

SAT and ACT Combo Test: Answer Explanations

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Section 2 – SAT Reading Test

26 minutes, 20 questions

The following abbreviations identify common types of wrong answers:

OOS Out of scope: This information isn't in the passage.

WL Wrong location: This information is in the passage, but not in the location identified in the question stem.

OPP Opposite: One word or concept is the opposite of what was in the passage.

MS Misused synonym: This is a synonym of the word in question, but it doesn't fit back into the sentence given the context.

EXT Extreme answer: This takes the right answer too far, or it takes a statement extremely literally.

ALT Alteration: The correct answer has been altered to form this incorrect answer.

- A. **ALT** The foreboding doom happened in France

B. **Correct answer.** In line 1, the author says, "I can't remember ever having been chirpier..." which qualifies as a general feeling of contentment. However, by line 78, the author says, "I had a grim foreboding," which is a more sinister tone.

C. **OPP** The word "appreciate" is the opposite of how the author feels about a romantic encounter.

D. **OPP** The author does not "hope" for marriage – he considers it to be an "awful doom."
- A. **OPP** This demonstrates that Agatha has an unpleasant personality, rather than a joyful one.

B. **OSS** The author doesn't mention feeling lonely.

C. **WL** The trip to France doesn't happen until later in the passage.

D. **Correct answer.** This is the first mention of Aunt Agatha, and she does turn out to be an unpleasant character.

3. Here is the context: “But have you ever noticed a ____ thing about life? I mean the way something always comes along to give it to you in the neck at the very moment when you’re feeling the most braced about things in general.”
- A. **Correct answer.** “Ironic” fits into the sentence well and coordinates with the clue in the next sentence.
- B. **MS** “Off balance” is not a logical descriptor for life.
- C. **OPP** “Entertaining” does not coordinate with the clue in the next sentence.
- D. **OPP** “Delightful” does not coordinate with the clue in the next sentence.
4. A. **OOS** The author never mentions wanting to avoid Roville
- B. **OOS** The number of hotels in Roville isn’t addressed.
- C. **Correct answer.** In line 46, the author describes Roville as a “nifty spot.”
- D. **OOS** Schools in Roville weren’t addressed.
5. The correct answer to the previous question included the concepts “pleasant destination” and “difficult journey.” Both of these concepts must be included in the correct answer.
- A. **WL**
- B. **WL**
- C. **Correct answer.** “Beastly” and “jerky” demonstrate that the journey was difficult, and “nifty” and “genial” demonstrate that Roville is a pleasant destination.
- D. **WL**
6. The passage states that the hotel had the “bad luck” to be selected by Aunt Agatha and described many of the demands she made on the staff.
- A. **Correct answer.** This is a logical conclusion based on the information above.
- B. **OOS** The author does not mention whether the staff was doing a good job or not, only that Aunt Agatha was very demanding.
- C. **ALT** It was the author, not the staff, who had a train ride.
- D. **OOS** The author never mentions whether or not they are tired.

7. “She had her things to say on the subject of the cooking, the _____, and the chambermaiding...”
- A. **MS** “Biding time” would not be categorized with the other items in this list.
- B. **MS** “Expecting” would not be categorized with the other items in this list.
- C. **Correct answer.** The sentence reads well with “serving” inserted in the blank.
- D. **ALT** “Measuring” might be categorized with the idea of cooking, but logically, it is not something about which Aunt Agatha would complain.
8. A. **OPP** Aline is from Kent, not London.
- B. **OSS** The author doesn’t mention whether Aline’s family is wealthy.
- C. **OPP** Aline is described as quiet, which is the opposite of loquacious.
- D. **Correct answer.** Lines 73-75 contrast Aline with the “bold” girls in London. The word “reserved” is nearly the opposite of “bold.”
9. The answer to the previous question is “reserved.” Look for a line that includes this concept.
- A. **WL**
- B. **Correct answer.** “quiet” and “so different from...the bold girls” provide evidence for a concept of reserved.
- C. **WL**
- D. **WL**
10. A. **OSS** The author never mentions that he expects to marry one day.
- B. **Correct answer.** In line 78, the author refers to marriage as “an awful doom.”
- C. **OOS** The author never indicates a desire to improve his social status.
- D. **OPP** The author considers marriage “an awful doom.” which is the opposite of a desirable outcome.
11. A. **OPP** The author’s point is that a computer is not technically necessary for to experience virtual reality.
- B. **WL** The author does not mention education or classrooms until the last paragraph.
- C. **Correct answer.** In lines 4-6, the author states that “it is possible to establish an early origin of virtual reality rather much before the beginning of computer science.”
- D. **WL** This concept comes from passage 2.

12. A. **Correct answer.** In lines 41-43, the author mentions an “area the urgently needs to deepen its application in the classroom.”
- B. **WL** Only passage 2 mentions distractions.
- C. **OOS** The author does not discuss the effect of virtual reality on the selection of a course of study.
- D. **OPP** Learning styles are mentioned as something that virtual reality may support.
13. Focus on the concepts of “pressing need,” “development,” and “educational purposes” from the correct answer to the previous question.
- A. **WL**
- B. **WL**
- C. **Correct answer.** In the passage, “urgently” connects to “pressing,” “deepen its application” connects to “development,” and “in the classroom” connects to “educational purposes.”
- D. **WL**
14. Focus on the dark gray bar because of the reference to “learning medium” in the question stem. The highest dark gray bar appears over Mobile.
The correct answer is A.
15. “Constructivist learning theory _____ that...”
- A. **Correct answer.** “States” fits well into this sentence.
- B. **ALT** The passage presents no other theory presented with which the constructivist theory could be agreeing.
- C. **EXT** “Proclaims” connotes something is stated loudly and enthusiastically. A theory would not be so extreme.
- D. **OPP** You would “decry” something that you disagree with.
16. A. **OOS** Passage 2 describes both constructivist theory and behaviorism, but the authors state no preference or recommendation for one over the other.
- B. **EXT** The authors would agree that virtual reality sometimes can be counterproductive in the classroom, but that at other times, it can be helpful for the learning process.
- C. **OOS** The passage does not address this.
- D. **Correct answer.**

17. For this question, focus on the concepts of “select technologies” and “enhance student learning” from the correct answer to the previous question.
- A. **WL**
- B. **WL**
- C. **WL**
- D. **Correct answer.** “Choose technology” connects to “select technologies” and “facilitates thinking and knowledge construction” connects to “enhance student learning.”
18. A. **OOS** Neither passage posits that virtual reality itself will lead to more research.
- B. **WL** Only passage 2 alludes to this.
- C. **Correct answer.** Both passages discuss the educational applications of virtual reality.
- D. **WL** Only passage 2 discusses this.
19. A. **EXT** The author of passage 2 sees uses for a digital environment, but calling it “ideal” is taking it too far.
- B. **Correct answer.** In lines 82-83, the author of passage 2 acknowledges that technology may “not support the objectives” or may “take away from the lesson.”
- C. **OOS** Passage 2 does not mention student access to laptops and tablets.
- D. **EXT** The author of passage 2 does encourage teachers to be cautious about the use of technology in the classroom, but doesn’t definitively say technology will hamper social interactions.
20. “That engages and _____ thinking and knowledge construction.”
- A. **Correct answer.** “Enhances” keeps the meaning of this sentence intact.
- B. **OPP** The word “engages” is a clue that we need a positive word to fill this blank.
- C. **EXT** Technology supports thinking, but does not go so far as to generate it.
- D. **MS** The word “manages” does not have the positive connotation of our clue word, “engages.”