, however, Johnson was an innovator in classical music, composing symphonic music that incorporated American, and especially African-American, traditions.

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8. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The author suggests that most critics have

- A. underrated the popularity of *Yamekraw*
- B. undervalued Johnson's musical abilities
- C. had little interest in Johnson's influence on jazz
- D. had little regard for classical works that incorporate popular music
- E. neglected Johnson's contribution to classical symphonic music

Questions 9 and 10 are based on the following reading passage.
(A word is boldfaced and underlined for reference in answering question 10):

Scholarship on political newspapers and their editors is dominated by the view that as the United States grew, the increasing influence of the press led, ultimately, to the neutral reporting from which we benefit today. Pasley considers this view oversimplified, because neutrality was not a goal of early national newspaper editing, even when editors **disingenuously** stated that they aimed to tell all sides of a story. Rather, the intensely partisan ideologies represented in newspapers of the early republic led to a clear demarcation between traditional and republican values. The editors responsible for the papers' content—especially those with republican agendas—began to see themselves as central figures in the development of political consciousness in the United States.

9. Consider **each** of the three choices separately and select **all** that apply.

The passage suggests that Pasley would agree with which of the following statements about the political role of newspapers?

- A. Newspapers today are in many cases much less neutral in their political reporting than is commonly held by scholars.
- B. Newspapers in the early United States normally declared quite openly their refusal to tell all sides of most political stories.
- C. The editorial policies of some early United States newspapers became a counterweight to proponents of traditional values.

The passage is repeated for your convenience. (A word is boldfaced and underlined for reference in answering question 10):

Scholarship on political newspapers and their editors is dominated by the view that as the United States grew, the increasing influence of the press led, ultimately, to the neutral reporting from which we benefit today. Pasley considers this view oversimplified, because neutrality was not a goal of early national newspaper editing, even when editors **disingenuously** stated that they aimed to tell all sides of a story. Rather, the intensely partisan ideologies represented in newspapers of the early republic led to a clear demarcation between traditional and republican values. The editors responsible for the papers' content—especially those with republican agendas—began to see themselves as central figures in the development of political consciousness in the United States.

10. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The word “**disingenuously**” appears underlined and in boldface in the second sentence of the passage. In the context in which it appears, “disingenuously” most nearly means

- A. insincerely
- B. guilelessly
- C. obliquely
- D. resolutely
- E. pertinaciously

Directions for questions 11 and 12:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with two or three blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. You will be asked to select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

11. The (i)_____ nature of classical tragedy in Athens belies the modern image of tragedy: in the modern view tragedy is austere and stripped down, its representations of ideological and emotional conflicts so superbly compressed that there's nothing (ii)_____ for time to erode.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
unadorned	inalienable
harmonious	exigent
multifaceted	extraneous

12. Murray, whose show of recent paintings and drawings is her best in many years, has been eminent hereabouts for a quarter century, although often regarded with (i)_____, but the most (ii)_____ of these paintings (iii)_____ all doubts.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
partiality	problematic	exculpate
credulity	successful	assuage
ambivalence	disparaged	whet

Directions for questions 13 through 16:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with a blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Select the word or phrase that best fits the corresponding blank in the text.

13. Far from viewing Jefferson as a skeptical but enlightened intellectual, historians of the 1960's portrayed him as _____ thinker, eager to fill the young with his political orthodoxy while censoring ideas he did not like.
- A. an adventurous
 - B. a doctrinaire
 - C. an eclectic
 - D. a judicious
 - E. a cynical
14. Dramatic literature often _____ the history of a culture in that it takes as its subject matter the important events that have shaped and guided the culture.
- A. confounds
 - B. repudiates
 - C. recapitulates
 - D. anticipates
 - E. polarizes

15. Although the movement to preserve historic buildings is not usually thought of as _____ phenomenon, it deserves mention in the history of ideas because it launched the critique of the ideology of progress.
- A. an economic
 - B. an intellectual
 - C. an inconsequential
 - D. a comprehensible
 - E. a philanthropic
16. Personal sacrifice without the promise of immediate gain is an anomaly in this era when a sense of _____ is the most powerful predisposition shaping individual actions.
- A. fairness
 - B. humanitarianism
 - C. causality
 - D. ambiguity
 - E. entitlement

Questions 17 through 19 are based on the following reading passage. (One sentence is shown underlined and in boldface for reference in answering question 18):

In *Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry does not reject integration or the economic and moral promise of the American dream; rather, she remains loyal to this dream while looking, realistically, at its incomplete realization. Once we recognize this dual vision, we can accept the play's ironic nuances as deliberate social commentaries by Hansberry rather than as the "unintentional" irony that Bigsby attributes to the work. **Indeed, a curiously persistent refusal to credit Hansberry with a capacity for intentional irony has led some critics to interpret the play's thematic conflicts as mere confusion, contradiction, or eclecticism.** Isaacs, for example, cannot easily reconcile Hansberry's intense concern for her race with her ideal of human reconciliation. But the play's complex view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity as compatible is no more "contradictory" than Du Bois's famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon's emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

17. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The author's primary purpose in the passage is to

- A. explain some critics' refusal to consider *Raisin in the Sun* a deliberately ironic play
- B. suggest that ironic nuances ally *Raisin in the Sun* with Du Bois's and Fanon's writings
- C. analyze the fundamental dramatic conflicts in *Raisin in the Sun*
- D. emphasize the inclusion of contradictory elements in *Raisin in the Sun*
- E. affirm the thematic coherence underlying *Raisin in the Sun*

The passage is repeated for your convenience. (One sentence is shown underlined and in boldface for reference in answering question 18):

In *Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry does not reject integration or the economic and moral promise of the American dream; rather, she remains loyal to this dream while looking, realistically, at its incomplete realization. Once we recognize this dual vision, we can accept the play's ironic nuances as deliberate social commentaries by Hansberry rather than as the "unintentional" irony that Bigsby attributes to the work. **Indeed, a curiously persistent refusal to credit Hansberry with a capacity for intentional irony has led some critics to interpret the play's thematic conflicts as mere confusion, contradiction, or eclecticism.** Isaacs, for example, cannot easily reconcile Hansberry's intense concern for her race with her ideal of human reconciliation. But the play's complex view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity as compatible is no more "contradictory" than Du Bois's famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon's emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

18. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The author of the passage would probably consider which of the following judgments to be most similar to the reasoning of the critics described in the underlined and boldfaced sentence?

- A. The world is certainly flat; therefore, the person proposing to sail around it is unquestionably foolhardy.
- B. Radioactivity cannot be directly perceived; therefore, a scientist could not possibly control it in a laboratory.
- C. The painter of this picture could not intend it to be funny; therefore, its humor must result from a lack of skill.
- D. Traditional social mores are beneficial to culture; therefore, anyone who deviates from them acts destructively.
- E. Filmmakers who produce documentaries deal exclusively with facts; therefore, a filmmaker who reinterprets particular events is misleading us.

The passage is repeated for your convenience. (One sentence is shown underlined and in boldface for reference in answering question 18):

In *Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry does not reject integration or the economic and moral promise of the American dream; rather, she remains loyal to this dream while looking, realistically, at its incomplete realization. Once we recognize this dual vision, we can accept the play's ironic nuances as deliberate social commentaries by Hansberry rather than as the "unintentional" irony that Bigsby attributes to the work. **Indeed, a curiously persistent refusal to credit Hansberry with a capacity for intentional irony has led some critics to interpret the play's thematic conflicts as mere confusion, contradiction, or eclecticism.** Isaacs, for example, cannot easily reconcile Hansberry's intense concern for her race with her ideal of human reconciliation. But the play's complex view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity as compatible is no more "contradictory" than Du Bois's famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon's emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

19. This question has no answer choices. Select a sentence in the passage in which the author provides examples that reinforce an argument against a critical response cited earlier in the passage.

20. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

As an example of the devastation wrought on music publishers by the photocopier, one executive noted that for a recent choral festival with 1,200 singers, the festival's organizing committee purchased only 12 copies of the music published by her company that was performed as part of the festival.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the support the example lends to the executive's contention that music publishers have been devastated by the photocopier?

- A. Only a third of the 1,200 singers were involved in performing the music published by the executive's company.
- B. Half of the singers at the festival had already heard the music they were to perform before they began to practice for the festival.
- C. Because of shortages in funding, the organizing committee of the choral festival required singers to purchase their own copies of the music performed at the festival.
- D. Each copy of music that was performed at the festival was shared by two singers.
- E. As a result of publicity generated by its performance at the festival, the type of music performed at the festival became more widely known.

Directions for questions 21 through 23:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with two or three blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. You will be asked to select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill all blanks in the way that best completes the text.

21. New technologies often begin by (i) _____ what has gone before, and they change the world later. Think how long it took power-using companies to recognize that with electricity they did not need to cluster their machinery around the power source, as in the days of steam. Instead, power could be (ii) _____ their processes. In that sense, many of today's computer networks are still in the steam age. Their full potential remains unrealized.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
uprooting	transmitted to
dismissing	consolidated around
mimicking	incorporated into

22. There has been much hand-wringing about how unprepared American students are for college. Graff reverses this perspective, suggesting that colleges are unprepared for students. In his analysis, the university culture is largely (i)_____ entering students because academic culture fails to make connections to the kinds of arguments and cultural references that students grasp. Understandably, many students view academic life as (ii)_____ ritual.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
primed for	an arcane
opaque to	a laudable
essential for	a painstaking

23. Of course anyone who has ever perused an unmodernized text of Captain Clark's journals knows that the Captain was one of the most (i)_____ spellers ever to write in English, but despite this (ii)_____ orthographical rules, Clark is never unclear.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
indefatigable	disregard for
fastidious	partiality toward
defiant	unpretentiousness about

24. For the past two years at FasCorp, there has been a policy to advertise any job opening to current employees and to give no job to an applicant from outside the company if a FasCorp employee applies who is qualified for the job. This policy has been strictly followed, yet even though numerous employees of FasCorp have been qualified for any given entry-level position, some entry-level jobs have been filled with people from outside the company.

Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

If the information provided is true, which of the following must on the basis of it also be true about FasCorp during the past two years?

- A. There have been some open jobs for which no qualified FasCorp employee applied.
- B. Some entry-level job openings have not been advertised to FasCorp employees.
- C. The total number of employees has increased.
- D. FasCorp has hired some people for jobs for which they were not qualified.
- E. All the job openings have been for entry-level jobs.

Questions 25 through 27 are based on the following reading passage:

A tall tree can transport a hundred gallons of water a day from its roots deep underground to the treetop. Is this movement propelled by pulling the water from above or pushing it from below? The pull mechanism has long been favored by most scientists. First proposed in the late 1800's, the theory relies on a property of water not commonly associated with fluids: its tensile strength. Instead of making a clean break, water evaporating from treetops tugs on the remaining water molecules, with that tug extending from molecule to molecule all the way down to the roots. The tree itself does not actually push or pull; all the energy for lifting water comes from the sun's evaporative power.

25. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The passage is primarily concerned with

- A. refuting a hypothesis advanced by scientists
 - B. discussing the importance of a phenomenon
 - C. presenting a possible explanation of a phenomenon
 - D. contrasting two schools of thought
 - E. discussing the origins of a theory
26. Consider **each** of the three choices separately and select **all** that apply.

Which of the following statements is supported by the passage?

- A. The pull theory is not universally accepted by scientists.
- B. The pull theory depends on one of water's physical properties.
- C. The pull theory originated earlier than did the push theory.

The passage is repeated for your convenience.

A tall tree can transport a hundred gallons of water a day from its roots deep underground to the treetop. Is this movement propelled by pulling the water from above or pushing it from below? The pull mechanism has long been favored by most scientists. First proposed in the late 1800's, the theory relies on a property of water not commonly associated with fluids: its tensile strength. Instead of making a clean break, water evaporating from treetops tugs on the remaining water molecules, with that tug extending from molecule to molecule all the way down to the roots. The tree itself does not actually push or pull; all the energy for lifting water comes from the sun's evaporative power.

27. Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The passage provides information on each of the following EXCEPT

- A. when the pull theory originated
- B. the amount of water a tall tree can transport
- C. the significance of water's tensile strength in the pull theory
- D. the role of the sun in the pull theory
- E. the mechanism underlying water's tensile strength

28. Producing and using biodiesel, a fuel derived from cultivated rapeseed, causes 35 percent less air pollution per gallon than does producing and using regular diesel fuel. The government plans to reduce diesel-related air pollution over the next decade by 25 percent, so replacing regular diesel with biodiesel would seem to be the obvious solution. Unfortunately, the greatest possible production of biodiesel would amount to only one percent of all diesel fuel to be produced during the next 15 years.

Select and indicate the best answer from among the five answer choices:

The passage is structured to lead to which of the following as a conclusion?

- A. The use of biodiesel will increase by less than one percent over the next 15 years.
- B. During the next 15 years, the production of biodiesel will be increased as fast as it is possible to increase it.
- C. During the next 15 years, it will be impossible, just by switching to biodiesel, to meet the government's stated goal with respect to reducing air pollution.
- D. Fifteen years from now, the air pollution caused by the production and use of one gallon of regular diesel fuel will be far less than it currently is.
- E. There will be no significant year-to-year increase in the amount of regular diesel fuel used during the next 15 years.

End of Sample Verbal Reasoning Questions. Answer keys begin on the next page.

Sample Quantitative Reasoning Questions Answer Key:

1. A – Quantity A is greater.
2. B – Quantity B is greater.
3. B – Quantity B is greater.
4. D – The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.
5. D – The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.
6. A – Quantity A is greater.
7. D – The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.
8. C – The two quantities are equal.
9. D – The relationship cannot be determined from the information given.
10. C – The two quantities are equal.

11. A – 12°
B – 15°
C – 45°
D – 50°
12. If the highest price of the 45 houses is \$190,000,
then the range of the prices of the 45 houses is
at least \$57,000.
13. D – 15
14. A – 299
15. Numerical entry of 3,600
16. A – 8
17. D – 250
18. C – Three
19. E – 19.2
20. B – Manufacturing
21. A – 5.2

22.

Equation	Must Be True	Must Be False	Could Be True or False
$6 \otimes 2 = 3$			✓
$6 \otimes 2 = 4$		✓	
$6 \otimes 2 = 12$			✓

23. Numerical entry of 36.5

24. $D - \frac{2}{5}$

25. $D - \frac{3}{2}$

Sample Verbal Questions Answer Key:

1. Sentence to be completed: It is truly paradoxical that the Amazon, the lushest of all rainforests, is rooted in the most _____ of all soils.

Answer: D–impoverished, E–infertile

2. Sentence to be completed: Cynics believe that people who _____ compliments do so in order to be praised twice.

Answer: C–deflect, E–shrug off

3. Sentence to be completed: A restaurant’s menu is generally reflected in its decor; however despite this restaurant’s _____ appearance it is pedestrian in the menu it offers.

Answer: A–elegant, F–chic

4. Sentence to be completed: International financial issues are typically _____ by the United States media because they are too technical to make snappy headlines and too inaccessible to people who lack a background in economics.

Answer: A–neglected, B–slighted

5. Sentence to be completed: While in many ways their personalities could not have been more different—she was ebullient where he was glum, relaxed where he was awkward, garrulous where he was _____—they were surprisingly well suited.

Answer: D–laconic, F–taciturn

6. D–spirituals
7. B–They had little working familiarity with such forms of American music as jazz, blues, and popular songs.
8. E–neglected Johnson’s contribution to classical symphonic music

9. C–The editorial policies of some early United States newspapers became a counterweight to proponents of traditional values.
10. A–insincerely
11. Blank (i) multifaceted
blank (ii) extraneous

Answer in Context: The **multifaceted** nature of classical tragedy in Athens belies the modern image of tragedy: in the modern view tragedy is austere and stripped down, its representations of ideological and emotional conflicts so superbly compressed that there's nothing **extraneous** for time to erode.

12. Blank (i) ambivalence
blank (ii) successful
blank (iii) assuage

Answer in Context: Murray, whose show of recent paintings and drawings is her best in many years, has been eminent hereabouts for a quarter century, although often regarded with **ambivalence**, but the most **successful** of these paintings **assuage** all doubts.

13. B—a doctrinaire

Answer in Context: Far from viewing Jefferson as a skeptical but enlightened intellectual, historians of the 1960's portrayed him as **a doctrinaire** thinker, eager to fill the young with his political orthodoxy while censoring ideas he did not like.

14. C—recapitulates

Answer in Context: Dramatic literature often **recapitulates** the history of a culture in that it takes as its subject matter the important events that have shaped and guided the culture.

15. B—an intellectual

Answer in Context: Although the movement to preserve historic buildings is not usually thought of as **an intellectual** phenomenon, it deserves mention in the history of ideas because it launched the critique of the ideology of progress.

16. E–entitlement

Answer in Context: Personal sacrifice without the promise of immediate gain is an anomaly in this era when a sense of **entitlement** is the most powerful predisposition shaping individual actions.

17. E–affirm the thematic coherence underlying *Raisin in the Sun*

18. C–The painter of this picture could not intend it to be funny; therefore, its humor must result from a lack of skill.

19. Sentence 5–But the play’s complex view of Black self-esteem and human solidarity as compatible is no more “contradictory” than Du Bois’s famous, well-considered ideal of ethnic self-awareness coexisting with human unity, or Fanon’s emphasis on an ideal internationalism that also accommodates national identities and roles.

20. C–Because of shortages in funding, the organizing committee of the choral festival required singers to purchase their own copies of the music performed at the festival.

21. Blank (i) mimicking
blank (ii) transmitted to

Answer in context: New technologies often begin by **mimicking** what has gone before, and they change the world later. Think how long it took power-using companies to recognize that with electricity they did not need to cluster their machinery around the power source, as in the days of steam. Instead, power could be **transmitted to** their processes. In that sense, many of today's computer networks are still in the steam age. Their full potential remains unrealized.

22. Blank (i) opaque to
blank (ii) an arcane

Answer in context: There has been much hand-wringing about how unprepared American students are for college. Graff reverses this perspective, suggesting that colleges are unprepared for students. In his analysis, the university culture is largely **opaque to** entering students because academic culture fails to make connections to the kinds of arguments and cultural references that students grasp. Understandably, many students view academic life as **an arcane** ritual.

23. Blank (i) defiant
blank (ii) disregard for

Answer in context: Of course anyone who has ever perused an unmodernized text of Captain Clark's journals knows that the Captain was one of the most **defiant** spellers ever to write in English, but despite this **disregard for** orthographical rules, Clark is never unclear.

24. A—There have been some open jobs for which no qualified FasCorp employee applied.
25. C—presenting a possible explanation of a phenomenon
26. A—The pull theory is not universally accepted by scientists;
B—The pull theory depends on one of water's physical properties.
27. E—the mechanism underlying water's tensile strength
28. C—During the next 15 years, it will be impossible, just by switching to biodiesel, to meet the government's stated goal with respect to reducing air pollution.