

Information and Ideas: Inferences

DIRECTIONS: The questions in this section are designed to test your reading and writing abilities. Each question will provide you with one or more passages. It is important to thoroughly read each passage and question before selecting the best answer based on the information provided. All of the questions in this section are multiple-choice and will have four options to choose from. There is only one correct answer for each question.

1. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 nearly doubled the size of the United States, spurring westward migration and cultivating a hearty spirit of American expansionism. However, this vast territorial acquisition did not instantly lead to a boom in population growth. The region's inhospitable land, isolated locations, and lack of infrastructure made it challenging for settlers to establish new communities. To entice settlers, the government initiated several land grants and homesteading laws. Over time, these policies led to increased population growth and economic development in the region. These observations may suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) American expansionism was born out of the Louisiana Purchase.
- B) The government's role was primarily in the acquisition, not the development, of newly acquired territories.
- C) The settlers were unprepared for the challenges presented by the new territories.
- D) in the early stages of westward expansion, government incentives were a significant driver of population growth and economic development.

2. The introduction of automated technology into manufacturing has transformed the industry in significant ways. It has increased the speed and efficiency of production processes, reducing the need for human intervention. However, these advancements have not diminished the value of skilled labor in the manufacturing sector. While machines perform repetitive tasks with superior speed and precision, they lack the creativity, problem-solving abilities, and nuanced understanding of the product that humans possess. Therefore, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) automated technology has made skilled labor obsolete in the manufacturing sector.
 - B) despite the advancements in automated technology, skilled human labor retains an essential role in the manufacturing sector.
 - C) automated technology predominantly benefits the unskilled labor force.
 - D) creativity and problem-solving abilities have no role in the manufacturing sector.
3. The introduction of grey wolves into Yellowstone National Park in the mid-1990s led to unexpected ecological changes. Before their reintroduction, elk were overgrazing the willow plants, drastically decreasing their population. The wolves' predation on elk reduced the elk population, allowing the willow plants to regenerate and thrive. This revitalization of willow plants led to the return of beavers, which use willow plants for food and for building their dams. The beaver dams then created wetlands, providing habitats for a variety of other species. The results of the study, therefore, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) illustrate that the reintroduction of grey wolves into Yellowstone National Park had a positive cascading effect on the park's ecosystem.
- B) demonstrate that fewer elk is always beneficial for an ecosystem.
- C) imply that grey wolves are the only solution to overgrazing in national parks.
- D) suggest that beavers brought about the most significant changes to Yellowstone National Park's ecosystem.

4. In the early 21st century, businesses across industries began to heavily invest in data analytic tools. This transition was most obvious with corporations that held large volumes of consumer data, such as those operating in e-commerce and social media platforms. The driving principle behind these investments was the expectation that leveraging massive data could lead to more accurate consumer predictions and better-informed business decisions. While the adoption of such tools varied across industries, it seems that the biggest impact was observed within sectors where data collection is inherently tied to the business model. This suggests that during the early 21st century,
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Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) all businesses, regardless of industry, adopted data analytics tools to the same extent.
- B) consumers became more aware of, and resistant to, the collection of their data.
- C) the cost of data analytic tools rapidly declined, allowing all kinds of businesses to adopt them.
- D) the impact and adoption of data analytics tools were more significant in businesses where data collection was an integral part of the business model.

5. The U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1788, contains several provisions that were remarkable for their time. Among them, the separation of powers into separate branches and the establishment of a system of checks and balances were innovative solutions to prevent power concentration. However, it's important to note that these mechanisms were designed mostly to deal with internal threats to the democracy, with less focus on external threats. As the centuries passed, legislation had to adapt to deal with rising external threats, including territorial conflicts and cyber warfare. If one analyzes the evolution of the U.S. Constitution, it may suggest that _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) the U.S. Constitution was initially created with no considerations for potential external threats.
- B) the U.S. Constitution has remained unchanged since it was first ratified.
- C) the original provisions of the U.S. Constitution mainly focused on maintaining internal stability and balance of power, requiring adjustments with evolving external threats.
- D) the U.S. Constitution was inadequate in dealing with the country's early territorial conflicts.

6. During the Renaissance, the art world saw a drastic shift in focus from religious themes to humanism and classical antiquity. This was evident in the works of renowned artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo, who depicted human beings with heightened realism and depth. Despite the fact that these artists were highly valued in their day, it's important to note that the widespread acceptance of humanist themes in art was not immediate. For instance, the Church, a major patron of the arts, initially resisted the move away from religious motifs. As a consequence of this, during the course of the Renaissance, _____

Which choice most logically completes the text?

- A) most Renaissance artists opted to stick with religious themes rather than risk the Church's disapproval.
- B) it was likely a complex and challenging task for artists to balance the new humanist theme in art with the traditional expectations of their patrons.
- C) the standards for art and its themes were drastically lowered.
- D) Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci had significant influence on the Church's acceptance of humanistic themes.