

Phrase Response

	ISEE	SSAT	HSPT
Lower	X		
Middle			
Upper			

Phrase response questions will ask you to identify the whole phrase that best finishes the sentence given in the prompt.

Helpful Hint

A **clue word** gives you a hint about the charge of the answer and a **direction word** tells you about the relationship between the answer and the rest of the sentence.

How to Answer Phrase Response Questions

Step 1: Identify clue and direction words.

Step 2: Form a prediction.

Step 3: Eliminate answer choices that do not match the prediction.

Step 4: Make an educated guess between any remaining answer choices.

Phrase Response Exercise

Identify the clue and direction words in each sentence and predict the missing phrase.

1. Although Jason did not mind listening to country music, he -----.

missing phrase: _____

2. Most students do not know what they want to do as adults, but Abigail Smith -----.

missing phrase: _____

3. Even though the jaguar resembles the leopard, it -----.

missing phrase: _____

4. Since the entire class completed the homework assignment with ease, the teacher -----.

missing phrase: _____

5. Although skateboarders are usually viewed as rebellious, many of them -----.

missing phrase: _____

6. While the polar bear is mostly carnivorous, the giant panda -----.

missing phrase: _____

7. Compared to its usually disorganized and unpredictable shows, the band's most recent concert -----.

missing phrase: _____

8. Because it rained for several consecutive days, the soccer game -----.

missing phrase: _____

Phrase Response Activity

Select the phrase that best completes the sentence.

- Because the student failed to complete his homework on time, his -----.
(A) friends threw him a party
(B) principle presented him with an award
(C) teacher lowered his grade
(D) parents took him out for ice cream
- Although the audience seemed to enjoy the play, critics -----.
(A) applauded loudly when the play ended
(B) bought tickets to see the play again
(C) described the play as confusing and too long
(D) learned a valuable lesson
- Despite what its name might suggest, the red panda is not related to the giant panda; instead, it -----.
(A) is often mistaken for a raccoon
(B) has bright red stripes on its tail
(C) is part of the weasel family
(D) prefers to eat mostly bamboo
- Most of the works in the museum exhibit are large, complex sculptures, but -----.
(A) the museum will be closing the exhibit soon
(B) the exhibit also includes a series of small oil paintings
(C) these sculptures have won many national awards
(D) museum visitors are not allowed to take photographs of the sculptures
- Despite being considered the best in South America, the Brazilian national soccer team -----.
(A) is loved by most of the country
(B) lost a crucial game to Colombia
(C) often plays in international tournaments
(D) has not lost a game in over three years
- Because it is one of the world's most destructive pests, the Khapra beetle -----.
(A) cannot be brought into the United States
(B) is only a few millimeters long
(C) feeds on grains and other seeds
(D) is native to India
- Unlike his classmates, who dislike homework, Simon -----.
(A) has terrible grades
(B) enjoys working on his homework
(C) is often confused in class
(D) never bothers to finish his homework
- The painter had no interest in explaining his work to the public; instead, he -----.
(A) was loved by critics and audiences alike
(B) liked to give interviews describing the complicated techniques he used
(C) did not find painting profitable
(D) preferred to let people decide on its meaning for themselves
- Many people claim that Christian Buschmann invented the accordion in 1822, but actually -----.
(A) older versions of the instrument have been found
(B) Buschmann also invented the harmonica
(C) the accordion is a difficult instrument to learn to play
(D) Buschmann died in 1864
- Unlike most 19th century female authors, most of whom wrote about properly behaved ladies, writer Charlotte Dacre -----.
(A) did not live to see her books published
(B) had her works translated into German and French
(C) often wrote about violent, ambitious women
(D) used the pen name Rosa Matilda

Inferences

	ISEE	SSAT	HSPT
Lower	X	X	
Middle	X	X	
Upper	X	X	X

Inference questions ask you to draw conclusions about a passage using information not explicitly stated in that passage. Although the answer to these question won't be stated directly, your answer choice should logically follow from the information given. For example, you might have to predict what will happen next or how the author of the passage would respond to a question.

Inference Exercise

Use the information in the passages to answer each question.

Passage 1

Like the Olympics, the World Cup happens once every four years. The World Cup, however, focuses on a single sport: soccer. To qualify for the World Cup, national teams from across the globe play in a qualifying tournament that lasts for two years; they face teams from their own regions as well as teams from the other side of the world. After years of practice and play, thirty-two national teams go on to vie for the World Cup title in an intense, month-long tournament.

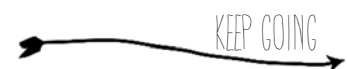
Since 1930, seventy-six national teams from all over the world have participated in the World Cup finals. Brazil has had a particularly impressive track record with five wins between 1958 and 2000. However, underdogs should never be counted out in the game of soccer. In 1990, the African nation of Cameroon unexpectedly defeated soccer legends Argentina, Romania, and Colombia to make it to the quarterfinal match. Though England defeated Cameroon in that game, the viewers' attention had been grabbed. To fans of the World Cup, soccer is the sport of equals.

1. What does the passage suggest about the soccer teams of Argentina, Romania, and Colombia?

2. According to the passage, how did World Cup viewers likely feel about the 1990 team from Cameroon?

Passage 2

Today, the Texas state flag is easily identifiable, but it wasn't the first to be flown over the state. During their rebellion against Mexico, Texans started using a single star—the Lone Star—to declare their independence, and a variety of flags featuring the Lone Star were used throughout the Texas Revolution. One of these was the "Come and Take It Flag," which featured a single star, an image of a cannon that had previously belonged to the Mexican army, and the taunting dare that if the Mexican Army wanted their cannon back, they'd have to come and take it. Another legendary rendition is the Joanna Troutman Flag, which Troutman created for her battling brothers and cousins. Ms. Troutman's flag featured not just the now-legendary five-point star, but also a declaration for "Liberty or Death" and the poetic Latin inscription, "Where liberty dwells, there is our fatherland."



In 1839, the Republic of Texas officially adopted the Lone Star flag as its national banner. The Lone Star flag, with its single white star set amidst patriotic red, white, and blue, is a reminder of the former Republic of Texas. The blue color that surrounds the white Lone Star is commonly considered to represent loyalty, the white is thought to represent purity, and the red, bravery. When the Republic of Texas was officially absorbed into the Union of the United States of America in 1845, Texas' national flag was adopted as the official state flag. The Lone Star flag is proudly flown today and represents the independence that Texans still hold dear.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that Joanna Troutman's brothers and cousins were likely fighting for what?

4. What does the passage suggest about people who fly the Lone Star flag today?

Passage 3

While the U.S. has quarters and dollar bills, Canadians have had a bit more fun when it comes to naming currency: they have a one dollar coin called a loonie and a two dollar coin called a toonie. While dollar and two-dollar coins can be found around the world, loonies and toonies are unique to that North American country.

The origin of the term loonie is debated. Some say it's derived from the French word for one (*l'une*), and others claim it comes from the image of the loon bird that appears on the reserve side of the coin. Regardless of the one-dollar coin's namesake, the toonie's name is much easier to decipher: it's a combination of the words *two* and *loonie*. In fact, when the toonie was introduced in 1996, some people suggested that it should be called a doubloonie—a combination of the classic doubloon coin and the loonie.

Despite their unusual names, loonies and toonies are much-appreciated elements of Canadian currency. For over twenty-five years the coins have jingled happily in the pockets of Canadians rather than crumpling and tearing like their American counterparts.

5. According to the passage, how do Canadians likely feel about the loonie and the toonie?

6. If Canada introduced a five-dollar coin, what would it likely be called?

Passage 4

For many years, scientists believed that most dinosaur species had gone extinct 66 million years ago during a great disaster that killed off much of the life on Earth. In 1868, however, scientist Thomas Huxley suggested a radical new idea: what if all the dinosaurs hadn't died? What if, instead, some of them had evolved, and their ancestors were right here with us in the present day?

Huxley's theory was that several smaller species of dinosaurs hadn't gone extinct and had instead, over millions of years, developed into the many species of birds that we see around us today. He arrived at this theory after combing through fossil records and comparing the anatomy of ancient dinosaurs with that of

now-extinct bird-like creatures. He offered as evidence the similarity in these skeletons as well as the presence of feathers in both species.

The idea that birds are the descendants of dinosaurs wasn't considered seriously until the 1970s, when many new fossils of early birds were discovered. These fossils supported Huxley's claim by clearly showing previously unknown skeletal features of ancient bird species. Today most scientists accept Huxley's theory, although some continue to present alternative possibilities for the origin of our feathered friends.

7. According to the passage, how did scientists likely respond to Thomas Huxley's theory when he first presented it?

8. The British scientist Harry Seeley proposed that dinosaurs and birds both developed feathers independently. How would Huxley likely have responded to this theory?

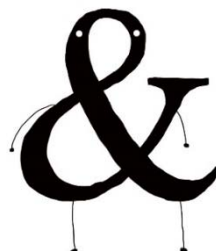
Passage 5

Was Phileas Fogg rich? Undoubtedly. But those who knew him best could not imagine how he had made his fortune, and Mr. Fogg was the last person to whom to apply for the information. He was not lavish, nor, on the contrary, avaricious; for whenever he knew that money was needed for a noble, useful, or benevolent purpose, he supplied it quietly, and sometimes anonymously. He was, in short, the least communicative of men. He talked very little, and seemed all the more mysterious for his taciturn manner. His daily habits were quite open to observation; but whatever he did was so exactly the same thing that he had always done before, that the wits of the curious were fairly puzzled.

Had he traveled? It was likely, for no one seemed to know the world more familiarly; there was no spot so secluded that he did not appear to have an intimate acquaintance with it. He often corrected, with a few clear words, the thousand conjectures advanced by members of the club as to lost and unheard-of travelers, pointing out the true probabilities, and seeming as if gifted with a sort of second sight, so often did events justify his predictions. He must have traveled everywhere, at least in spirit.

9. How does Phileas Fogg appear to feel about people who speculate wildly about far-away lands?

10. What can be inferred from the passage about Phileas Fogg's past?



Inference Activity

Read each passage and answer the corresponding questions.

Questions 1 – 2

1 *Snap!* Chomp, chomp, chomp. Billy Creston was getting on my nerves. That snapping, popping, obnoxious
2 noise was just too much. I glared at him in his baseball cap, smacking that bubblegum so loudly. No one
3 else seemed to notice that he was being obnoxious.

4 Since the arrival of the 5 cent gumball machine in the lobby, my life had been a nightmare. Day after day I
5 would huddle over my homework, praying for productive silence, and no sooner would I find my groove
6 than Billy Creston would loudly insert a coin and callously turn the metal crank. The round, ridiculously
7 colorful gumball would clank out and Billy would shove it into his mouth before smacking his lips and
8 chomping ferociously on his newly purchased prize.

9 I closed my eyes and gritted my teeth. Why did those large, brightly colored gumballs have to fall into the
10 hands of already loud people?

11 As I was meditating on my misfortune there was a ting, a grind, and two pinging sounds. “Oops,” I heard
12 Billy Creston say. “It gave me two. Who wants a gumball?”

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. It can be inferred from the passage that Billy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) doesn't know that he annoys the narrator.(B) continues to buy gumballs only to bother the narrator.(C) greatly enjoys chewing gumballs.(D) is too busy chewing gumballs to finish his homework. | <p>2. Which of the following is most likely to happen immediately after the conclusion of the passage?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) The narrator will happily accept Billy's extra gumball.(B) The narrator will steal both of Billy's gumballs.(C) Billy will help the narrator with her homework.(D) Billy will chew his gumball loudly |
|---|---|

Questions 3 – 4

1 The Battle of Changping, which pitted the State of Zhao against the State of Qin, played a vital role in the
2 Qin dynasty's takeover of China. The battle is considered one of the deadliest in the history of the world,
3 with more than 700,000 people killed in or just after the battle.

4 The battle started after a three-year stalemate. To encourage the Zhao to fight, the Qin army had sent
5 spies into Zhao cities to spread rumors that the Zhao military leader, Lian Po, was weak, old, and unable
6 to defend himself, let alone a large kingdom. The Zhao king was already displeased with his commanding
7 officer, so he deposed Lian Po and instated Zhao Kuo as the army's leader. The Qin likewise decided to
8 exchange their own unsuccessful leader for the famous general Bai Qi.

9 Zhao Kuo, confident in his new position, attacked the invading Qin force. Bai Qi's response was to split his
10 forces and fake a retreat to the Qin forts. As the Zhao pursued, Bai Qi surrounded the Zhao army and
11 began a counterattack. After a grueling forty-six days of trying to support the Zhao army as it was
12 surrounded by the Qin, Zhao Kuo finally surrendered his forces. Within thirty years the Qin had not only
13 taken over the Zhao kingdom, but also the whole of China.

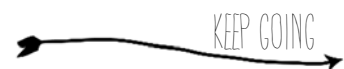
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the Qin army
- (A) was eager to fight the Zhao forces.
 - (B) should have kept their old leader, Lian Po.
 - (C) regrets attacking the Zhao.
 - (D) is still in control of China.
4. It can be inferred from the passage that Zhao Kuo likely
- (A) tried to avoid a battle because he wanted to protect his troops.
 - (B) delayed the battle because he feared Bai Qi.
 - (C) regretted his decision to pursue Bai Qi's forces back to the Qin forts.
 - (D) rushed into battle because he believed Bai Qi to be unprepared.

Questions 5 – 6

- 1 Up on the mountain, Sarah and Tom had stopped for the night. After a basic meal of beans and rice, they'd
 2 packed the gear away and were now sitting close by the dying fire. Even though the sun had set only
 3 about an hour before, there was already the snap of frost in the air. The two scientists were worried that
 4 they had planned their expedition too early this year; the butterflies weren't likely to come out of
 5 hibernation in this chilly air.
- 6 High above them, and out of sight on this moonless night, the butterflies slept as they did every winter—
 7 densely packed together in the tops of the mountain pines. Their tiny bodies didn't create much heat, but
 8 the air trapped between their millions of stacked wings kept them insulated against the freezing
 9 mountain air. Once they'd broken their huddle, all that stored heat would be gone, and they'd have no
 10 defense against the cold.
- 11 Six years ago there had been an unexpected frost the night after the butterflies had awoken. The two
 12 scientists had climbed out of their tents in the morning to find their campsite blanketed in hundreds of
 13 thousands of dead butterflies whose black and orange wings were coated in frozen crystals. Only the few
 14 thousand butterflies still huddled together high up in the trees had survived.
5. The two scientists most likely traveled to the mountain to study the relationship between
- (A) weather patterns and butterfly hibernation.
 - (B) mountain pines and weather patterns.
 - (C) butterflies and mountain pines.
 - (D) butterflies and the cycle of the moon.
6. It can be inferred from the passage that
- (A) this is Sarah and Tom's first expedition to study the butterflies.
 - (B) the butterflies will survive if they stay in the trees until the frost is over.
 - (C) all of the butterflies are going to die soon.
 - (D) the scientists will build a fire to warm the butterflies.

Questions 7 – 8

- 1 All of my mother's house is like that for me. If I wanted to I could close my eyes and from this couch
 2 conjure up a perfect projection of each room. I can see the hardwood floors of the foyer, scuffed and
 3 faded. To the left is the dining room, perfectly maintained but never used, not even on holidays. The
 4 tablecloth is yellowed but crisp; the sideboard stands solidly in the corner, and the stacks of plates and
 5 bowls are so clear through its glass door that I can count them. Twelve dinner, twelve salad, twelve soup,
 6 twelve saucer.
- 7 Once, when I was seven, I took out all of those beautiful dishes. They were cream colored and heavy, with
 8 tiny blue flowers shooting like meteors around the edges. Painstakingly working from illustrations in the



9 back of an old Betty Crocker cookbook, I laid out each piece of the whole: the soup bowls and salad plates
10 nested on top of the large dinner plates, and that pile was encircled by teacups and saucers and glasses
11 and big silver forks and ridiculously tiny silver spoons. I thought my mother would be so proud; she
12 always wanted me to learn manners, discipline. I had smiled so brightly when she came in; I was proud of
13 what I had learned, ready to show her what I had accomplished. But she hadn't smiled back. Instead, a
14 look of terror crossed her face, followed closely by anger. I can still see her expression, in that half-second
15 of realization before her features reformed to shout and curse: her eyes and mouth wide open to take in
16 the fact of her wedding china laid out bare and accusing on her table.

7. Which adjective best describes the narrator as a child?
- (A) forgetful
 - (B) melancholy
 - (C) meticulous
 - (D) nostalgic
8. It can be inferred from the passage that as a child the narrator
- (A) enjoyed hosting dinner parties.
 - (B) wanted to impress her mother.
 - (C) could picture every room in her mother's house.
 - (D) despised her mother.

Questions 9 – 10

1 During his life, Geoffrey Chaucer (1343 – 1400) was famous as a diplomat, philosopher, and scholar. He
2 took part in the Hundred Years War, went on secret diplomatic missions for King Richard II, and oversaw
3 the English court's finances for more than a decade. Today, he is most widely known as the author of *The*
4 *Canterbury Tales*, a collection of more than twenty stories, most written in verse, that wittily capture life
5 in 14th century England.

6 In addition to these accomplishments, Chaucer made one more important, although less often discussed,
7 contribution to Medieval England: he made it acceptable to write intelligent literary works in plain,
8 vernacular English. Before Chaucer, poems, pamphlets, and scholarly books were written mainly in Latin
9 or French. The common Englishman, of course, neither read nor spoke these languages, so most of
10 England's population never got the chance to enjoy these works. Chaucer fought against this trend by
11 writing in plain middle English that any maid or farmer could understand. The readability of his work,
12 combined with his wit and humor, made *The Canterbury Tales* one of the most widely read poems of its
13 day.

9. According to the passage, Chaucer is most likely to have influenced
- (A) a 14th century monk writing a philosophical pamphlet in Latin.
 - (B) a modern poet writing in French.
 - (C) scholars who study the Hundred Years War.
 - (D) a Medieval poet writing in vernacular English.
10. According to the passage, the common Englishman would likely have enjoyed *The Canterbury Tales* because it
- (A) included exciting stories about life at the court of Richard II.
 - (B) lampooned flowery philosophical pamphlets and scholarly texts.
 - (C) presented a witty picture of 14th century life using conversational English.
 - (D) told the story of men like himself who worked on farms.