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SAT Practice Test PDFs – Critical Reading

Passage 1

Every individual has a place to fill in the world and is important in some respect whether he chooses to be so or not. We cannot see that invisible thing that called effort, but we can always see the result of it. Some people put their efforts into changing the world, some others into changing themselves, and some just float along with the changes that come. The world has a habit of going on, with or without us.

Questions

- The main idea of the passage can be best described as:
 - A. The significance of every individual in the world.
 - B. The invisible nature of efforts.
 - C. The habit of the world to continue regardless of individuals.
 - D. The different types of efforts individuals put into the world.
- The phrase “with or without us” most likely implies:
 - A. The world is independent of human activity.
 - B. Human activity has a profound effect on the world.
 - C. Humans must adapt to changes in the world.
 - D. The world changes based on human effort.
- The author’s attitude towards the world can be best described as:
 - A. Disdainful.
 - B. Indifferent.
 - C. Awe-struck.
 - D. Accepting.
- The author suggests that people who “float along with the changes that come”:
 - A. Do not contribute to the world.
 - B. Change themselves rather than the world.
 - C. Choose not to put effort into the world.
 - D. Are equally important as those who change the world.



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Passage 2

She went about the house humming to herself, her spirit lifted high with the anticipation of the upcoming day. The smell of freshly baked cookies permeated through the rooms, providing a certain comfort to her thoughts. As the day approached, a growing excitement bubbled within her, stirring feelings of happiness and nerves alike.

Questions

- Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 - A. The woman is a professional baker.
 - B. The woman is preparing for a significant event.
 - C. The woman is feeling nervous about her baking skills.
 - D. The woman is unhappy about the upcoming day.
- The phrase “providing a certain comfort to her thoughts” most likely implies:
 - A. The smell of cookies distracts her from her nerves.
 - B. Baking is a source of emotional support for her.
 - C. The cookies are a part of the upcoming event.
 - D. She is nostalgic about the smell of cookies.
- The mood of the passage can be best described as:
 - A. Anxious.
 - B. Energetic.
 - C. Tranquil.
 - D. Anticipatory.

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Passage 3

As an astronaut peered out of the spacecraft window, the radiant blue of the Earth against the stark blackness of space took his breath away. He knew then that his perspective of life and his place in the universe had been irrevocably altered. From that height, his worries seemed insignificant, and a profound understanding washed over him.

Questions

- The main purpose of this passage is to:
 - A. Describe the Earth as seen from space.
 - B. Discuss the feeling of insignificance.
 - C. Emphasize the importance of perspective.
 - D. Narrate an astronaut's space travel experience.
- The word "irrevocably" in the passage most likely suggests that the astronaut's experience:
 - A. Can be reversed in time.
 - B. Was unexpected and surprising.
 - C. Has permanently changed his view.
 - D. Was frightening and overwhelming.
- Which of the following is implied in the passage?
 - A. The astronaut regrets his journey into space.
 - B. The astronaut was overwhelmed by his worries.
 - C. Space travel has a profound impact on a person's worldview.
 - D. The Earth appears blue from space due to the water.

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Passage 4

It was just another ordinary day in the bustling city of New York. People moved with purpose, taxi horns blared, and the ceaseless rhythm of life echoed in every corner. Amidst this chaos, Sarah found a sense of calm. She was a city girl at heart, and the relentless pace of the city fueled her, pushing her forward.

Questions

- The main theme of this passage can best be described as:
 - A. The chaotic nature of city life.
 - B. The individual connection to a city.
 - C. The hustle and bustle of New York.
 - D. The relentless pace of modern life.
- What can be inferred about Sarah from the passage?
 - A. Sarah finds city life overwhelming.
 - B. Sarah prefers a slower pace of life.
 - C. Sarah draws energy from the bustling city.
 - D. Sarah is a tourist visiting New York.
- The phrase “moved with purpose” most likely implies that:
 - A. People are in a rush to get to their destinations.
 - B. Everyone in the city has a clear goal in mind.
 - C. City life is characterized by random movement.
 - D. People in the city lack direction.

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Passage 5

The rain trickled down the window pane, forming a liquid mosaic that obscured the world outside. The air was filled with the petrichor of damp earth, a scent that brought back memories of home. He was miles away now, yet the rain connected him to his roots in a way that distance could not.

Questions

- What does the author primarily attempt to convey in this passage?
 - A. The significance of rain in evoking memories.
 - B. The melancholic feelings associated with being far from home.
 - C. The connection between nature and personal roots.
 - D. The artistic beauty of rain on a window pane.
- The phrase “a scent that brought back memories of home” most likely suggests that:
 - A. The protagonist misses his family.
 - B. The smell of rain reminds the protagonist of home.
 - C. The protagonist is homesick and wishes to return.
 - D. The protagonist dislikes the smell of damp earth.
- Which of the following best describes the mood of the passage?
 - A. Nostalgic.
 - B. Mournful.
 - C. Excited.
 - D. Curious.