

Practice Test #1 - Verbal

Section 2

- Choice D** is correct. The portion of the sentence set off by dashes “ a realistic room...” describes or defines the blank. “Stage scenery” gives us another clue that the blank is clearly the “setting”. None of the other choices fits well. A dirt pile is certainly not a “conventional” setting and that’s why it challenges typical or “conventional” stage scenery.
- Choice B** is correct. “Ironically” is the key word since it sets up a seeming contradiction. The first blank is defined by “much more”. Thus Choices C, D and E can be eliminated. “Lavishness” fits the first blank but “adapt” does not fit the context of the second. One would think that an affluent (wealthy) society would not suffer at all but “overabundance” can be just as dangerous as want. “Corpulence” (obesity)
- Choice E** is correct. Anyone “suffering from various ailments” would flock to a person, place or medicine which holds even the hope of remedy. “Therapeutic” effects are palliative or healing. Note the difference between “effects” and “affects”. Effects are results while affects are influences. “Succulent” (juicy) nor “redolent” (aromatic) nor “cerebral” (brainy, pensive) nor “mandatory” (imperative, obligatory) fit the context.
- Choice C** is correct. The first blank is defined by the part of the sentence which comes before the comma. Because Salazar’s research is “more valuable and comprehensive”, the sentence is set up to be positive. Negative words such as “undermined”, “debacles”, “dissolved” and “misconceptions” would not complement “valuable and comprehensive”. Therefore, all the other Choices do not fit. Salazar’s research, on the other hand, would “provide” a foundation for future “investigations” if it was valuable.
- Choice A** is correct. Once again, the part of the sentence after the comma gives us the key to answering the question. If the launch was delayed by nearly a week, something must have hampered preparations. “Thwarted” means hampered or caused difficulty in accomplishing a task. “Forfeited” (surrendered, sacrificed) nor “Implemented” (carried out) nor “discharged” (carried out, deposited) nor “redoubled” (strengthen, double the effort) fit the context.
- Choice B** is correct. The first blank is defined by “offended” and the second blank parallels the first. Thus both words should be negative. “Harangue” means to passionately or vehemently address a person or group, typically in a negative or pejorative fashion. Temperance suggests moderation while this guest was clearly “intemperate”. Any positive words in any of the Choices can therefore be eliminated. “Flattering”, “praising”, “conciliatory” (peaceable), and “accommodating” are all positive and can be eliminated.
- Choice A** is correct. “Long and arduous” and “limping slowly” give us the clues we need. “Halting” suggests stunted motion with a lack of fluidity. It may also be used of speech. “Robust” (strong) nor “constant” nor “prompt” nor “facile” (easy) fit the context.
- Choice D** is correct. The term “melodramatic” indicates sentimental extravagance or exaggerated emotion. This is precisely what “histrionic” can mean, although histrionics may simply mean studies in theatre. “Imperious”(regal, belittling) nor “inscrutable” (beyond understanding or mysterious) nor “convivial” (good company, fond of feasting) nor “solicitous” (full of concern, apprehensive)
- Choice E** is correct. Line 2 indicates that “dolphins are able to understand sign language, solve puzzles, and use objects in their environment as tools.” Line 5 goes on to say that “dolphins possess a sophisticated language”. These are clearly characteristics typically attributed to humans.
- Choice B** is correct. In his last sentence, the author of passage 1 is clearly trying to make a close comparison between dolphin and human intelligence. The author of Passage 2, after informing us that a number of studies on dolphin intelligence are inconclusive, makes this definitive statement, “The fact is, we don’t know, and comparisons may not be especially helpful.” His final sentence makes his position clear—“Until we know more, all we can say is that dolphin intelligence is different.” Choices A and C are **incorrect** although both may be true!! **BE CAREFUL !!** Just because a statement is true does NOT mean it’s correct. It must answer the question asked. The test makers are very good at tempting you with appealing answers, which may be true but don’t answer the question. The more questions like this you see, the more adept you’ll become at recognizing the “trap” answers.
- Choice D** is correct. As was stated in the previous answer, the author of Passage 2 is skeptical of any studies comparing the intelligence of one species with another. Choice A is incorrect because the author of Passage 2 does not believe “dolphin and human intelligence is roughly equal”. B is incorrect because Passage 2 does not say that dolphins outperform other animals. C is incorrect because Passage 2 doesn’t state that dolphins are less intelligent than other mammals. E is incorrect because Passage 1 does not discuss brain size.
- Choice D** is correct. Both passages clearly indicate that dolphins have some intelligence. What kind of intelligence and what it means is what is called into question. The other Choices are not supported by the Passages.
- Choice E** is correct. The reason that Pilgrims are mentioned in the first paragraph is to show that things haven’t changed much over the past 350 yrs. Many of the same misconceptions are held today and, therefore, the reference to Pilgrims “draws a parallel to the current condition”.
- Choice D** is correct. Parallel construction is found in lines 11 and 12. “Motivated more” and “charged more” are parallel and, therefore, are synonymous. “Inspired” is, therefore, closest to “charged”.