

Teaching Notes

Critical Reading

Overview

The twenty-four transparencies that follow provide a variety of activities designed to give students practice with reading passages and exercises similar to those found on the SAT and on state-specific tests.

Types of Items

- **Sentence Completion.** Students are directed to read short sentences and choose appropriate answers to complete the ideas presented in the sentences.
- **Passage Completion.** Students are directed to read a paragraph-length passage and choose words or phrases that will complete the ideas presented in the passage.
- **Passage Analysis.** Students are directed to read a passage and answer two questions related to the ideas in the passage. The activity includes one or more of the following types of questions—**main idea** questions, **detail** questions, **logic** questions, **inference** questions, **tone** questions, **rhetoric** questions, and **vocabulary** questions.

Answers

Answers are provided for your convenience on the transparencies.

Critical Reading: Sentence Completions

DIRECTIONS

- Read each sentence and think about its main idea. Look for key words or phrases that signal contrast, such as *rather than*, *but*, and *although*.
- Select the word or set of words that best completes each sentence. Then, explain your choice.

1 The American painter Ben Shahn (1898–1969) wanted his art to tell a story and engage its times, rather than simply _____ the old European masters.

A denounce

D study

B admire

E abandon

C mimic

2 Lauren has always enjoyed listening to her brother's band, but when she started _____ the lyrics more carefully, she was _____ by some of the disrespectful words.

A composing ... outraged

D analyzing ... appalled

B ignoring ... annoyed

E asserting ... abashed

C studying ... impressed

3 Although most species of primates are _____ creatures that tend to live in groups, the orangutan is surprisingly _____.

A hierarchical ... extroverted

D garrulous ... isolated

B sociable ... solitary

E aggressive ... dominant

C intelligent ... affable

Critical Reading: Sentence Completions

DIRECTIONS

- Read each sentence and think about its main idea. Look for key words or phrases that signal comparison, such as *in the same way*, *just as*, and *like*.
- Select the word or set of words that best completes each sentence. Then, explain your choice.

1 In the mid-nineteenth century, the telegraph transformed journalism, creating the newspaper as we know it; in the same way, the Internet has _____ today's media by permitting instant access to news.

A sensationalized

D stifled

B revolutionized

E challenged

C replaced

2 Just as the Declaration of Independence lists the colonists' complaints against the British king, the 1848 Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions _____ women's _____ against men.

A denounces ... strategies

D rejects ... demands

B reiterates ... accusations

E enumerates ... grievances

C implies ... arguments

3 Ideas, behaviors, and fads can resemble epidemics, spreading _____ like _____ diseases.

A unpredictably ... severe

D widely ... infectious

B genetically ... inherited

E erratically ... viral

C methodically ... chronic

Critical Reading: Sentence Completions

DIRECTIONS

- Read each sentence and think about its main idea. Look for key words or phrases that signal example, such as *for example*, *such as*, and *specifically*.
- Select the word or set of words that best completes each sentence. Then, explain your choice.

1 The candidate possessed several character traits, such as a tendency to _____ when faced with controversial issues, that made voters question his leadership ability.

A negotiate

D persevere

B deprecate

E vacillate

C consult

2 Critics often scorn what audiences adore; for example, one critic's _____ review of the popular musical *The Sound of Music* so _____ readers that the writer was fired from a position at *McCall's* magazine.

A ponderous ... incensed

D scathing ... captivated

B effusive ... infuriated

E spiteful ... influenced

C acerbic ... rankled

3 Sigmund Freud proposed that human aggression is both _____ and inevitable; specifically, he believed that aggression builds up gradually and must eventually be _____, either outwardly against others or inwardly against oneself.

A unavoidable ... overcome

D inherited ... subdued

B learned ... controlled

E self-destructive ...

C innate ... released

expressed

Critical Reading: Sentence Completions

DIRECTIONS

- Read each sentence and think about its main idea. Look for key words or phrases that signal cause and effect, such as *because*, *as a result*, and *consequently*.
- Select the word or set of words that best completes each sentence. Then, explain your choice.

1 Scholars have recently questioned the ____ of the painting because a technical analysis revealed that the age of the pigment was inconsistent with the work's supposed date.

A interpretation

D authenticity

B acquisition

E stereotype

C significance

2 According to one recent study, many people are obsessed with the Internet; as a result, they are becoming socially ____ as they spend more time online and less time in ____ human relationships.

A alienated ... virtual

D lonely ... destructive

B adept ... unrewarding

E isolated ... traditional

C engaged ... superficial

3 Sam ____ his new neighbor, Leo, by ridiculing his music collection and besieging him with impertinent questions about his family; consequently, Leo did his best to ____ Sam when school started in September.

A impressed ... scrutinize

D amazed ... thwart

B antagonized ... avoid

E intrigued ... humiliate

C offended ... flatter

Critical Reading: Sentence Completions

DIRECTIONS

- Read each sentence and think about its main idea. Look for key words or phrases that signal restatement, such as *that is*, *in other words*, and *in fact*.
- Select the word or set of words that best completes each sentence. Then, explain your choice.

-
- 1 When scientists perform experiments, they are often trying to determine whether there is a correlation between two variables—that is, an association that occurs _____.

A randomly	D intermittently
B regularly	E spontaneously
C sporadically	

 - 2 Correlation is not the same thing as causation—in other words, just because two variables tend to increase or decrease at the same time doesn't mean that one necessarily _____ the other or even that the two variables are _____ in any meaningful way.

A cancels ... related	D affects ... regulated
B synchronizes ... affected	E diminishes ... changing
C influences ... connected	

 - 3 According to research conducted by a Cornell University psychologist, most _____ people are blissfully ignorant of their own ineptitude; in fact, people who do things badly are more _____ of their abilities than people who do things well.

A stringent ... ashamed	D incompetent ... confident
B unhappy ... aware	E diligent ... unsure
C assertive ... apprehensive	

Critical Reading: Sentence Completions

DIRECTIONS

- Read each sentence and think about its main idea. Look for key words or phrases that provide clues.
- Select the word or set of words that best completes each sentence. Then, explain your choice.

1 After the Civil War, many believed that anyone could rise from rags to riches simply through hard work and self-discipline; the possession of wealth, in fact, was viewed as evidence of _____.

A power

D immorality

B intelligence

E compassion

C virtue

2 The English philosopher Thomas Hobbes believed that the most important function of government was to preserve safety and _____; he argued that obedience to absolute authority was a small price to pay for a secure and _____ society.

A property ... aristocratic

D equality ... diverse

B liberty ... mercenary

E life ... civilized

C order ... immoral

3 Some argue that the practice of patenting _____ concepts in cyberspace could kill electronic commerce; they believe that patents should be reserved for true inventions and _____ technologies.

A vague ... biomedical

D obvious ... innovative

B commercial ... profitable

E ridiculous ... fundamental

C intangible ... rudimentary

Critical Reading: Sentence Completions

DIRECTIONS

- Read each sentence and think about its main idea. Look for key words or phrases that convey strong feelings or connotations.
- Select the word or set of words that best completes each sentence. Then, explain your choice.

1 Television comedy today is increasingly ____; the typical sit-com is about a bunch of people sitting around sniping at one another.

A formulaic

D humorous

B sophisticated

E ironic

C mean-spirited

2 Although some people might describe Zachary as a difficult child, we prefer to boost his self-esteem by using positive words to describe him; he is enthusiastic rather than loud, ____ rather than stubborn, ____ rather than bossy.

A introspective ... efficacious

D annoying ... domineering

B defiant ... charismatic

E persistent ... assertive

C tenacious ... manipulative

3 The movie is clever and endearing in a conventional, cloying sort of way, but it captures none of the quirky ____ or lyrical ____ of the novel.

A piety ... wit

D verbosity ... radiance

B brilliance ... charm

E grandeur ... irreverence

C passion ... emptiness

Critical Reading: Passage Completions

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Throughout the ages, people have struggled to find ways to measure time. Cave people kept track of large chunks of time by recording the movements of the sun and moon as well as the changing seasons. A thirty thousand-year-old carved bone discovered in southwestern France may be one of the earliest attempts at ____ (1) timekeeping. Its grooves probably depict the ____ (2) of the moon across the sky over a period of months.

Many thousands of years passed before people began measuring time in more precise ____ (3). One of the first of these more ____ (4) timekeeping devices was the sundial, which developed because people noticed that a shadow cast by a ____ (5) object, such as a tree or column, changes in length and direction as the Sun travels across the sky. As early as 3,500 B.C., the ancient Egyptians had developed a bulky forerunner of the sundial, using obelisks and pyramids to cast shadows. Over the next two thousand years, these ____ (6) devices evolved into the smaller sundial, which for thousands of years remained the most advanced device for dividing the day into hours.

- | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | A lunar | B solar |
| 2 | A fluctuation | B trajectory |
| 3 | A increments | B intricacies |
| 4 | A grandiose | B accurate |
| 5 | A horizontal | B vertical |
| 6 | A cumbersome | B infallible |

Critical Reading: Passage Completions

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Astronomers have been arguing for years over how to classify Pluto, which has traditionally been ____ (1) as the ninth planet in the solar system. However, the International Astronomical Union considered and then rejected a ____ (2) proposal that Pluto lose its ____ (3) status as a major planet and instead be designated a “minor planet,” like an asteroid.

The dispute stems from the fact that Pluto is something of an ____ (4) among celestial bodies. In some respects, it is more like an asteroid than a planet. Specifically, it is much smaller than the other major planets (only two-thirds the size of Earth’s moon); it has an eccentrically ____ (5) rather than a circular orbit that at times swings inside the orbit of Neptune; and it is made up mostly of ice. However, Pluto also possesses several key properties of the other eight planets, traits that ____ (6) it from common asteroids—namely, it is spherical rather than oblong; it has a defined orbit around the sun; it has its own moon, Charon; and it has an atmosphere.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | A acknowledged | B denigrated |
| 2 | A controversial | B pernicious |
| 3 | A potential | B prestigious |
| 4 | A anomaly | B apex |
| 5 | A erratic | B elliptical |
| 6 | A dissipate | B distinguish |

Critical Reading: Passage Completions

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

If you're a teenager, you've heard it practically your whole life: "This room is a disgrace!" The overflowing hamper, the CDs strewn all over the floor, the magazines buried under the ____ (1) bedspread, the decaying remnants of last week's snacks stuck to ____ (2) positioned plates—but what's all the fuss about, really?

Parents tend to see their kids' messiness as a character flaw, with enormous ____ (3) for the future. According to researchers, ____ (4) rooms now rank higher than curfews or dating as family battlegrounds. Yet experts question the wisdom of fighting these messy-room wars, cautioning that they may represent ____ (5) parental anxiety. Some parents think they can teach their children responsibility and discipline by making them keep their rooms tidy, though there is no research to support this notion. Others may actually be worried that their kid's disgusting room reflects their own ____ (6) parenting abilities. However, what is usually going on is simply a power struggle, with both sides grappling for dominion over one of the few things they feel they *can* control.

- | | | |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| 1 | A designer | B disheveled |
| 2 | A precariously | B presumptuously |
| 3 | A priorities | B ramifications |
| 4 | A usurped | B unkempt |
| 5 | A misplaced | B misconstrued |
| 6 | A inadequate | B inflexible |

Critical Reading: Passage Completions

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Richard III (1452–1485) is regarded as the most ____ (1) king of England. Monarch for only two years before he was killed in battle at the age of thirty-two, he has inspired more speculation and disagreement about his character than any other British king. Historians and writers, most notably William Shakespeare, have portrayed Richard III as a ____ (2) monster who murdered his young nephews in order to become king. In his play *Richard III*, Shakespeare depicted the tall, handsome king as a hunchback, although contemporaneous reports and portraits do not reveal such a condition. Modern scholars have tried to ____ (3) Richard’s sullied reputation, arguing that the propaganda against him was politically motivated. The ruination of Richard’s reputation was designed to ____ (4) the Tudor dynasty, which came to power in 1485 after Henry Tudor killed Richard and defeated his forces at the Battle of Bosworth. Henry’s ascension to the throne as Henry VII marked the end of the Wars of the Roses and the Middle Ages. The Tudors, who ruled England for more than a century, had plenty of time to ____ (5) self-serving propaganda about their ____ (6).

- | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | A vilified | B intrepid |
| 2 | A ruthless | B zealous |
| 3 | A perpetuate | B rehabilitate |
| 4 | A bolster | B overthrow |
| 5 | A modify | B disseminate |
| 6 | A protégé | B predecessor |

Critical Reading: Passage Completions

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

The expression “Be true to yourself” is considered a cliché today, but it is still one that deserves careful ____ (1). The maxim, after all, ____ (2) modern American culture and is often quoted to justify a wide range of behaviors. What does the expression really mean?

Henry David Thoreau, a philosopher, activist, and writer, was one of the first American thinkers to write about the self. Although he considered the self in a ____ (3) rather than a religious context, he was not interested in personal gratification. Instead, he believed that every person’s thoughts and actions had an enduring effect on the environment and on society.

Partly to demonstrate what it means to be true to oneself, Thoreau went to jail for refusing to pay taxes to the U.S. government, which in 1846 still supported slavery. Thoreau thought slavery was ____ (4) and that paying taxes to the government amounted to ____ (5) to the status quo. Although he was jailed for only one day, Thoreau used this experience to try to awaken his readers from their moral ____ (6) and challenge them to listen to their own consciences.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | A consideration | B chagrin |
| 2 | A represses | B permeates |
| 3 | A plebeian | B secular |
| 4 | A austere | B heinous |
| 5 | A acquiescing | B ascribing |
| 6 | A autonomy | B somnolence |

Critical Reading: Passage Completions

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

The National Zoological Park in Hawaii has launched an _____ (1) project to bring extinct birds back to life—on canvas. The goal of the project is to reconstruct, through the joint efforts of scientists and artists, a complete picture of Hawaii’s ecosystem before its _____ (2) birds became extinct.

The Hawaiian archipelago was once an ecologically balanced _____ (3), within which native birds had no mammal or reptile predators. Consequently, these birds had no need for long legs or prominent wings. Most of the birds, it is now believed, were flightless, if not wingless, and lived close to the ground where they foraged for food. Around sixteen hundred years ago, the arrival of humans and the introduction of non-native species began to threaten Hawaii’s birds. The slow, flightless island birds were easy prey, and their _____ (4) was inevitable.

The scientists and artists involved in the National Zoological Park’s endeavor rely on pure _____ (5), as well as a wide _____ (6) of evidence, to envision the appearance of the now-extinct birds. Their efforts have produced a number of dazzling paintings that depict a landscape that is otherworldly yet authentic.

- 1 A incoherent B audacious
- 2 A indigenous B repugnant
- 3 A microcosm B symposium
- 4 A attrition B stigma
- 5 A demeanor B conjecture
- 6 A array B archives

Critical Reading: Passage Completions

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

The 1930s were bleak for workers in the United States as millions of people lost their savings, their jobs, and their homes in the Great Depression. To ____ (1) the strain of unemployment, President Franklin D. Roosevelt initiated the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a federal program designed to provide work for those in need. The WPA was a vast ____ (2) composed of many smaller organizations, one of which was the Writers' Project (WP). The objective of the Writers' Project was to document current regional history around the United States. It employed thousands of writers to interview and record the ____ (3) and oral histories of average citizens. The WP attracted mostly ____ (4) writers who had not yet been able to make a living at their trade. By bringing together an entire generation of aspiring writers, the WP had a(n) ____ (5) impact on twentieth-century American literature. Authors such as John Cheever, Zora Neale Hurston, Margaret Walker, Richard Wright, and Studs Terkel enjoyed the ____ (6) of the Writers' Project. For the first time, writers from different races and backgrounds worked together as equals.

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| 1 | A beguile | B alleviate |
| 2 | A coalition | B repository |
| 3 | A fulminations | B anecdotes |
| 4 | A nostalgic | B novice |
| 5 | A undeniable | B retroactive |
| 6 | A camaraderie | B melancholy |

Critical Reading: Passage Completions

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Renowned jazz musician Louis Armstrong told the world that his birth date was July 4, 1900. In fact, he had been born a year and a month later, but by ____ (1) this birthday upon himself, Armstrong made it clear that he felt he was truly an American child of the twentieth century. As a trumpeter and vocalist whose career spanned fifty years, Armstrong essentially ____ (2) jazz and American popular music. The public's appreciation of his legacy only grows with each new ____ (3) of his work.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Armstrong took the American music scene by storm as he traveled from New Orleans to Chicago and New York, ____ (4) and then reinterpreting the sounds of jazz and popular music. With his unmistakable growling voice, he popularized *scat*, a form of singing nonsense syllables. With his trumpet, he ____ (5) audiences by playing near-endless series of perfect high C notes. Armstrong's joyous style became the ____ (6) and has remained the standard by which jazz musicians after him have been judged.

- 1 A bestowing B reciprocating
- 2 A deduced B redefined
- 3 A appraisal B prologue
- 4 A redressing B absorbing
- 5 A enthralled B thwarted
- 6 A vogue B stereotype

Critical Reading: Passage Analysis

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Victorian is too general a term to describe a building, since many styles of architecture were popular during the Victorian era (roughly, 1850 to 1900). The Italianate style, modeled after Renaissance architecture in Italy, features a broad overhanging roof decorated with curved brackets. Doors and windows have ornamental caps or arches. Another Victorian style, Gothic Revival, was inspired by medieval cathedrals. Most of these buildings are churches and have pointed, arched windows, steep roofs, and ornate gables. The Romanesque Revival style added solidity and dignity to public buildings. With rounded stone or brick walls, a Romanesque building is a ponderous structure, featuring bold decor around windows and doors. Another Victorian style, Queen Anne, was used mainly for houses. A Queen Anne house typically had an asymmetrical floor plan, a high roof, wide porches, and balconies.

- 1 A Victorian house with pointed arched windows and steep gables would probably be an example of which architecture?
 - A Italianate
 - B Gothic Revival
 - C Romanesque Revival
 - D Queen Anne
- 2 The meaning of the word ponderous in the passage is
 - A uncomfortable
 - B preposterous
 - C massive
 - D romantic

Critical Reading: Passage Analysis

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Feeding wild dolphins and even swimming with them have become increasingly popular activities among tourists, especially in the Gulf of Mexico and Hawaii. These pastimes, however, may prove harmful to both dolphins and tourists. According to marine biologists, ongoing encounters with humans compromise the dolphins' abilities to forage for food and raise their calves. In some areas, for example, dolphins routinely ignore nearby schools of wild fish and wait for easy handouts from tourists. While vying for a free meal, dolphins tend to neglect their calves—even when sharks and other predators are in the area. Dolphins have sharp, cone-shaped teeth, and have been known to bite people feeding them. Dolphins are also territorial and sometimes don't appreciate humans invading their surf. When provoked, dolphins have warned swimmers with flipper slaps, head butts, or full-body slams.

- 1 Which is *most likely* to be the author's point of view?
 - A People should interact with wildlife more often.
 - B Most people don't care enough about wildlife populations.
 - C Dolphins are more resourceful than people realize.
 - D People often have mistaken ideas about dolphins.
- 2 What is the meaning of compromise, as used in the context?
 - A to find a way between two extremes
 - B to come to agreement by bargaining
 - C to give in to something wrong
 - D to cause harm to

Critical Reading: Passage Analysis

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

The Neanderthals were prehistoric cave dwellers. About 30,000 years ago, however, modern humans seem to have driven the Neanderthals to extinction. Some theorists claim that the Neanderthals were extremely primitive and that an inability to speak led to their downfall. These scholars also point out that Neanderthal caves have none of the art that decorates the caves of later groups. A 1995 discovery deep in a Neanderthal cave in Slovenia, however, challenges their view. Found in the cave was a flute at least 43,000 and perhaps 82,000 years old. Made from a bear's leg bone, the flute resembles those found at European sites of modern humans, usually from 22,000 to 35,000 years old. The discovery suggests that Neanderthals enjoyed music and, therefore, argues for their basic humanity and the possibility that they even spoke. Other anthropologists counter that music preceded language in human development.

- 1 The bone flute found in 1995 was at least
 - A 22,000 years old
 - B 30,000 years old
 - C 35,000 years old
 - D 43,000 years old

- 2 The flute does not prove Neanderthals had language because
 - A Neanderthals died out before developing language
 - B humans might have developed music before language
 - C the exact age of the flute is in doubt
 - D cave dwellers with language would normally create art

Critical Reading: Passage Analysis

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life,” wrote Henry David Thoreau in *Walden*. Thoreau’s comment might also explain the popularity of backpacking in today’s society. Backpacking provides a temporary escape from society’s complex problems. Instead of dealing with today’s urban chaos, backpackers face only a few elemental concerns: finding the best route, summoning the energy to hike another mile, selecting a campsite. Indeed, backpacking offers some of life’s simplest pleasures, such as resting when you’re exhausted and eating when you’re famished. In addition, backpacking fulfills our need for adventure, providing the thrill that comes from a quest into the unknown. Finally, backpackers usually experience profound beauty, the beauty that can be found only by venturing deep into nature.

- 1 The main reason the author quotes Henry David Thoreau is
 - A to give a famous author’s views about backpacking
 - B to contrast backpacking with closeness to nature
 - C to show that people have different reasons for backpacking
 - D to provide explanations for the appeal of backpacking
- 2 Which sentence best states the main idea of this passage?
 - A People have always gone into the woods to seek relaxation.
 - B Modern life has become far too complex and difficult.
 - C The quest for simplicity, adventure, and beauty motivates most backpackers.
 - D Backpacking is beneficial for the physically fit.

Critical Reading: Passage Analysis

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Years of wars have left about 100 million land mines both buried and scattered above ground. While a movement to ban land mines gains momentum, many governments are trying to remove the ones already in place. At the present rate, it would take a thousand years to find them all, so scientists are looking for new mine-detecting devices. Since most mines are plastic, metal detectors are of little use. Infrared cameras and ground radar cannot distinguish between mines and harmless objects. One promising technology is still experimental: chemical sensors take advantage of the fact that land mines leak explosives into the soil. The sensors “sniff” the ground and signal when explosive chemicals are present.

- 1 What is the main idea of this passage?
 - A We must work harder to remove land mines.
 - B New technologies offer hope in removing land mines.
 - C Chemical sensors are a promising tool in the effort to remove land mines.
 - D Great progress is being made in land mine removal.

- 2 From this passage, you can infer that
 - A using chemical sensors is the best method for finding mines
 - B traditional methods for removing land mines cannot solve the problem
 - C land mines leaking explosives into soil are serious polluters
 - D the movement to ban land mines is assured of victory

Critical Reading: Passage Analysis

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Works of fiction that describe utopias, or ideal societies, have a long tradition in literature, beginning with Plato's *Republic*, written some 2,300 years ago. Originally, the word *utopia* was a pun, coming from the Greek *ou-topos*, meaning "no place" and *eutopia*, meaning "good place." Sir Thomas More popularized the word when he used it as the title of a 1516 work that describes a perfect state in which reason governs all political policies. Later literary utopias were less optimistic and often satirized conditions in society. In *Gulliver's Travels*, for example, Jonathan Swift pokes fun at eighteenth-century England, and Samuel Butler gave his utopia the title *Erewhon*, which spells *Nowhere* backwards. More recent anti-utopian novels, such as George Orwell's *1984* and Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* present evil societies pretending to be utopias.

- 1 From the title of his book, you can infer that Samuel Butler
 - A agreed with Thomas More about the need for reason to regulate society
 - B hoped to establish a utopia that would resolve all problems
 - C believed there was little likelihood of establishing a utopia
 - D thought a utopia would actually be an evil place
- 2 Judging from the literature discussed, an ideal society
 - A is as an attractive idea today as it was hundreds of years ago
 - B has always attracted some authors and repelled others
 - C was never considered a serious option by major authors
 - D is not considered desirable by modern authors

Critical Reading: Passage Analysis

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

An uptown New York City neighborhood, Harlem has long been a center of African American culture. In the 1920s, however, it became a center of the cultural explosion called the Harlem Renaissance. In literature, Claude McKay heralded this Renaissance with his 1922 book of poetry, *Harlem Shadows*. Other leading literary figures of the Harlem Renaissance included authors Countee Cullen, Jean Toomer, Zora Neale Hurston, and James Weldon Johnson. Influential magazines also sprang up in Harlem during the 1920s, including *The Crisis* and *Opportunity*. In 1929 Wallace Thurman's play *Harlem* sensitively depicted life in this community for huge Broadway audiences. The Great Depression of '29 marked the end of the Harlem Renaissance but not of literary Harlem. Years later, James Baldwin wrote his 1953 classic novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.

- 1 You can infer that the Harlem Renaissance lasted
 - A about two or three years
 - B less than ten years
 - C over twenty years
 - D about forty years
- 2 Which of the titles above was probably nonfiction?
 - A *Harlem Shadows*
 - B *Harlem*
 - C *Opportunity*
 - D *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

Critical Reading: Passage Analysis

DIRECTIONS Choose the best answer. Then, explain your choice.

Iceboating is a high-speed sport that fearless participants enjoy in an ice-cold environment. Iceboating resembles sailing in that both sports utilize boats and rely upon sails and wind as a means of propulsion. Just as sailors require large expanses of water, so, too, do iceboaters need large expanses of frozen water—ice—to participate in their sport. Iceboats run on metal runners, like sleds or ice skates. When iceboaters hoist their sails, these boats skim across the ice at speeds of up to one hundred miles per hour.

- 1 The main idea of the passage is that
 - A iceboats can travel up to one hundred miles per hour
 - B iceboats resemble sailboats
 - C iceboating is popular in northern regions where rivers and lakes remain frozen for months
 - D iceboating is a high-speed sport featuring boats with sails and runners

- 2 The author primarily develops the main idea through
 - A listing
 - B examples
 - C comparison and contrast
 - D cause and effect