

Practice Verbal Reasoning 2
Explanatory Answers

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Passage I

1. B
The author cites Godfrey Pratt as an example of lawful levying of tolls, and then says that the “right of toll was called brudtholl or pontagium.” Statement A, Thomas of Brantingham, gave an “occasional gift.” C, John de Bodenho, was chaplain of the town of Bedford, which held more than just a pontagium: they had the entire care and revenues of their bridge. D, Henry’s wife, likewise held a more extensive right than pontagium for London Bridge; moreover, the passage says she took the rents of the bridge building, not the tolls.
2. D
According to the passage, Parliament or the King might grant the farm of a bridge, but there is no indication in the passage that the King gave money directly.
3. C
The author says that it seems unfair to collect tolls from the shipmen who passed under the bridge, since the bridge was “their most formidable competitor,” i.e., they carried the same goods. A applies to the bridge at Bedford. B is disproved in the last paragraph, where the passage describes the Queen’s dishonesty. D cannot be supported one way or the other - the only information we have on London Bridge applies to the reigns of Edward I or Henry III.
4. D
All the selection says about the petition of 1334 is that it is “curious” and “shows the mode of collection of voluntary offerings” from passersby; it does not say what the petition actually *asked* for.
5. D
The author says the 1306 list is a “great help in forming an exact idea of the commodities brought to London.” While the author mentions the competition between river and bridge traffic, he does not say that river traffic was destroyed, so B is incorrect.
6. A
At the beginning of the last paragraph, the author tells us that the bridges were “enriched” and “protected” to the extent that they ought to “have been continually repaired, and have remained sound.” The problem was not the amount of money, but the dishonest misappropriation of the money.

Passage II

7. D
The author says the “first question” we should consider is the “matter of context,” and a second question is a ... stylistic one.”

8. C
The author explicitly cites poems by Dryden, Pope, and Gray as “Augustan poems get into the anthologies.” Wordsworth is mentioned as an example of writing that is superior to anthologized Augustan poems, but the author makes no specific mention of Wordsworth’s period (he was a Romantic poet). Browning was held up by the Victorians as a contrast to the Augustans; again the author does not mention the fact that Browning was a Victorian poet.
9. D
The author says that the Augustan poems which get into anthologies “owe their place to their contextual detachability,” and that they are not the period’s best poems. He mentions Dryden’s “Secular Masque” as “greatly superior” and Pope’s “Epistle to Miss Blount” as “a much better poem” because they connect with their social context. The author cites A as the first aim of an Augustan, but there is no evidence that he prefers those qualities in Augustan poems. B is the author’s description of “Alexander’s Feast,” but he believes that that poem is not as good as “The Secular Masque.” C is the quality that gives second-rate Augustan poems their place in the anthologies.
10. C
When the author says “The Secular Masque” is “greatly superior” to Alexander’s Feast,” even considered as a “tour de force,” he considers a “tour de force” a lesser accomplishment than the poem’s other attribute, being the “seventeenth century’s verdict on itself,” so B is incorrect. A describes “Alexander’s Feast” and so cannot be a definition of “tour de force,” which applies to “The Secular Masque.” D is an association with the word “masque,” but has nothing to do with “tour de force.”
11. A
While A, C, and D are all cited as culturally relevant poems, A is called “the seventeenth century’s verdict on itself.” C is limited to a commentary on the “London-versus-country tradition. D is a specialized political barb. B is an example of a culturally detachable work that is included in modern anthologies.
12. D
A detail question – the Augustan “aimed first of all at concision and concentration, a maximum verbal density.” Watch out for questions that ask for the most or least important idea, the chief or primary aspect; there will be answers, such as A, which are true but not the “chief aim” of the Augustans.

Passage III

13. B
Not such a hard question if you read carefully. The author says his “vision was an advancing national community.” A and C are what his vision was not. D is how economic historians view Smith.

14. C
Latter part of 1st paragraph. A is how regulation will not be achieved. B is the economic sector which benefits in distribution of wealth, but there is no indication that as a sector they exclusively control economic regulation. D is a second aspect of Smith's "liberal economic society," and there is no explicit connection between that and his idea of economic regulation. The working masses are at a disadvantage in the operation of economic regulations.
15. D
See latter part of 2nd paragraph. A is incorrect because Smith believed distribution would ordinarily benefit the commercial classes. B is opposite to D - don't pick answers which invert what you really want to say. The implication is that the bargaining power of the commercial classes would increase so C is wrong.
16. D
See the third paragraph - although we don't usually associate Smith with such a pessimistic idea, he did in fact formulate this "immortal iron law ... refashioned by Marx." While Smith and Marx would probably agree on A, there is no support in this selection for A as the answer. Smith might have believed B, but he also felt that, on the level of the individual worker, very little bargaining strength existed at all. Marx probably believed C, but Smith was not attacking capitalism.
17. A
This is really a question on the definition of "categorical." The author says Smith was rarely "categorical," and that subsequent economists "have always been at their best" when they followed suit. The other answers are true of Smith, according to the author, but there is no evidence, as there is for A, that he considers any of them the "most useful" quality of Smith's theorizing.
18. D
Economic growth is the key determinant of wage level. A new economy has more growth happening than an established, albeit wealthy, one. A and B could conceivably affect economic growth, but Smith was talking about growth itself. There is no evidence for C.

Passage IV

19. C
Middle of 1st paragraph.
20. D
II is incorrect since *sialic* acid is increased, not *salicylic* acid.
21. B
3rd paragraph from the end.

22. D
7th paragraph. Other answers may or may not be correct, but are not mentioned in the passage.
23. C
The passage describes the nature of cancer. Choice A is incorrect since very little is said about cancer treatment. Choice B is too broad. Choice D would be correct if the passage were about carcinogens and cancer epidemiology, which it is not.
24. C
Latter part of 5th paragraph. The progeny of stem cells may also undergo a number of cell divisions.

Passage V

25. C
Last sentence, 1st paragraph.
26. A
3rd paragraph.
27. D
2nd sentence, 3rd paragraph.
28. B
2nd sentence, 2nd paragraph.
29. C
Throughout the passage, the author has been explaining and defending the idea that Davie's criticism provides the best basis for studying Davie's poetry. Having established this, the author can now go on to examine Davie's poetry in detail. The 1st paragraph indicates that this is the main purpose of the paper.

Passage VI

30. A
Choice A makes the most sense; the other choices are easily eliminated.
31. D
The author praises the book's intelligence, scope, and writing style. There is no negative criticism.
32. C
In the 2nd last sentence of the 4th paragraph, the author indicates that the sense of smell is very subjective.

33. D
Last paragraph.
34. D
Refer to the 2nd paragraph. A whole chapter is on smell; whereas, only a part of a chapter is spent on touch.
35. D
Ambience includes sound, and extraneous sound affects taste, according to the passage. Thus, the author would likely agree to the inclusion of ambience in the rating system.

Passage VII

36. D
The 3rd paragraph states that the gentleman, when engaged in debate, is “as simple as he is forcible.”
37. B
Last sentence, 1st paragraph.
38. D
The passage is almost entirely about the spiritual aspects of being a gentleman. There is no mention of dress.
39. B
A and C are difficult to justify. D is too narrow. B is the best choice.
40. C
Last paragraph.