

# LESSON 1 - VERBAL



## OVERVIEW OF THE VERBAL DOMAINS

- Every question in the verbal portion of the test is multiple choice, and you will always be offered four choices.
- You will have 1 minute and 11 seconds per verbal question.
- Easy and difficult questions can appear next to each other.
- There are two verbal sections, and each section will contain two experimental questions that won't count toward your score.

There are four “**Content Domain**” areas in the verbal portion of the SAT exam, and each has its own specific question types:

1. **Information and Ideas**
2. **Craft and Structure**
3. **Expression of Ideas**
4. **Standard English Conventions**

This is the order in which [The Official Digital SAT Study Guide](#) covers the four verbal domain areas. We will use this same order to stay in sync with the book. But keep in mind that verbal sections of the actual SAT exam will always present questions in an order that is slightly different:

1. **Craft and Structure Questions**
2. **Information and Ideas Questions**
3. **Standard English Conventions Questions**
4. **Expression of Ideas Questions**

**NOTE:** This lesson has been broken up into three separate videos.

## INFORMATION AND IDEAS DOMAIN – QUESTION TYPES

Let's start with questions from the *Information and Ideas* domain.

- The *Information and Ideas* domain accounts for approximately 26% of the verbal points.
- That's 12 to 14 questions per test.

There are five question types in this category:

1. Questions about Central Ideas and Details
  - a. Central Ideas (Video 1)
  - b. Details (Video 1)
2. Questions about Evidence
  - a. Find evidence in the text. (Video 2)
  - b. Find evidence in the data. (Video 2)
3. Inference Questions (Video 3)

## INFORMATION AND IDEAS DOMAIN

Let's start with *Central Idea* questions, which ask, "What is the main idea of the passage?"

### 1. Questions about Central Ideas and about Details (Page 102)

#### A.) Central Idea Questions

Main Idea questions ask you to determine what the passage is "**mostly**" about. Correct answers in this category tend to sound like broad generalizations, and the language can be purposely vague.

1. The following text is from Edith Nesbit's 1902 novel *Five Children and It*. Five young siblings have just moved with their parents from London to a house in the countryside that they call the White House.

*It was not really a pretty house at all; it was quite ordinary, and mother thought it was rather inconvenient, and was quite annoyed at there being no shelves, to speak of, and hardly a cupboard in the place. Father used to say that the ironwork on the roof and coping was like an architect's nightmare. But the house was deep in the country, with no other house in sight, and the children had been in London for two years, without so much as once going to the seaside even for a day by an excursion train, and so the White House seemed to them a sort of Fairy Palace set down in an Earthly Paradise.*

Which choice best states the **main idea** of the text?

- A) The house is beautiful and well built, but the children miss their old home in London.
- B) The children don't like the house nearly as much as their parents do.
- C) Each member of the family admires a different characteristic of the house.
- D) Although their parents believe the house has several drawbacks, the children are enchanted by it.

## Central Idea Questions — (Continued)

2. In many of his sculptures, artist Richard Hunt uses broad forms rather than extreme accuracy to hint at specific people or ideas. In his first major work, *Arachne* (1956), Hunt constructed the mythical character *Arachne*, a weaver who was changed into a spider, by welding bits of steel together into something that, although vaguely human, is strange and machinelike. And his large bronze sculpture *The Light of Truth* (2021) commemorates activist and journalist Ida B. Wells using mainly flowing, curved pieces of metal that create stylized flames.

Which choice best states the text's **main idea** about Hunt?

- A) He often depicts the subjects of his sculptures using an unrealistic style.
- B) He uses different kinds of materials depending on what kind of sculpture he plans to create.
- C) He tends to base his art on important historical figures rather than on fictional characters.
- D) He has altered his approach to sculpture over time, and his works have become increasingly abstract.

3. In a study of new technology adoption, Davit Marikyan et al. examined negative disconfirmation (which occurs when experiences fall short of one's expectations) to determine whether it could lead to positive outcomes for users. The team focused on established users of "smart home" technology, which presents inherent utilization challenges but tends to attract users with high expectations, often leading to feelings of dissonance. The researchers found that many users employed cognitive mechanisms to mitigate those feelings, ultimately reversing their initial sense of disappointment.

Which choice best states the **main idea** of the text?

- A) Research suggests that users with high expectations for a new technology can feel content with that technology even after experiencing negative disconfirmation.
- B) Research suggests that most users of smart home technology will not achieve a feeling of satisfaction given the utilization challenges of such technology.
- C) Although most smart home technology is aimed at meeting or exceeding users' high expectations, those expectations in general remain poorly understood.
- D) Although negative disconfirmation has often been studied, little is known about the cognitive mechanisms shaping users' reactions to it in the context of new technology adoption

## B.) Questions About Details

Unlike the correct answers for ***Main Idea*** questions, which can seem broad and a little vague, the correct answers for ***Detail*** questions tend to be highly specific and come close to repeating a detail that appears in the passage.

4. Artist Justin Favela explained that he wanted to reclaim the importance of the piñata as a symbol in Latinx culture. To do so, he created numerous sculptures from strips of tissue paper, which is similar to the material used to create piñatas. In 2017, Favela created an impressive life-size, piñata-like sculpture of the Gypsy Rose lowrider car, which was displayed at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, California. The Gypsy Rose lowrider was famously Driven by Jesse Valadez, an early president of the Los Angeles Imperials Car Club.

According to the text, which piece of Favela's art was on display in the Petersen Automotive Museum in 2017?

- A) A painting of Los Angeles
  - B) A painting of a piñata
  - C) A sculpture of Jesse Valadez
  - D) A sculpture of a lowrider car
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5. In a paper about p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells (one of several perovskite cell architectures designed to collect and store solar power), Lyndsey McMillon-Brown et al. describe a method for fabricating the cell's electronic transport layer (ETL) using a spray coating. Conventional ETL fabrication is accomplished using a solution of nanoparticles. The process can result in a loss of up to 80% of the solution, increasing the cost of manufacturing at scale—an issue that may be obviated by spray coating fabrication, which the researchers describe as "highly reproducible, concise, and practical."

What does the text most strongly suggest about conventional ETL fabrication?

- A) It typically entails a greater loss of nanoparticle solution than do other established approaches for ETL fabrication.
- B) It is less suitable for manufacturing large volumes of planar p-i-n perovskite solar cells than an alternative fabrication method may be.
- C) It is somewhat imprecise and therefore limits the potential effectiveness of p-i-n planar perovskite solar cells at capturing and storing solar power.
- D) It is more expensive when manufacturing at scale than are processes for fabricating ETLs used in other perovskite solar cell architectures.

## END OF VIDEO 1

- **Answer key appears at the end of this document.**
- **NOTE: Answer explanations can be found in the Digital SAT Study Guide on pages 101 – 118.**

## START OF VIDEO 2

### 2. Questions About Evidence (Page 109)

#### A.) Questions about Evidence in the Text

6. *Sense and Sensibility* is an 1811 novel by Jane Austen. In the novel, Austen describes Marianne Dashwood's ability to persuade others of the rightness of her artistic judgments, as is evident when Marianne visits with John Willoughby, a potential suitor: \_\_\_\_\_

Which quotation from *Sense and Sensibility* most effectively illustrates the claim?

- A) "Above all, when she heard him declare, that of music and dancing he was passionately fond, she gave him such a look of approbation as secured the largest share of his discourse to herself for the rest of his stay."
  - B) "Their taste was strikingly alike. The same books, the same passages were idolized by each—or if any difference appeared, any objection arose, it lasted no longer than till the force of her arguments and the brightness of her eyes could be displayed."
  - C) "It was only necessary to mention any favorite amusement to engage her to talk. She could not be silent when such points were introduced, and she had neither shyness nor reserve in their discussion."
  - D) "They speedily discovered that their enjoyment of dancing and music was mutual, and that it arose from a general conformity of judgment in all that related to either. Encouraged by this to a further examination of his opinions, she proceeded to question him on the subject of books."
7. In the 1980s, many musicians and journalists in the English-speaking world began to draw attention to music from around the globe—such as mbaqanga from South Africa and quan ho from Vietnam—that can't be easily categorized according to British or North American popular music genres, typically referring to such music as "world music." While some scholars have welcomed this development for bringing diverse musical forms to prominence in countries where they'd previously been overlooked, musicologist Su Zheng claims that the concept of world music homogenizes highly distinct traditions by reducing them all to a single category.

Which finding about mbaqanga and quan ho, if true, would most directly support Zheng's claim?

- A) Mbaqanga is significantly more popular in the English-speaking world than quan ho is.
- B) Mbaqanga and quan ho developed independently of each other and have little in common musically.
- C) Mbaqanga and quan ho are now performed by a diverse array of musicians with no direct connections to South Africa or Vietnam.
- D) Mbaqanga and quan ho are highly distinct from British and North American popular music genres but similar to each other.

## B.) Questions About Evidence in the Data

*Comfort Range and Temperature-Adjustment Preferences from One Survey*

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Comfort Rating</u>	<u>Preferred Temperature Adjustment</u>
20	-2	Cooler
1	+1	Cooler
21	+1	Cooler

8. Nan Gao and her team conducted multiple surveys to determine participants' levels of comfort in a room where the temperature was regulated by a commercial climate control system. Participants filled out surveys several times a day to indicate their level of comfort on a scale from -3 (very cold) to +3 (very hot), with 0 indicating neutral (neither warm nor cool), and to indicate how they would prefer the temperature to be adjusted. The table shows three participants' responses in one of the surveys. According to the table, all three participants wanted the room to be cooler, \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

- A) and they each reported the same level of comfort.
- B) even though each participant's ratings varied throughout the day.
- C) but participant 20 reported feeling significantly colder than the other two participants did
- D) but participant 1 reported feeling warmer than the other two participants did.

## Questions About Evidence in the Data (Continued)

*Distribution of Ecosystem Services Affected by Invasive Species by Service Type*

<b>Region (Overall)</b>	<b>Provisioning (75%)</b>	<b>Regulating (21%)</b>	<b>Cultural (4%)</b>
West	73%	27%	0%
North	88%	12%	0%
South	79%	14%	7%
East	83%	6%	11%
Central	33%	67%	0%

9. To assess the impact of invasive species on ecosystems in Africa, Benis N. Egoh and colleagues reviewed government reports from those nations about how invasive species are undermining ecosystem services (aspects of the ecosystem on which residents depend). The services were sorted into three categories: provisioning (material resources from the ecosystem), regulating (natural processes such as cleaning the air or water), and cultural (nonmaterial benefits of ecosystems). Egoh and her team assert that countries in each region reported effects on provisioning services and that provisioning services represent the majority of the reported services.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support Egoh and colleagues' assertion?

- A) Provisioning services represent 73% of the services reported for the West region and 33% of those for the Central region, but they represent 75% of the services reported overall.
- B) None of the percentages shown for provisioning services are lower than 33%, and the overall percentage shown for provisioning services is 75%.
- C) Provisioning services are shown for each region, while no cultural services are shown for some regions.
- D) The greatest percentage shown for provisioning services is 88% for the North region, and the least shown for provisioning services is 33% for the Central region.

**END OF VIDEO 2**

## START OF VIDEO 3

### 3. Inference Questions (Page 115)

10. Researchers recently found that disruptions to an enjoyable experience, like a short series of advertisements during a television show, often increase viewers' reported enjoyment. Suspecting that disruptions to an unpleasant experience would have the opposite effect, the researchers had participants listen to construction noise for 30 minutes and anticipated that those whose listening experience was frequently interrupted with short breaks of silence would thus \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) rate the listening experience as more negative than those whose listening experience was uninterrupted.
- B) rate the experience of listening to construction noise as lasting for less time than it actually lasted.
- C) perceive the volume of the construction noise as growing softer over time.
- D) find the disruptions more irritating as time went on

#### A Difficult Inference Question:

11. As the name suggests, dramaturges originated in theater, where they continue to serve a variety of functions: conducting historical research for directors, compiling character biographies for actors, and perhaps most importantly, helping writers of plays and musicals to hone the works' stories and characters. Performance scholar Susan Manning observes that many choreographers, like playwrights and musical theater writers, are concerned with storytelling and characterization. In fact, some choreographers describe the dances they create as expressions of narrative through movement; it is therefore unsurprising that \_\_\_\_\_

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) some directors and actors rely too heavily on dramaturges to complete certain research tasks.
- B) choreographers developing dances with narrative elements frequently engage dramaturges to assist in refining those elements.
- C) dramaturges can have a profound impact on the artistic direction of plays and musicals.
- D) dances by choreographers who incorporate narrative elements are more accessible to audiences than dances by choreographers who do not.

END OF VIDEO 3

## ANSWERS FOR INFORMATION AND IDEAS LESSON

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 7. B  |
| 2. A | 8. C  |
| 3. A | 9. B  |
| 4. D | 10. A |
| 5. B | 11. B |
| 6. B |       |

NOTE: Answer explanations can be found in the *Digital SAT Study Guide* on pages 101 to 118.