Cross-Text Connections Questions

Module 1 Homework

Now put it all together. Here are twenty questions at Module 1 level, mixed the way the test mixes them: seventeen that ask how one text would respond to, judge, or characterize the other, plus one agree question, one difference question, and one relate question. Each question is modeled on an official one: thirteen from the College Board's full-length practice tests and seven found only in its Question Bank. Each keeps its original's skeleton (the same kind of question, the same relationship between the texts, and the same pattern of wrong answers) but is built on a different subject. Work each one through the three steps: Core claims, Connect, Match. Before you look at the choices, say the connective tissue as a question and, in the response questions, give Text 2's answer in Text 2's voice. To keep pace with the real test (about 71 seconds a question, reading included), give yourself 24 minutes.

Question 1

Text 1

Many commuters have traded their bicycles for e-bikes, which carry a battery-powered motor that pushes the rider along. Some fitness writers cheer the trend, but riding an e-bike shouldn't be counted as exercise. A rider who glides up a steep street with the motor humming has done hardly more work than a passenger in a car. Exercise means making the body work, and an e-bike is built to spare the body that work.

Text 2

On most e-bikes sold in Europe, the motor helps only while the rider is pedaling, and it stops helping once the bike reaches 25 kilometers per hour. The rider's legs keep working the whole time, if less hard than on an ordinary bicycle. And because hills and headwinds no longer seem so daunting, many owners ride farther and more often than they used to, so their weekly exertion can rival that of ordinary cyclists.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the claims of the author of Text 1?

A) By arguing that e-bike riders keep pedaling throughout and may, over a week, work as hard as ordinary cyclists
B) By agreeing that an e-bike's motor leaves its rider far too little work for the ride to count as real exercise
C) By suggesting that the motor may give the rider almost no help on hills or against headwinds
D) By proposing that cities build separate lanes where e-bike riders can travel faster than 25 kilometers per hour

Question 2

Text 1

Britain's red telephone boxes, designed by the architect Giles Gilbert Scott in the 1920s and 1930s, once stood in towns and villages across the country. Now that nearly everyone carries a mobile phone, many of the boxes sit unused, their paint peeling and their phones disconnected. <u>These relics have outlived their purpose and should be cleared from the streets.</u> Towns would do better to give the space to things people actually use.

Text 2

Few people still use Britain's red telephone boxes to make calls, but that is no reason to get rid of them. Many are protected by law as structures of historic interest, and better uses are easy to find. Under a scheme run by the telecommunications company BT, local communities can adopt a disused box for £1. Thousands have been adopted, and many now serve as tiny libraries, art galleries, or cabinets holding heart defibrillators.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

A) By agreeing that the boxes should be cleared from the streets, since hardly anyone uses them to make calls anymore
B) By agreeing that few people now use the boxes for calls but arguing that the boxes should stay and be given new uses
C) By complaining that BT charges local communities far too much to adopt the disused telephone boxes
D) By arguing that towns should keep only the boxes that are protected by law as historic structures

Question 3

Text 1

The columns of the Parthenon, the temple completed on the Acropolis in Athens in the fifth century BCE, are not perfectly straight-sided: each swells slightly toward its middle, a refinement called entasis. The builders were most likely correcting an optical illusion. A column with perfectly straight sides, they believed, would seem to narrow in the middle when seen from a distance, and the swelling would make it look straight.

Text 2

The builders of the Parthenon refined every line of the temple, and the gentle swelling of its columns was no exception. But its purpose was expressive, not corrective. A column that bulges slightly, as a muscle does under strain, seems to push back against the weight of the roof it carries. That impression of vigor is what a column with straight sides would lack.

Based on the texts, both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

A) The swelling was meant to keep the columns from seeming to narrow in the middle.
B) The swelling helped the columns carry the weight of the temple's roof.
C) Columns with perfectly straight sides would have suited the Parthenon better.
D) The swelling of the columns was meant to change how they look.

Question 4

Text 1

For centuries, many European scholars, following the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, held that some small animals arise on their own from decaying matter. Rotting meat seemed a clear case. A piece of meat left out for a few days would soon be crawling with maggots, though no one had put them there.

Text 2

In 1668, the Italian physician Francesco Redi reported experiments in which he placed pieces of meat in jars. Some he left open and some he sealed; in a later trial, he covered a jar of meat with fine gauze, which let in air but kept out flies. Maggots appeared on the meat only in the open jars; in the gauze trial, maggots appeared on the gauze itself, where flies had landed. Maggots, Redi concluded, come not from the meat but from flies, and the eggs that flies lay are tiny and easy to overlook.

Based on the texts, what would the author of Text 2 most likely say about the view of the scholars described in Text 1?

A) It was correct, since Redi found maggots on the meat in every one of his jars, sealed or open.
B) It was disproved, since Redi showed that flies avoid rotting meat and prefer to lay their eggs on cloth.
C) It fit what people could see, but it overlooked the tiny eggs from which the maggots hatch.
D) It was hasty, since the scholars had not left meat out long enough to see any maggots appear on it.

Question 5

Text 1

Through the 1950s, many educators in the United States did not regard the signing of deaf people as a true language. A language, they reasoned, builds its words from a small set of units that mean nothing on their own, such as the sounds of speech, and combines those units according to rules. Signs, by contrast, seemed to be whole gestures, each imitating the thing it stood for.

Text 2

In 1960, William Stokoe, a professor at Gallaudet College in Washington, DC, published an analysis arguing that American Sign Language (ASL) is a language in its own right. Each sign, he showed, is assembled from a limited set of handshapes, locations, and movements, and changing just one of these parts can change a sign's meaning, much as changing one sound changes a spoken word. And many signs look nothing like what they mean.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the reasoning of the educators described in Text 1?

A) By pointing out that Stokoe's analysis applied only to the signing used at Gallaudet College in Washington, DC

B) By arguing that signs, like spoken words, are built from a limited set of smaller parts rather than being whole gestures

C) By conceding that each sign is a whole gesture but denying that a language must be built from smaller units

D) By suggesting that ASL became a true language only after Stokoe had described its handshapes, locations, and movements in writing

Question 6

Text 1

When did people first reach Australia? For many researchers, the likeliest answer is roughly 50,000 years ago, a date supported by several genetic studies. These compare the DNA of living Aboriginal Australians with that of other peoples and, by estimating how quickly changes build up in DNA over generations, calculate when the ancestors of Aboriginal Australians arrived.

Text 2

A date worked out from DNA is only as sound as the assumptions behind it, and the rate at which DNA changes over generations is still debated. Firmer evidence of arrival is what people left in the ground. At Madjedbebe, a rock shelter in northern Australia, archaeologist Chris Clarkson and colleagues dated sand layers holding thousands of stone tools along with pieces of ground pigment, and the deepest layers with artifacts show that people were there by about 65,000 years ago.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the date favored by the researchers in Text 1?

A) By pointing to dated layers of tools and pigment that place people in Australia some 15,000 years earlier

B) By arguing that people abandoned the rock shelter at Madjedbebe soon after they first arrived there

C) By claiming that DNA changes more quickly over generations than the genetic studies assumed

D) By noting that the stone tools found at Madjedbebe confirm that people arrived in Australia roughly 50,000 years ago

Question 7

Text 1

In a 2016 experiment, ecologist Monica Gagliano and colleagues grew pea seedlings in Y-shaped tubes. For three days, a small fan blew air down one arm of each tube for an hour before a blue light came on in that same arm, with the arm varying from session to session. Afterward, when only the fan ran, most seedlings grew toward it, as if expecting light. Pea plants, the experiment shows, can learn even though they have no nervous system.

Text 2

Learning is not the only way to explain what the seedlings did. A growing shoot responds to slight differences in its surroundings, and moving air can cool, dry, or jostle one side of a plant more than the other. And when plant biologist Kasey Markel repeated the experiment in 2020, he found no sign that the seedlings had linked the fan with the light.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

A) By arguing that Markel's repeat of the experiment showed that the seedlings had instead learned to avoid the fan's air

B) By agreeing that the seedlings probably learned to expect light from whichever arm the fan was blowing down

C) By arguing that the claim overlooks how much faster pea seedlings grow than most other kinds of flowering plants do

D) By noting that the seedlings' growth may have another cause and that Markel's version of the test found no sign of learning

Question 8

Text 1

Pollsters and marketers routinely sort people into generations by birth year: baby boomers, Generation X, millennials, Generation Z. The habit deserves its popularity. People who come of age at the same time share formative experiences, such as a war, a recession, or a new technology, and those experiences shape their attitudes for life. Comparing generations is therefore the clearest way to see how a society's values are changing.

Text 2

Generation labels catch on because they turn a population of millions into a handful of recognizable characters. But labels drawn at fixed birth years can mislead. The boundaries are arbitrary: someone born in late 1980 and someone born in early 1981 land in different generations despite growing up with the same music and news. And a habit observed among today's young adults may reflect their age rather than their birth year; their parents may have done the same at twenty-five.

Which choice best describes a difference in how the authors of Text 1 and Text 2 view the practice of sorting people into generations?

A) The author of Text 1 thinks the boundaries between generations are drawn in the right places, while the author of Text 2 thinks each boundary should be moved a year or two later.

B) The author of Text 1 doubts that people born in the same years share formative experiences, while the author of Text 2 assumes that they do.

C) The author of Text 1 considers it a revealing way to track changing values, while the author of Text 2 considers it potentially misleading.

D) The author of Text 1 is concerned mainly with young adults, while the author of Text 2 is concerned mainly with their parents.

Question 9

Text 1

Beginning in the 1960s, chemist Raymond Davis Jr. counted neutrinos, elusive particles from the Sun's core, with a huge tank of cleaning fluid deep in a South Dakota gold mine. Year after year, the tank caught only about a third as many as calculations predicted. Many physicists blamed the calculations: a slightly cooler solar core would emit far fewer of the neutrinos Davis could detect, and the long-held view that a neutrino never changes type could stand.

Text 2

In 2002, the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, more than a mile underground in a Canadian mine, reported results from a detector that could count all three known types of neutrinos, not just the one type that Davis's tank could catch. The total number arriving from the Sun matched the calculations after all. Only about a third arrived as the type Davis could detect; the rest had changed type before reaching the detector.

Which choice best describes how Text 1 and Text 2 relate to each other?

A) Text 1 reports a puzzling shortfall and a proposal that would preserve an old belief about neutrinos, while Text 2 reports a measurement that undercuts that proposal.

B) Text 1 reports Davis's result and a proposal that the Sun's core is cooler than assumed, and Text 2 describes a measurement that confirms that proposal.

C) Text 1 recounts a long-running count of neutrinos in a South Dakota mine, and Text 2 argues that Davis's tank was too small to catch most of the neutrinos that reached it.

D) Text 1 describes an experiment that never detected any neutrinos at all, and Text 2 describes the first experiment to detect them.

Question 10

Text 1

A woodpecker drilling into a tree strikes the wood again and again, and with each blow its head stops abruptly. It has long been taken for granted that such impacts would injure an unprotected brain, so the bird must carry built-in shock absorbers. Popular accounts credit a plate of spongy bone in its skull and a long tongue bone that loops around the back of its head with cushioning the blows, much as a helmet protects a cyclist.

Text 2

Biomechanist Sam Van Wassenbergh and colleagues filmed woodpeckers pecking with high-speed cameras and found that their heads absorb almost none of the shock: the beak and the rest of the head stop together, like the head of a stiff hammer. Cushioning would only weaken each blow. What protects the birds is the small size of their brains, which can withstand far more abrupt stops than a brain as large as ours could.

Based on the texts, how would Van Wassenbergh and colleagues (Text 2) most likely respond to the assumption described in Text 1?

A) By arguing that the tongue bone, rather than the spongy bone, is what cushions the woodpecker's brain

B) By agreeing that woodpeckers' skulls cushion their brains but noting that the cushioning makes each blow weaker

C) By suggesting that woodpeckers avoid injury by pecking only a few times a day

D) By arguing that a woodpecker's small brain does not need the cushioning that a brain as large as a human's would

Question 11

Text 1

For decades, many psychologists, following the Swiss thinker Jean Piaget, described children's thinking as developing through a fixed series of stages. A child at a given stage was thought to reason about problems in one characteristic way until the child's thinking reorganized and a more advanced way of reasoning took the old one's place.

Text 2

Psychologist Robert Siegler has found that children typically know several ways of solving the same kind of problem and use them side by side. A five-year-old adding 3 and 5 may count on her fingers one day and simply recall the answer the next. As children grow, better methods are chosen more and more often while weaker ones fade gradually, a pattern Siegler likens to overlapping waves.

Based on the texts, how would Siegler (Text 2) most likely respond to the view presented in Text 1?

A) By claiming that five-year-olds rarely know more than one way to add two numbers
B) By agreeing that each child reasons in one characteristic way at a time, though children reach each new way at different ages
C) By contending that children draw on several ways of reasoning during the same period, with better ones gradually taking over
D) By denying that children's reasoning becomes more advanced as they grow older

Question 12

Text 1

In 1873, physicist Ernst Abbe showed that a microscope using visible light cannot sharply separate two points closer together than about half the wavelength of that light, roughly 200 nanometers. Many structures inside living cells, such as the tiny sacs that hold the chemical messengers released where nerve cells meet, are far smaller. Because the obstacle lies in the nature of light itself, light microscopes will likely never show such fine detail.

Text 2

Abbe's limit is real, but researchers have found ways around it. In light-microscope methods developed by Stefan Hell, Eric Betzig, William Moerner, and others, glowing molecules inside a sample are switched on and off so that neighbors shine one after another rather than at the same moment. Images built up this way can show details as small as about 20 nanometers, and the work earned Hell, Betzig, and Moerner the 2014 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

A) By questioning whether Abbe was right that visible light blurs points closer together than about 200 nanometers
B) By accepting Abbe's finding while showing that it does not, in practice, cap what light microscopes can reveal
C) By suggesting that the sacs holding chemical messengers in nerve cells are larger than Text 1 claims
D) By arguing that electron microscopes have made light microscopes unnecessary for studying living cells

Question 13

Text 1

Math textbooks usually assign practice in blocks: a set of problems on one skill, then a set on the next. Research seems to support the habit. Students who practice one kind of problem at a time make fewer errors during their practice sessions than students who work through sets in which different kinds of problems are mixed together. Mixing, it appears, gets in the way of learning.

Text 2

In a 2007 experiment by psychologists Doug Rohrer and Kelli Taylor, students who practiced mixed sets of problems on the volumes of solids did worse during practice than students who practiced in blocks. A week later, however, the mixed-practice group scored 63 percent on a test, while the block-practice group scored just 20 percent. How students perform while they are still practicing, it seems, can be a poor guide to what they have learned.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the research discussed in Text 1?

A) By objecting that it counts only the errors students make during practice, not what they can do on a later test

B) By arguing that mixed practice works better for problems about solids than for other kinds of math problems

C) By agreeing that mixing problem types makes practice harder and should therefore be avoided

D) By recommending that students be allowed to use calculators during their practice sessions

Question 14

Text 1

PET, the clear plastic used in most drink bottles, can survive for centuries in a landfill, and millions of tons of it are thrown away every year. In 2016, a Japanese team including Shosuke Yoshida and Kohei Oda reported a bacterium, found in sediment collected outside a bottle-recycling plant, that breaks down PET and lives on it. Microbes like this one could soon make plastic waste a thing of the past.

Text 2

The bacterium that Yoshida, Oda, and their colleagues described is a remarkable find, but the measurements reported so far show how far it is from solving the problem. Kept at a warm 30°C, the microbes needed about six weeks to break down a thin film of PET, and that film was made of a loosely ordered form of the plastic that is easier to break down than the tightly ordered PET in most bottles.

Based on the texts, what would the author of Text 2 most likely say about the underlined claim in Text 1?

A) It is accurate, since the bacterium both breaks down PET and lives on it.

B) It gets the bacterium's origin wrong, since it was found in a landfill, not near a recycling plant.

C) It may exaggerate how long the PET in bottles can last in a landfill.

D) It runs well ahead of what the bacterium has actually been shown to do in the laboratory so far.

Question 15

Text 1

In 2017, archaeologist Patrick McGovern and colleagues analyzed residues inside fragments of pottery jars made about 8,000 years ago at two village sites in the country of Georgia. They detected tartaric acid, a compound that grapes contain in unusually large amounts. The jars, the team concluded, had once held grape wine, making them some of the earliest evidence of winemaking anywhere.

Text 2

Tartaric acid, however, is not unique to grapes. It also occurs in a number of other plants, archaeological scientists Léa Drieu and colleagues note, and some of the tests used to detect it in ancient pottery can falsely signal its presence. In their view, no single compound can settle the question; only several independent lines of evidence together can show that a jar once held wine.

Based on the texts, how would Drieu and colleagues (Text 2) most likely characterize the conclusion presented in Text 1?

A) As doubtful, since the jars may have been made thousands of years later than McGovern's team estimated
B) As overconfident, since the jars' main chemical clue might have come from something other than grapes
C) As well founded, since tartaric acid is found in grapes and in no other plant or fruit
D) As probably mistaken, since the residues suggest that the jars held a drink made from some other fruit

Question 16

Text 1

Some linguists claim that computer systems remain unreliable at identifying regional dialects from recordings and that there is little reason to expect substantial gains from further development. The purpose of assigning such labels is also debatable: because speech varieties blend gradually across regions, those linguists regard fixed categories as a poor way to represent the relationships among them.

Text 2

Conventional software frequently confuses two neighboring coastal dialects whose speakers use similar vocabulary and pronunciation patterns. In a recent study, researchers substantially reduced these errors by adding information about word order to a system that had previously relied on acoustic features alone. The improvement persisted when the system analyzed recordings that had not been used to train it.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the linguists' claim in Text 1?

A) By attributing the shortcomings of earlier systems to the limited number of recordings available for training them
B) By suggesting that word order is a more reliable clue to a speaker's regional dialect than pronunciation is
C) By citing a successful refinement as evidence that automated dialect identification has not reached its limits
D) By arguing that adding information about word order has solved the problem of telling regional dialects apart

Question 17

Text 1

An experimental membrane allows water to pass through much faster than conventional filters do while removing a comparable proportion of dissolved salts. Such laboratory results, however, offer little prospect of improving water treatment. Membranes this thin tend to rupture under the pressures required in treatment plants; increasing their thickness usually sacrifices the very speed that makes them attractive.

Text 2

Researchers evaluating the new membrane attached it to a rigid, porous support instead of increasing its thickness. During a six-month trial at pressures typical of treatment plants, the supported membrane remained intact and continued filtering water at close to its original rate, with no measurable decline in salt removal. The cost of manufacturing the supported membrane remains uncertain, but the trial provides a basis for further development.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely characterize Text 1's assessment of the new membrane's potential?

A) It is appropriately cautious, because the supported membrane removed noticeably less salt during the six-month trial than it had removed in the laboratory.

B) It is justified, because the trial showed that the supported membrane, though durable, costs too much to manufacture for use in treatment plants.

C) It is overly pessimistic, because the six-month trial showed that the supported membrane is now ready to be used in large water treatment plants.

D) It is overly pessimistic, because subsequent tests suggest that the supported membrane can withstand realistic pressures while retaining its initial advantage.

Question 18

Text 1

A coastal town could reduce persistent plastic litter by encouraging residents to purchase food in wrappers certified for industrial composting. Since microorganisms can break down these wrappers, any that escape into coastal waters should disappear before accumulating in substantial quantities. Widespread adoption of the replacement packaging could therefore address much of the town's marine-litter problem without requiring major changes to its waste-collection infrastructure.

Text 2

Industrial compostability describes how a material behaves under carefully maintained conditions, including sustained warmth, moisture, and microbial activity. Coastal waters do not reproduce those conditions, and plastics that decompose readily in industrial facilities may persist for prolonged periods at sea. Such packaging can be processed through appropriate collection and treatment systems, but its certification does not establish that it will disappear promptly after entering the ocean.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the argument in Text 1?

A) By arguing that it overlooks evidence that conventional wrappers and compostable alternatives decompose at similar rates in industrial facilities

B) By contending that the replacement wrappers would last at sea at least as long as the conventional plastics they replace

C) By pointing out that its reasoning relies on a flawed assumption about the conditions under which the replacement packaging will decompose

D) By maintaining that it is unnecessary because existing waste-collection systems already prevent most discarded wrappers from reaching coastal waters

Question 19

Text 1

In an effort to improve the economic circumstances of low-income families, a city began subsidizing childcare for eligible parents. One year after the program's launch, an economist evaluated citywide macro indexes—such as the city's employment rate and median household income—and found them essentially unchanged. She interpreted these results as evidence that the subsidies had failed to provide any meaningful benefit to the families they were intended to assist.

Text 2

Broad economic indexes often take several years to shift, but the early impacts of targeted assistance appear much sooner. In a survey conducted just two months after receiving childcare subsidies, participating parents reported prompt gains in workplace stability, including a marked drop in missed workdays and increased attendance at job-training sessions. These short-term improvements are crucial steppingstones toward the long-term financial gains that the subsidies are meant to produce.

Based on the texts, how would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to the economist's interpretation in Text 1?

A) By contending that the economist should have evaluated early, smaller-scale indicators of progress among participating families rather than relying solely on broad macro metrics

B) By suggesting that the economist wait several years before measuring whether participating parents experienced fewer missed workdays and better training attendance

C) By claiming that the survey results show that the subsidies have already raised participating families' incomes, even though the citywide figures have not yet changed

D) By agreeing that the participating families have not yet benefited from the subsidies but predicting that the city's employment rate and median household income will rise later

Question 20

Text 1

The first *Archaeopteryx* skeleton came to light in Germany in 1861, and the creature is widely celebrated as a link between dinosaurs and birds. The animal had teeth and a long, bony tail, like its dinosaur relatives, but its wings bore long flight feathers shaped much like those of modern birds. To some paleontologists, those feathers show that *Archaeopteryx* was a capable flier that moved through the air much as crows and pigeons do today.

Text 2

In 2018, Dennis Voeten and colleagues used advanced X-ray imaging to look inside *Archaeopteryx*'s wing bones. The bones had thin walls like those of flying birds, and their structure matched that of birds that flap their wings rather than merely glide. The closest match, however, was with pheasants and similar birds, which, unlike crows and pigeons, fly only in brief spurts, typically when startled, and rarely travel far by air.

Based on the texts, how would Voeten and colleagues (Text 2) most likely respond to the underlined claim in Text 1?

A) By rejecting the claim that *Archaeopteryx* could fly, since its wing bones most closely matched those of birds that rarely travel far by air

B) By granting that *Archaeopteryx* flew under its own power but suggesting that it flew in short bursts rather than over long distances

C) By confirming that *Archaeopteryx* flew much as crows and pigeons do, since its wing bones were thin-walled like those of flying birds

D) By arguing that the shape of the feathers of *Archaeopteryx*, not the structure of its bones, is the better guide to how it flew