

Informational Passage 1

1. This is a search question, so we must find the point in the passage from which it is drawn. The needed information is contained in lines 42–44. There it is stated that Hughes’s poems have the mark of Black folk culture—“*contain many instances of naming and enumeration.*” The answer is (C).

The other choices are easily dismissed. Choices (A), (D), and (E) are not mentioned in the passage. Choice (B) is second best. Lines 49–51 state that Hughes used craft and care in composing his poems. However, this was not due to the influence of Black folk culture.

2. This is an inference question. We are asked to interpret the author’s remarks. The key phrase for answering this question—“carefully and artfully”—is introduced by the pivotal sentence containing “yet” (lines 49–51). The metaphor “a deceptive veil of artlessness” implies that the poems have an appearance of innocence and spontaneity while in fact they are “carefully and artfully crafted.” The answer is (B).
3. This is an attitude question. By asking us to speculate on what the author might agree with, the question goes well beyond the passage. The information needed to answer it is introduced by the pivotal word “but” (lines 24–34). The key is the sentence “*Clearly, the artistic work of Black people could be used to promote racial acceptance and integration only on the condition that it became Europeanized.*” In other words, before spirituals could be

accepted, they had to adopt Western European literary styles. The answer is (D).

As to the other choices, the author would disagree with (A). The sentence “*Clearly, the artistic work of Black people could be used to promote racial acceptance and integration only on the condition that it became Europeanized*” implies that one had to “sell out” to get Black spirituals accepted—this is not an advancement. Choice (B) is false. *The Weary Blues* broke from the traditions of African American literature exemplified by *Jubilee Songs of the United States*. The author would disagree with (C). Since *Jubilee Songs of the United States* adopts Western European literary styles, it is not an authentic replication of African American spirituals. Finally, choice (E) is neither mentioned nor implied by the passage.

4. This is a purpose of a phrase question: We are asked to interpret the author’s intent. The author states that in 1862 northern White writers expressed appreciation of “sorrow songs.” However, sixty years later, the fashionable portrayal of these spirituals was in a Europeanized format, presumably because the original versions were not popular nor accepted among White audiences. The answer is (B).

5. This is yet another author attitude question. The key to this question is again the sentence “*Clearly, the artistic work of Black people could be used to promote racial acceptance and integration only on the condition that it became Europeanized.*” In other words, the requirement was imposed for social—not artistic—reasons. The answer is (A).
6. This is an attitude question. Expect many attitude questions with literary passages since these passages tend to be subjective. This question is hard since the second-best choice—(A)—is rather good. At the time of publication, *The Weary Blues* was novel since it broke from the traditions of African American literature, and the author expresses admiration for this “rebellion.” However, the opening to paragraph two shows that the author valued even more highly “*Hughes’s expression of the vibrant folk culture of Black people,*” which “*established*

his writing as a landmark in the history of African American literature.” The answer is (D).

Regarding the other choices. Although “understatement” is mentioned in the passage, it is not elaborated on. This eliminates (B). Choice (C) is superficially tempting. There is a long discussion of “sorrow songs,” but this example merely illustrates how Black culture had to be Europeanized to be accepted. The bulk of the passage is about Hughes’s poetry. Finally, choice (E) is not supported by the passage. The author states that Hughes’s writing helped broaden the linguistic range of African American literature but does not imply that this was due to a universal appeal of Hughes’s writings. In fact, because Hughes rebelled against cultural norms, it is likely his writings did not have universal appeal.

Informational Passage 2

7. This is a purpose of the passage question. The first paragraph introduces three adaptive responses—regulatory, acclimatory, and developmental. Then paragraph two introduces an extended example of a developmental response—wing development in water bugs. The answer is (D).
8. This is an inference question. The information needed to answer it is found in the second half of paragraph two. There it is stated: “*The summer (early) generation, in contrast, is usually dimorphic—some individuals have normal functional (macropterous) wings; others have much-reduced (micropterous) wings of no use for flight. But small ponds occasionally dry up during the summer, forcing the water bugs to search for new habitats, an eventuality that macropterous individuals are well adapted to meet.*” So if a pond dries up, the water bugs with normal wings (macropterous) can still survive by flying to another pond. The answer is (D). Note the underlined pivotal words.
9. This is another inference question. Lines 62–65 contain the needed reference: “*Those eggs formed in autumn are exposed to cold winter temperatures, and thus produce micropterous adults in the summer generation.*” So if the winter is unusually warm, there should a higher than usual percentage of macropterous individuals. The answer is (A).
10. This is a detail question. The needed reference is contained in lines 53–61. There it is stated that the overwintering adults form two sets of eggs, one in early autumn and one in early spring. The passage indicates that “*eggs formed in autumn are exposed to cold winter temperatures, and thus produce micropterous adults*” and that “[*eggs*] formed during the spring are never exposed to cold temperatures, and thus yield individuals with normal wings.” This establishes the mechanism for dimorphism and the answer is therefore (A).
11. This is an inference question. We are asked to apply what we have learned in the passage to another situation. Lines 7–10 offer the passage’s only description of regulatory responses. There it is stated, “*Regulatory responses involve rapid changes in the organism’s use of its physiological apparatus.*” The key is the word “rapid.” The only answer-choice that involves a quick change is (B), and it is the answer.
12. This is a detail question. According to the passage (lines 25–32), those water bugs which hatch during the summer have fully developed wings (all are macropterous), unlike the generation laid and hatched during the spring. The answer is (E).

13. This is a purpose of the phrase question. We are asked to discern the author's intent. The purpose of the last paragraph is to show that the varied wing development of water bugs is determined by environment, not genetics. By showing that changes in temperature affect wing development in water bugs, the author is presenting evidence that wing development is environmentally determined. The answer is (C).
14. This is an organization question. Pivotal words "*however*" and "*in contrast*" show that the passage is comparing and contrasting biological phenomena. Paragraphs two and three present a detailed illustration of one particular phenomenon—wing development in water bugs. Thus, the answer is (A).

Informational Passage 3

15. This is a search question. Paragraph 3 contains the information needed to answer it. There it is stated that the cod population can replenish itself in a few years, but the shark population would take 15 years. Hence the answer is (B).

Don't make the mistake of choosing (C). Although it is certainly supported by the passage, it does not state how this relates to cod—they too may be decreasing in number. (C) uses the true-but-irrelevant ploy.

16. This is an inference question. Statement I is true. It is supported by the analogy drawn between lions and sharks (lines 8–10). This eliminates (A) and (B). Statement II is false. It is too strong an inference to draw from the information in lines 10–12. If sharks were on the verge of extinction, this “could hamper” research. But given that the author does not claim or imply that sharks are near extinction, “would hamper” is too strong. Besides, the author does not state that sharks are being used in research, just that they may be useful in that regard. This eliminates (D) and (E). Hence, by process of elimination, we have learned the answer is (C).

17. This is an inference question; we are asked to apply what we have learned in the passage to a hypothetical situation. A review of the passage shows that only (B) and (E) have any real merit. But sharks have survived for 400 million years with an extremely low fecundity

rate. This eliminates (B). Hence the answer is (E).

18. This is a rather easy attitude question. The passage has a matter-of-fact or journalistic tone to it. So the answer is (B).

19. This is an inference question. Statement I is incorrect. Like Statement II in Question 9, it overstates the case. Statement II is correct. We know from lines 51–53 that some species of sharks migrate into the waters of over 20 countries. U.S. quotas alone cannot “protect” these sharks, even if the quotas reduce the rate of killing in U.S. waters. Statement III is incorrect. The environmentalists are angry at the finning fishermen who are over-fishing the waters, there is nothing in the passage to suggest that this anger is also directed towards the chefs. The answer is (B).

20. This is an inference question. By announcing the impending classification, the federal government ironically encourages fishermen to kill as many sharks as they can before the regulations go into effect—stimulating the opposite of what was intended, i.e., the saving of sharks. The answer is (D). Response A is incorrect because it is not certain we will find out less about cancer. Responses B and E are not a result of the announcement. Response C is beyond the scope of what is mentioned in the passage.

Informational Passage 4

21. This is a main point question. **The correct answer is B.**
- (A) No. The passage implies that field experiments with genetically altered *Pseudomonas* bacteria have yet to be done. *“These prospects lead many to hope that current efforts to assess the risks of deliberate release of altered microorganisms will successfully answer the concerns of opponents.”*
- (B) Yes. This is summarized by the final sentences: *“Nevertheless, proponents contend that the prospects for improved agriculture through such methods seem excellent. These prospects lead many to hope that current efforts to assess the risks of deliberate release of altered microorganisms will successfully answer the concerns of opponents and create a climate in which such research can go forward without undue impediment.”*
- (C) No. Although the passage discusses the use of genetically altered *Pseudomonas syringae* to prevent frost damage, it does not discuss using these particular bacteria in the soil surrounding corn plant roots to prevent frost damage. Rather, it discusses modifying bacteria that normally colonize corn roots to prevent insect damage to the plants.
- (D) No. This is too narrow. In addition to advocating the genetic alteration of a number of harmful phytopathogens, the researchers also advocate using genetic alteration techniques to *“create organisms with totally new combinations of desirable traits not found in nature.”*
- (E) No. The opponents of this type of research are more concerned with the possible dangers than with possible failure. Further, the passage implies that the fears of opponents would be lessened if bacteria released into nature were unable to survive.
22. This is a purpose of the paragraph question. **The correct answer is D.**
- (A) No. The passage implies that *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacteria are not the sole cause of soil suppressivity. *“While there may be many reasons for this phenomenon, it is clear that levels of certain bacteria, such as *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, a bacterium antagonistic to a number of harmful phytopathogens, are greater in suppressive than in nonsuppressive soil.”*
- (B) No. The rest of the passage points out that genetic engineering can weaken or eliminate certain phytopathogens. The reader needs to know why this is helpful.
- (C) No. The passage does not detail any chemical processes.
- (D) Yes. The rest of the passage points out that genetic engineering can weaken or eliminate certain phytopathogens. The first paragraph establishes why this is beneficial.
- (E) No. The passage does state that diseases brought on by phytopathogens diminish in severity over time. But it does not state that the diseases eventually disappear. Nor does the passage state that crop rotation is unnecessary.

23. This is an inference question. **The correct answer is C.**

- (A) No. We do not know whether or not *Pseudomonas fluorescens* would be present in the soil. We know only that since the crop plants are already impervious to parasitical organisms any *Pseudomonas fluorescens* present would probably have no beneficial effect on the crops.
- (B) No. The *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacteria would merely be unnecessary since the crops are impervious to parasitical organisms.
- (C) Yes. *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacteria are beneficial because they attack parasitical organisms. However, if the crops are already impervious to these parasites, then the bacteria would probably have no beneficial effect on the crops.
- (D) No. The discussion suggests that the yield would be greater, but not necessarily quicker.
- (E) No. This is independent of the discussion.

24. This is an inference question. **The correct answer is E.**

- (A) No. *“Cultivation of a single crop on a given tract of land leads eventually to decreased yields. One reason for this is that harmful bacterial phytopathogens, organisms parasitic on plant hosts, increase in the soil surrounding plant roots. The problem can be cured by crop rotation, denying the pathogens a suitable host for a period of time.”*
- (B) No. There is no indication in the passage that *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacteria increase when crops are rotated. Rather, the passage implies that phytopathogens decrease when crops are rotated:

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- (C) No. Although the passage discusses experimental crops whose roots produce insecticidal compounds, there is no implication that crop rotation is used to protect other plants from phytopathogens. Rather, the passage implies that crop rotation decreases phytopathogens by *“denying the pathogens a suitable host for a period of time.”*
- (D) No. We cannot determine from the passage whether phytopathogenic bacteria are responsible for the majority of plant diseases. Besides, even if this is the case, it does not explain why crop rotation can increase yields.
- (E) Yes. *“Cultivation of a single crop on a given tract of land leads eventually to decreased yields. One reason for this is that harmful bacterial phytopathogens, organisms parasitic on plant hosts, increase in the soil surrounding plant roots. The problem can be cured by crop rotation, denying the pathogens a suitable host for a period of time.”*

25. This is a main point question. **The correct answer is A.**

- (A) Yes. *“Proponents, on the other hand, argue that this particular strain is altered only by the removal of the gene responsible for the strain’s propensity to cause frost*

damage, thereby rendering it safer than the phytopathogen from which it was derived.”

- (B) No. The passage does not discuss the viability of altered bacteria in natural environments.
- (C) No. This is not mentioned in the passage.
- (D) No. The passage states only that the altered bacteria were antagonistic to (“crowded out”) the unaltered strain of the same bacteria.
- (E) No. The passage does not discuss the experimental procedures used to test the bacteria.

26. This is a weaken / viewpoint question. **The correct answer is D.**

- (A) No. This is irrelevant.
- (B) No. The passage indicates that the altered *Pseudomonas syringae* are derived from the natural strain which does cause damage to crops. Prevention of this damage is the reason for the alteration.
- (C) No. This is irrelevant.
- (D) Yes. If a gene has dual roles—one harmful and one beneficial—then removing the gene may solve a particular problem but cause even greater problems.
- (E) No. This is precisely what the proponents want to occur.

Informational Passage 5

27. This is a purpose of the passage question. **The answer is E.**

The answer to a purpose of the passage question will summarize the passage without going beyond it. (A) violates these criteria by *overstating* the scope of the passage. The comparison in the passage is between two specific systems, not between *all* systems. (A) would be a good answer if “best” were replaced with “better.” Beware of extreme words. (B) violates the criteria by *understating* the scope of the passage. Although the evolution of both the adversarial and the inquisitorial systems is discussed in the passage, it is done to show why one is superior to the other. As to (C) and (D), both can be quickly dismissed since neither is mentioned in the passage. Finally, the passage does two things: it presents two systems of criminal justice and shows why one is better than the other. (E) aptly summarizes this, so it is the best answer.

28. This is an inference question. **The correct answer is A.**

The passage compares and contrasts two systems of criminal justice, implying that the inquisitorial system is superior. We would expect a following paragraph to sum up this position or flow logically from it. Now all legal theory aside, the system of justice under which an innocent person would choose to be judged would, as a practical matter, pretty much sum up the situation and is

something we could infer from the passage. Hence the answer is (A).

29. This is a search question. **The answer is (A).**

The needed information is contained in lines 37–40, which state that the public prosecutor has to investigate on behalf of both society and the defendant. Thus, the defendant is not solely responsible for investigating his case. Furthermore, the paragraph’s opening implies that this feature is not found in the adversarial system. This illustrates why you must determine the context of the situation before you can safely answer the question.

The other choices can be easily dismissed. (B) is the second best answer. Lines 19–21 state that in the adversarial system the police assume the work of the prosecution. Then lines 31–33 state that the inquisitorial system begins where the adversarial system stopped; this implies that in both systems the police work for the prosecution. (C) uses a false claim ploy. The passage states that both systems are removed from the system of private vengeance. (D) is probably true, but it is neither stated nor directly implied by the passage. Finally, (E) uses a reference to the passage to make a true but irrelevant statement. People’s attitude or preference toward a system is not a part of that system.

30. This is an inference question **The answer is (E).**

The author states that the prosecutor is duty bound to present any evidence that may prove the defendant innocent and that he must disclose all pretrial evidence (i.e., have no tricks up his sleeve). This is the essence of fair play.

(A) overstates the case. Although the prosecutor must disclose any evidence that might show the defendant innocent, the prosecutor is still advocating society's case against the defendant—it must merely be measured advocacy. This is the second-best answer. As for (B), although it is implied that in both systems the right to initiate a case is extended to all people through the prosecutor, it is not stated or implied that this is the only way to start a case. Finally, neither (C) nor (D) is mentioned or implied in the passage.