Chapter 8
Mixed Drills
Drill #1

Try the following questions. The answers are on page 256.

1. One major _______ that some scientists have about the practice of cloning is their fear of the potentially negative outcomes associated with a homogenous population.

2. While the life of _________ may appeal to some, others hold interests they believe are more intellectually based than cultivating a discriminating taste in food.

3. The intentions of the restaurant critic were _________: he accepted the assignment to review the new bistro not as ________ journalist, but as a private citizen seeking revenge against the owner, who had wronged him in a business deal years before.

4. It is part of human nature to resist change and ______ new ideas. This fact is evidenced in many teachers' ______ adherence to archaic methodologies, which makes educational reform difficult to enact. Until some _______ teachers and administrators begin to welcome new classroom techniques, the attempts of the current administration at modifying the system will be ineffective.

5. Near the end of his life, author Leo Tolstoy was increasingly influenced by aspiring communist revolutionaries. Tolstoy came to believe that excessive personal wealth was _________ to the well-being of his Russian countrymen, and was persuaded to bequeath his copyrights and much of his fortune to the Russian state; his wife Sophia, who believed in her right to be an aristocrat, regarded this as _______ decision.

6. Doctors have remained _______ in the face of the incredible news that a Swedish research team has discovered a gene that causes cancer. Their reluctance to show excitement is due to their awareness that transforming the mere identification of this gene into usable medicine is ______ task and will not ______ the need for uncomfortable and lengthy treatments any time in the near future.

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A tenured art history professor at a major university recently asserted that the head of the Art History department is incompetent, pointing to the decline in enrollment in art history courses despite an increase in enrollment overall at the university. While one may argue that professors who lash out at department heads are rarely likely to achieve anything constructive, in this case the complaint is entirely unwarranted. It is true that a decrease in enrollment within a department often indicates incompetence on the part of the department head, but not so here. Rather, the decline in enrollment in art history courses is entirely due to the university’s admissions committee’s decision to admit far more students who plan to enroll exclusively in pre-medicine courses.

7. In the argument, the two bold-faced portions play which of the following roles?

☐ The first provides evidence intended to support a claim that the argument overall opposes; the second provides information to undermine the strength of that evidence.

☐ The first provides evidence intended to support a claim that the argument overall opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument overall.

☐ The first provides evidence intended to support a claim that the argument overall opposes; the second provides evidence to undermine the claim being opposed.

☐ The first states a claim that the argument overall opposes; the second states the conclusion of the argument overall.

The London Board of Trade limited the quantity of pound sterling banknotes permitted in circulation in the American colonies, citing fear of devaluation induced by overprinting. The Board also denied the necessity of paper money, considering the ever-increasing colonial exports purchased by foreign nations that rendered payments in gold and silver. However, in 1749, Governor Glen of South Carolina contended that access to more paper currency was essential because there was actually a deficit of gold and silver. This shortfall led to difficulties in exchanging goods for these precious metals, forcing many merchants to earn their success only through continued reliance on the barter system. Such a system limited the colonists’ ability to obtain certain goods for which they had no apparently comparable trade, severely hampering widespread economic growth in the colonies.

8. Select the sentence that suggests the final phrase, severely hampering widespread economic growth in the colonies, may be an exaggeration.

9. Which of the following statements, if true, would most strengthen Governor Glen’s argument in favor of paper currency?

☐ It was difficult for the colonists to maintain high levels of foreign exports during the winter months.

☐ Although colonists were not always able to find trade partners in their local communities, there were strong domestic trade links among the various colonies.

☐ Since the value of a pound sterling banknote was linked directly to that of silver, the two methods of payment were equally acceptable to a merchant.

☐ Foreign countries often wanted to barter with colonial exporters, but the value of some foreign goods was difficult to determine.

☐ Because some colonies had already developed their own form of legal tender and no longer used the British pound sterling, the Board of Trade should not have been worried about devaluation.
El Niño-Southern Oscillation is a climate pattern that occurs across the tropical Pacific Ocean approximately every five years. The phenomenon includes a change in ocean temperature—the "El Niño" component—and a change in air surface pressure—the "Southern Oscillation" component. When prolonged, above-average ocean warming coincides with higher air surface pressure, the phenomenon is popularly called El Niño; when prolonged, above-average ocean cooling coincides with lower air surface pressure, the phenomenon is popularly called La Niña. El Niño or La Niña events typically last between five and nine months.

El Niño begins with increased surface pressure over the Indian Ocean and reduced air pressure over the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, a combination which causes trade winds traveling from Peru to the Eastern Pacific to subside. Under normal conditions, these trade winds blow warm water near the surface away from Peru along the Equatorial Current, leading to an upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water. During an El Niño, however, this effect is reduced. Because the Pacific Ocean has a potent impact on climate throughout the world, El Niño distorts weather patterns more powerfully than does any other known force. Typical effects include severe droughts in Indonesia, Australia, and the Philippines, and substantially increased rainfall in parts of South America.

The effects of El Niño can be economically devastating in South America. Because of the increased rainfall, flooding in Peru and Ecuador is common. Moreover, El Niño significantly diminishes the amount of cold water that usually rises from the deep, depriving local fish populations of the important nutrients brought up with the cold water. In the absence of these nutrients, fish swim deeper, head south, or die off, causing great harm to the fishing industry. Indeed, during the 1972 El Niño, the world's largest fishery collapsed. In addition, these same fish feed local bird populations; during an El Niño event, birds, the droppings of which are used in the fertilizer industry, leave to find new food sources. Although no one knows how long El Niño has existed, evidence suggests that there may have been El Niño phenomena for thousands of years. Coral records suggest a warming of sea surface temperatures as early as 3,000 B.C.E. Five hundred years ago, fishermen in Peru saw their anchovy catch diminish substantially when water temperatures warmed. The most destructive El Niño event occurred in 1982-1983, when droughts and associated wildfires killed nearly 2,000 people; this incident sparked intense occupation among scientists worldwide with the causes of El Niño.

10. In the last sentence of the passage, the word *occupation* most nearly means
   ○ function
   ○ employment
   ○ concern
   ○ affair
   ○ professionalism

11. The passage suggests which of the following about phenomena associated with El Niño?
   ☐ The surface water of the Pacific Ocean near South America is warmer because of reduced trade winds.
   ☐ Severe droughts are seen in some parts of the world, while increased flooding is seen in other parts of the world.
   ☐ Because many fish relocate or die, fewer fish are caught by many people in the South American fishing industry.

12. On the basis of the passage, it can be inferred that
   ○ In the absence of an El Niño event, drought conditions are rarely present in Indonesia, Australia, or the Philippines.
   ○ No observable phenomenon influences global weather patterns to a magnitude greater than does an El Niño event.
   ○ Because of the changes in surface pressure and reduction in trade winds associated with El Niño events, many South American birds are forced to relocate.
   ○ The El Niño event of 1982-1983 caused more deaths than did any other climate-related event that year.
   ○ The effects of the 1972 El Niño event were felt most profoundly in Peru and Ecuador.
13. Although we had planned the vacation trip to the sunny spa for weeks, no one could have predicted the ______ onset of rainy weather that spoiled most of our outdoor activities.
   □ welcome
   □ precipitous
   □ unforeseen
   □ fortunate
   □ fruitless
   □ lethargic

14. The ______ outcries from the disgruntled union workers were apparently to no avail; the supervisor decided to reject the enhanced benefits package without any further discussion.
   □ pristine
   □ fervent
   □ quizzical
   □ redolent
   □ allusive
   □ impassioned

15. David’s report card stated he is sometimes regarded as ______ student by his teachers when his narrow-minded interpretations and adamant attitudes dominate his classroom discussions.
   □ an intransigent
   □ an assiduous
   □ an intractable
   □ a gregarious
   □ a pensive
   □ a diligent

16. With the inception of numerous exorbitant tolls throughout the state’s major highways, the popularity of long-distance automobile travel ______ while the rate of train travel experienced a concomitant upswing.
   □ waned
   □ equivocated
   □ intensified
   □ importuned
   □ abated
   □ surged
Late Victorian writers obsessed about the relationship between art and the artist—as Basil Hallward lamented in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, “We live in an age when men treat art as if it were (5) meant to be a form of autobiography.” Yet Oscar Wilde, the author of that very novel, himself made fortunes from the rampant speculation about the connections between his work and life. The irony inherent in this contradiction seems obvious: only by (10) recognizing and manipulating the public’s tendency to impute biographical meaning to the aesthetic can the artist maneuver the perception of his art to his own advantage. But if the “art of art” is really all about “the art of the ruse,” then what value does any (15) of it have, anyway?

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply:

17. An example of treating “art as if it were meant to be a form of autobiography” would be:
   - □ reading a novel about a young girl as an allegory for modern political circumstances.
   - □ viewing the bare shoulders in a painting of a well-known society figure as an indication of her seductive nature.
   - □ observing that the director of a film had a childhood injury similar to that of one of the characters in the film.

18. Click on the sentence in which the author refers to a creation of an artist to support an assertion about a conundrum that was commonly faced by artists in the time period discussed in the passage.

Recently, scientists studying how the brain interprets expressive gestures that communicate emotional states undertook a study comparing neural activity relating to hand gestures expressing emotions such as “I don’t care” to neural activity relating to instrumental gestures intended to change behavior through spoken commands such as “sit down.” Volunteers undergoing fMRI testing were shown brief videos of both expressive gestures and instrumental gestures and were asked to interpret the import of the gestures. As anticipated, expressive gestures activated different neural networks than did instrumental gestures. Expressive gestures activated neurons in the paracingulate cortex and the amygdala, both of which are known to be activated during social interaction. Instrumental gestures, by contrast, activated neurons in a region of the brain associated with language.

19. In context, the word import (Line 11) most nearly means
   - enticement
   - influx
   - transmission
   - magnitude
   - connotation
Recently, scientists studying how the brain interprets expressive gestures that communicate emotional states undertook a study comparing neural activity relating to hand gestures expressing emotions such as "I don’t care" to neural activity relating to instrumental gestures intended to change behavior through spoken commands such as "sit down." Volunteers undergoing fMRI testing were shown brief videos of both expressive gestures and instrumental gestures and were asked to interpret the import of the gestures. Expressive gestures activated different neural networks than did instrumental gestures. Expressive gestures activated neurons in the paracingulate cortex and the amygdale, both of which are known to be activated during social interaction. Instrumental gestures, by contrast, activated neurons in a region of the brain associated with language.

20. The function of the highlighted portion of the passage is to

- describe the role that neural networks play in perception
- refute a hypothesis anticipated at the outset of the study
- highlight the definitive nature of certain aspects of neurology
- summarize the conclusion to be drawn from a study
- explain the appropriateness of a particular methodology
Drill #2

Try the following questions. The answers are on page 260.

1. Although the Modern Library Board selected Joyce’s *Ulysses* as its number one novel of all time, Friendswood Library disagrees and instead chose Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* as its ________ of literature.

   - antithesis
   - escutcheon
   - apotheosis
   - litigation
   - demotion

2. Polonius, one of Shakespeare’s most ________ characters, speaks some of the bard’s classic epigrammatic lines such as, “To thine own self be true,” and, “Neither a borrower nor lender be.”

   - obsequious
   - auriferous
   - sententious
   - dysphonic
   - mellifluous

3. Maggie decided that decorating her denim jacket with rhinestones was an easy way to (i) ________ her look, changing it from a run-of-the-mill outfit to (ii) ________ creation.

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4. The researcher expected to find only (i) ________ medical tips in the medieval texts and was surprised to find information about things such as lemon balm, cayenne pepper, and onions, items that modern medical experts recommend for their (ii) ________ benefits.

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5. (i) ________ debating whether bread should be buttered on the top or the bottom was impossible for the Yooks and the Zooks, who each felt strongly that their own perspective was the correct way and refused to consider any alternative. Instead of recognizing the absurdity of the conflict, they allowed things to (ii) ________, with each side developing bigger and better weapons that ultimately lead them to the threat of (iii) ________ destruction.

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6. Lower taxes would have many (i) ________ effects on the nation as a whole. In addition to encouraging businesspeople to be more optimistic and (ii) ________ in their investments, tax cuts would encourage the mass hiring of employees, which is not (iii) ________ given the current payroll tax rate.

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In *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald created a protagonist who was a staunch believer in the agrarian myth espoused by Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, yet was simultaneously entrenched in the corruption and materialism of American society during the 1920s. This dual nature of the title character has commonly been viewed as a thinly disguised reflection of Fitzgerald himself, who, as reviewer Allen claimed, maintained a “catholic sensibility” his whole life despite well-known episodes of public drunkenness and debauchery. Fitter agreed, perceiving in Fitzgerald a “deep-seated conservative quietism” not dissimilar to Jay Gatsby’s adherence to the principles of honorable living dictated by Benjamin Franklin in *Poor Richard’s Almanack*. The parallels were so apparent to Mencken that he regarded the book as little more than a “glorified anecdote.” Other critics have rejected this narrow, egocentric interpretation and given far more credence to the novel as shrewd social commentary. Trask, for example, considered the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg, featured prominently on a billboard in the novel, not those of an all-seeing god evaluating Gatsby’s personal shortcomings, but those of Thomas Jefferson mourning the collective American abandonment of his belief in hard work and integrity as the paths to fortune. Even Trask, though, conceded that the hedonistic Fitzgerald spoke clearly through the character of Nick Carraway in an ironic plea for the preservation of a more austere way of life.

7. Select the sentence that best defines one of the two contradictory facets of Jay Gatsby’s character.

8. According to the passage, which of the following statements about *The Great Gatsby* cannot be shown to be accurate in the estimation of at least one critic?

   ○ The novel was merely a description of an episode from Fitzgerald’s life.
   ○ The symbolism in the novel sometimes reflected Fitzgerald’s lack of self-worth.
   ○ The novel provided insight into American culture of the 1920s.
   ○ Fitzgerald used the novel as a vehicle to voice his opinions about changes in America.
   ○ The novel’s main character provided a truthful depiction of the author.

9. Which of the following situations is most analogous to Fitter’s belief about the character of Jay Gatsby?

   ○ A job candidate in an interview mimics the actions of the interviewer in an unconscious effort to establish rapport and familiarity.
   ○ A photographer chooses to repeatedly use a model who has many of the same mannerisms and facial expressions as the photographer.
   ○ A character in a movie written by a health-conscious playwright has a gym membership and buys only organic foods.
   ○ A college student relates strongly to a character in a novel and begins to take an interest in that character’s hobbies.
   ○ An actor improvises many of his character’s lines in order to add depth to the role.
Newton's theory of universal gravitation states that every massive particle in the universe attracts every other massive particle with a force proportional to the mass of the particles and their proximity to one another. Consequently, cosmologists would expect that calculations based on this theory would yield an accurate measure of the mass in the universe; in fact, though, the total amount of observable matter in the universe does not contain enough mass to account for the organization of the universe into clusters of galaxies. To explain this discrepancy, cosmologists have developed the theory of "dark matter;" they postulate that the missing mass consists of elementary particles too small to be detected by electromagnetic radiation, and that these particles provide the mass necessary to hold the universe together. According to available evidence, these particles can only account for a maximum of 20 percent of the missing mass in the universe, yet their existence brings us one important step closer to solving the mystery of the missing matter.

10. According to the passage, which of the following factors is believed to help account for the missing mass in the universe?

☐ Massive particles with a force proportional to the mass of the particles attract additional mass to the universe.

☐ Tiny particles that are not currently observable by humans compose some of the missing mass.

☐ "Dark matter" adheres to mass and causes it to expand.

☐ Galaxies organize themselves into clusters to compensate for the lack of other mass in the universe.

☐ The proximity of certain particles to each other forces an attraction that creates mass.

11. The passage suggests that a massive particle would be most likely to attract another particle:

☐ with a force related to the mass of each particle.

☐ at a distance related to the mass of each particle.

☐ by using an elementary particle as an intermediary.
High tax rates, not the new regulations on carbon emissions, are responsible for the poor industrial production in Country A since its new government was elected. Neighboring Country B imposes the same regulations on carbon emissions, but while industrial production in Country A has been declining, it has been improving in Country B.

12. Which one of the following statements, if true, would most weaken the argument?
   - While Country B has a regional airport, Country A has an international airport.
   - Country A’s newly elected government raised taxes with the goal of guaranteeing a more just distribution of wealth.
   - The type of coal always burned in Country A is different from the type of coal always burned in Country B.
   - Both Country A and Country B have been in a recession.
   - Agricultural production is also falling in Country A.

13. An aspiring pop star should be _______, playing concert after concert and sending out hundreds of demo tapes, even though in the end, fame may depend solely on having the right connections.
   - idolatrous
   - dogged
   - tenuous
   - notorious
   - tenacious
   - advantageous

14. In many Western cultures, the four-leaf clover is easily identified as _______ symbol; in Buddhist cultures, it is the wheel that is widely recognized as a good omen.
   - an auspicious
   - a facetious
   - a pious
   - a pervasive
   - a propitious
   - a prophetic

15. Because he had initially feared public displays of outrage from constituents who felt their taxes were already too high, the governor was shocked to hear so many people _______ his decision to sign the new bill that would generate much needed revenue for the state.
   - effectuate
   - reproach
   - annul
   - laud
   - extol
   - flout

16. After a brief, but vexing, attempt at living in the countryside without the amenities which are readily accessible to the modern urbanite, the young lawyer, who previously had found a certain _______ charm in the lifestyle of the Pennsylvania Dutch, quickly changed his mind.
   - bucolic
   - erudite
   - pedestrian
   - idyllic
   - banal
   - lugubrious
The ubiquity of jeans across social classes in modern America might be surprising given that throughout history they have transmitted very specific cultural messages. Their crude, durable fabric initially made them symbolic of poor, working-class men, but when women hung up their skirts in order to take their turns at the heavy machinery while their husbands fought fascism in Europe, jeans were transformed into a hallmark of patriotism and early feminism. In the 1950s, after exposure in films as the garments of choice of brooding icons such as Marlon Brando and James Dean, jeans also served as an emblem of rebellious youth. Ultimately, their rise to dominance over the American wardrobe in the 1970s did nothing to lessen the ability of jeans to align the wearer with a certain social group, thanks to the scope of brands and styles that became available.

17. The passage implies all of the following about people who have worn jeans throughout history except

- their social affiliations are not exclusive to one particular social class
- they found jeans more suitable for some working environments
- the early adopters wore jeans in order to identify with certain social groups
- they progressively gained more control over the symbolism of the jeans they wore
- they were members not only of a variety of economic classes, but age groups as well

18. What is the function of the highlighted portion?

- to provide a specific example of another shift in the symbolism of jeans
- to present a viewpoint that differs from that of the initial premise
- to summarize an argument in favor of the inconsistent historical symbolism of jeans
- to weaken the author's premise by conclusively demonstrating why jeans gained widespread popularity
- to reconcile an apparent contradiction presented in an earlier sentence
Precipitation—in the form of dew in the warmer months and frost in the colder ones—often forms on grass and leaves during the night. But since this precipitation results from a change between surface and atmospheric temperatures, how can similar water droplets also appear on some houseplants? The answer is that some globules are the result of guttation. Occurring only in vascular plants, guttation begins when water moves from saturated soil into drier plant roots. Water accumulation in roots creates pressure, which, in daytime, is offset through evaporation. At night, however, these plants use the pipe-like elements of their tissue to draw the excess water upwards and push it out the tips of their leaves.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply:

19. There is sufficient evidence in the passage to support which of the following inferences about guttation?

☐ Guttation is more likely to occur in climates that have only rainy and dry seasons, as opposed to ones with four distinct seasons ranging from winter to summer.

☐ Analyzing the quantity of moisture in the soil and the type of plant one were dealing with would be inadequate to determine whether certain droplets were the result of guttation or were simply dew.

☐ In arid climates, guttation is not likely to occur under natural conditions.

20. In the passage, vascular (Line 8) most nearly means

☐ containing channels
☐ needing excessive moisture
☐ needing little sunlight
☐ absorbent
☐ suitable for moderate climates
ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Drill #1

1. D The clue that you need to fill in the blank is fear of potentially negative outcomes. If the scientists are afraid of an outcome, they must have a problem with cloning. Qualm is the only synonym here for problem. Conviction and certitude may seem like possible answers, but the outcomes are described as potential. Gambit (tactic) and rampart (barrier wall) do not make sense in context.

2. A The others referred to in the sentence have interests that are not related to food, so the blank must refer to a person whose interest is food. Choice (A) is the correct answer. Choice (D) is tempting because connoisseur is a word often used in conjunction with fine food or wine. However, a connoisseur is a general term for someone who has expertise in subject, which may or may not be food. Epicure is a term that necessarily involves food. Sage means wise person, which is not a match. A hedonist is someone who pursues pleasure as a priority, and is the opposite of an ascetic.

3. malevolent and an indifferent

Given that the critic is seeking revenge against the owner, his intentions must be bad. A critic should be discreet so that he doesn’t ruin his cover, but malevolent is the word that matches the clues. Squalid means filthy, and is irrelevant. In the second blank, you need a word that is dissimilar to vengefulness and conveys impartiality and good intentions. Neither surreptitious, which means sneaky, nor discerning, which means discriminating, has the desired meaning. Indifferent is a good synonym for impartial, and is the best choice.

4. eschew, dogged, and obstinate

From the trigger word and you know that the first blank has to be similar to resist change. Covet means to desire greatly and aver means to assert, so eschew is the correct choice. The next two blanks have to work together. If the adherence is strong, then the teachers will be stubborn, and if it is weak, then the teachers will be uncertain. The trigger word Until makes it clear that the teachers are preventing changes. Therefore, you need the first situation given above, which would lead to dogged and obstinate. Inept means unskilled, and is not a match. Partisan may seem plausible for the second blank, but then the teachers would be biassed, for which there is no available synonym for the third blank. Sagacious means shrewd and superficial means unnecessary, and thus neither one fits the meaning of the third blank.

5. inimical and a heretical

The first blank describes Tolstoy’s belief regarding excessive personal wealth in relation to his countrymen; since he was influenced by aspiring communist revolutionaries, and relinquished his copyrights and much of his fortune to the state, a word like harmful would make sense. Of the choices, only inimical means
harmful. The second blank describes the decision as seen by Sophia; since she believed in her right to be an aristocrat, she probably thought it was a foolish or incorrect decision. Of the choices, only heretical, which means contrary to accepted custom, is sufficiently negative.

6. impassive, arduous, and obviate

Start with the first blank; the clue there is in the second sentence, which says the doctors have a reluctance to show excitement. The only choice for the first blank that expresses a suitable lack of emotion is impassive. The second blank describes the task of turning the discovery into useful medicine; since the doctors aren’t excited, and the end of the passage suggests that significant change is far in the future, you need something like long and difficult in the blank. Of the choices, an arduous is the best fit. The third blank describes what the new medicine will, hopefully, eventually do to the need for uncomfortable treatments—eliminate it. Of the choices, only obviate means eliminate. Be careful with effect: As a verb, it means to cause, not to have an effect on.

7. E  First, identify the main conclusion of the argument, using the Why Test. The second bold-faced portion is the main conclusion, which is supported by the remainder of the passage. Thus, eliminate choices (A), (C), and (D), which wrongly assert that the second bold-faced portion is information or evidence. Once you have identified the conclusion, you can see that the first bold-faced portion is a claim with which the main conclusion disagrees. Thus, eliminate Choice (B), as the first bold-faced portion is not evidence. Choice (E) is correct.

8. “The Board also denied the necessity of paper money, considering the ever-increasing colonial exports purchased by foreign nations that rendered payments in gold and silver.” (Lines 4–7)

Keep in mind that the question says may be an exaggeration, but still look for the sentence that provides the strongest support. The correct sentence says that, according to the Board, the colonies were exporting more goods as time went on, and therefore were obtaining more gold and silver. In the face of an increase in gold and silver, the inability to obtain some goods through barter, though limiting, as the text says, likely did not severely hamper growth.

9. D  Governor Glen’s argument relies on the fact that colonists were often forced to barter, but bartering was an unreliable method of doing business. Choice (D) supports that point of view not only by pointing out that the Board was wrong about the colonists’ ability to obtain gold and silver from foreign trading partners, but also by giving another example of how barter is a poor system. Choice (A) is incorrect because although trade is low at one point during the year, it may be high enough during the rest of the year for the colonists to save up plenty of gold and silver to last them through the slow months. Choice (B) weakens the argument by widening the range of partners with whom the colonists can barter, thus lessening the need for paper currency. Choice (C) does not address any of the main points of the Governor’s argument and neither does choice (E).
10. C Come up with your own word to replace *occupation*, based on the context of the sentence. You might choose a word like *interest* to describe what a destructive El Niño event would likely spark among the world's scientists. Of the choices, only *concern* can mean interest.

11. A, B, and C

Each choice is supported. According to the second paragraph, the reduced trade winds during an El Niño fail to bring as much warm water away from South America as is typical. The second paragraph also mentions droughts in places such as Indonesia and flooding in South America. The third paragraph confirms that fish dive deeper, move south, or die off, which negatively affects the fishing industry.

12. B In an inference question, the correct answer must be supported by the text of the passage. Choice (B) is supported: The second paragraph states that El Niño *disturbs weather patterns more powerfully than does any other known force*. Choice (B) is a fair paraphrase of this statement. Choice (A) is not supported: While drought conditions may be severe in these locations during El Niño, the passage offers no information about drought conditions in the absence of El Niño. Choice (C) is wrong because the birds relocate due to reduced food supplies, not the changes in pressure and winds. Choice D is not supported: The 1982–1983 El Niño was the worst El Niño, but the passage does not make a comparison with other climate-related events of that year. Choice (E), finally, is also not supported: While the passage describes some of the effects of the 1972 El Niño event in Peru and Ecuador, no information is provided to make a comparison between those countries and other countries.

13. B and C

The trigger word *although* indicates that the plans for a sunny vacation were overturned unexpectedly in the second half of the sentence, so you need a word that means something like *sudden or unexpected* in the blank. Neither *welcome* nor *fortunate* means sudden or unexpected, so eliminate answer choices (A) and (D). Neither *fruitless*, which means useless, nor *lethargic*, which means sluggish, makes sense in the blank; eliminate choices (E) and (F). Both *precipitous* and *unforeseen* can mean sudden and unexpected, so answer choices (B) and (C) give you appropriate, equivalent sentences.

14. B and F

The *disgruntled* workers registered *outcries*, signifying they had intense feelings about their enhanced benefits package that was later rejected; thus, you want a word for the blank that means *passionate* or *emotional*. Neither *pristine*, which means clean, nor *quizzical*, which means puzzling, makes sense in the sentence, so eliminate answer choices (A) and (C). Choices (D) and (E) give roughly synonymous meanings, but nothing in the sentence supports the description of the cries as suggestive. Both *fervent* and *impassioned* can mean passionate, so answer choices (B) and (E) give you appropriate, equivalent sentences.
15. A and C

David is characterized as narrow-minded and adamant; you can recycle either of those clues into the blank, or you can use a simple word like stubborn. Choices (B) and (F) give roughly synonymous meanings, but nothing in the sentence supports the idea that David is hard-working. Neither gregarious, which means social, nor pensive, which means thoughtful, is supported by the sentence, so eliminate choices (D) and (E). Both intransigent and intractable mean stubborn, so answer choices (A) and (C) give you appropriate, equivalent sentences.

16. A and E

You have two clues about the popularity of long-distance automobile travel: (N)umerous exorbitant tolls indicate that such travel is now more expensive due to excessively high costs, and the upswing on the other side of the trigger while suggests that the popularity of traveling by car is swinging in the other direction. Hence, you need a word like decreased in the blank. Both intensifies and surged are nearly the opposite of what you’re looking for, so eliminate choices (C) and (F). Neither equivocated, which means spoke in an ambiguous manner, nor importuned, which means begged, is supported by the sentence, so eliminate choices (B) and (D). Both waned and abated mean decreased, so answer choices (A) and (E) give you appropriate, equivalent sentences.

17. B and C

In choice (B), the viewer sees the bare shoulders as an indication of the woman’s character, relating an artistic feature to speculation about the woman’s life. In choice (C), the viewer notices a relationship between the life of the director and the life of a character in his film. Both of these choices contain autobiographical observations. In choice (A), the reader sees the novel as an allegory, a story about something different from the main plot. In this case, the allegory is about politics, not an autobiography.

18. “Late Victorian writers obsessed about the relationship between art and the artist—as Basil Hallward lamented in The Picture of Dorian Gray, ‘We live in an age when men treat art as if it were meant to be a form of autobiography.’” (Lines 1–5)

In this passage, writers are defined as artists, and as a character in Wilde’s novel, Basil Hallward is one of Wilde’s creations. The quotation from Hallward is about the autobiographical assumptions that the public makes about art. The problem, or conundrum, that the Victorian writers faced concerned the public’s inclination to infer information about the artist from his art. Basil Hallward’s complaint illustrates their frustration with this tendency.

19. C Come up with your own word, based on the context of the sentence. You might come up with something like meaning. Of the choices, only connotation means meaning. Choice (E) is correct.
20. D Begin by considering what role the highlighted portion plays. Before the highlighted portion, the author describes the nature of an experiment. After the highlighted portion, the author describes the details of the results of the experiment. The highlighted portion presents the results in summary form. Thus, Choice (D) is correct. Although the passage discusses neurons and perception, Choice (A) is too broad. Choice (B) is wrong as no hypothesis was offered, let alone refuted. While Choice (C) may seem appealing, the author never commented upon the definitive nature of neurology or any science. Choice (E) is wrong because the author did not attempt to defend the methodology used.

Drill #2

1. C The text tells you that the first novel was selected as the number one novel, which means that novel is at the peak and is the best of all time. The missing word should mean something that relates to that idea. Eliminate choices (A) and (E) because they both go in the opposite direction of best of all time. Choice (D) could be slightly attractive simply because it looks a little like the word literature, but it means engaging in lawsuit and you can eliminate it. Choice (B) deals with coats of arms and shield and ships, and has nothing to do with books; eliminate it. This leaves you with choice (C), which means ideal example.

2. C Although several of the answer choices may describe Polonius, you have to use the clues to determine the best answer. The sole clue is that he speaks epigrammatic lines, so you're looking for something that means using maxims or pompously moralizing. Choice (C) means exactly that, so it's your best answer. Obsequious means excessively obedient and auriferous means containing gold; neither one has the meaning suggested. Choice (D) and (E) pertain to vocal quality, and are irrelevant.

3. personalize and an inimitable

Start with the second blank: The outfit is changing, so you know the second blank has to contrast with run-of-the-mill outfit. Something like extraordinary or unique would make sense. Of the choices, only inimitable makes sense. Once you have that, it's easy to fill in the first blank: if she's changing her look from something run-of-the-mill to something inimitable, she's making it her own. Of the choices, personalize is the best fit.

4. antediluvian and salubrious

You know that the texts the researcher is working with are medieval, so the medical tips are likely to be old or outdated. Thus, the best word for the first blank would be antediluvian, and not commodious (comfortable) or extant (existing). When the researcher finds the tips, they surprise him because they are things that modern medical experts recommend. Because of the contrast with old, the second blank could mean current, or it could mean healthy because the medical experts are recommending them. Salubrious means healthful, and matches one of the possible meanings. Neither tenebrious (gloomy) nor lugubrious (sad) fits either of the options, so you can eliminate both choices.
5. **Rationally, escalate, mutual**

From the word *absurdity*, you know the argument was foolish and that each side felt strongly about its viewpoint and refused to consider alternatives. These clues could make *Tempestuously* attractive for the first blank. However, you have to consider the clue *was impossible for*, which signals that the missing word will contrast with the irrational nature of the argument. Based on the context, *Rationally* is the best choice. For the second blank, the clues tell you that both groups work to *develop bigger and better weapons*, meaning things are getting worse. *Escalate* is the best choice. *Confabulate*, which means *talk over*, and *stagnate*, which means *stop moving*, are irrelevant. Finally, the clues tell you that *each side* is participating, making *mutual* the best choice for the third blank.

6. **salutary, bullish, and feasible**

The author argues that lower taxes would *encourage businesspeople*, so the effects that the lower taxes have must be positive. *Indeterminate* would mean that the effects are *in doubt* and *execrable* would mean they were *negative*. *Salutary* means *positive*, so it's a good fit for the first blank. The second blank must mean that the people's attitude towards investments is *optimistic*. *Bearish* means *cautious*, and *birdlike* means delicate, so those words aren't what you're looking for. *Bullish* means *optimistic*, so it's a good fit for the second blank. The purpose of the tax cuts is to encourage something that is not currently *possible*, so the third blank must mean something like *possible*. *Malleable* means *changeable*, and *atypical* means *unusual*, so those words don't fit here. *Feasible* means *possible*.

7. **“Trask, for example, considered the eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg, featured prominently on a billboard in the novel, not those of an all-seeing god evaluating Gatsby’s personal shortcomings, but those of Thomas Jefferson mourning the collective American abandonment of his belief in hard work and integrity as the paths to fortune.” (Lines 21–27)**

The two contradictory aspects of Gatsby's personality are given in the first sentence; he believed in the *agrarian myth* and yet was entrenched in *corruption and materialism*. The passage does not elaborate on the corruption or materialism, so you need to find the sentence that explains what is meant by the *agrarian myth*. You also know from the first sentence that Thomas Jefferson was a proponent of this myth. The correct sentence choice is linked clearly to the myth and gives a solid definition with the phrase of *his belief in hard work and integrity as the paths to fortune*. The sentence that begins *Fitter agreed, perceiving in Fitzgerald... may seem like a good answer*, but there is not enough information to connect *Poor Richard's Almanack* to the *agrarian myth*. Furthermore, the phrase *principles of honorable living* is quite vague and cannot really be considered a definition. The final sentence may also seem like a plausible answer, but, again, there is no direct link to prove the connection between *an austere way of life* and the *agrarian myth*.
8. B  The question asks which statement can not be shown to be accurate for at least one critic, so you can eliminate any answer for which you can find support in the passage. Choice (A) is supported by Mencken's view of the novel, and choice (C) is supported by the phrase shrewd social commentary, attributed to other critics. Choice (D) is supported by the information in the last sentence on Trask, and choice (E) is supported by the use of the phrase a thinly disguised reflection of Fitzgerald himself to describe how Gatsby has commonly been viewed. Only choice (B) is not accurate: Although you know that Trask does not think Dr. T.J. Eckleburg's eyes represent god, it cannot be shown that someone else does. Additionally, Gatsby can recognize his personal shortcomings without affecting his self-worth.

9. C  Given the placement of the sentence in the paragraph shortly after the phrase has commonly been viewed as a thinly disguised reflection of Fitzgerald himself, you know that Fitter believed Fitzgerald intentionally attributed his own personal characteristics to Gatsby. Choice (C) gives the best analogy. Choice (A) is not analogous because the action was unintentional; choice (B) is not analogous because the photographer did not force the model to act as she does. Choice (D) is not analogous because the sequence of events is backwards: The character existed before the student acquired certain habits. And, finally, choice (E) is not analogous because the actor may or may not be expressing himself through the role.

10. B  According to the passage, cosmologists believe that the missing mass is partially accounted for by elementary particles too small to be detected by electromagnetic radiation. Choice (B) rephrases this statement, and so it's the best response. Choices (A) and (E) recycle words from the first sentence of the passage, but they have different meanings; moreover, the first sentence is referring to the problem the cosmologists are trying to solve, whereas the question asks for the solution. Choice (C) is wrong because the passage doesn't say anything about dark matter causing the expansion. Choice (D) also doesn't work: The galaxies are the evidence that shows that Newton's theory has a problem, not the solution.

11. A  Newton's theory states that massive particles attract each other with a force proportional to the mass of the particles and their proximity to one another, so the strength with which the particles attract each other is related to their mass and the distance between them. Choice (B) is tempting, but incorrect: It relates distance and mass to each other, when it needs to relate them both to force. Choice (C) is also incorrect, because it uses the idea of elementary particles presented later in the passage out of context—the passage doesn't say that these particles are used as intermediaries between massive particles. Choice (A) is supported by the passage: It forms a relationship between force and mass, which is one of the relationships contained in the theory.

12. C  This argument contains one of GRE's favorite flaw patterns: The author makes a comparison between Country A and Country B and assumes that those two countries are the same in all relevant respects. Any time you see a comparison flaw, the answer will address whether the comparison is a fair one; in this weaken question, the answer must show that the countries are different in a relevant respect. Choice (C) does so: If the types of coal that the two countries use always differ, it is possible that the regulations on emissions have a negative effect on Country A's industrial production but not on Country B's industrial production. While Choice (A) also provides a difference between the two countries, the link connecting
the type of airport, the regulations, and industrial production is less strong than that connecting coal, the regulations, and industrial production in choice (C). Choices (B) and (E) do not establish any difference between the two countries. Choice (D) establishes a similarity between the countries and so does not help explain the differences in industrial production.

13. B and E

The blank should be a word that describes someone who will play lots of concerts and send out many demos of his work. So, the word should be similar to persistent. Dogged and tenacious both are close synonyms for persistent. Choices (A), (D), and (F) are detractor answers which you may think are associated with fame, but they do not work with the clue words.

14. A and E

The same-directional semi-colon trigger and the clue words good omen are evidence that you need a positive word in the blank. You can recycle the word good to describe the symbol. Prophetic and pious are loosely related to the ideas of symbols and Buddhism, but are not supported by the clues. Facetious, meaning humorous, and pervasive, meaning spread throughout, do not fit the context of this sentence. The correct answers are auspicious and propitious.

15. D and E

The time trigger word initially, as well as the clue word shocked in the main clause, tells you that the people must not have displayed outrage and were instead happy with the decision. You need a supportive word in the blank, but choices (B), (C), and (F) are all negative words. Choice (A), effectuate, means to bring about, which is also incorrect.

16. A and D

Although the connection between the first part of the sentence and the Pennsylvania Dutch may not be immediately obvious, the first part must be describing the way these people live, or there would be no reason for the lawyer to change his mind about their lifestyle. So you need to find words that reflect the idea of living without amenities and non-urban. Bucolic and idyllic are both used to describe the perfect country setting. Banal and pedestrian are synonyms that mean ordinary or unimaginative, so neither of them work. There is no support for lugubrious, which means excessively mournful, or erudite, which means very learned. The correct answers are choices (A) and (D).

17. C

You are looking for a choice that is not supported by the passage. Choice (A) is supported by the first sentence, which describes the ubiquity of jeans across social classes. You also know the women hung up their skirts...machinery, and that action prompted a shift in the symbolism of jeans. The women must have been wearing the jeans and gave up their skirts specifically for factory work; choice (B) is supported and can be eliminated. Choice (D) is supported by the final phrase the scope of brands and styles that became
available, and choice (E) is supported by the sentence concerning jeans and rebellious youth. There is no support for choice (C) because there is no evidence that poor, working-class men, or even women a little later on, were actively trying to make a statement. The sequence is backwards; their use of jeans actually created the symbolism.

18. E The contradiction referred to in the correct answer is in the first sentence, as indicated by the word surprising. Jeans should not be universally popular if they send a narrow message. The highlighted sentence reconciles the contradiction by pointing out that everyone can wear jeans, but the brands and styles still send specific messages. Choice (A) is incorrect because the highlighted sentence is a general comment about the 1970s, not an example. Choice (B) is incorrect because the viewpoint is not different as stated. The highlighted sentence is also not a summary, but rather a continuation of the evolution of the symbolism of jeans, and so choice (C) is incorrect. Finally, the word conclusively eliminates choice (D). While the variety of jeans could have been a reason for their increased popularity, there is no evidence that it certainly was the only reason.

19. B and C Choice (A) is incorrect because the passage says that guttation occurs only in vascular plants, and there is no discussion of the difference in the number of vascular plants that exist in the two climates mentioned. Choice (B) is supported because the text says that dew results from a change between surface and atmospheric temperatures. Therefore, an analysis that does not factor in those measurements would be inadequate, as this answer indicates. The described analysis is also inadequate because the passage provides no information on which process is more likely to occur, given that the conditions for both exist. Choice (C) is supported because the passage says that guttation begins when water moves from saturated soil. In an arid climate, the soil is not likely to be saturated with moisture. The phrase under natural conditions in choice (C) should eliminate exceptions, such as irrigation systems, when considering this choice.

20. A In the last sentence, the plants are described as having pipe-like elements that enable the process of guttation to take place. Containing channels in choice (A) is a good synonym for this description. Choices (C) and (E) may seem plausible, given the reference to houseplants. However, there is no proof that all houseplants are vascular plants, or vice versa. Furthermore, houseplants do not necessarily receive only little sunlight, nor do they necessarily have a moderate climate in which to grow. Choice (B) is incorrect because you only know the plants take in the moisture, not that they need it, and choice (D) is incorrect because the plants actually push out the moisture, instead of absorbing it.