

### Thesis Passage 1

1. This is a search except question. We must find the points in the passage from which each wrong answer-choice is drawn. Choice (A) is mentioned in the passage. Lines 6–12 state the railroad reached its zenith between 1880 and 1930. Eliminate (A). Choice (B) is mentioned in the passage. The opening to the passage states, “*the railroad had the most far-reaching impact on major events . . . particularly on the Industrial Revolution.*” Eliminate (B). Choice (C) is mentioned in the passage. The second paragraph states that in the 1830s Thoreau and Hawthorne expressed an appreciation of the railroad’s ability to move people and things from one place to another but they also expressed concern about the new kind of economy and culture it forced on the land. In other words, they were ambivalent toward the railroad. Eliminate (C). Choice (D) is mentioned in the passage. In lines 53–55, the author says Stilgoe’s argument would have been stronger had he analyzed the work of Frank Norris, Eugene O’Neill, or Henry Adams. Eliminate (D). Hence, by process of elimination, the answer is (E).

2. This is a detail / viewpoint question. Since the question refers to line 14, we must read several lines before and after the reference to get the proper perspective. The answer is contained in lines 6–16. There the author mentions “*public attitudes toward the railroad.*” That is, the commonly held attitude toward the railroad during the 1830s. The answer is (B).

Regarding the other choices. Choices (A), (C), and (D) are all opinions of the author, not of Stilgoe.

Choice (E) is not mentioned in the passage.

3. This is a detail question. The needed reference is lines 48–52. “*When he glances at the treatment of railroads by writers like Henry James, Sinclair Lewis, or F. Scott Fitzgerald, what comes through in spite of Stilgoe’s analysis is remarkably like Thoreau’s feeling of contrariety and ambivalence.*” In other words, these writers expressed an ambivalence toward the railroad similar to that of writers before 1880. The answer is (B).

As to the other choices, (A), (C), and (D) are not mentioned in the passage. Choice (E) expresses Stilgoe’s view, not the author’s.

4. This is an inference question. We are asked to draw an inference from the passage. In lines 37–41, the author says that Stilgoe has unearthed a large volume of previously unknown work. But in lines 41–43 he implies that these “works of popular culture” are irrelevant to Stilgoe’s argument. In other words, all that Stilgoe has done is expose a large volume of previously unknown work. The answer is (E).

The other choices are easily dismissed. Choice (A) contradicts Stilgoe’s assertion that ambivalence toward the railroad disappeared after the 1880s. Choices (B) and (C) are not mentioned in the passage. Finally, choice (D) is false. The material is from the 1880s and after, not the 1830s.

5. This is another inference question. As mentioned in the solution to Question 7, the author implies that the work of these authors supports Stilgoe's assertion that ambivalence toward the railroad ended

after 1880 (see lines 53–55). The answer is (C).

6. This is a viewpoint question. By asking us to speculate on Stilgoe's view toward the study of cultural history, the question goes well beyond the passage. All of Stilgoe's conclusions concerning public attitudes toward the railroad are based on works of popular culture. So underlying Stilgoe's arguments is the assumption that works of popular culture can reliably measure public opinion. The answer is (D).

7. Like most purpose of the passage questions, this one is rather easy. The passage is a critique of Stilgoe's view of public attitudes toward the railroad. This is made explicit by, among other places, the closing of paragraph one (the typical place for the main point to be

stated) and the openings of paragraphs two and three. The answer is (A).

Remember, the answer to a main point question will summarize the passage without going beyond it. (B) violates these criteria by *overstating* the scope of the passage. The passage does mention many works of literature. But this is done only to illustrate how Stilgoe used literature to support his views, or how the author felt Stilgoe should have used literature. Choice (C) also *overstates* the scope of the passage. The only cultural historian mentioned in the passage is Stilgoe. Choice (D) makes a false claim. Although the origins of intellectuals' opposition to railroads is discussed (their attitude was a reaction against the prevailing opinion that railroads were an unqualified improvement, lines 30–33), the origins of public support for the railroads is not discussed. Choice (E) violates the criteria by *understating* the scope of the passage. Defining the "romantic-era distrust" is only a small part of the passage.

## Thesis Passage 2

8. This is a detail question, so we must find the point in the passage from which the question is drawn. It is the opening sentence to paragraph two. There it is stated that countries in the western Pacific and Mediterranean regions have a low incidence of HIV infection and have introduced border restrictions. The answer, therefore, is (C).

9. This is another detail question. The answer is (A). This is directly supported by the opening sentence of paragraph four. Note that (A) is a paraphrase of that sentence.

Be careful with (C). Although this is hinted at in paragraph five, it is never directly stated that the public sector is responsible for these costs, only that it would in fact pick up these costs. Remember: A description question must be answered from what is directly stated in the passage, not from what it implies.

10. This is an inference question. Lines 26–28 state, “*U.S. policy has been sharply criticized by national and international organizations.*” Given that this criticism has not caused the United States to change its policies, it must be more

concerned with controlling the number of HIV-positive immigrants than with avoiding criticism. The answer, therefore, is (C).

Don’t be tempted by (A); it’s a same language trap. Every word in it is taken from the passage. However, the passage states that over 3 million people were tested for HIV antibodies (lines 23–25), not that they were tested “positive” for HIV antibodies.

11. This is another inference question. In lines 53–55, the authors state that only active tuberculosis should be listed as a dangerous contagious disease. We expect that they would oppose adding HIV to the list. The answer is (C).

12. This is a definition question. Although governments have ostensibly restricted the immigration of HIV-positive persons out of fear that they may spread the disease, the authors apparently are referring to financial costs, not costs to public health. This is indicated by lines 64–68, where they describe heart disease and cancer as non-contagious and costly, yet still admissible. The answer, therefore, is (A).

**Thesis Passage 3**

13. This is a detail question. (A) is false. The enjoyment of the reader was incidental to Hemingway’s primary purpose—truth-telling. (B) is false, though very tempting. The first half of this item “*to construct a story that would reflect truths*” looks very good. The second half, however, spoils it by adding the qualifier “*not particular to a specific historical period.*” Reviewing the passage reveals no indication that Hemingway is trying to create any kind of “general truth.” In fact, one can argue that Hemingway’s emphasis on developing a strong “sense of place” (lines 30–34), and his belief that when trying to tell the truth “I only know what I have seen” (line 10) support the inference that Hemingway sees truth as subjective, not objective. (C) is also false. The passage gives no indication that Hemingway was interested in the way things “might have been.” (D) is true. This is clearly the author’s interpretation of Hemingway’s purpose. Look at the first few sentences of both the first and the second paragraphs. Notice that this question item emphasizes subjective truth, or the truth “as Hemingway had experienced it.”

14. This is an inference question. In lines 31–33, Hemingway effectively equates geography with background, and says that without them “you have nothing.” In lines 35–38, the author refers to the “geographical groundwork” of Hemingway’s novels. Both of these statements imply that details of place set the stage for other, more important events. Hence the answer is (A). Don’t try to draw a distinction between “geography,” “background,” and “landscape.” The author uses them

interchangeably when referring to details of place. Such latitude with labels is often mimicked by the Question-Writers.

Choice (D) is a close second-best. The author indicates that geography, background, and landscape are quite important to Hemingway. In fact, “first” in the opening to paragraph 3 almost indicates that details of place are the most important aspect of his writing. Looking closely, however, we see that the passage gives no indication of Hemingway’s perspective on characters. So no comparison can be made.

15. This is an inference question. Hemingway’s primary intent was to project for the reader “the way it was,” as seen through his eyes. The answer is (D).

16. This is an inference question. Statement I is true. The last line of the passage states that the designer’s initials (i.e., the writer’s presence) are made as inconspicuous as possible. Statement II is also true. Readers cannot see “the way it was” if they are looking through another medium (the author). Hemingway appears to say, in effect: “*I’m striving to report exactly what happened (and not my opinions about it). The readers must draw their own conclusions.*” Statement III is false. In fact, a good case could be made that writing only from personal experience would tend to increase, not decrease, the presence of the writer in his writings. The answer is (C).

17. This is a viewpoint question; we are asked to put ourselves in Hemingway's mind. From Hemingway's statement "I only know what I have seen" and from the author's assertion that Hemingway refused to honor secondary sources, we can infer that he believed one can "know" only through experience. Hence the answer is (A).

18. This is a detail/ inference question. The answer is (B). There is a great parallel here. *Phrase* (in the passage) corresponds to *style* (in the answer-choice), and *concept* corresponds to *content*.