



GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATIONS®

**Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions
with Answers**

Large Print (18 point) Edition



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Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions

This document contains six groups of GRE® Verbal Reasoning practice questions. Three of the practice groups consist of examples of discrete Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence questions. The other three groups consist of Reading Comprehension questions. The groups are arranged in order of increasing difficulty. The first two are easy, the next two are medium, and the final two are hard.

Following the last group are Answer Keys for quick reference.

In a separate document, titled Verbal Reasoning Practice Questions with Explanations, are complete explanations for every question. In that document, each question is repeated for your reference, followed by its explanation. Sharpen your GRE Verbal Reasoning skills by working your way through these question groups. Begin with the easy groups and then move on to the medium-difficulty and hard groups. Review the answer explanations carefully, paying particular attention to the explanations for questions that you answered incorrectly. Turn the page to begin.

Easy Discrete Questions

Directions for questions 1 through 3:

Each of the following questions includes a short text with a blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Select the entry that best completes the text.

1. Dominant interests often benefit most from _____ of governmental interference in business, since they are able to take care of themselves if left alone.
 - (A) intensification
 - (B) authorization
 - (C) centralization
 - (D) improvisation
 - (E) elimination

2. Kagan maintains that an infant's reactions to its first stressful experiences are part of a natural process of development, not harbingers of childhood unhappiness or _____ signs of adolescent anxiety.

- (A) prophetic
- (B) normal
- (C) monotonous
- (D) virtual
- (E) typical

3. An investigation that is _____ can occasionally yield new facts, even notable ones, but typically the appearance of such facts is the result of a search in a definite direction.

- (A) timely
- (B) unguided
- (C) consistent
- (D) uncomplicated
- (E) subjective

Directions for questions 4 and 5:

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

4. It is (i)_____ that so many portrait paintings hang in art museums, since the subject matter seems to dictate a status closer to pictures in the family photograph album than to high art. But perhaps it is the artistic skill with which the portraits are painted that (ii)_____ their presence in art museums.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
<input type="radio"/> A surprising	<input type="radio"/> D challenges
<input type="radio"/> B understandable	<input type="radio"/> E justifies
<input type="radio"/> C irrelevant	<input type="radio"/> F changes

5. In stark contrast to his later (i)_____, Simpson was largely (ii)_____ politics during his college years, despite the fact that the campus he attended was rife with political activity.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

<input type="radio"/> A activism	<input type="radio"/> D devoted to
<input type="radio"/> B apathy	<input type="radio"/> E indifferent to
<input type="radio"/> C affability	<input type="radio"/> F shaped by

Directions for questions 6 through 8:

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 substituted for the blank, fit the context and produce the two sentences most nearly alike in meaning.

6. As my eyesight began to _____, I spent a lot of time writing about it—both poems and “eye journals”—describing what I saw as I looked out through damaged eyes.

A deteriorate

B sharpen

C improve

D decline

E recover

F adjust

7. The judge's standing in the legal community, though shaken by phony allegations of wrongdoing, emerged, at long last, _____.

- A unqualified
- B undiminished
- C undecided
- D undamaged
- E unresolved
- F unprincipled

8. Modern agricultural practices have been extremely successful in increasing the productivity of major food crops, yet despite heavy use of pesticides, _____ losses to diseases and insect pests are sustained each year.

- A incongruous
- B reasonable
- C significant
- D considerable
- E equitable
- F fortuitous

Verbal Practice Questions

Easy Reading Comprehension Sets

For questions 1 through 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Question 1 is based on the following reading passage:

A person who agrees to serve as mediator between two warring factions at the request of both abandons by so agreeing the right to take sides later. To take sides at a later point would be to suggest that the earlier presumptive impartiality was a sham.

1. The passage above emphasizes which of the following points about mediators?
 - (A) They should try to form no opinions of their own about any issue that is related to the dispute.
 - (B) They should not agree to serve unless they are committed to maintaining a stance of impartiality.
 - (C) They should not agree to serve unless they are equally acceptable to all parties to a dispute.
 - (D) They should feel free to take sides in the dispute right from the start, provided that they make their biases publicly known.
 - (E) They should reserve the right to abandon their impartiality so as not to be open to the charge of having been deceitful.

Questions 2 through 5 are based on the following reading passage.

Was Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) a great composer? On its face, the question seems absurd. One of the most gifted prodigies in the history of music, he produced his first masterpiece at sixteen.

Line From then on, he was recognized as an artist of preternatural
5 abilities, not only as a composer but also as a pianist and conductor. But Mendelssohn’s enduring popularity has often been at odds—sometimes quite sharply—with his critical standing. Despite
10 general acknowledgement of his genius, there has been a noticeable reluctance to rank him with, say, Schumann or Brahms. As Haggin put it, Mendelssohn, as a composer, was a “minor master . . . working on a small scale of emotion and texture.”

2. The seven sentences in the passage are repeated below, in their original order, with each one assigned a letter. Select and indicate a sentence in the passage whose function is to indicate the range of Mendelssohn's musical talents.

- Ⓐ Was Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847) a great composer?
- Ⓑ On its face, the question seems absurd.
- Ⓒ One of the most gifted prodigies in the history of music, he produced his first masterpiece at sixteen.
- Ⓓ From then on, he was recognized as an artist of preternatural abilities, not only as a composer but also as a pianist and conductor.
- Ⓔ But Mendelssohn's enduring popularity has often been at odds—sometimes quite sharply—with his critical standing.
- Ⓕ Despite general acknowledgement of his genius, there has been a noticeable reluctance to rank him with, say, Schumann or Brahms.
- Ⓖ As Haggin put it, Mendelssohn, as a composer, was a “minor master . . . working on a small scale of emotion and texture.”

3. The passage suggests that anyone attempting to evaluate Mendelssohn's career must confront which of the following dichotomies?
- Ⓐ The tension between Mendelssohn's career as a composer and his career as a pianist and conductor
 - Ⓑ The contrast between Mendelssohn's popularity and that of Schumann and Brahms
 - Ⓒ The discrepancy between Mendelssohn's popularity and his standing among critics
 - Ⓓ The inconsistency between Mendelssohn's reputation during his lifetime and his reputation since his death
 - Ⓔ The gap between Mendelssohn's prodigious musical beginnings and his decline in later years
4. It can be inferred that the "reluctance" mentioned in the passage is being ascribed to
- Ⓐ most composers since Mendelssohn
 - Ⓑ Schumann and Brahms
 - Ⓒ the music-listening public
 - Ⓓ music critics generally
 - Ⓔ Haggin exclusively

5. The author mentions Schumann and Brahms primarily in order to
- Ⓐ provide examples of composers who are often compared with Mendelssohn
 - Ⓑ identify certain composers who are more popular than Mendelssohn
 - Ⓒ identify composers whom Mendelssohn influenced
 - Ⓓ establish the milieu in which Mendelssohn worked
 - Ⓔ establish a standard of comparison for Mendelssohn as a composer

Questions 6 and 7 are based on the following reading passage.

While most scholarship on women's employment in the United States recognizes that the Second World War (1939–1945) dramatically changed the role of women in the workforce, these
Line studies also acknowledge that few women remained in
5 manufacturing jobs once men returned from the war. But in agriculture, unlike other industries where women were viewed as temporary workers, women's employment did not end with the war. Instead, the expansion of agriculture and a steady decrease in the number of male farmworkers combined to cause the industry
10 to hire more women in the postwar years. Consequently, the 1950s saw a growing number of women engaged in farm labor, even though rhetoric in the popular media called for the return of women to domestic life.

6. It can be inferred from the passage that the manufacturing and agricultural sectors in the United States following the Second World War differed in which of the following respects?
- (A) The rate of expansion in each sector
 - (B) The percentage of employees in each sector who were men
 - (C) The trend in the wages of men employed in each sector
 - (D) The attitude of the popular media toward the employment of women in each sector
 - (E) The extent to which women in each sector were satisfied with their jobs

7. Which of the following statements about women's employment in the United States during and after the Second World War is most clearly supported by the passage?
- Ⓐ Most women who joined the workforce during the Second World War wanted to return to domestic life when the war ended.
 - Ⓑ The great majority of women who joined the workforce during the Second World War were employed in manufacturing jobs.
 - Ⓒ The end of the Second World War was followed by a large-scale transfer of women workers from manufacturing to agriculture.
 - Ⓓ The increase in women's employment that accompanied the Second World War was longer lasting in agriculture than it was in manufacturing.
 - Ⓔ The popular media were more forceful in calling for women to join the workforce during the Second World War than in calling for women to return to domestic life after the war.

Questions 8 and 9 are based on the following reading passage.
(A sentence is shown underlined and in boldface in the second paragraph for reference in answering question 9).

Since the Hawaiian Islands have never been connected to other land masses, the great variety of plants in Hawaii must be a result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds, a process that requires both
Line a method of transport and an equivalence between the ecology of
5 the source area and that of the recipient area.

There is some dispute about the method of transport involved. Some biologists argue that ocean and air currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii. **Yet the results of flotation experiments and the low temperatures of air currents**
10 **cast doubt on these hypotheses.** More probable is bird transport, either externally, by accidental attachment of the seeds to feathers, or internally, by the swallowing of fruit and subsequent excretion of the seeds. While it is likely that fewer varieties of plant seeds have reached Hawaii externally than internally, more varieties are known
15 to be adapted to external than to internal transport.

8. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with
- (A) discussing different approaches biologists have taken to testing theories about the distribution of plants in Hawaii
 - (B) discussing different theories about the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (C) discussing the extent to which air currents are responsible for the dispersal of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (D) resolving a dispute about the adaptability of plant seeds to bird transport
 - (E) resolving a dispute about the ability of birds to carry plant seeds long distances
9. The author mentions the results of flotation experiments on plant seeds in the underlined and boldfaced sentence (lines 8–10) most probably in order to
- (A) support the claim that the distribution of plants in Hawaii is the result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds
 - (B) lend credibility to the thesis that air currents provide a method of transport for plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (C) suggest that the long-distance dispersal of seeds is a process that requires long periods of time
 - (D) challenge the claim that ocean currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (E) refute the claim that Hawaiian flora evolved independently from flora in other parts of the world

Verbal Practice Questions
Medium-difficulty Discrete Questions

Question 1 includes a short text with a blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Select the entry that best completes the text.

1. It comes as no surprise that societies have codes of behavior; the character of the codes, on the other hand, can often be _____.
- (A) predictable
 - (B) unexpected
 - (C) admirable
 - (D) explicit
 - (E) confusing

Directions for questions 2 through 5:

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

2. Like Béla Bartók, Ruth Crawford not only brought a composer's acumen to the notation of folk music, she also had a marked (i) _____ the task. This was clear in her agonizing over how far to try to represent the minute details of a performance in a written text, and this (ii) _____ makes her work a landmark in ethnomusicology.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
<input type="radio"/> A reverence for	<input type="radio"/> D fastidiousness
<input type="radio"/> B detachment from	<input type="radio"/> E didacticism
<input type="radio"/> C curiosity about	<input type="radio"/> F iconoclasm

3. Political advertising may well be the most (i)_____ kind of advertising: political candidates are usually quite (ii)_____, yet their campaign advertisements often hide important differences behind smoke screens of smiles and empty slogans.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
<input type="radio"/> (A) polemical	<input type="radio"/> (D) interchangeable
<input type="radio"/> (B) effective	<input type="radio"/> (E) dissimilar
<input type="radio"/> (C) deceptive	<input type="radio"/> (F) vocal

4. Richard M. Russell said 52 percent of the nation’s growth since the Second World War had (i)_____ invention. He said, (ii)_____ research, the government’s greatest role in assuring continuing innovation is promoting a strong, modern patent office. “Unless we can (iii)_____ original ideas, we will not have invention,” Mr. Russell said. Speculating on the state of innovation over the next century, several inventors agreed that the future lay in giving children the tools to think creatively and the motivation to invent.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
<input type="radio"/> (A) been at the expense of	<input type="radio"/> (D) in addition to restricting	<input type="radio"/> (G) evaluate
<input type="radio"/> (B) no bearing on	<input type="radio"/> (E) aside from supporting	<input type="radio"/> (H) protect
<input type="radio"/> (C) come through	<input type="radio"/> (F) far from exaggerating	<input type="radio"/> (I) disseminate

5. Statements presented as fact in a patent application are (i)_____ unless a good reason for doubt is found. The invention has only to be deemed “more likely than not” to work in order to receive initial approval. And, although thousands of patents are challenged in court for other reasons, no incentive exists for anyone to expend effort (ii)_____ the science of an erroneous patent. For this reason the endless stream of (iii)_____ devices will continue to yield occasional patents.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) presumed verifiable	(D) corroborating	(G) novel
(B) carefully scrutinized	(E) advancing	(H) bogus
(C) considered capricious	(F) debunking	(I) obsolete

Directions for questions 6 through 8:

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 substituted for the blank, fit the context and produce the two sentences most nearly alike in meaning.

6. Ever a demanding reader of the fiction of others, the novelist Chase was likewise often the object of _____ analyses by his contemporaries.

- A exacting
- B copious
- C respectful
- D acerbic
- E scathing
- F meticulous

7. Her _____ should not be confused with miserliness; as long as I have known her, she has always been willing to assist those who are in need.

- A stinginess
- B diffidence
- C frugality
- D illiberality
- E intolerance
- F thrift

8. A misconception frequently held by novice writers is that sentence structure mirrors thought: the more convoluted the structure, the more _____ the ideas.

- A complicated
- B engaged
- C essential
- D fanciful
- E inconsequential
- F involved

Verbal Practice Questions
Medium-difficulty Reading Comprehension Sets

For questions 1 through 9, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

Questions 1 and 2 are based on the following reading passage.
(The second sentence is underlined and boldfaced for reference in answering question 2.)

I enjoyed *A Dream of Light & Shadow: Portraits of Latin American Women Writers* for the same reasons that, as a child, I avidly consumed women’s biographies: the fascination
Line with how the biographical details of another female’s life are
5 represented and interpreted.

A Dream offers a rich read, varied in both the lives and texts of the women portrayed, and the perspectives and styles of the sixteen essayists. Yet, as an adult, I have come to demand of any really “great” book a self-consciousness about the tenuous
10 nature of representations of reality, a critical contextualization of florid detail, and a self-awareness of the role of ideology in our lives. In these critical senses, *A Dream* is inadequate.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

1. The author of the passage suggests that *A Dream* falls short in which of the following respects?
 - A It does not appear to recognize that representations of reality can be unreliable.
 - B It seems to focus on stylistic variety at the expense of accuracy of detail.
 - C It offers a wealth of detail without sufficient critical examination of that detail.

2. Which of the following best describes the function of the second sentence (shown underlined and boldfaced at the beginning of the second paragraph) in the context of the passage as a whole?
 - A To give examples of how *A Dream* presents fascinating portraits that display awareness of the tenuous nature of representations of reality
 - B To elaborate on how *A Dream* fulfills the author's childhood criteria for a pleasurable book
 - C To suggest that the author enjoyed *A Dream* for reasons more sophisticated than the reasons she enjoyed certain books as a child
 - D To illustrate ways in which the author finds *A Dream* to be inadequate in certain critical senses
 - E To imply that *A Dream* is too varied in focus to provide a proper contextualization of the biographical details it offers

3. During the day in Lake Constance, the zooplankton D. hyalina departs for the depths where food is scarce and the water cold. D. galeata remains near the warm surface where food is abundant. Even though D. galeata grows and reproduces much faster, its population is often outnumbered by D. hyalina.

Which of the following, if true, would help resolve the apparent paradox presented above?

- Ⓐ The number of species of zooplankton living at the bottom of the lake is twice that of species living at the surface.
- Ⓑ Predators of zooplankton, such as whitefish and perch, live and feed near the surface of the lake during the day.
- Ⓒ In order to make the most of scarce food resources, D. hyalina matures more slowly than D. galeata.
- Ⓓ D. galeata clusters under vegetation during the hottest part of the day to avoid the Sun's rays.
- Ⓔ D. galeata produces twice as many offspring per individual in any given period of time as does D. hyalina.

Questions 4 and 5 are based on the following reading passage.

Tocqueville, apparently, was wrong. Jacksonian America was not a fluid, egalitarian society where individual wealth and poverty were ephemeral conditions. At least so argues E. Pessen in his
Line iconoclastic study of the very rich in the United States between
5 1825 and 1850.

Pessen does present a quantity of examples, together with some refreshingly intelligible statistics, to establish the existence of an inordinately wealthy class. Though active in commerce or the professions, most of the wealthy were not self-made but had
10 inherited family fortunes. In no sense mercurial, these great fortunes survived the financial panics that destroyed lesser ones. Indeed, in several cities the wealthiest one percent constantly increased its share until by 1850 it owned half of the community's wealth. Although these observations are true, Pessen overestimates their
15 importance by concluding from them that the undoubted progress toward inequality in the late eighteenth century continued in the Jacksonian period and that the United States was a class-ridden, plutocratic society even before industrialization.

4. According to the passage, Pessen indicates that all of the following were true of the very wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850 EXCEPT:

- (A) They formed a distinct upper class.
- (B) Many of them were able to increase their holdings.
- (C) Some of them worked as professionals or in business.
- (D) Most of them accumulated their own fortunes.
- (E) Many of them retained their wealth in spite of financial upheavals.

5. Which of the following best states the author's main point?
- Ⓐ Pessen's study has overturned the previously established view of the social and economic structure of early-nineteenth-century America.
 - Ⓑ Tocqueville's analysis of the United States in the Jacksonian era remains the definitive account of this period.
 - Ⓒ Pessen's study is valuable primarily because it shows the continuity of the social system in the United States throughout the nineteenth century.
 - Ⓓ The social patterns and political power of the extremely wealthy in the United States between 1825 and 1850 are well documented.
 - Ⓔ Pessen challenges a view of the social and economic systems in the United States from 1825 to 1850, but he draws conclusions that are incorrect.

Questions 6 through 9 are based on the following reading passage.
(A phrase is underlined and boldfaced for reference in answering question 6.)

The evolution of intelligence among early large mammals of the grasslands was due in great measure to the interaction between two ecologically synchronized groups of these animals, the hunting carnivores and the herbivores that they hunted. The interaction
Line 5 resulting from the differences between predator and prey led to a general improvement in brain functions; however, certain components of intelligence were improved far more than others.

The kind of intelligence favored by the interplay of increasingly smarter catchers and increasingly keener escapers is defined by
10 attention—that aspect of mind carrying consciousness forward from one moment to the next. It ranges from a passive, free-floating awareness to a highly focused, active fixation. The range through these states is mediated by the arousal system, a network of tracts converging from sensory systems to integrating centers in the brain
15 stem. From the more relaxed to the more vigorous levels, sensitivity to novelty is increased. The organism is more awake, more vigilant; this increased vigilance results in the apprehension of ever more subtle signals as the organism becomes more sensitive to its surroundings. The processes of arousal and concentration give
20 attention its direction. Arousal is at first general, with a flooding of impulses in the brain stem; then gradually the activation is channeled. Thus begins concentration, the holding of consistent images. One meaning of intelligence is the way in which these images and other alertly searched information are used in the
25 context of previous experience. Consciousness links past attention to the present and permits the integration of details with perceived ends and purposes.

The elements of intelligence and consciousness come together marvelously to produce different styles in predator and prey.

30 Herbivores and carnivores develop different kinds of attention related to escaping or chasing. Although in both kinds of animal, arousal stimulates the production of adrenaline and norepinephrine by the adrenal glands, the effect in herbivores is primarily fear, whereas in carnivores the effect is primarily aggression. For both, 35 arousal attunes the animal to what is ahead. Perhaps it does not experience forethought as we know it, but the animal does experience something like it. The predator is searchingly aggressive, inner-directed, tuned by the nervous system and the adrenal hormones, but aware in a sense closer to human consciousness than, 40 say, a **hungry lizard's** instinctive snap at a passing beetle. Using past events as a framework, the large mammal predator is working out a relationship between movement and food, sensitive to possibilities in cold trails and distant sounds—and yesterday's unforgotten lessons. The herbivore prey is of a different mind. Its 45 mood of wariness rather than searching and its attitude of general expectancy instead of anticipating are silk-thin veils of tranquility over an explosive endocrine system.

6. The author refers to a hungry lizard (shown underlined and boldfaced in line 40) primarily in order to
- (A) demonstrate the similarity between the hunting methods of mammals and those of nonmammals
 - (B) broaden the application of the argument by including an insectivore as an example
 - (C) make a distinction between higher and lower levels of consciousness
 - (D) provide an additional illustration of the brutality characteristic of predators
 - (E) offer an objection to suggestions that all animals lack consciousness
7. It can be inferred from the passage that in animals less intelligent than the mammals discussed in the passage
- (A) past experience is less helpful in ensuring survival
 - (B) attention is more highly focused
 - (C) muscular coordination is less highly developed
 - (D) there is less need for competition among species
 - (E) environment is more important in establishing the proper ratio of prey to predator

8. According to the passage, improvement in brain function among early large mammals resulted primarily from which of the following?
- (A) Interplay of predator and prey
 - (B) Persistence of free-floating awareness in animals of the grasslands
 - (C) Gradual dominance of warm-blooded mammals over cold-blooded reptiles
 - (D) Interaction of early large mammals with less intelligent species
 - (E) Improvement of the capacity for memory among herbivores and carnivores
9. According to the passage, as the process of arousal in an organism continues, all of the following may occur EXCEPT
- (A) the production of adrenaline
 - (B) the production of norepinephrine
 - (C) a heightening of sensitivity to stimuli
 - (D) an increase in selectivity with respect to stimuli
 - (E) an expansion of the range of states mediated by the brain stem

Verbal Practice Questions

Hard Discrete Questions

Question 1 includes a short text with a blank, indicating that something has been omitted. Select the entry that best completes the text.

1. For some time now, _____ has been presumed not to exist: the cynical conviction that everybody has an angle is considered wisdom.
- (A) rationality
 - (B) flexibility
 - (C) diffidence
 - (D) disinterestedness
 - (E) insincerity

Directions for questions 2 through 6:

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

2. Human nature and long distances have made exceeding the speed limit a (i)_____ in the state, so the legislators surprised no one when, acceding to public demand, they (ii)_____ increased penalties for speeding.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
<input type="radio"/> A controversial habit	<input type="radio"/> D endorsed
<input type="radio"/> B cherished tradition	<input type="radio"/> E considered
<input type="radio"/> C disquieting ritual	<input type="radio"/> F rejected

3. Serling's account of his employer's reckless decision making (i)_____ that company's image as (ii)_____ bureaucracy full of wary managers.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
<input type="radio"/> A belies	<input type="radio"/> D an injudicious
<input type="radio"/> B exposes	<input type="radio"/> E a disorganized
<input type="radio"/> C overshadows	<input type="radio"/> F a cautious

4. No other contemporary poet's work has such a well-earned reputation for (i)_____, and there are few whose moral vision is so imperiously unsparing. Of late, however, the almost belligerent demands of his severe and densely forbidding poetry have taken an improbable turn. This new collection is the poet's fourth book in six years—an ample output even for poets of sunny disposition, let alone for one of such (ii)_____ over the previous 50 years. Yet for all his newfound (iii)_____, his poetry is as thorny as ever.

Blank (i)

Blank (ii)

Blank (iii)

Ⓐ patent accessibility	Ⓓ penitential austerity	Ⓖ taciturnity
Ⓑ intrinsic frivolity	Ⓔ intractable prolixity	Ⓗ volubility
Ⓒ near impenetrability	Ⓕ impetuous prodigality	Ⓘ pellucidity

5. Managers who think that strong environmental performance will (i)_____ their company's financial performance often (ii)_____ claims that systems designed to help them manage environmental concerns are valuable tools. By contrast, managers who perceive environmental performance to be (iii)_____ to financial success may view an environmental management system as extraneous. In either situation, and whatever their perceptions, it is a manager's commitment to achieving environmental improvement rather than the mere presence of a system that determines environmental performance.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) eclipse	(D) uncritically accept	(G) complementary
(B) bolster	(E) appropriately acknowledge	(H) intrinsic
(C) degrade	(F) hotly dispute	(I) peripheral

6. Philosophy, unlike most other subjects, does not try to extend our knowledge by discovering new information about the world. Instead it tries to deepen our understanding through (i) _____ what is already closest to us—the experiences, thoughts, concepts, and activities that make up our lives but that ordinarily escape our notice precisely because they are so familiar. Philosophy begins by finding (ii) _____ the things that are (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
(A) attainment of	(D) essentially irrelevant	(G) most prosaic
(B) rumination on	(E) utterly mysterious	(H) somewhat hackneyed
(C) detachment from	(F) thoroughly commonplace	(I) refreshingly novel

Directions for questions 7 through 9:

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 substituted for the blank, fit the context and produce the two sentences most nearly alike in meaning.

7. The government's implementation of a new code of ethics appeared intended to shore up the ruling party's standing with an increasingly _____ electorate at a time when the party is besieged by charges that it trades favors for campaign money.

- A aloof
- B placid
- C restive
- D skittish
- E tranquil
- F vociferous

8. Overlarge, uneven, and ultimately disappointing, the retrospective exhibition seems too much like special pleading for a forgotten painter of real but _____ talents.

- A limited
- B partial
- C undiscovered
- D circumscribed
- E prosaic
- F hidden

9. Newspapers report that the former executive has been trying to keep a low profile since his _____ exit from the company.

- A celebrated
- B mysterious
- C long-awaited
- D fortuitous
- E indecorous
- F unseemly

Verbal Practice Questions

Hard Reading Comprehension Sets

For questions 1 through 8, select one answer choice unless otherwise instructed.

1. In the United States between 1850 and 1880, the number of farmers continued to increase, but at a rate lower than that of the general population.

Which of the following statements directly contradicts the information presented above?

- (A) The number of farmers in the general population increased slightly in the 30 years between 1850 and 1880.
- (B) The rate of growth of the United States labor force and the rate of growth of the general population rose simultaneously in the 30 years between 1850 and 1880.
- (C) The proportion of farmers in the United States labor force remained constant in the 30 years between 1850 and 1880.
- (D) The proportion of farmers in the United States labor force decreased from 64 percent in 1850 to 49 percent in 1880.
- (E) The proportion of farmers in the general population increased from 68 percent in 1850 to 72 percent in 1880.

Question 2 is based on the following reading passage:

A ten-year comparison between the United States and the Soviet Union in terms of crop yields per acre revealed that when only planted acreage is compared, Soviet yields were equal to 68 percent
Line of United States yields. When total agricultural acreage (planted
5 acreage plus fallow acreage) is compared, however, Soviet yield was 114 percent of United States yield.

2. From the information above, which of the following can be most reliably inferred about United States and Soviet agriculture during the ten-year period?
- (A) A higher percentage of total agricultural acreage was fallow in the United States than in the Soviet Union.
 - (B) The United States had more fallow acreage than planted acreage.
 - (C) Fewer total acres of available agricultural land were fallow in the Soviet Union than in the United States.
 - (D) The Soviet Union had more planted acreage than fallow acreage.
 - (E) The Soviet Union produced a greater volume of crops than the United States produced.

Questions 3 and 4 are based on the following reading passage.

For hot desert locations with access to seawater, a new greenhouse design generates freshwater and cool air. Oriented to the prevailing wind, the front wall of perforated cardboard, moistened and cooled by a trickle of seawater pumped in, cools and moistens hot air blowing in. This cool, humidified air accelerates plant growth; little water evaporates from leaves. Though greenhouses normally capture the heat of sunlight, a double-layered roof, the inner layer coated to reflect infrared light outward, allows visible sunlight in but traps solar heat between the two layers. This heated air, drawn down from the roof, then mixes with the greenhouse air as it reaches a second seawater-moistened cardboard wall at the back of the greenhouse. There the air absorbs more moisture, which then condenses on a metal wall cooled by seawater, and thus distilled water for irrigating the plants collects.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

3. It can be inferred that the process described in the passage makes use of which of the following?

- A The tendency of hot air to rise
- B The directional movement of wind
- C The temperature differential between the sea and the desert

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

4. It can be inferred that the greenhouse roof is designed to allow for which of the following?

- A The avoidance of intense solar heat inside the greenhouse
- B The entry of sunlight into the greenhouse to make the plants grow
- C The mixture of heated air with greenhouse air to enhance the collection of moisture

Questions 5 through 8 are based on the following reading passage.

Many critics of Emily Brontë's novel Wuthering Heights see its second part as a counterpoint that comments on, if it does not reverse, the first part, where a romantic reading receives more confirmation. Seeing the two parts as a whole is encouraged by the novel's sophisticated structure, revealed in its complex use of narrators and time shifts. Granted that the presence of these elements need not argue for an authorial awareness of novelistic construction comparable to that of Henry James, their presence does encourage attempts to unify the novel's heterogeneous parts. *Line* 5 However, any interpretation that seeks to unify all of the novel's diverse elements is bound to be somewhat unconvincing. This is not because such an interpretation necessarily stiffens into a thesis (although rigidity in any interpretation of this or of any novel is always a danger), but because Wuthering Heights has recalcitrant *10* elements of undeniable power that, ultimately, resist inclusion in an all-encompassing interpretation. In this respect, Wuthering Heights shares a feature of Hamlet. *15*

5. According to the passage, which of the following is a true statement about the first and second parts of Wuthering Heights?
- Ⓐ The second part has received more attention from critics.
 - Ⓑ The second part has little relation to the first part.
 - Ⓒ The second part annuls the force of the first part.
 - Ⓓ The second part provides less substantiation for a romantic reading.
 - Ⓔ The second part is better because it is more realistic.
6. Which of the following inferences about Henry James's awareness of novelistic construction is best supported by the passage?
- Ⓐ James, more than any other novelist, was aware of the difficulties of novelistic construction.
 - Ⓑ James was very aware of the details of novelistic construction.
 - Ⓒ James's awareness of novelistic construction derived from his reading of Brontë.
 - Ⓓ James's awareness of novelistic construction has led most commentators to see unity in his individual novels.
 - Ⓔ James's awareness of novelistic construction precluded him from violating the unity of his novels.

7. The author of the passage would be most likely to agree that an interpretation of a novel should
- Ⓐ not try to unite heterogeneous elements in the novel
 - Ⓑ not be inflexible in its treatment of the elements in the novel
 - Ⓒ not argue that the complex use of narrators or of time shifts indicates a sophisticated structure
 - Ⓓ concentrate on those recalcitrant elements of the novel that are outside the novel's main structure
 - Ⓔ primarily consider those elements of novelistic construction of which the author of the novel was aware

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

8. The author of the passage suggests which of the following about Hamlet?

- A Hamlet has usually attracted critical interpretations that tend to stiffen into theses.
- B Hamlet has elements that are not amenable to an all-encompassing critical interpretation.
- C Hamlet is less open to an all-encompassing critical interpretation than is Wuthering Heights.

Answer Keys

Discrete Questions: Easy

1. **Choice E**: elimination
2. **Choice A**: prophetic
3. **Choice B**: unguided
4. **Choice A**: surprising; AND
Choice E: justifies
5. **Choice A**: activism; AND
Choice E: indifferent to
6. **Choice A**: deteriorate; AND
Choice D: decline
7. **Choice B**: undiminished; AND
Choice D: undamaged
8. **Choice C**: significant; AND
Choice D: considerable

Reading Comprehension Questions: Easy

1. **Choice B:** They should not agree to serve unless they are committed to maintaining a stance of impartiality.
2. **Sentence 4 (choice D):** From then on, he was recognized as an artist of preternatural abilities, not only as a composer but also as a pianist and conductor.
3. **Choice C:** The discrepancy between Mendelssohn's popularity and his standing among critics
4. **Choice D:** music critics generally
5. **Choice E:** establish a standard of comparison for Mendelssohn as a composer
6. **Choice B:** The percentage of employees in each sector who were men
7. **Choice D:** The increase in women's employment that accompanied the Second World War was longer lasting in agriculture than it was in manufacturing.
8. **Choice B:** discussing different theories about the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
9. **Choice D:** challenge the claim that ocean currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii

Discrete Questions: Medium

1. **Choice B**: unexpected
2. **Choice A**: reverence for; AND
Choice D: fastidiousness
3. **Choice C**: deceptive; AND
Choice E: dissimilar
4. **Choice C**: come through; AND
Choice E: aside from supporting; AND
Choice H: protect
5. **Choice A**: presumed verifiable; AND
Choice F: debunking; AND
Choice H: bogus
6. **Choice A**: exacting; AND
Choice F: meticulous
7. **Choice C**: frugality; AND
Choice F: thrift
8. **Choice A**: complicated; AND
Choice F: involved

Reading Comprehension Questions: Medium

1. **Choice A**: It does not appear to recognize that representations of reality can be unreliable; AND
Choice C: It offers a wealth of detail without sufficient critical examination of that detail.
2. **Choice B**: To elaborate on how *A Dream* fulfills the author's childhood criteria for a pleasurable book
3. **Choice B**: Predators of zooplankton, such as whitefish and perch, live and feed near the surface of the lake during the day.
4. **Choice D**: Most of them accumulated their own fortunes.
5. **Choice E**: Pessen challenges a view of the social and economic systems in the United States from 1825 to 1850, but he draws conclusions that are incorrect.
6. **Choice C**: make a distinction between higher and lower levels of consciousness
7. **Choice A**: past experience is less helpful in ensuring survival
8. **Choice A**: Interplay of predator and prey
9. **Choice E**: an expansion of the range of states mediated by the brain stem

Discrete Questions: Hard

1. **Choice D**: disinterestedness
2. **Choice B**: cherished tradition; AND
Choice F: rejected
3. **Choice A**: belies; AND
Choice F: a cautious
4. **Choice C**: near impenetrability; AND
Choice D: penitential austerity; AND
Choice H: volubility
5. **Choice B**: bolster; AND
Choice D: uncritically accept; AND
Choice I: peripheral
6. **Choice B**: rumination on; AND
Choice E: utterly mysterious; AND
Choice G: most prosaic
7. **Choice C**: restive; AND
Choice D: skittish
8. **Choice A**: limited; AND
Choice D: circumscribed
9. **Choice E**: indecorous; AND
Choice F: unseemly

Reading Comprehension Questions: Hard

1. **Choice E:** The proportion of farmers in the general population increased from 68 percent in 1850 to 72 percent in 1880.
2. **Choice A:** A higher percentage of total agricultural acreage was fallow in the United States than in the Soviet Union.
3. **Choice B:** The directional movement of wind; AND
Choice C: The temperature differential between the sea and the desert.
4. **Choice A:** The avoidance of intense solar heat inside the greenhouse; AND
Choice B: The entry of sunlight into the greenhouse to make the plants grow; AND
Choice C: The mixture of heated air with greenhouse air to enhance the collection of moisture.
5. **Choice D:** The second part provides less substantiation for a romantic reading.
6. **Choice B:** James was very aware of the details of novelistic construction.
7. **Choice B:** not be inflexible in its treatment of the elements in the novel
8. **Choice B:** Hamlet has elements that are not amenable to an all-encompassing critical interpretation.

Explanations for these questions are provided in the separate document: Verbal Practice Questions with Explanations.