



# **Answer Explanations**

## **SAT® Practice Test #2**

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### QUESTION 22.

**Choice C is the best answer.** The author of Passage 1 indicates that people can benefit from using screen-based technologies as these technologies strengthen “certain cognitive skills” (line 3) and the “brain functions related to fast-paced problem solving” (lines 14-15).

Choice A is incorrect because the author of Passage 1 cites numerous studies of screen-based technologies. Choice B is incorrect because it is not supported by Passage 1, and choice D is incorrect because while the author mentions some benefits to screen-based technologies, he does not encourage their use.

### QUESTION 23.

**Choice A is the best answer.** In lines 3-4, the author of Passage 1 provides evidence that the use of screen-based technologies has some positive effects: “Certain cognitive skills are strengthened by our use of computers and the Net.”

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence that the use of screen-based technologies has some positive effects. Choices B, C, and D introduce and describe the author’s reservations about screen-based technologies.

### QUESTION 24.

**Choice B is the best answer.** The author of Passage 1 cites Patricia Greenfield’s study, which found that people’s use of screen-based technologies weakened their ability to acquire knowledge, perform “inductive analysis” and “critical thinking,” and be imaginative and reflective (lines 34-38). The author of Passage 1 concludes that the use of screen-based technologies interferes with people’s ability to think “deeply” (lines 47-50).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because the author of Passage 1 does not address how using the Internet affects people’s health, social contacts, or self-confidence.

### QUESTION 25.

**Choice C is the best answer.** In lines 39-41, the author states, “We know that the human brain is highly plastic; neurons and synapses change as circumstances change.” In this context, the brain is “plastic” because it is malleable, or able to change.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in this context “plastic” does not mean creative, artificial, or sculptural.

**QUESTION 26.**

**Choice B is the best answer.** In lines 60-65, the author of Passage 2 explains how speed-reading does not “revamp,” or alter, how the brain processes information. He supports this statement by explaining how Woody Allen’s reading of *War and Peace* in one sitting caused him to describe the novel as “about Russia.” Woody Allen was not able to comprehend the “famously long” novel by speed-reading it.

Choices A and D are incorrect because Woody Allen’s description of *War and Peace* does not suggest he disliked Tolstoy’s writing style or that he regretted reading the book. Choice C is incorrect because the anecdote about Woody Allen is unrelated to multitasking.

**QUESTION 27.**

**Choice D is the best answer.** The author of Passage 2 states that people like novelists and scientists improve in their profession by “immers[ing] themselves in their fields” (line 79). Both novelists and scientists, in other words, become absorbed in their areas of expertise.

Choices A and C are incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does not suggest that novelists and scientists both take risks when they pursue knowledge or are curious about other subjects. Choice B is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 states that “accomplished people” don’t perform “intellectual calisthenics,” or exercises that improve their minds (lines 77-78).

**QUESTION 28.**

**Choice D is the best answer.** In lines 83-90, the author of Passage 2 criticizes media critics for their alarmist writing: “Media critics write as if the brain takes on the qualities of whatever it consumes, the informational equivalent of ‘you are what you eat.’” The author then compares media critics’ “you are what you eat” mentality to ancient people’s belief that “eating fierce animals made them fierce.” The author uses this analogy to discredit media critics’ belief that consumption of electronic media alters the brain.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because the final sentence of Passage 2 does not use ornate language, employ humor, or evoke nostalgia for the past.

**QUESTION 29.**

**Choice D is the best answer.** The author of Passage 1 argues that online and other screen-based technologies affect people’s abilities to think deeply (lines 47-50). The author of Passage 2 argues that the effects of consuming electronic media are less drastic than media critics suggest (lines 81-82).

Choices A and B are incorrect because they discuss points made in the passages but not the main purpose of the passages. Choice C is incorrect because neither passage argues in favor of increasing financial support for certain studies.

### QUESTION 30.

**Choice B is the best answer.** The author of Passage 1 cites scientific research that suggests online and screen-based technologies have a negative effect on the brain (lines 25-38). The author of Passage 2 is critical of the research highlighted in Passage 1: “Critics of new media sometimes use science itself to press their case, citing research that shows how ‘experience can change the brain.’ But cognitive neuroscientists roll their eyes at such talk” (lines 51-54).

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not accurately describe the relationship between the two passages. Passage 1 does not take a clinical approach to the topic. Passage 2 does not take a high-level view of a finding examined in depth in Passage 1, nor does it predict negative reactions to the findings discussed in paragraph 1.

### QUESTION 31.

**Choice C is the best answer.** In Passage 1, the author cites psychologist Patricia Greenfield’s finding that “every medium develops some cognitive skills at the expense of others” (lines 29-31). In Passage 2, the author states “If you train people to do one thing (recognize shapes, solve math puzzles, find hidden words), they get better at doing that thing, but almost nothing else” (lines 71-74). Both authors would agree that an improvement in one cognitive area, such as visual-spatial skills, would not result in improved skills in other areas.

Choice A is incorrect because hand-eye coordination is not discussed in Passage 2. Choice B is incorrect because Passage 1 does not suggest that critics of electronic media tend to overreact. Choice D is incorrect because neither passage discusses whether Internet users prefer reading printed texts or digital texts.

### QUESTION 32.

**Choice B is the best answer.** In Passage 1, the author cites Michael Merzenich’s claim that when people adapt to a new cultural phenomenon, including the use of a new medium, we end up with a “different brain” (lines 41-43). The author of Passage 2 somewhat agrees with Merzenich’s claim by stating, “Yes, every time we learn a fact or skill the wiring of the brain changes” (lines 54-56).

Choices A, C, and D do not provide the best evidence that the author of Passage 2 would agree to some extent with Merzenich’s claim. Choices A and D are incorrect because the claims are attributed to critics of new media. Choice C is incorrect because it shows that the author of Passage 2 does not completely agree with Merzenich’s claim about brain plasticity.

### QUESTION 33.

**Choice B is the best answer.** In lines 16-31, Stanton argues that men make all the decisions in “the church, the state, and the home.” This absolute power has led to a disorganized society, a “fragmentary condition of everything.” Stanton confirms this claim when she states that society needs women to “lift man up into the higher realms of thought and action” (lines 60-61).

Choices A and D are incorrect because Stanton does not focus on women’s lack of equal educational opportunities or inability to hold political positions. Choice C is incorrect because although Stanton implies women are not allowed to vote, she never mentions that “poor candidates” are winning elections.

### QUESTION 34.

**Choice A is the best answer.** Stanton argues that women are repressed in society because men hold “high carnival,” or have all the power, and make the rules in “the church, the state, and the home” (lines 16-31). Stanton claims that men have total control over women, “overpowering the feminine element everywhere” (line 18).

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because Stanton does not use the term “high carnival” to emphasize that the time period is freewheeling, or unrestricted; that there has been a scandalous decline in moral values; or that the power of women is growing.

### QUESTION 35.

**Choice D is the best answer.** In lines 16-23, Stanton states that men’s absolute rule in society is “crushing out all the diviner qualities in human nature,” such that society knows very “little of true manhood and womanhood.” Stanton argues that society knows less about womanhood than manhood, because womanhood has “scarce been recognized as a power until within the last century.” This statement indicates that society’s acknowledgement of “womanhood,” or women’s true character, is a fairly recent historical development.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because Stanton describes men’s control of society, their domination of the domestic sphere, and the prevalence of war and injustice as long-established realities.

### QUESTION 36.

**Choice B is the best answer.** In lines 16-23, Stanton provides evidence for the claim that society’s acknowledgement of “womanhood,” or women’s true character, is a fairly recent historical development: “[womanhood] has scarce been recognized as a power until within the last century.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence that society's acknowledgement of "womanhood," or women's true character, is a fairly recent historical development. Rather, choices A, C, and D discuss men's character, power, and influence.

#### **QUESTION 37.**

**Choice B is the best answer.** In lines 23-26, Stanton states, "Society is but the reflection of man himself, untempered by woman's thought; the hard iron rule we feel alike in the church, the state, and the home." In this context, man's "rule" in "the church, the state, and the home" means that men have a controlling force in all areas of society.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because in this context "rule" does not mean a general guideline, an established habit, or a procedural method.

#### **QUESTION 38.**

**Choice D is the best answer.** In lines 32-35, Stanton argues that people use the term "the strong-minded" to refer to women who advocate for "the right to suffrage," or the right to vote in elections. In this context, people use the term "the strong-minded" to criticize female suffragists, as they believe voting will make women too "masculine."

Choices A and B are incorrect because Stanton does not suggest that people use the term "the strong-minded" as a compliment. Choice C is incorrect because Stanton suggests that "the strong-minded" is a term used to criticize women who want to vote, not those who enter male-dominated professions.

#### **QUESTION 39.**

**Choice C is the best answer.** In lines 36-39, Stanton states that society contains hardly any women in the "best sense," and clarifies that too many women are "reflections, varieties, and dilutions of the masculine gender." Stanton is suggesting that there are few "best," or genuine, women who are not completely influenced or controlled by men.

Choices A, B, and D are incorrect because in this context "best" does not mean superior, excellent, or rarest.

#### **QUESTION 40.**

**Choice A is the best answer.** In lines 54-56, Stanton argues that man "mourns," or regrets, how his power has caused "falsehood, selfishness, and violence" to become the "law" of society. Stanton is arguing that men are lamenting, or expressing regret about, how their governance has created problems.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because Stanton does not suggest that men are advocating for women's right to vote or for female equality, nor are they requesting women's opinions about improving civic life.

**QUESTION 41.**

**Choice B is the best answer.** In lines 54-56, Stanton provides evidence that men are lamenting the problems they have created, as they recognize that their actions have caused “falsehood, selfishness, and violence [to become] the law of life.”

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not provide the best evidence that men are lamenting the problems they have created. Choice A explains society’s current fragmentation. Choices C and D present Stanton’s main argument for women’s enfranchisement.

**QUESTION 42.**

**Choice D is the best answer.** In the sixth paragraph, Stanton differentiates between men and masculine traits. Stanton argues that masculine traits or “characteristics,” such as a “love of acquisition and conquest,” serve to “subjugate one man to another” (lines 69-80). Stanton is suggesting that some masculine traits position men within certain power structures.

Choices A and B are incorrect because the sixth paragraph does not primarily establish a contrast between men and women or between the spiritual and material worlds. Choice C is incorrect because although Stanton argues that not “all men are hard, selfish, and brutal,” she does not discuss what constitutes a “good” man.