



# Level 13 Samples

## 3 Reading Comprehension Assessments

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• Reading Comprehension Sample 13.1

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

## Antibiotic Resistance

Antibiotic resistance occurs when micro-organisms develop means of survival despite exposure to antibiotics. The development of antibiotic resistance can be traced to two main areas of antibiotic misuse: over-prescription by doctors and unnecessary introduction into animal feed by farmers. The overuse of antibiotics by both doctors and farmers has increased antibiotic resistance by inadvertently fostering natural selection for resistance in colonies of bacteria. Bacteria that naturally carry antibiotic-resistant genes survive contact with the antibiotics. These resistant bacteria then reproduce, transferring their resistant genes to future generations of bacteria. Over time, this process yields a colony of bacteria that is fully resistant to antibiotics. Some bacteria even develop a variety of resistance genes; these bacteria are colloquially known as "super bugs" because of their ability to resist the majority of antibiotics. Staphylococcus aureus, the bacteria responsible for what is commonly known as a "Staph infection," is one of the most resistant pathogens. It is estimated that half of all Staph infections in the United States are resistant to penicillin, methicillin, tetracycline, and erythromycin—the four most common drugs used to treat such infections. The ever-increasing strength and population of these "super bugs" may pose a serious threat to human health in the near future.



Although antibiotics save millions of lives every year, the over-prescription and misuse of antibiotic drugs have significantly contributed to the proliferation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. In some cases, patients suffering from mild viral illnesses—such as the common cold—request antibiotics from their physicians. Because most cases of bronchitis, sore throats, and other upper respiratory infections are caused by viruses, antibiotics have no effect on these illnesses. Furthermore, some common bacterial infections, such as minor ear infections in children, are often harmless and resolve themselves in a matter of days. Doctors who prescribe antibiotics for these maladies—often at the patients' insistence—play a substantial role in the problem of antibiotic resistance. By introducing useless antibiotics into their bloodstream, patients not only weaken their own resistance to future antibiotics, they also contribute to the larger threat of breeding "super bugs."

Animals reared for food are also needlessly flooded with antibiotics. Most antibiotics used on factory farms are used not to treat sick animals, but to limit the animals' energy expenditure and to prevent disease caused from overcrowding. By introducing a low level of antibiotics into an animal's diet, a farmer ensures that the animal's body will waste less energy in killing harmful bacteria. The less energy an animal expends, the faster it will grow, and the less food it will require before it gets to market weight. In addition, animals raised in factory farms are subject to extremely crowded conditions, and their food is often contaminated with fecal matter. The antibiotics added to the animals' food constitute an effort to counteract their unsanitary environments. The more antibiotics these animals are exposed to, however, the more resistant their own bodies become to the drugs. In turn, when people consume the antibiotic-laced meat, the resistance is passed into human bodies. "Super bug" strains of salmonella and campylobacter bacteria—two common causes of food poisoning in humans—have been reported throughout the United States. Concern over the use of antibiotics in animal feed has led the European Union to ban the use of these drugs as agents for increasing animal growth. Similar bills are currently being considered by the U.S. Congress, but pressure from food and pharmaceutical industries may encumber their passage.

The problem of antibiotic resistance has no easy solution. More funding should be available to

scientists working toward the research and development of new antibiotics that will fight resistant bacteria. In addition, there should be more research into alternative antibiotics. Certain bioactive phytochemicals—chemical compounds that occur naturally in plants—have been used by traditional healers for centuries. Recent research has shown that some of these compounds show promising results in combating resistant bacteria. The European barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), for example, contains a unique combination of chemicals that may counteract *Staphylococcus* bacteria's multi-drug resistance. Although further scientific research into these and other options is promising, there are certain steps that laypeople should also take to help prevent further development of resistant bacteria. Citizens should familiarize themselves and others with practices on factory farms. Individuals with viral infections should not demand antibiotics from their doctors. Consumers should put pressure on meat manufacturers to stop adding unnecessary antibiotics into animals' diets. Finally, citizens should petition the government to increase funding for scientific research done to combat the growing problem of antibiotic resistance.

**Sources:**

"Antibiotic Resistance." *MedWeb*, Web, 9 Jan. 2012.

"Super Bugs." *Nervous and Immune System*, Web, 11 Jan. 2012.

## **Questions**

- 1) In paragraph 1, the author mentions *Staphylococcus aureus* to provide an example of
  - A. a strain of bacteria that endangers livestock raised for food
  - B. an infectious bacteria that does not respond to any current drug treatment
  - C. a strain of bacteria that has become dangerously drug-resistant in recent times
  - D. a viral infection that is commonly treated with unnecessary antibiotics
  - E. a viral infection that mimics bacterial infections
  
- 2) The primary purpose of this passage is to
  - A. warn farmers about the hazards of introducing antibiotics into their animal feed
  - B. inform a general audience about the dangers of overusing and misusing antibiotics
  - C. chastise medical professionals for over-prescribing antibiotics
  - D. caution readers about the dangers of overusing antibacterial hand soaps
  - E. provide a general audience with basic information about the principles of natural selection amongst bacteria colonies
  
- 3) As used in paragraph 1, which is the best antonym for **colloquially**?
  - A. formally
  - B. fortunately
  - C. pragmatically
  - D. informally
  - E. kindly
  
- 4) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best synonym for **proliferation**?
  - A. hybridization
  - B. expulsion
  - C. diversification
  - D. stagnation
  - E. spread

- 5) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best synonym for **maladies**?
- A. occasions
  - B. demands
  - C. illnesses
  - D. mistakes
  - E. patients
- 6) Which of the following pieces of information would, if true, discredit the argument the author lays out in paragraph 3?
- A. The author obtained the majority of the information for this paragraph from an organic farming publication.
  - B. The author previously worked a job preparing animal feed and monitoring cattle weight on a factory farm.
  - C. The author has an advanced degree in public health.
  - D. The author grew up in the European Union.
  - E. The author contracted a Staph infection during a recent hospital visit.
- 7) Based on information in paragraph 3, it can be inferred that factory farmers contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans because they
- I. prize quick animal growth over potential health concerns
  - II. force animals to live in unhygienic conditions
  - III. fail to provide proper care for sick animals
- A. I only
  - B. II only
  - C. I and II only
  - D. II and III only
  - E. I, II, and III
- 8) In the final paragraph, the author suggests that the public can combat the problem of antibiotic resistance in all of the following ways EXCEPT by
- A. not demanding antibiotics for viral infections
  - B. putting pressure on meat manufacturers to stop adding unnecessary antibiotics into animals' diets
  - C. increasing their awareness of practices on factory farms
  - D. calling for government support of scientific research
  - E. reducing their consumption of meat from factory farms
- 9) The author most likely mentions phytochemicals in the final paragraph to
- A. suggest that the use of traditional medicine is inferior to more “scientific” remedies
  - B. suggest that the use of traditional medicine is superior to more “scientific” remedies
  - C. provide an example of alternative treatment currently being researched as a solution to antibiotic resistance
  - D. provide support for the idea that current scientific research is insufficient for combating antibiotic resistance
  - E. provide support for the idea that research into traditional medicine should receive the bulk of government funding

• Reading Comprehension Sample 13.2

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

## An Artful Dodger

It came to my attention one day that there was a young boy near the square. A sort of bandleader, you might say. An Artful Dodger.

It was hatefully hot. Sickeningly sunny. I was sitting in my usual place along the square, beneath the meager **solace** of my parasol. I had recently purchased a new book and was perusing it **voraciously**, my eyes hungrily devouring each line with delicate fury, my hand surreptitiously supplying my mouth with a steady stream of morsels from the quarry of nuts hidden deep within my shirt pocket. I looked up briefly, reluctant to tear my eyes from my book, and that was when, like a smear of darkness brought into the light, he was called to my attention. Just past the crowded vendors' platform—that place where so many corpulent grocers bellow prices, obedient apprentices weigh goods, and compliant clerks shuttle crates to and fro; each man but a cog in a complex and frenzied machine—is where I found him. Standing little more than four feet from toe to top, he must have been only eleven or twelve years of age. His nose a weathervane. His hair a glistening sheen of grease cascading from the head on all sides; it fell exactly long enough to hide two eyes of equal gloom. Together they sat cold and dark like cellmates conjecturing the color of the afternoon sky, peering out at the free world behind the iron bars that held them in. A threadbare vest, oversized and dangling about his thighs. The whole ensemble conspired to fabricate the appearance of being drenched, despite all the while absorbing the sun's wicked rays. I thought I myself might begin to melt simply by looking at the creature, this mirage, and I imagined myself pooling into the dusty platform, dripping down and slithering off beneath the cracks, but still, I watched him.



He was good; there was no denying it. I suppose any man (or, in this case, boy) desperate enough will adapt himself to any situation, take up any skill, any trade. The deftness with which he could make one of those plump, glistening orbs—an apple, peach, or a pear—disappear into his pants pocket, travel the length of the leg, and be liberated into the trembling hands of one of his many dutiful assistants crouching near the ground was nothing short of a marvel. These crimes were perpetrated so smoothly, so precisely they became just another section in the vast symphony playing out before my eyes. Everything around me whirled in perfect chaos, perfect harmony, not missing a beat. Under normal circumstances, I imagine one would have to pay for such a show.

### Questions

- 1) In paragraph 1, the narrator most likely calls the boy a "bandleader" because the boy
- plays in a symphony
  - teaches others valuable skills
  - plays a trick on someone
  - organizes a theft
  - manipulates a vendor

- 2) As used in paragraph 2, it can be inferred that the word **solace** belongs to which of the following word groups?
- A. fortress, barrier, rampart
  - B. structure, arrangement, configuration
  - C. sanctuary, refuge, shelter
  - D. liberation, escape, release
  - E. fence, hedgerow, barricade
- 3) In paragraph 2, the narrator writes of the boy: "His nose a weathervane." Which of the following literary devices is used in this line?
- A. *Allegory*, characterized by the use of symbolic representation to convey the meaning of an often abstract concept. This concept is usually conveyed through a more concrete object or idea.
  - B. *Assonance*, characterized by the repetition of similar vowel sounds in a sentence. This is used to add character to the writing and often adds an element of playfulness.
  - C. *Analogy*, characterized by establishing a relationship based on similarities between two ideas or concepts. This often works to convey a new idea by using a familiar idea as the basis for understanding.
  - D. *Metaphor*, characterized by the comparison of two unlike things without the use of "like" or "as." This often involves taking a concept or identity that is clearly understood and applying it to a second, less well-known element.
  - E. *Simile*, characterized by the making of a comparison between two unrelated and dissimilar things, people, beings, places and concepts. Similes allow the reader to better understand the sentiment the author wishes to convey. Similes are marked by the use of the words "as" or "like."
- 4) In paragraph 2, the phrase "iron bars" refers to the
- A. melancholy mood surrounding the boy
  - B. poverty that limits those of the lower class
  - C. locks of greasy hair covering the boy's eyes
  - D. hunger that imprisons those who do not have enough to eat
  - E. threadbare vest in which the boy is cloaked
- 5) In paragraph 2, the narrator says, "I had recently purchased a new book and was perusing it voraciously..." As used in paragraph 2, which of the following describes a **voracious** act?
- A. Yoko answers each of the teacher's questions correctly. At recess, she boasts to her classmates about how smart she is.
  - B. A relatively new building collapses. The owner sues the general contractor, stating that it was built in hasty fashion with profit, not quality, as the main consideration.
  - C. Anselm collects baseball cards. He buys six new packs each day, hoping to add rare and valuable assets to his already enormous collection.
  - D. The call center is the largest in the state. It employs over 14 percent of the total number of telephone operators nationwide.
  - E. All Ingrid needs to do is run 1/8 of a second faster and she will hold the world record in the 100-meter dash. She is well aware of this, so she trains night and day.

- 6) In paragraph 2, the narrator says, "It was hatefully hot. Sickeningly sunny." Which of the following literary devices is used in these lines?
- A. *Simile*, characterized by the making of a comparison between two unrelated and dissimilar things, people, beings, places and concepts. Similes allow the reader to better understand the sentiment the author wishes to convey. Similes are marked by the use of the words "as" or "like."
  - B. *Assonance*, characterized by the repetition of similar vowel sounds in a sentence. This is used to add character to the writing and often adds an element of playfulness.
  - C. *Hyperbole*, characterized by the use of specific words and phrases that exaggerate and overemphasize the core of the statement in order to produce a grander, more noticeable effect. This usually works to convey an action or sentiment that is generally not realistically possible or plausible but helps to emphasize an emotion.
  - D. *Alliteration*, characterized by the use of adjacent words that begin with the same sound or letter, creating a repetition of similar sounds in the sentence. This is used to add character to the writing and often adds an element of playfulness.
  - E. *Pun*, characterized by the use of a play on words intended to suggest the presence of two or more possible meanings. This is generally intended to produce an effect of irony, humor, or wit.
- 7) In the final paragraph, the narrator says, "Everything around me whirled in perfect chaos, perfect harmony, not missing a beat." This statement suggests an element of which of the following literary devices?
- A. *Paradox*, characterized by the use of contradictory concepts or ideas that, when placed together, bear a deep significance or possible truth.
  - B. *Sarcasm*, characterized by the use of harsh or bitter derision or irony. This is often conveyed through understatement, but it can also be conveyed through overstatement. The speaker is usually stating the opposite of what is meant.
  - C. *Ambiguity*, characterized by the expression of an idea in such a way that it becomes possible to glean more than one meaning from it.
  - D. *Anthropomorphism*, in which a human quality, emotion or ambition is attributed to a non-human object or being. This is often used in order to relate the object to the reader on a familiar level and also to increase the level of relativity between the humans and objects while lending character to the subject.
  - E. *Synthesis*, characterized by a way of writing in which the combination of multiple parts into one, unified whole. Synthesis is the opposite of analysis, which involves detailed consideration of the separate elements or parts of a work.

• Reading Comprehension Sample 13.3

**Directions:** Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

## Antonio's Revenge

A play brimming with linguistic superfluity and spectacular gore, John Marston's *Antonio's Revenge* (1599) has been portrayed by critics as everything from a brilliant burlesque of revenge tragedies to a grotesquely overwrought literary disaster. While the play is, as the title might suggest, a revenge tragedy, the degree to which its author intended it to be seriously received as one is a matter of persistent critical contention. Part of this confusion lies in the play's notorious excesses in language, characterization, and violence. The play's bizarre ending is especially problematic: in the final act, Antonio and his friends not only torture and kill the villainous Piero, they also murder and cook an innocent child. Instead of being punished, however, these revengers are heaped with praise and offered rewards before announcing their plans to become religious hermits.

While some critics argue that this ending reveals Marston's own personal sadistic bent, others simply see it as evidence of his lack of skills as a dramatist. T.S. Eliot, for example, has noted that this play, along with its predecessor *Antonio and Mellida*, "give the effect of work done by a man who was so exasperated by having to write in a form he despised that he deliberately wrote worse than he could have written, in order to relieve his feelings." Eliot's notion of Marston writing "to relieve his feelings" is not without merit; Antonio spends the entirety of *Antonio's Revenge* either describing his feelings in melodramatic ecstasy or "relieving" them through murder. Because Antonio is one of the most overtly emotional characters in Renaissance drama, *Antonio's Revenge* is, at least in part, a play about the physical dangers of excess emotion.

*Antonio's Revenge* presents emotion as a corruptive force by continually linking it with the human body. According to Renaissance philosophy, the human body was the seat of sin and decay—a **sordid** counterpart to the virtuous soul. In *Antonio's Revenge*, the connection between corrupt emotion and the corrupt body is present in both language and action. References to the body in this play are almost always negative: corpses rot, bloody wounds cry out, and ribcages burst with anguish. Because the human body is both the cause and conduit of this pain, emotions that arise from the body, such as rage or lust—both of which were thought to come from the liver—are also necessarily negative. This link between the emotional and the physical is reinforced throughout the play. In promising to avenge his father's death, for example, Antonio vows that his heart will "beat on" vengeance—that is, it will be both fixated on and be powered by the thought of revenge. Encouraged by the ghost of his murdered father, Antonio further swears: "May I be numbed with horror and my veins / Pucker with singeing torture, if my brain / Digest a thought but of dire vengeance! / May I be fettered slave to coward chance, / If blood, heart, brain, plot aught save vengeance!" (III.ii.85-92). In these lines, Antonio urges his blood, heart, and brain to be wholly consumed with revenge. He imagines that his brain will "digest" his thoughts, creating a doubly corporeal image. Furthermore, the consequences he imagines for himself—being "numbed with horror" and having his veins "pucker with singeing torture" emphasize the physicality of his promise to revenge his father's murder.

Avenging his father's death thus becomes not only an act of justice, but also an act of bodily necessity. By committing all of his major organs to the cause of revenge, Antonio makes revenge part of his physiology. In binding vengeance to the human body, Antonio builds on traditional early modern concepts of the dichotomy between the body and the soul, using the theory of the corrupt body to justify all of the ghastly violence that follows.

**Sources:**  
 Eliot, T.S. "John Marston," in *Selected Essays*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edn, London 1951, p 224.  
 Marston, John. *Antonio's Revenge*. Ed. W. Reavely Gair. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1978.



## Questions

- 1) This passage would most likely be found in
- A. the editorial section of a newspaper
  - B. an encyclopedia article about playwright John Marston
  - C. a scholarly journal about English literature
  - D. the book review section of a popular magazine
  - E. the playbill for an upcoming performance
- 2) In the first paragraph, the author states that many critics find the ending of John Marston's 1599 play *Antonio's Revenge* confusing because
- A. it is uncharacteristically violent
  - B. the "heroic" characters act like villains and are not punished for their crimes
  - C. the entire play itself is actually a parody of other revenge tragedies
  - D. the arrival of a group of religious hermits at the end of the play causes great disorder
  - E. the language becomes especially difficult to understand
- 3) The author notes that critics have attributed the play's strange ending to the fact that John Marston
- I. actually hated writing plays
  - II. had a cruel nature
  - III. was an incompetent playwright
- A. I only
  - B. II only
  - C. I and II only
  - D. II and III only
  - E. I, II, and III
- 4) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best antonym for **sordid**?
- A. violent
  - B. contrary
  - C. pure
  - D. beloved
  - E. calm
- 5) In paragraph 3, the author describes the line in which Antonio imagines his brain "digesting" his thoughts. If corporeal means relating to the body, then this particular line is said to present "a doubly corporeal image" because
- A. the stomach is usually understood to be the organ involved in digestion, but instead the brain takes on this task
  - B. in the Renaissance, negative emotions like rage and lust supposedly arose from the liver, not the brain
  - C. the brain was traditionally thought of as the location of the soul, which was supposedly virtuous
  - D. Antonio is wholly committing himself to the act of revenge, an act that he imagines will require the involvement of all his body parts
  - E. the imagery in this line is especially vivid and disgusting

- 6) It can be inferred that in Antonio's Revenge, the character Piero
- A. becomes a religious hermit at the end of the play
  - B. has murdered Antonio's father
  - C. is an innocent child
  - D. ultimately becomes the hero of the play
  - E. represents the author himself
- 7) According to the argument in the final paragraph, Antonio links his desire for vengeance to the human body in order to
- A. explain the philosophical underpinnings of the body/soul dichotomy to the audience
  - B. provide a vivid link between revenge and the liver
  - C. highlight the superiority of the virtuous soul
  - D. rationalize his murderous actions
  - E. counter Renaissance notions about the corrupt nature of the body

**Sample 13.1**
**1) C**
**Question Type: Inference**

In the paragraph 1, the author writes, “Staphylococcus aureus, [are] the bacteria responsible for... ‘Staph infection[s],” and it “is estimated that half of all Staph infections in the United States are resistant to... the four most common drugs used to treat such infections.” We can see that this information about Staphylococcus aureus provides specific data that indicates that half of all Staph infections in the U.S. are resistant to drugs. Later in the paragraph, the author notes that because of the, “ever-increasing strength and population of these ‘super bugs,” like Staphylococcus aureus, we may face a “serious threat to human health in the near future.” From this we can see that since the infections are resistant to, and therefore cannot be cured by the drugs, this presents a potentially dangerous health situation. Using this information, we can see that in paragraph 1, the author mentions Staphylococcus aureus to provide an example of a strain of bacteria that has become dangerously drug-resistant in recent times. Therefore **(C)** is correct. In paragraph 1, the author reaches the conclusion that Staphylococcus aureus and other “super bugs” could be a “serious threat to human health in the near future.” Because livestock are not mentioned, we can tell that in paragraph 1 the author does not mention Staphylococcus aureus to provide an example of a strain of bacteria that endangers livestock raised for food. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Staphylococcus aureus, [are] the bacteria responsible for... ‘Staph infection[s],” and it “is estimated that half of all Staph infections in the United States are resistant to... the four most common drugs used to treat such infections.” Using this information, we can see that this infectious bacteria does not respond to “the four most common drugs” that are used to treat it, but we do not have enough information to say that the author mentions Staphylococcus aureus to provide an example of an infectious bacteria that does not respond to any current drug treatment. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. In paragraph 2, the author writes, “the over-prescription and misuse of antibiotic drugs have significantly contributed to the proliferation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.” Since this information is in paragraph 2—not paragraph 1—and Staphylococcus aureus is not mentioned as one of the proliferating types of viral infections commonly treated with unnecessary antibiotics, we know that **(D)** is incorrect. In paragraph 2, the author focuses on viral infections that people treat with unnecessary antibiotics, never mentioning Staphylococcus aureus. In paragraph 1, the author writes that, “Staphylococcus aureus, [are] the bacteria responsible for what is commonly known as a ‘Staph infection.” Using this information, we can see that Staphylococcus aureus is not a viral infection; rather it is caused by bacteria. Moreover, the passage makes no mention of a viral infection mimicking a bacterial infection. Therefore, the author does not mention Staphylococcus aureus to provide an example of a viral infection that mimics bacterial infections, and **(E)** is incorrect.

**2) B**
**Question Type: Global**

The first paragraph can often provide clues about the focus, purpose, and audience of a passage. When we examine the first paragraph, we see the author open the passage with the sentence: “Antibiotic resistance occurs when micro-organisms develop means of survival despite exposure to antibiotics.” We can see that antibiotic resistance is defined here, and will likely be a focus. Next, the author writes, “antibiotic resistance can be traced to... over-prescription by doctors and unnecessary introduction into animal feed by farmers.” In this case, “over-prescription” means overuse, and the introduction of antibiotics into animal feed represents misuse. The author goes on to explain how “super bugs” are produced based on these practices, and Staph infections are cited as a specific example of “super bugs.” Finally, the last sentence of the first paragraph, often called the thesis statement, puts forth a claim. The author writes, “The ever-increasing strength and population of these “super bugs” may pose a serious threat to human health in the near future.” Because the author never specifies a target audience, and general human health is claimed to be at risk, we can infer that the author’s purpose is to warn a general audience about a potential danger. Using all of this information, we can see that the primary purpose of this passage is to inform a general audience about the dangers of overusing and misusing antibiotics. Therefore **(B)** is correct. In paragraph 1, the author writes that “antibiotic resistance can be traced to... over-prescription by doctors and unnecessary introduction into animal feed by farmers.” In the next two paragraphs, the author elaborates on each of these varying contributors to antibiotic resistance. The hazardous result of farmers introducing antibiotics into their animal feed is only half of the author’s explanation for how problematic, antibiotic resistant “super bugs” develop, therefore it is too specific to be the primary purpose for this passage and **(A)** is incorrect. In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Doctors who prescribe antibiotics for these maladies—often at the patients’ insistence—play a substantial role in the problem of antibiotic resistance.” Despite the fact that the author says that doctors are playing a substantial role in the problem, it would not be accurate to say that doctors are being chastised—or scolded harshly—based on this information. Also, this sentence is only a detail in paragraph 2, so it would not be correct to infer that the primary purpose of this passage is to chastise medical professionals for over-prescribing antibiotics. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The passage does not provide information about antibacterial hand soaps, so it would not be correct to infer that the primary purpose of this passage is to inform readers about the dangers of overusing antibacterial hand soaps. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect. In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Bacteria that naturally carry antibiotic-resistant genes survive contact with the antibiotics. These resistant bacteria then reproduce, transferring their resistant genes to future generations of bacteria. Over time, this process yields a colony of bacteria that is fully resistant to antibiotics.” We can see that this information provides us with the background explanation for how natural selection creates antibiotic-resistant bacteria. This information, as it turns out, is not the main focus of the passage. In the next two paragraphs, we see the author elaborate on the overuse and misuse of antibiotics caused by doctors and farmers respectively. Therefore, the primary purpose of this passage is not to provide a general audience with basic information about the principles of natural selection amongst bacteria colonies. Because it is too specific, **(E)** is incorrect.

**3) A**
**Question Type: Vocabulary**
**colloquially** (*adverb*): characteristically used in conversational, informal language.

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Some bacteria even develop a variety of resistance genes; these bacteria are colloquially known as ‘super bugs.” We can use context clues to help figure out a meaning for colloquially as it’s used in this sentence. Since bacteria is a more scientific way of saying “bug” and developing a variety of resistance genes makes them stronger, or “super,” compared to standard bacteria, we know that the phrase “super bugs” is a colloquial—or more conversational and informal—way of saying something formal or scientific like bacteria with resistance genes. Since we are looking for the best antonym for the adverb colloquially, we are looking for the word (in adverb form) that most nearly means the opposite of conversational and informal. Formal

expresses the opposite of informal, and we can make it an adverb by adding the suffix “-ly,” so *formally* is the best choice. Therefore **(A)** is correct. We know that we are looking for the word that most nearly means the opposite of conversational and informal, which we will then turn into an adverb by adding the suffix “-ly” to the end. *Fortunately*, or fortunate, means to have good luck, so bad luck or unfortunate would be its opposite. Since we know that luck is not a factor in why we refer to bacteria with resistance genes as “super bugs,” we know that fortunately is not the best antonym for colloquially. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. We know that we are looking for the word that most nearly means the opposite of conversational and informal, which we will then turn into an adverb by adding the suffix “-ly” to the end. *Pragmatically*, or pragmatic, means practical, so impractical would be its opposite. We know that impractical does not mean the same thing as informal, and we know it is not necessarily impractical to refer to bacteria with resistance genes as “super bugs,” since in some cases this nomenclature might make more sense to those people who are less scientifically inclined. Using this information, we can tell that pragmatically is not the best antonym for colloquially. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. We know that we are looking for the word that most nearly means the opposite of conversational and informal, which we will then turn into an adverb by adding the suffix “-ly” to the end. *Informally*, or informal, is a synonym for colloquially, so it could not be the best antonym. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect. We know that we are looking for the word that most nearly means the opposite of conversational and informal, which we will then turn into an adverb by adding the suffix “-ly” to the end. Although super bugs are menacing, or bad, the word *kindly* has no meaning related to a degree of formality. Therefore **(E)** is incorrect.

**4) E**
**Question Type: Vocabulary**

**proliferation** (*noun*): increase in production or disbursement.

In paragraph 2, the author writes that, “the over-prescription and misuse of antibiotic drugs have significantly contributed to the proliferation of antibiotic resistant bacteria.” At the end of paragraph 1, the author noted “the ever-increasing strength and population of these ‘super bugs.’” Using context clues here, we can determine that proliferation refers to an increase in the population of the “super bugs.” We can also use context clues to determine that “super bugs” are the same thing as the “antibiotic resistant bacteria” cited in the first quotation. Using this information, we can see that propagation, which also refers to the rapid *spread* of something, would be the best synonym for proliferation because they mean nearly the same thing. Therefore **(E)** is correct. *Hybridization* refers to cross breeding. We are looking for the word that most nearly means increase in production or disbursement. Since hybridization refers to a specific type of breeding, we know that it is too specific of a process to describe a general rapid growth of bacteria, which can multiply without hybridization. Therefore hybridization is not the best synonym for proliferation, and **(A)** is incorrect. *Expulsion* refers to the act of driving out or expelling. Using context clues, and the above information, we know that the over-prescription and misuse of antibiotic drugs have caused antibiotic resistant bacteria to spread, which is not the same as driving the bacteria out of a host. Therefore, expulsion is not the best synonym for proliferation, and **(B)** is incorrect. *Diversification* refers to the act or process of varying something. Since, using the above information, we know that the bacteria are not literally changing into different forms, they are simply multiplying, getting stronger and spreading, the process is not accurately described as diversification. Therefore diversification is not the best synonym for proliferation, and **(C)** is incorrect. *Stagnation* means remaining in the same place or form. Using the above information, we know that the antibiotic resistance bacteria are not remaining in the same state, place or form, but that they are actually multiplying and getting stronger as antibiotics are used more often and less appropriately. Therefore, stagnation is not the best synonym for proliferation, and **(D)** is incorrect.

**5) C**
**Question Type: Vocabulary**

**maladies** (*noun*): illnesses or diseases.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Furthermore, some common bacterial infections, such as minor ear infections in children, are often harmless and resolve themselves in a matter of days. Doctors who prescribe antibiotics for these maladies—often at the patients’ insistence—play a substantial role in the problem of antibiotic resistance.” We can use context clues to arrive at a close definition for maladies. The author uses the phrase “these maladies” in the second sentence to refer to a specific example in the previous sentence. By looking at this example, we can see that maladies must be illnesses, since a bacterial infection—and more specifically, an ear infection—is a type of illness. Therefore, the best synonym for maladies is illnesses, and **(C)** is correct. *Occasions* are particular times marked by certain circumstances or occurrences. Based on the context provided by the selection above, we know that bacterial infections like ear infections are examples of maladies. Since an occasion doesn’t necessarily have to be unpleasant—a birthday party or wedding, for instance—occasions is not specific enough to describe an illness like an ear infection. Therefore, it is not the best synonym for maladies, and **(A)** is incorrect. While the author does mention that patients should not demand antibiotics for illnesses, in this context we are looking for a word that describes the sort of category that bacterial infections, like ear infections, would fall into. *Demands* are things that are asked for based on a feeling of right or authority. As this does not mean nearly the same thing as an illness, demands is not the best synonym for maladies, and **(B)** is incorrect. *Mistakes* imply that a person is at fault. Since we can’t always blame someone for getting a bacterial infection, it is not appropriate to call an illness a mistake. Therefore mistakes is not the best synonym for maladies, and **(D)** is incorrect. *Patients* is a word that describes people with illnesses. Since we are looking for a word that categorizes bacterial infections, we are looking for a word that means illnesses, not people with illnesses. Using this information, we can see that patients is not the best synonym for maladies, and **(E)** is incorrect.

**6) A**
**Question Type: Global**

In the paragraph 3, the author discusses the effect of adding antibacterial agents into animal feed. Organic farmers are committed to raising their livestock without using pesticides, chemical fertilizers, or other “unnatural” additives, such as unnecessary antibiotics. Because of this, an organic farming publication is problematic as a single source, because it would likely contain biased or one-sided information. If the author obtained the majority of the information for this paragraph from such a source, it would logically follow that the argument would also be biased, and therefore, would be easier to discredit. Using this information, we can see that if the author obtained the majority of the information for this paragraph from an organic farming publication, it would most likely discredit the argument the author lays out. Therefore **(A)** is correct. If the author previously worked a job preparing animal feed and

monitoring cattle weight on a factory farm, he or she would likely have had first-hand information about the use of antibiotics in animal feed. This personal experience would not necessarily discredit the argument the author lays out in paragraph 3; in fact, it might have made the author more knowledgeable on the topic. Using this information, we can see that **(B)** is incorrect. If the author held an advanced degree in public health, it would only make him or her more qualified to assess the effect of farmers introducing antibacterial agents in animal feed, because advanced degrees require advanced study in a particular field. Public health is a field that would be interested in examining the effect of introducing antibacterial agents in animal feed. Therefore having an advanced degree in public health would not discredit the argument the author lays out in paragraph 3, so **(C)** is incorrect. In paragraph 3, the author writes, “Concern over the use of antibiotics in animal feed has led the European Union to ban the use of these drugs as agents for increasing animal growth.” Using this information, however, we cannot infer that growing up in the European Union would necessarily make someone biased with regard to this issue, since the bans were likely imposed long after the author was in his/her formative years. Moreover, the passage provides no information for us to infer that the author grew up in the European Union. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect. Had the author contracted a Staph infection during a recent hospital visit, it would most likely make the author conduct more research about the cause of Staph infections in humans. The passage provides no information for us to infer that the author contracted a Staph infection during a recent hospital visit. Moreover, the experience would not discredit the argument laid out in paragraph 3, which uses “salmonella and campylobacter bacteria—two common causes of food poisoning in humans” as examples of superbugs, rather than Staph. Therefore **(E)** is incorrect.

7) **C**

**Question Type: Inference**

In paragraph 3, the author notes that antibiotics used on farms limit livestock’s energy expenditure. Next, the author suggests that this helps “farmer[s] ensure that the animal’s body will waste less energy in killing harmful bacteria [and that] the less energy an animal expends, the faster it will grow and the less food it will require before it gets to market weight.” Based on this information, we can see that farmers are concerned with growing animals as fast as possible despite the fact that, as the author notes, “when people consume the antibiotic-laced meat, the resistance is passed into human bodies,” and then human bodies are less resistant to certain infections. This lets us know that factory farmers contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans because they prize quick animal growth over potential health concerns. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 3, the author writes, “animals raised in factory farms are subject to extremely crowded conditions, and their food is often contaminated with fecal matter.” To combat this, the author writes that farmers add antibiotics to the animals’ feed in “an effort to counteract their unsanitary environments.” Then, over time, an antibiotic resistance develops in the animals, and this is eventually passed on to humans. Using this information, we can see that factory farmers contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans because they force animals to live in unhygienic conditions. This supports **option (II)**. Paragraph 3 does not provide any information to indicate that factory farmers contribute to antibiotic resistance in humans because they do not provide proper care for sick animals. In fact, factory farmers could argue that by supplementing feed with antibiotics, they are providing a sort of care for their animals. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

8) **E**

**Question Type: Detail**

In the final paragraph, the author gives suggestions about potential solutions for the problem of antibiotic resistance. The author does not suggest that the public can combat the problem of antibiotic resistance by reducing their consumption of meat from factory farms. Since we are looking for the detail that is not present in the final paragraph, **(E)** is correct. In the final paragraph, the author writes, “Individuals with viral infections should not demand antibiotics from their doctors.” Using this information, we can see that the author suggests that the public can combat the problem of antibiotic resistance by not demanding antibiotics for viral infections. Since this detail is present in the final paragraph, **(A)** is incorrect. In the final paragraph, the author writes that people should put pressure on “meat manufacturers to stop adding unnecessary antibiotics into animals’ diets.” Using this information, we can see that the author suggests that the public can combat the problem of antibiotic resistance by putting pressure on meat manufacturers to stop adding unnecessary antibiotics into animals’ diets. Since this detail is present in the final paragraph, **(B)** is incorrect. In the final paragraph, the author writes “Citizens should familiarize themselves and others with practices on factory farms.” One way that citizens could become more familiar with antibiotic resistance is to increase their awareness about how farmers feed animals at factory farms. Using this information, we can see that the author suggests that the public can combat the problem of antibiotic resistance by increasing their awareness of practices on factory farms. Since this detail is present in the final paragraph, **(C)** is incorrect. In the final paragraph, the author suggests that, “citizens should petition the government to increase funding for scientific research.” Petitioning is one way that people can call on a government for support. Using this information, we can see that the author suggests that the public can combat the problem of antibiotic resistance by calling for government support of scientific research. Since this detail is present in the final paragraph, **(D)** is incorrect.

9) **C**

**Question Type: Inference**

In the final paragraph, the author writes, “Certain bioactive phytochemicals—chemical compounds that occur naturally in plants—have been used by traditional healers for centuries.” Next, the author cites the specific example of the barberry plant, “which contains a unique combination of chemicals that may counteract Staphylococcus bacteria’s multi-drug resistance,” in order to show that recent research has discovered that some plants contain compounds that may help combat resistant bacteria. Using this information, we can see that the author most likely mentions phytochemicals in the final paragraph to provide an example of alternative treatment currently being researched as a solution to antibiotic resistance. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The final paragraph does not provide any information that would allow us to infer that the author mentions phytochemicals to suggest that the use of traditional medicine is inferior to more “scientific” remedies. In fact, the author never weighs in about the effectiveness of either of these remedies with regard to each other; the author mentions traditional medicine, and phytochemicals, as another potential remedy being researched. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The final paragraph does not provide any information that would allow us to infer that the author mentions phytochemicals to suggest that the use of traditional medicine is superior to more “scientific” remedies. In fact, the author never weighs in about the effectiveness of either of these remedies with regard to each other; the author mentions traditional medicine, and phytochemicals, as another potential remedy being researched. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect.

The final paragraph does not provide any information that would allow us to infer that the author mentions phytochemicals to provide support for the idea that current scientific research is insufficient for combating antibiotic resistance. Instead, the author mentions traditional medicine, and phytochemicals, as another potential remedy being researched. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect. The final paragraph does not provide any information that would allow us to infer that the author mentions phytochemicals to provide support for the idea that research into traditional medicine should receive the bulk of government funding. Instead, the author mentions traditional medicine, and phytochemicals, as another potential remedy being researched. Therefore **(E)** is incorrect.

**Sample 13.2**
**1) D**
**Question Type: Global**

In paragraph 3, we learn that the boy is stealing fruit (“plump, glistening orbs—an apple, peach, or a pear”) from near the vendors’ platform. The boy puts the fruit in his pocket, which presumably has a hole in it that lets the fruit fall down the leg. Then, one of his “dutiful assistants,” presumably another child “crouching near the ground,” takes the fruit. All of this is done in such a carefully organized manner that it seems to the narrator to be “just another section in the vast symphony playing out before my eyes.” The narrator claims, “Everything around me whirled in perfect chaos, perfect harmony, not missing a beat.” In the passage, the “symphony” refers to the “perfect chaos” that is “whirling about” the narrator. The boy is the leader of the group of thieves that are committing crimes in “perfect harmony” in broad daylight. The theft is described in musical terms as part of a symphony, so the narrator most likely calls the boy the “bandleader” of the group because he is the one who organizes the theft. This makes **(D)** correct. The author uses the word “symphony” figuratively, not literally. Furthermore, the boy is not described as playing any instrument or making any music. All that he does is organize the theft. This eliminates **(A)**. The boy leads the others in the theft, but the passage does not suggest that the boy actually teaches them valuable skills. This means **(B)** is incorrect. The boy is stealing fruit, which is different than playing a trick on someone. This means **(C)** is incorrect. To manipulate someone is to influence them or control their actions, especially if they have no idea you are doing so. The boy is stealing from the vendor, which is a stronger abuse than just manipulation. This eliminates **(E)**.

**2) C**
**Question Type: Vocabulary**
**solace** (*noun*): something that gives comfort, consolation, or relief.

In paragraph 2, the narrator says, “It was brutally hot. Sickeningly sunny. I was sitting in my usual place along the square, beneath the meager solace of my parasol.” We can infer from this information that the narrator was outside on a terribly hot day, but protected from the hot sun by a parasol. Since the parasol, or umbrella, gave the narrator *solace* from the sun (presumably in the form of shade), we can infer that solace means comfort or consolation, in this case in the form of literal protection. The word group *sanctuary, refuge, shelter* contains words that indicate a place of comfort and protection from something harsh. This means solace fits into this word group. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The word group *fortress, barrier, rampart* contains words for things that provide defensive cover or protection during combat. Since being in the sun cannot be likened to a combat situation, **(A)** is not the best choice. The word group *structure, arrangement, configuration* contains words that describe the way that something is put together or set up. These words do not mean protection or comfort, so solace does not fit into this family. This means **(B)** is incorrect. The words in the family *liberation, escape, release* all describe getting away from or avoiding something. The parasol blocks the sun, but it does not liberate the narrator from the sun. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect. The words in the family *fence, hedgerow, barricade* all represent something used to keep other things out, but they do so by forming a barrier around something. Since the parasol offers solace by creating a shelter from the sun, not by forming a barrier around the narrator, solace does not fit into this word group. This eliminates **(E)**.

**3) D**
**Question Type: Inference**

In the passage, the narrator directly calls the boy’s nose a weathervane. Since this comparison involves taking a concept or identity that is clearly understood (the appearance of a weathervane) and applying it to a second, less well-known element (the appearance of the boy’s nose), and since this comparison does not use the words “like” or “as,” we can understand that it is a metaphor. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)** and **(B)**. Therefore they are incorrect. Although an analogy does compare two things, it goes beyond mere comparison to establish a relationship based on multiple similarities between the two concepts or ideas. An analogy is usually more involved than a metaphor, which can be created in just a few words, as is the case here. This makes **(C)** incorrect. Since the author does not use the words “like” or “as” to make this comparison, we can understand that it is not a simile. This means **(E)** is incorrect.

**4) C**
**Question Type: Inference**

In paragraph 2, the narrator describes the boy: “His hair a glistening sheen of grease cascading from the head on all sides; it fell exactly long enough to hide two eyes of equal gloom. Together they sat cold and dark like cellmates conjecturing the color of the afternoon sky, peering out at the free world behind the iron bars that held them in.” The first sentence tells us that the boy’s hair hung down just long enough to hide his eyes. The author then describes these eyes as “cold and dark like cellmates.” Continuing this prison imagery, the author writes that these eyes peered out “behind the iron bars that held them in.” Since the hair was hiding the boy’s eyes, we can infer that the “iron bars” that the eyes are peering out from behind must refer to the locks of greasy hair covering the boy’s eyes. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The narrator’s description does create the image of a gloomy little boy, but the “iron bars” refer specifically to the boy’s greasy locks, not to his melancholy mood. This means **(A)** is not the best choice. The passage does not directly address the poverty of the lower class. Furthermore, these lines specifically describe the boy’s appearance, not his social standing. This eliminates **(B)**. Though the boy may be stealing fruit out of hunger, the passage does not definitively imply that this is the boy’s motive. Furthermore, these lines specifically describe the boy’s appearance, not his hunger. This makes **(D)** incorrect. The threadbare vest worn by the boy is not mentioned until after the narrator describes the “iron bars,” so

it does not make sense that the iron bars would refer to his vest. Also, a vest does not hold eyes in, as it does not cover the face. Therefore (E) is incorrect.

5) C

**Question Type: Vocabulary**

**voracious** (*adjective*): having an unusually large and enthusiastic appetite for something.

In paragraph 2, the narrator says, “I had recently purchased a new book and was perusing it voraciously, my eyes hungrily devouring each line with delicate fury.” Since the narrator “hungrily devour[ed]” the book, the narrator must have had a great appetite for the book. From this we can infer that *voracious* means having a great appetite for something. Buying several packs of cards a day to add to an already enormous collection demonstrates a great appetite for collecting baseball cards. This makes (C) correct. Answering questions correctly and bragging about it does not necessarily display a great appetite for anything. This means (A) incorrect. Neither suing a contractor nor building something quickly and cheaply displays a great appetite for anything. This eliminates (B). Having a large portion of the total number of telephone operators does not necessarily indicate a great appetite for having telephone operators. A need, rather than an appetite, may cause this situation. This means (D) is not the best choice. The purpose of Ingrid’s training for the 100-meter dash is to reach a goal, not to satisfy an appetite. Therefore (E) is incorrect.

6) D

**Question Type: Inference**

Since the words “hatefully hot” both start with an “h” and the words “sickeningly sunny” both start with an “s,” we can understand that these phrases contain examples of the same consonant sounds at the beginning of adjacent words. This is the definition of alliteration, so (D) is correct. Although the quotation in question does use repetition of similar sounds, these are consonant sounds, not vowel sounds. This means (B) is incorrect. The passage does not provide information to support choices (A), (C), and (E). Therefore they are incorrect.

7) A

**Question Type: Inference**

In these lines, the narrator says that everything was in both “perfect chaos” and “perfect harmony.” Chaos and harmony are conflicting concepts, yet this statement bears a deep significance or possible truth, involving the fact that among the chaotic, hectic activity of the marketplace, an elegantly crafted theft is able to take place, coordinated and in harmony. This suggests an element of paradox. Therefore (A) is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices (B), (C), and (D). Therefore they are incorrect. Although the narrator describes the elements of the marketplace coming together in “perfect chaos” and “perfect harmony,” synthesis does not refer to the behavior of the subject matter in a piece of writing, but rather to the overall structure and approach as designed by the author. Therefore (E) is incorrect.

### Sample 13.3

1) C

**Question Type: Global**

In the first paragraph, the author writes, “A play brimming with linguistic superfluity and spectacular gore, John Marston’s *Antonio’s Revenge* (1599) has been portrayed by critics as everything from a brilliant burlesque of revenge tragedies to a grotesquely overwrought literary disaster.” We can see that phrases like “linguistic superfluity,” “brilliant burlesque” and “grotesquely overwrought literary disaster” are all geared toward a well-read, scholarly audience because of the high-level vocabulary they effectively utilize. This passage gives a detailed, argumentative analysis of a play. It is written for an audience of literary scholars who are likely to be familiar with English drama, the author, and the time period. Using this information, we can understand that this passage would most likely be found in a scholarly journal about English literature. Therefore (C) is correct. Editorial sections of newspapers often contain opinion articles and letters to the editor. This passage gives a detailed, argumentative analysis of a play, which the author supports with evidence rather than opinion. In addition, the information in this passage is more specific than we would expect in a newspaper. An editorial piece on *Antonio’s Revenge* would give a general overview of and opinion about the play, rather than analyze it so specifically. Using this information, we can see that this passage would most likely not be found in the editorial section of a newspaper. This means (A) is incorrect. Encyclopedia articles contain general overviews about various topics. An encyclopedia article about John Marston is likely to mention his plays, and might go into a general summary of his most popular works, but it would not contain the sort of detailed literary analysis found in this passage. For this reason, we can see that this passage would most likely not be found in an encyclopedia article about playwright John Marston, so (B) is incorrect. Popular magazines do not typically review literature that was written in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, since they need to appeal to a general audience. Also, *Antonio’s Revenge* is a play, not a book, so it would not fit in a book review section. Using this information, we can see that this passage would most likely not be found in the book review section of a popular magazine. This lets us know that (D) is incorrect. Playbills generally give the setting of various acts and/or scenes in a play, a breakdown of the cast of characters, and maybe some other general notes from the director. A playbill would not contain the sort of detailed, literary analysis presented in this passage. A playbill is meant to prepare us to see a play, but this passage is more appropriate for analyzing the play after we have seen it. Using this information, we can see that this passage would most likely not be found in the playbill for an upcoming performance, so (E) is incorrect.

2) B

**Question Type: Detail**

In the first paragraph, the author writes that the play’s ending is “especially” problematic because: “Antonio and his friends not only torture and kill the villainous Piero, they also murder and cook an innocent child. Instead of being punished, however, these revengers are heaped with praise and offered rewards before announcing their plans to become religious hermits.” Since Antonio and his friends are the play’s heroes, and their behavior at the end of the play—murder, torture, cooking a child—is villainous, we can understand that the author states that many critics find the ending of John Marston’s 1599 play *Antonio’s Revenge* confusing

because the “heroic” characters act like villains and are not punished for their crimes. This makes choice (B) correct. While we might find murder, torture and cooking a child—aspects of the play described in the first paragraph—uncharacteristically violent, the author does not state that many critics find the ending of John Marston’s 1599 play *Antonio’s Revenge* confusing because it is uncharacteristically violent. The confusion, according to critics, has more to do with the unpunished, criminal actions of the supposed heroes. Using this information, we can see that (A) is incorrect. In the first paragraph, the author writes, “While the play is, as the title might suggest, a revenge tragedy...” Although the author classifies this play as a “revenge tragedy,” there is no evidence in the first paragraph that the author states that many critics find the ending of John Marston’s 1599 play *Antonio’s Revenge* confusing because the entire play itself is actually a parody of other revenge tragedies. Therefore (C) is incorrect. At the end of the first paragraph, the author mentions that Antonio and his friends, “announc[e] their plans to become religious hermits.” This is the only mention of “religious hermits” in the first paragraph. Using this information, we can see that there is no evidence, in the first paragraph that the author states that many critics find the ending of John Marston’s 1599 play *Antonio’s Revenge* confusing because the arrival of a group of religious hermits at the end of the play causes great disorder. This lets us know that (D) is incorrect. Although in the first paragraph the author states that, “part of the confusion lies in the play’s notorious excesses in language, characterization, and violence,” the author does not argue that many critics find the ending confusing because the language becomes especially difficult to understand. Therefore (E) is incorrect.

### 3) E

#### Question Type: Inference

In paragraph 2, the author quotes T.S. Eliot writing, “[the *Antonio* plays] give the effect of work done by a man who was so exasperated by having to write in a form he despised that he deliberately wrote worse than he could have written, in order to relieve his feelings.” Since these plays are the product of writing “in a form he despised,” we can see that John Marston hated writing plays. Therefore, the author notes that critics have attributed the play’s strange ending to the fact that John Marston actually hated writing plays. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 2, the author writes that “some critics argue that this ending reveals Marston’s own personal sadistic bent.” A sadistic bent is another way of saying cruel nature. Using this information, we can see that the author notes that critics have attributed the play’s strange ending to the fact that John Marston had a cruel nature. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 2, the author writes, “others simply see [the ending of *Antonio’s Revenge*] as evidence of his lack of skills as a dramatist.” If Marston is said to lack skills—be incompetent—as a dramatist, and dramatist means playwright, we can understand that critics have attributed the play’s strange ending to the fact that John Marston was an incompetent playwright. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore (E) is correct.

### 4) C

#### Question Type: Vocabulary

**sordid** (*adjective*): demonstrating the worst aspects of human nature; dirty or disgusting.

In paragraph 3, the author describes the body as “a sordid counterpart to the virtuous soul.” We can use context clues to help us arrive at a close definition of sordid. If the soul and the body are thought of as opposites—counterparts—and the soul is virtuous, then the body is disgusting or demonstrates the worst aspects of human nature. We are looking for the word that most nearly means the opposite of sordid, however, so we are looking for a word that nearly means virtuous, clean or pure. *Pure* means free from any contamination, so we can see that is the best antonym for sordid. Therefore (C) is correct. *Violent* means characterized by uncontrolled, rough force. This is not a close opposite to a word meaning disgusting or demonstrating the worst aspects of human nature, since something sordid might also be described as violent. Using this information, we can see that violent is not the best antonym for sordid, which rules out choice (A). *Contrary* means opposite in nature or character. This is not a close opposite to a word meaning disgusting or demonstrating the worst aspects of human nature, since contrary is a somewhat negative adjective, and we need an adjective that nearly means pure and virtuous. Using this information, we can see that contrary is not the best antonym for sordid, so (B) is incorrect. *Beloved* means greatly loved. Although this adjective expresses an opposite quality to sordid, it is not the best choice for an antonym because someone evil might find sordid things beloved. Beloved reflects the way that a person receives or feels about something, rather than the true nature of the thing itself. For this reason, we can see that beloved is not the best antonym for sordid, and (D) is incorrect. *Calm* means tranquil and relaxed. This is not a close opposite to a word meaning disgusting or demonstrating the worst aspects of human nature. While calm describes something differently than sordid, we can see that calm is not a full enough expression of the opposite of sordid. For this reason, calm is not the best antonym for sordid, and (E) is incorrect.

### 5) A

#### Question Type: Inference

We know that *corporeal* means relating to the body. In the lines cited in paragraph 3, Antonio describes his brain as “digesting” his thoughts. Digestion is a process normally attributed to the stomach. This image takes a process usually handled by one body part—the stomach—and relocates it to a different body part—the brain; as a result, two body parts are implicitly mentioned (implied) even though only one is explicitly (directly) mentioned. Therefore, the line in which Antonio imagines his brain “digesting” his thoughts is said to present “a doubly corporeal image” because the stomach is usually understood to be the organ involved in digestion, but instead the brain takes on this task. Using this information, we can understand that (A) is correct. In paragraph 3, the author writes, “emotions that arise from the body, such as rage or lust—both of which were thought to come from the liver—are also necessarily negative.” So we can see that it is true that in paragraph 3 the author notes that emotions like rage and lust supposedly arose from the liver, but this fact does not explain why the particular line in which Antonio imagines his brain “digesting” his thoughts is said to present “a doubly corporeal image.” Using this information, we can rule out (B). In paragraph 3, the author briefly mentions the “virtuous soul.” Despite this mention, there is no information in paragraph 3 to indicate that the line in which Antonio imagines his brain “digesting” his thoughts is said to present “a doubly corporeal image” because the brain was traditionally thought of as the location of the soul, which was supposedly virtuous. Therefore (C) is incorrect. In paragraph 4, the author writes, “By committing all of his major organs to the cause of revenge, Antonio makes revenge part of his physiology.” Despite the fact that this choice presents a true statement, based on information in the passage, it does not come from paragraph 3. Also, we are asked to consider why the line presented in paragraph 3, in which Antonio imagines his brain “digesting” his thoughts, is said to present “a doubly corporeal image;” the fact that Antonio is wholly committing himself to the act of revenge, an act that he imagines will require the



involvement of all his body parts, does not effectively explain the “doubly corporeal image.” This lets us know that **(D)** is incorrect. While the imagery in the lines above could be accurately described as especially vivid and disgusting, the line in which Antonio imagines his brain “digesting” his thoughts does not present “a doubly corporeal image” because the imagery in the line is especially vivid and disgusting. Instead of the nature of the imagery being the cause of the “doubly corporeal image,” the effect has more to do with the two types of organs implied; so **(E)** is incorrect.

6) **B**

**Question Type: Global**

In the first paragraph, the author states that the revengers “torture and kill the villainous Piero.” Antonio is noted to be one of the “revengers.” In paragraph 3, the author writes, “In promising to avenge his father’s death, for example, Antonio...” In this line and then again in the final paragraph, the author reveals that Antonio’s goal—his promise—is to avenge his father’s death. Since Antonio is a revenger and Piero is the villain that he kills, we can infer that in *Antonio’s Revenge*, the character Piero has murdered Antonio’s father. Therefore **(B)** is correct. In the first paragraph, the author writes that Antonio and his friends have, “plans to become religious hermits.” Despite these plans, the author provides no information in the passage for us to infer that in *Antonio’s Revenge*, the character Piero becomes a religious hermit at the end of the play. In fact, paragraph one states that Antonio and his friends “torture and kill the villainous Piero.” This rules out choice **(A)**. In the first paragraph, Piero is described as “villainous.” Using this information, we cannot infer that in *Antonio’s Revenge*, the character Piero is an innocent child, since people described as villainous are not also thought of as innocent. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. The passage does not provide any information for us to infer that in *Antonio’s Revenge*, the character Piero ultimately becomes the hero of the play. Instead, the title implies that Antonio is the hero. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect. The passage does not provide any information for us to infer that in *Antonio’s Revenge*, the character Piero represents the author himself. Therefore **(E)** is incorrect.

7) **D**

**Question Type: Detail**

In the final paragraph, the author writes, “In binding vengeance to the human body, Antonio builds on traditional early modern concepts of the dichotomy between the body and the soul, using the theory of the corrupt body to justify all of the ghastly violence that follows.” Using this information, we can see that by linking his desire for revenge with his physical body, Antonio provides a rationale for murder; these lines indicate that he thinks his corrupt body is, in essence, making him avenge his father’s death. Thus, Antonio links his desire for vengeance to the human body in order to rationalize his murderous actions. This means **(D)** is correct. In the final paragraph, the author explains the body/soul dichotomy to us. This information does not, however, explain how Antonio utilizes this dichotomy to rationalize his actions in the play. Therefore, we can see that according to the argument in the final paragraph, Antonio does not link his desire for vengeance to the human body in order to explain the philosophical underpinnings of the body/soul dichotomy to the audience. Instead, Antonio’s making the link is an example the author uses to teach us this dichotomy, so **(A)** is incorrect. There is no information in the final paragraph to indicate that Antonio links his desire for vengeance to the human body in order to provide a link between revenge and the liver. This link is mentioned in paragraph 3. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. There is no information in the final paragraph to indicate that Antonio links his desire for vengeance to the human body in order to highlight the superiority of the virtuous soul. This eliminates choice **(C)**. In the final paragraph, when the author links Antonio’s desire for vengeance to the human body, Renaissance notions about the corrupt nature of the body are not countered; they’re actually supported, because most people would see a desire for revenge as a corrupt desire. Using this information, we can see that according to the argument in the final paragraph, Antonio does not link his desire for vengeance to the human body in order to counter Renaissance notions about the corrupt nature of the body. Therefore **(E)** is incorrect.