

# DRILLS 2 – CRAFT & STRUCTURE

1. Biologist Jane Edgeloe and colleagues have located what is believed to be the largest individual plant in the world in the Shark Bay area of Australia. The plant is a type of seagrass called *Posidonia australis*, and it \_\_\_\_\_ approximately 200 square kilometers.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) acknowledges
- B) produces
- C) spans
- D) advances

2. Osage Nation citizen Randy Tinker-Smith produced and directed the ballet *Wahzhazhe*, which vividly chronicles Osage history and culture. Telling Osage stories through ballet is \_\_\_\_\_ choice because two of the foremost ballet dancers of the twentieth century were Osage: sisters Maria and Marjorie Tallchief.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical and precise word or phrase?

- A) an unpredictable
- B) an arbitrary
- C) a determined
- D) a suitable

3. The following text is adapted from Zora Neale Hurston’s 1921 short story “John Redding Goes to Sea.” John wants to travel far beyond the village where he lives near his mother, Matty.

*[John] had on several occasions attempted to reconcile his mother to the notion, but found it a difficult task. Matty always took refuge in self-pity and tears. Her son’s desires were incomprehensible to her, that was all.*

As used in the text, what does the phrase “reconcile his mother to” most nearly mean?

- A) Get his mother to accept
- B) Get his mother to apologize for
- C) Get his mother to match
- D) Get his mother to reunite with

4. Michelene Pesantubbee, a historian and citizen of the Choctaw Nation, has identified a dilemma inherent to research on the status of women in her tribe during the 1600s and 1700s: the primary sources from that era, travel narratives and other accounts by male European colonizers, underestimate the degree of power conferred on Choctaw women by their traditional roles in political, civic, and ceremonial life. Pesantubbee argues that the Choctaw oral tradition and findings from archaeological sites in the tribe's homeland supplement the written record by providing crucial insights into those roles.

Which choice best describes the overall structure of the text?

- A) It details the shortcomings of certain historical sources, then argues that research should avoid those sources altogether.
  - B) It describes a problem that arises in research on a particular topic, then sketches a historian's approach to addressing that problem.
  - C) It lists the advantages of a particular research method, then acknowledges a historian's criticism of that method.
  - D) It characterizes a particular topic as especially challenging to research, then suggests a related topic for historians to pursue instead.
5. The following text is from Srimati Svarna Kumari Devi's 1894 novel *The Fatal Garland* (translated by A. Christina Albers in 1910). Shakti is walking near a riverbank that she visited frequently during her childhood.

*She crossed the woods she knew so well. The trees seemed to extend their branches like welcoming arms. They greeted her as an old friend. Soon she reached the river-side.*

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined portion in the text as a whole?

- A) It suggests that Shakti feels uncomfortable near the river.
  - B) It indicates that Shakti has lost her sense of direction in the woods.
  - C) It emphasizes Shakti's sense of belonging in the landscape.
  - D) It conveys Shakti's appreciation for her long-term friendships.
6. The following text is adapted from Oscar Wilde's 1897 nonfiction work *De Profundis*.

*People whose desire is solely for self-realisation never know where they are going. They can't know. In one sense of the word it is of course necessary to know oneself: that is the first achievement of knowledge. But to recognise that the soul of a man is unknowable, is the ultimate achievement of wisdom. The final mystery is oneself. When one has weighed the sun in the balance, and measured the steps of the moon, and mapped out the seven heavens star by star, there still remains oneself. Who can calculate the orbit of his own soul?*

Which choice best describes the function of the underlined question in the text as a whole?

- A) It cautions readers that the text's directions for how to achieve self-knowledge are hard to follow.
- B) It concedes that the definition of self-knowledge advanced in the text is unpopular.
- C) It reinforces the text's skepticism about the possibility of truly achieving self-knowledge.
- D) It speculates that some readers will share the doubts expressed in the text about the value of self-knowledge.

7. In many agricultural environments, the banks of streams are kept forested to protect water quality, but it's been unclear what effects these forests may have on stream biodiversity. To investigate the issue, biologist Xingli Giam and colleagues studied an Indonesian oil palm plantation, comparing the species richness of forested streams with that of nonforested streams. Giam and colleagues found that species richness was significantly higher in forested streams, a finding the researchers attribute to the role leaf litter plays in sheltering fish from predators and providing food resources.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

- A) It presents a study that addresses an unresolved question about the presence of forests along streams in agricultural environments.
- B) It explains the differences between stream-protection strategies used in oil palm plantations and stream-protection strategies used in other kinds of agricultural environments.
- C) It discusses research intended to settle a debate about how agricultural yields can be increased without negative effects on water quality.
- D) It describes findings that challenge a previously held view about how fish that inhabit streams in agricultural environments attempt to avoid predators.

8. **Text 1**

Dance choreographer Alvin Ailey's deep admiration for jazz music can most clearly be felt in the rhythms and beats his works were set to. Ailey collaborated with some of the greatest jazz legends, like Charles Mingus, Charlie Parker, and perhaps his favorite, Duke Ellington. With his choice of music, Ailey helped bring jazz to life for his audiences.

**Text 2**

Jazz is present throughout Ailey's work, but it's most visible in Ailey's approach to choreography. Ailey often incorporated improvisation, a signature characteristic of jazz music, in his work. When managing his dance company, Ailey rarely forced his dancers to an exact set of specific moves. Instead, he encouraged his dancers to let their own skills and experiences shape their performances, as jazz musicians do.

Based on the texts, both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A) Audiences were mostly unfamiliar with the jazz music in Ailey's works.
- B) Ailey's work was strongly influenced by jazz.
- C) Dancers who worked with Ailey greatly appreciated his supportive approach as a choreographer.
- D) Ailey blended multiple genres of music together when choreographing dance pieces.

9. **Text 1**

The idea that time moves in only one direction is instinctively understood, yet it puzzles physicists. According to the second law of thermodynamics, at a macroscopic level some processes of heat transfer are irreversible due to the production of entropy—after a transfer we cannot rewind time and place molecules back exactly where they were before, just as we cannot unbreak dropped eggs. But laws of physics at a microscopic or quantum level hold that those processes *should* be reversible.

**Text 2**

In 2015, physicists Tiago Batalhao et al. performed an experiment in which they confirmed the irreversibility of thermodynamic processes at a quantum level, producing entropy by applying a rapidly oscillating magnetic field to a system of carbon-13 atoms in liquid chloroform. But the experiment “does not pinpoint . . . what causes [irreversibility] at the microscopic level,” coauthor Mauro Paternostro said.

Based on the texts, what would the author of Text 1 most likely say about the experiment described in Text 2?

- A) It is consistent with the current understanding of physics at a microscopic level but not at a macroscopic level.
- B) It provides empirical evidence that the current understanding of an aspect of physics at a microscopic level must be incomplete.
- C) It supports a claim about an isolated system of atoms in a laboratory, but that claim should not be extrapolated to a general claim about the universe.
- D) It would suggest an interesting direction for future research were it not the case that two of the physicists who conducted the experiment disagree on the significance of its findings.

10. **Text 1**

Because literacy in Nahuatl script, the writing system of the Aztec Empire, was lost after Spain invaded central Mexico in the 1500s, it is unclear exactly how meaning was encoded in the script’s symbols. Although many scholars had assumed that the symbols signified entire words, linguist Alfonso Lacadena theorized in 2008 that they signified units of language smaller than words: individual syllables.

**Text 2**

The growing consensus among scholars of Nahuatl script is that many of its symbols could signify either words or syllables, depending on syntax and content at any given site within a text. For example, the symbol signifying the word *huipil* (blouse) in some contexts could signify the syllable “pil” in others, as in the place name “Chipiltepec.” Thus, for the Aztecs, reading required a determination of how such symbols functioned each time they appeared in a text.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely characterize Lacadena’s theory, as described in Text 1?

- A) By praising the theory for recognizing that the script’s symbols could represent entire words
- B) By arguing that the theory is overly influenced by the work of earlier scholars
- C) By approving of the theory’s emphasis on how the script changed over time
- D) By cautioning that the theory overlooks certain important aspects of how the script functioned

## ANSWERS

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. B

5. C
6. C
7. A
8. B

9. B
10. D

Answer explanations can be found in the *SAT Official Guide* on pages 154 to 156.