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Dear Student,

Thank you for purchasing the *TestMuse Digital SAT Reading & Writing Toolkit*. This book is designed to give you exposure to accurate, challenging Digital SAT reading and writing practice tests. Detailed explanations are provided for each test question.

Best of luck in your preparation,

Matthew Klinestiver
Head Editor, Testmuse

&

Brett Reuben,
Technical Director, Testmuse



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Introduction

- Digital SAT Overview
- Reading and Writing Question Types
- Scoring
- How to Use This Book



Introduction

Digital SAT Overview

The Digital SAT is a computer-based test that takes 2 hours and 14 minutes to complete. It is made up of two sections—a Reading and Writing (RW) section and a Math section. Each section is made up of two modules. The first module includes a mix of easy, medium, and hard questions. Your performance on these questions will determine the difficulty level of your next module. In other words, If you perform well on the first module, you will receive a more difficult second module. If your performance is poor, the second module will be easier.

Each Reading and Writing (RW) module consists of 27 questions, which you are given 32 minutes to answer. Each question is based on a short passage drawn from fields like psychology, biology, economics, and literature. The questions in the RW section are all multiple-choice, with one answer that is best.

Reading and Writing Question Types

Each RW module is made up of questions in four *domains*: Craft and Structure, Information and Ideas, Standard English Conventions, and Expression of Ideas.

The domains appear in the following order in each module:

- 1. Craft and Structure:** These questions test your ability to use vocabulary, figure out the reason a passage was written, and analyze the relationship between two texts, among other things.
- 2. Information and Ideas:** These questions test your ability to determine the main idea of a passage, to use logical reasoning, and to work with infographics such as charts and graphs.
- 3. Standard English Conventions:** These questions test your knowledge of grammar and punctuation rules.
- 4. Expression of Ideas:** These questions test your ability to use transition words like “therefore” and “however” and to achieve particular rhetorical goals using provided information.

Questions within each skill tested, such as vocabulary, are presented in order of increasing difficulty.

Scoring

The maximum score on the Digital SAT is 1600, with a maximum score of 800 on the Reading and Writing test and 800 on the Math test.

Each Digital SAT test is scored according to a unique curve. Moreover, individual questions are weighted differently according to their difficulty level. In some instances, missing one question could result in losing 10 points; in others, it could result in losing 40.

How to Use This Book

This book consists of 3 Reading and Writing tests. Each test has 3 modules: a baseline module, an easy module and a hard module.

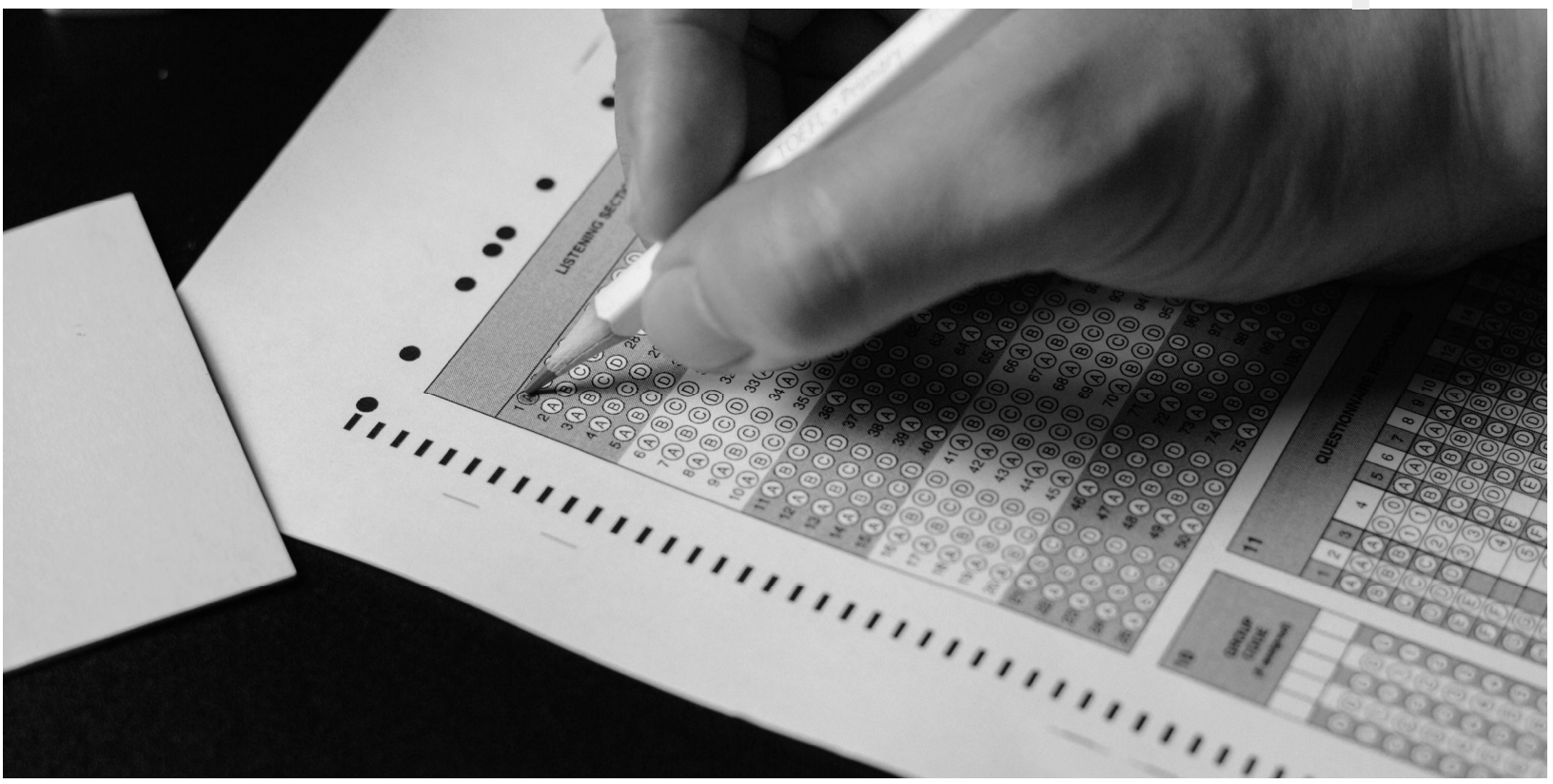
If you want to have the most realistic testing experience, make sure you have enough time to complete an entire Reading and Writing test (64 minutes) before you get started. Timing is an essential aspect of the Digital SAT.

You should start by taking Test 1 Module 1 (the baseline module). Again, make sure you're timing yourself. After 32 minutes, stop answering questions. Next, look at the answer key. Determine how many questions you got wrong—if you get 7 or fewer questions wrong, move to the hard module; otherwise move to the easy module.

After completing the second module, look at the answer key. Total up your number of wrong answers from both modules. Next, go to the score guide at testmuse.com/scoring to determine your overall Reading and Writing score. Finally, we recommend looking at the detailed explanations for the questions you got wrong or weren't sure about. Use resources such as the Khan Academy's DSAT lessons and *Matthew's Guide to Digital SAT Writing* (TestMuse, forthcoming) to learn strategies for dealing with question types you struggled on.

Next, take tests 2 and 3 in this book, following the same process outlined above. Because you'll be skipping either the easy or hard module for each test you take, you can use those modules later for additional practice.

Practice Test 1



Reading and Writing

27 QUESTIONS, 32 MINUTES

DIRECTIONS

The questions in this section address a number of important reading and writing skills. Each question includes one or more passages, which may include a table or graph. Read each passage and question carefully, and then choose the best answer to the question based on the passage(s).

All questions in this section are multiple-choice with four answer choices. Each question has a single best answer.

1

The kora, a traditional string instrument from West Africa, is a perfect example of an instrument made from natural materials. Constructed with a large calabash gourd cut in half and covered with cow skin, the kora produces a unique, resonant sound that cannot be _____ by any synthetic materials.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) destroyed
- B) understood
- C) arranged
- D) reproduced

2

While studying the relationship between DNA repair and aging, researchers at Setumset University have found that as organisms age, their ability to mend damaged DNA _____ substantially. This decline in DNA repair efficiency is believed to be one of the key factors contributing to aging and reduced longevity.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) intensifies
- B) diminishes
- C) fluctuates
- D) ceases

3

Hyperrealism, a movement in contemporary art characterized by meticulous attention to detail and the creation of lifelike representations, has garnered significant attention. Critics argue that this technique, while visually stunning, _____ the true emotional depth of artwork, as it places more emphasis on technical skill than the artist's personal expression.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) encapsulates
- B) undercuts
- C) accentuates
- D) transcends

4

In a recent study, researchers deciphered mysterious, horseshoe-shaped seabed imprints, hypothesizing they were *lebensspuren*—life traces—left by deep-sea rattail fish foraging for food. The team compared head profile images of rattails with the _____ on the seabed, finding a perfect match. This discovery could reveal critical habitats for these key ecosystem players, with New Zealand hosting over 70 rattail species.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) transcriptions
- B) impressions
- C) depictions
- D) resonances

5

The Congolese novelist Sony Labou Tansi, a lesser-known but important figure in African literature, was known for his _____ works that combined elements of magical realism with scathing critiques of postcolonial Congolese politics. Even when faced with censorship and persecution, Tansi continued to write fearlessly, using his unique voice to challenge the status quo.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) empirical
- B) restrained
- C) provocative
- D) monotonous

6

Aging is known to cause a decline in cognitive function. At a cellular level, this is associated with a decrease in synaptic connections, the junctions between neurons that allow them to communicate with each other. In fact, a study by neurobiologist Dr. Maria Morell demonstrated that in aging mice, there is a significant reduction in synaptic connections in the hippocampus, a brain region critical for memory. This reduction was correlated with a decrease in the mice's ability to perform memory-related tasks.

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined sentence in the text as a whole?

- A) It provides evidence to support the claim made in the first sentence.
- B) It introduces a counterargument to the idea presented in the second sentence.
- C) It offers an alternative explanation for the decline in cognitive function with age.
- D) It questions the validity of Dr. Maria Morell's study.

7

The following text is adapted from William Dean Howells' 1905 novel *Editha*. The protagonist, Editha, is having a conversation with her love interest, George.

“George!” He had quickened his pace in mystical response to her mystical urgency, before he could have heard her; now he looked up and answered, “Well?” “It’s war,” he said, and he pulled her up to him and kissed her. She kissed him back intensely, but irrelevantly, as to their passion, and uttered, “How glorious!” “It’s war,” he repeated, without consenting to her sense of it; and she did not know just what to think at first. She never knew what to think of him; that made his mystery, his charm.

Which choice best states the function of the underlined portion in the overall structure of the text?

- A) It suggests a contrast between Editha and George's views of war.
- B) It illustrates George's fear of the impending war.
- C) It shows Editha's lack of understanding about the realities of war.
- D) It emphasizes the passionate relationship between Editha and George.

8

The following text is adapted from William Wordsworth’s 1800 poem “She dwelt among the untrodden ways”.

She dwelt among the untrodden ways
Beside the springs of Dove,
A Maid whom there were none to praise
And very few to love:
A violet by a mossy stone
Half hidden from the eye!
—Fair as a star, when only one
Is shining in the sky.

Based on the text, what is true about the Maid?

- A) She is popular and well-known.
- B) She is disliked and avoided.
- C) She is loud and attention-seeking.
- D) She is unappreciated and overlooked.

9

Hilary Mantel’s 2020 novel *The Mirror and the Light* highlights the enduring cultural impact of 14th century English author Geoffrey Chaucer’s character, the Wife of Bath, as a symbol of female defiance and independence. The character, Alison, is considered the first ordinary woman in English literature: a working, non-royal woman who challenges societal norms. Chaucer’s creation of such a character during a time of significant demographic shift and growing opportunities for women was groundbreaking. The Wife of Bath continues to resonate with readers, reflecting a complex interplay between literary representation and real-world experience.

Which choice best describes the main idea of the text?

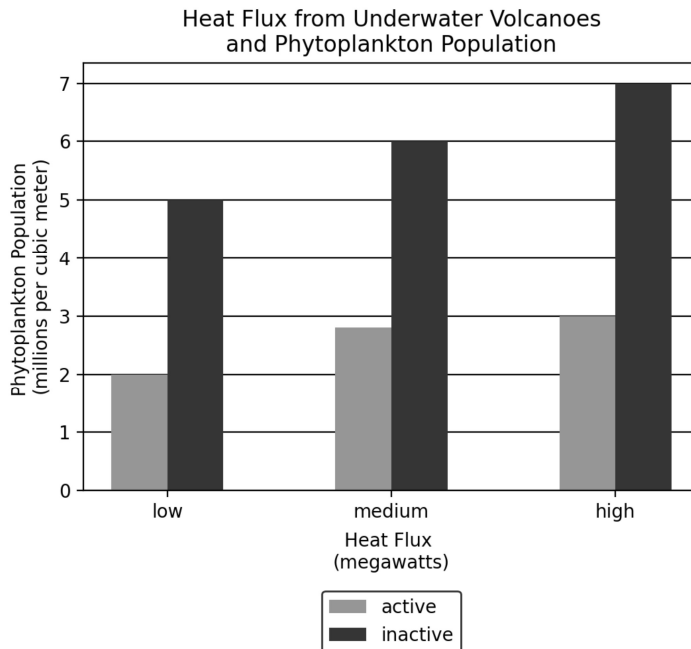
- A) Hilary Mantel’s 2020 *The Mirror and the Light* novel primarily focuses on Geoffrey Chaucer’s life and works.
- B) The Wife of Bath is a symbol of female defiance and independence, reflecting the complex interplay between literary representation and real-world experience.
- C) Geoffrey Chaucer’s character, the Wife of Bath, was the first character in English literature to challenge societal norms.
- D) The demographic shift and growing opportunities for women in the 14th century greatly influenced Geoffrey Chaucer’s works.

10

E.M. Forster's 1910 novel *Howard's End* delves into the subtleties of social class, underscoring the often imperceptible role of economic well-being in influencing people's perspectives. This theme is evident when one of the main characters says to another, _____

Which quotation from "Howard's End" most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A) "Last night, when we were talking up here round the fire, I began to think that the very soul of the world is economic, and that the lowest abyss is not the absence of love, but the absence of coin."
- B) "You and I and the Wilcoxes stand upon money as upon islands. It is so firm beneath our feet that we forget its very existence."
- C) "England belongs to me as much as it belongs to you, and I will make my way in it as I choose."
- D) "Give them a chance. Give them money. Don't dole them out poetry-books and railway-tickets like babies. Give them the wherewithal to buy these things."



Marine biologists Dr. Hyunwoo Park and Dr. Seoyun Lee conducted a study on underwater volcanoes, specifically investigating the relationship between the population of phytoplankton in the waters surrounding the volcanoes and heat flux (the rate at which heat energy is transferred to the surrounding oceanic environment from the volcanic activity below). Phytoplankton are microscopic plants that form the base of marine food chains. Park and Lee hypothesized that active underwater volcanoes, due to their higher heat flux, could stimulate phytoplankton growth, thus enriching the marine ecosystem.

Which choice best describes data in the graph that weaken Park and Lee's hypothesis?

- A) The phytoplankton population is the same around active and inactive volcanoes when the heat flux is low.
- B) The phytoplankton population around inactive volcanoes decreases with the heat flux.
- C) The phytoplankton population around active volcanoes is lower than that around inactive volcanoes for all levels of heat flux.
- D) The lowest phytoplankton population is found around inactive volcanoes with high heat flux.

Cognitive Test Scores Under Normal and Hypoxic Conditions

Test	Average score (normal conditions)	Average score (hypoxic conditions)	Difference
Memory Recall	85.5%	53.2%	32.3%
Spatial Awareness	91.3%	72.6%	18.7%
Problem Solving	88.6%	60.4%	28.2%
Reaction Time	94.4%	67.8%	26.6%

Hypoxia, a condition characterized by low oxygen levels, is common in extreme environments such as high altitudes or underwater. Cognitive decline is a well-documented side effect of hypoxia. Recently, a group of researchers led by Dr. Anette S. Tesum proposed that the cognitive decline triggered by hypoxia can be mitigated through specialized training exercises, with the most significant improvements seen in spatial awareness. They argue that the brain's spatial processing mechanisms are more resilient to hypoxic conditions and can therefore recover more rapidly with appropriate training.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to support Dr. Tesum and her team's assertion?

- A) The average score in the spatial awareness tests was 18.7% higher in hypoxic conditions than in normal conditions.
- B) The difference between the average scores under normal and hypoxic conditions for spatial awareness tests is the least among all the tests.
- C) The average score for spatial awareness tests under normal conditions is higher than the average score for spatial awareness tests under hypoxic conditions.
- D) The difference between the average scores under normal and hypoxic conditions for spatial awareness tests is greater than for reaction time tests but less than for memory recall tests.

13

Moravec's paradox is a phenomenon noted by experts in the field of artificial intelligence and robotics, stating that mental tasks we perceive as simple actually require substantial computational power, while tasks we find complex require minimal computational resources. This can be explained by the evolutionary process, as natural selection has had more time to refine older, largely unconscious skills that seem effortless to us. Consequently, it can be inferred that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) tasks humans find complex are likely the oldest skills refined through evolution.
- B) skills requiring substantial computational power are typically outdated and inefficient.
- C) modern artificial intelligence systems often struggle with tasks that humans find complex.
- D) tasks that seem effortless to us are likely challenging to replicate in artificial intelligence.

14

Engravings of animal tracks on rocks in Namibia's Doro! Nawas Mountains, estimated to be between 1,000 and 5,000 years old, were studied by a team of German archaeologists and African Indigenous tracking experts. They identified 407 animal tracks, with the most frequently depicted being those of giraffes, guineafowl, rhinos, and ostriches. The majority of the engravings were of adult and male animals. Interestingly, due to the current dry conditions, the species identified in the tracks are not present in the area today. This suggests that the region could have been wetter during the Later Stone Age, allowing a greater variety of species to live there, or that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) the species have learned to adapt to dryer conditions in the time since the engravings were made.
- B) female and juvenile animals among the species represented in the engravings required less access to water than males.
- C) at least some of the engravings were created much more recently than estimates suggest.
- D) the engravers were documenting their knowledge of animals that lived in other, more humid regions.

15

In 2017, film collector Christopher Bird discovered the long-lost silent _____ significant find given the Library of Congress estimates only 14% of silent-era films survive. These films, often destroyed by flammable nitrate film decay or discarded as valueless, offer rich historical insights into the culture, fashion, and politics of the late 19th and early 20th century.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) film *Diplomatic Henry* (1915), a
- B) film, *Diplomatic Henry* (1915), a
- C) film *Diplomatic Henry* (1915) a
- D) film *Diplomatic Henry*, (1915), a

16

A recent study examining over 124,000 corals across 159 reefs in Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia _____ a concerning correlation between plastic pollution and coral disease. The research suggests that plastic debris not only causes physical damage to corals but also increases their susceptibility to pathogens, boosting the likelihood of disease from 4% to 89%.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) have revealed
- B) has revealed
- C) reveal
- D) are revealing

17

In an exciting development, German _____ has devised an innovative solar energy device, Betaray, that potentially addresses the inefficiencies of conventional solar power systems. Betaray, which utilizes a large water-filled glass orb to focus light, promises an impressive 50% yearly efficiency improvement.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) architect André Broessel
- B) architect André Broessel,
- C) architect, André Broessel
- D) architect, André Broessel,

18

The annual Ice Music Festival in Finse, Norway, is a unique celebration of music created from instruments carved entirely out of ice. The festival relies on naturally frozen ice, specifically from Lake Finse and a nearby _____ artificially frozen ice lacks the acoustically dynamic properties necessary for a rich, resonant sound.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) glacier. As
- B) glacier, and as
- C) glacier: as
- D) glacier, as

19

Illuminating fishing nets with green LED lights _____ a good way to prevent unnecessary deaths or injuries to marine animals, and save fisheries time, according to a study in *Current Biology*. The use of lighted gillnets reduced the catch of unwanted marine life by 63%, without significantly impacting the number of targeted fish caught.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) is
- B) are
- C) have been
- D) were

20

Despite their cultural and economic significance in the Bahamas, queen conchs are facing “serial depletion” due to lax fishing regulations and overfishing. If drastic conservation measures—such as ending conch exports and enforcing more stringent harvesting methods—are not implemented, _____ Researchers are attempting to find out.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) could the Bahamas lose its conch stocks entirely.
- B) the Bahamas could lose its conch stocks entirely.
- C) could the Bahamas lose its conch stocks entirely?
- D) the Bahamas could lose its conch stocks entirely?

21

When California's citrus industry was threatened by the cottony cushion scale, a tree pest, in the 1870s, the introduction of *Novius cardinalis*, a species of ladybug that feeds on these pests, saved the industry from collapse. _____ this marked the beginning of modern biocontrol, and *Novius* continues to protect citrus trees globally.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) In fact,
- B) Thereafter,
- C) Ironically,
- D) Likewise,

22

Most primates display a preference for using one hand over the other, a trait known as handedness. _____ in humans, the preference for right-handedness is far more pronounced than in other primates, with about 90% of people being right-handed.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

- A) However,
- B) Furthermore,
- C) For example,
- D) Next,

23

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

- The Maldives, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, is facing an increasing threat from rising sea levels due to climate change.
- More than 80% of the Maldives' land, spread across about 1,200 islands, is less than 1 meter above sea level.
- Rising sea levels have resulted in frequent flooding, coastal erosion, and damage to coral reefs in the Maldives.
- This poses a direct threat to the local communities whose livelihoods depend mainly on fishing and tourism.
- On a global scale, the situation in the Maldives serves as a stark warning of the potential impact of climate change on low-lying coastal areas around the world

The student wants to emphasize the implications of rising sea levels in the Maldives on a global scale. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) The Maldives, an island nation in the Indian Ocean, is grappling with frequent flooding and coastal erosion due to rising sea levels.
- B) More than 80% of the Maldives' land is less than 1 meter above sea level, making it highly vulnerable to rising sea levels.
- C) The rising sea levels in the Maldives, resulting in frequent flooding and damage to coral reefs, serve as a stark warning of the potential impact of climate change on low-lying coastal areas worldwide.
- D) The livelihoods of local communities in the Maldives, which depend mainly on fishing and tourism, are under threat due to rising sea levels.

24

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

- Lebanon's confessional system is a unique political system based on religious communities.
- Each religious community gets a fixed number of seats in the parliament and certain public offices.
- The system was established with the aim of ensuring representation and preventing domination by any single religious group.
- Critics argue that the system can stifle political progress and breed sectarianism.
- Supporters claim it plays a crucial role in maintaining Lebanon's delicate multi-religious balance.

The student wants to discuss the potential drawbacks of Lebanon's confessional system. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Lebanon's confessional system was established with the aim of ensuring representation and preventing domination by any single religious group.
- B) In Lebanon, each religious community gets a fixed number of seats in the parliament and certain public offices.
- C) The confessional system in Lebanon, while aimed at maintaining a multi-religious balance, is criticized for potentially stifling political progress and breeding sectarianism.
- D) Supporters of Lebanon's confessional system claim it plays a crucial role in maintaining the country's delicate multi-religious balance.

25

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

- Permafrost is a layer of soil or rock that remains frozen throughout the year.
- In Siberia, vast areas of permafrost are melting due to global warming.
- The melting permafrost is causing the ground to sink, damaging roads and buildings.
- Some Siberian communities are being forced to move as a result.
- The melted permafrost is also releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.

The student wants to highlight the challenges faced by Siberian communities due to melting permafrost. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Permafrost is a layer of soil or rock that remains frozen throughout the year, but it is melting in Siberia due to global warming.
- B) The melting permafrost in Siberia is releasing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere.
- C) The melting permafrost in Siberia is causing the ground to sink, damaging roads and buildings, and forcing some communities to relocate.
- D) In Siberia, vast areas of permafrost are melting due to global warming and releasing powerful greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere.

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

- Cécile Vogt-Mugnier was a pioneering neurologist who made significant contributions to our understanding of the brain's structure.
- She, along with her husband Oskar Vogt, extensively studied the brain's anatomy, particularly the basal ganglia and thalamus.
- Vogt-Mugnier developed new staining techniques that allowed for deeper examination of the brain's tissue.
- She discovered the differentiation of different parts of the brain, which was fundamental to the concept of "functional localization" in neurology.
- Vogt-Mugnier published over 100 research papers, most of them focused on the anatomical structure of the brain.

The student wants to explain Vogt-Mugnier's specific contributions to the practice of neurology. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Cécile Vogt-Mugnier was a pioneering neurologist who, along with her husband, studied the brain's anatomy and published over 100 research papers.
- B) Neurologist Cécile Vogt-Mugnier developed new staining techniques for examining brain tissue and was instrumental in the discovery of the differentiation of different parts of the brain.
- C) Cécile Vogt-Mugnier and her husband Oskar Vogt studied the basal ganglia and thalamus, contributing significantly to our understanding of these parts of the brain.
- D) Cécile Vogt-Mugnier was a prolific neurologist who published over 100 research papers during her career.

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

- The dhow is a traditional sailing vessel that was significant in East African and Arabian trade.
- Dhows are characterized by their long, thin hulls and lateen sails.
- They were primarily used for carrying heavy items, such as fruit, fresh water, and merchandise, along the coasts of the Arabian Sea.
- The lateen sails of the dhow allowed for a greater degree of maneuverability in the region's monsoon winds.
- The use of the dhow in trade significantly impacted the economic development in the region.

The student wants to explain how features of the dhow contributed to its use in East African and Arabian trade. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A) Dhows, characterized by their long, thin hulls and lateen sails, were significant in East African and Arabian trade, primarily carrying heavy items along the coasts of the Arabian Sea.
- B) Dhows have long, thin hulls and lateen sails which allowed for a greater degree of maneuverability in the monsoon winds found along the coasts of the Arabian Sea.
- C) The use of the dhow in trade significantly impacted the economic development in East Africa and Arabia, as they primarily carried heavy items such as fruit, fresh water, and merchandise.
- D) Features of the dhow, such as lateen sails and long, thin hulls allowed it to significantly impact the economic development in the region.

STOP

**If you finish before time is called, you may check your work on this module only.
Do not turn to any other module in the test.**