Different Words, Same Concept

The decoding rule behind every right answer in the reading chapters

Here is a secret the test makers keep in plain sight: the right answer almost never repeats the passage. It says the same thing in different words. A passage says a writer was *instrumental* in helping other women find work; the right answer calls her role *integral*. A passage says a theory is *not inconceivable*; the right answer says it *has some plausibility*. Same concept, different words. Once you can see through the new wording, the right answer stops hiding.

So matching words is not a strategy. Matching concepts is. This chapter shows you the nine ways the SAT turns the passage's words into the right answer's words, from a simple synonym to a whole sentence rebuilt from scratch. Learn to see them here, before the reading chapters, and you'll recognize the right answer in every one of them.

The Rule: Same Concept, Different Words

The right answer: same concept, different words.

The trap: same words, different concept.

The second line matters as much as the first. Wrong answers love the passage's words. They borrow its names, its numbers, and its most striking phrases, then attach them to an idea the passage never states: the wrong relationship, the wrong person, the wrong strength. We call this the **echo trap**, because it echoes the passage's sound without its sense. In QB b13378c8, about a writer who helped Black women resettle in the North during the Great Migration, one wrong choice borrows the passage's *Chicago Defender* and another its *agricultural* and *domestic* work. The right answer keeps little more than the names, and it calls her role *integral*.

❖ How to Decode: Trace Every Word Home

When a choice looks right, don't ask whether it sounds like the passage. Ask whether every part of it **comes home** to the passage. Take the choice's key words one at a time and trace each one back. In QB b13378c8, *integral* comes home to *instrumental*, and *supporting* comes home to *helping*. *Their circumstances changed* comes home to the whole middle of the passage: the competition for domestic work in the South, the farm jobs that went to men, the move north. A word that comes home through one of the nine elements below passes. A word with no home in the passage (a new person, a new cause, a new comparison) fails, however good the rest of the choice sounds.

Step 1 · Name the concept. Before you read the choices, say in your own words what the passage means: its point, or the part the question asks about.

Step 2 · Trace every word home. For each key word in a choice, find the passage words it restates, and name the element that carried it there.

Step 3 · Check the links and the strength. The pieces must be joined the way the passage joins them, and they must be just as strong: *may* comes home to *may*, never to *proves*.

The Nine Elements at a Glance

No.	Element	What changes	Example: the text → the right answer	Level
1	**Synonym Swap**	a word, or the form of a word	*reluctant* → *hesitant*	Easy
2	**Numbers in Words**	how an amount is stated	*from 80 to 20* → *fell by three-quarters*	Easy
3	**Specific → General**	details become one umbrella word	*frogs, newts, and salamanders* → *amphibians*	Medium
4	**General → Specific**	a claim becomes one case of it	*eases stress* → "*my shoulders finally relaxed*"	Medium
5	**Negative Flip**	a *not* appears or disappears	*not uncommon* → *fairly common*	Medium
6	**Mirror Image**	the same fact, told from the other side	*A outsold B* → *B sold less than A*	Medium
7	**Figure → Fact**	an image becomes a plain statement	*a cold wind through the room* → *made the others uneasy*	Hard
8	**Naming the Move**	content becomes what the text does	*However, a new study found …* → *challenges a view*	Hard
9	**Full Paraphrase**	the whole idea is rebuilt	several elements at once	Hardest

The elements fall into three tiers. **Word swaps** (1 and 2) change single words or numbers. **Shifts** (3 to 6) move the idea up or down a level, or turn it around. **Rebuilds** (7 to 9) put the meaning into words that look nothing like the passage. Most right answers use more than one element; hard ones often use three or four.

Tier 1 · Word Swaps

❖ 1. Synonym Swap

The right answer swaps a word for another word that means the same thing, or keeps the idea and changes the word's form: a verb becomes a noun, a noun becomes an adjective. It is the easiest element to see, and the SAT uses it constantly, usually alongside harder ones.

The text says	The right answer says
The committee was *reluctant* to approve the plan.	The committee was *hesitant* about the plan.
The village *relied on* rainwater.	the village's *reliance on* rainwater
Barrier Williams was *instrumental* in *helping* other Black women (QB b13378c8)	Barrier Williams's *integral* role in *supporting* other Black women

Spot it. If a word in a choice seems new, ask whether it is an old word in new clothes. Then check that the swap fits this context: a synonym in the dictionary is not always a synonym in the passage.

Find more in official questions: QB 9fe7aafa (*inherited* → *acquired*); QB d4732483 (*sartorial practice* → *fashion practice*).

❖ 2. Numbers in Words

An amount can be stated as a count, a fraction, a percent, a change, or a comparison. The right answer often restates the passage's or the table's numbers in a different form, so do the small arithmetic before you match. You'll meet this element most in data questions and in inferences built on numbers.

The text says	The right answer says
Attendance fell *from 80 to 20*.	Attendance *fell by three-quarters*.
The pump ran *6 hours* on Monday and *12 hours* on Tuesday.	The pump ran *twice as long* on Tuesday.
chiles roasted with *between 38 and 42 heliostats* took at least *six minutes*, and the hypothesis is that *more heliostats* will *reduce the roasting time* (QB 85439572)	roasting with *50 heliostats* yields results in *fewer than six minutes*

Spot it. Put both sides into the same form before you compare. From 80 to 20 is a drop of 60, and 60 is three-quarters of 80.

Find more in official questions: QB 95388117 (a *55%* increase in a table → *by more than half*).

Tier 2 · Shifts

❖ 3. Specific → General

The passage gives details: names, dates, places, lists, one particular study. The right answer gathers them under one umbrella word. This is the element behind most **main idea** and **main purpose** answers, because a main idea is the general point that the details serve.

The text says	The right answer says
frogs, newts, and salamanders	*amphibians*
Dr. Amaka Obi and her team at a coastal field station	*researchers*
Owners often say that some breeds have certain personalities, but Morrill and colleagues *found* that behavior varies widely within breeds (QB d0f51067)	*Research* fails to confirm *a commonly held belief* about dog breeds and behavior.

Spot it. Ask what the details have in common. A choice that names the common thread may be right even though it shares no words with the details.

Find more in official questions: QB af43b0bd (a spear test → *an experiment*; *long hypothesized* → *an established hypothesis*); QB 4d3e3c52 (a spray coating method → *an alternative fabrication method*).

❖ 4. General → Specific

The reverse move. The passage states a general claim, and the right answer is one concrete case of it: a finding, a quotation, a row of data. You'll meet it most in Command of Evidence questions, where the job is to find the evidence that shows the claim in action.

The text says	The right answer says
Claim: the new seed variety *tolerates drought*.	In a summer with *half the usual rain*, the new variety still produced *nearly its normal harvest*.
Claim: the lighthouse keeper *valued solitude*.	"He rowed to town *only when the flour ran out*, and he rowed home *before the lamps were lit*."
Claim: feeling frightened in controlled situations can *boost a person's mood and confidence* (QB 08b28c1a)	"I felt *very accomplished* and *less stressed*."

Spot it. Turn the claim into a picture: if it were true, what would someone see, measure, or say? Then look for that picture.

Find more in official questions: QB 29cde5fa (an *exaggerated sense of his importance* → a man who carries himself as if under his own triumphal arch); QB c6b470bb (*eager to escape the monotony* → life becomes *a dull thing*).

❖ 5. Negative Flip

The same idea can be stated with a *not* or without one. *Not uncommon* means *fairly common*; *failed to* means *did not*; *declining* means *not growing as it once did*. Hard questions love double negatives such as *not inconceivable* and *not without merit*, which quietly mean something positive, but only mildly so.

The text says	The right answer says
The results were *not without* problems.	The results had *some* problems.
Few historians *doubt* that the letter is genuine.	*Most* historians *accept* the letter as genuine.
It is *not inconceivable* that *Beowulf* emerged from such a context (QB f7bd14de)	the claim of a late ninth- through early eleventh-century date *has some plausibility*

Spot it. Count the negatives. Two of them make a weak positive: *not inconceivable* is *possible*, not *likely*, and certainly not *proven*.

Find more in official questions: QB 92c2564d (growth *is declining* → *isn't growing at the same rate it used to*); QB 2312021b (proximity alone *can't explain* the difference → it is caused by *something other than* proximity).

❖ 6. Mirror Image

Every comparison and every sequence can be told from either side. If A is larger than B, then B is smaller than A. If the flood came before the drought, the drought came after the flood. The right answer often tells the passage's fact from the other side, so a hasty reader thinks it says the opposite.

The text says	The right answer says
Bees visited the blue flowers *twice as often as* the yellow ones.	The yellow flowers drew *fewer* visits than the blue ones.
The harbor was dredged *before* the new pier was built.	The pier went up *after* the harbor was dredged.
a spray coating may solve the cost problem that conventional fabrication has *at scale* (QB 4d3e3c52)	conventional fabrication is *less suitable* for manufacturing *large volumes* than an alternative

Spot it. When a choice seems to reverse the passage, check whether it has also reversed the subject. *A beat B* and *B lost to A* are the same fact.

Find more in official questions: QB 9731a22b (a *lack of known nesting sites in northern regions* → a site *farther north than any other* discovered).

Tier 3 · Rebuilds

❖ 7. Figure → Fact

Literary passages, and some others, speak in images: metaphors, similes, exaggerations. The right answer states in plain words what the image means. In Illustrate-the-Claim questions the move runs the other way: the claim is plain, and the right answer is the image that shows it.

The text says	The right answer says
Her words were *a cold wind through the room*.	Her remarks *made the others uneasy*.
The town *slept through the winter*.	*Little happened* in the town during the winter.
the family secrets *do not fly out like a flock of parrots, but remain nicely bottled up* (QB 1a2b29c9)	Few feel concerned that he will *divulge their confidences*.

Spot it. Ask what the image tells you about the person or the scene. A hat that keeps secrets bottled up belongs to a man who keeps secrets.

Find more in official questions: QB 7f0be746 (a dog's sense of time that *moves in a circle → a strong preference for predictability*); QB 29cde5fa (the reverse: a plain claim, shown by an image).

❖ 8. Naming the Move

Purpose and structure questions don't ask what the passage says; they ask what it does. The right answer names the move with a job word: *introduce*, *illustrate*, *explain*, *challenge*, *qualify*, *concede*, *cast doubt on*. The passage almost never uses these words. You have to see the move and name it yourself.

The text says	The right answer says
Many assume … *However*, a 2019 survey found …	presents evidence that *challenges* a common assumption
Consider the case of …	*illustrates* a general claim with an example
Researchers *have long hypothesized* … One anthropologist *set out to test this hypothesis* … hunters *likely weren't the principal drivers* (QB af43b0bd)	To *describe an experiment* whose results *cast doubt on an established hypothesis*

Spot it. Before you read the choices, label each sentence's job in a word or two. The job words in the right answer will match your labels.

Find more in official questions: QB b13378c8 (*To introduce and illustrate*); QB e929fe98 (a composer's prize, performances, and recordings → *To provide examples of Price's importance*).

❖ 9. Full Paraphrase

Sometimes the right answer rebuilds a whole sentence, or the whole passage, from scratch. Every word changes, the order changes, and several elements work at once. Pointers get unpacked, too: where the passage says *such a context* or *this approach*, the answer names the thing itself. This is the element behind the hardest main idea and inference answers. Decode it piece by piece: split the choice into its parts, trace each part home, and name the element that carried it.

The text: There is something to the claim that the canal made the town prosper: it brought new trade. But crediting the canal alone, while ignoring the railway that arrived in the same decade, tells only half the story.

The right answer: The canal probably contributed to the town's prosperity, but it was not the only cause.

Part of the right answer	Comes home to	Element
The canal probably contributed to the town's prosperity	*There is something to the claim that the canal made the town prosper*	Synonym Swap (*prosper → prosperity*), with the strength kept: *something to the claim* is a partial yes, so *probably contributed*, not *caused*
but it was not the only cause	*crediting the canal alone … tells only half the story*	Figure → Fact (*half the story*) and Negative Flip (*alone → not the only*)

Now an official one. In QB f7bd14de, the passage's point is that a late date for *Beowulf* is possible but that its advocates have not answered the linguistic evidence for an earlier date. Here is how the right answer rebuilds that point:

Part of the right answer	Comes home to	Element
has some plausibility	*not inconceivable*	Negative Flip
a late ninth- through early eleventh-century composition date	*emerged from such a context* (the England of the late ninth through early eleventh centuries, named in the first sentence)	Pointer unpacked: the answer names what *such a context* refers to
evidence suggesting an earlier date	*the linguistic evidence of an eighth- or even seventh-century composition*	Specific → General
advocates for the claim have not compellingly addressed that evidence	*requires a level of justification that thus far has not been presented*	Full Paraphrase, carried by a Negative Flip (*not been presented* → *not … addressed*)

Apart from *evidence*, none of the key words in the right answer's second half (*advocates*, *compellingly*, *addressed*, *earlier*) appears anywhere in the passage, yet every piece comes home. That is what a full paraphrase looks like, and it is why the hardest questions punish word matching.

❖ Check the Strength

Same concept means the same strength. A choice can trace every word home and still fail because it is stronger or weaker than the passage: *suggests* turned into *proves*, *some* into *all*, *may* into *will*. Before you choose, place the passage's claim on this ladder, and make sure the answer stands on the same rung.

Possible	Likely	Certain
may, *might*, *could*, *some*, *not inconceivable*, *not without merit*, *has some plausibility*	*probably*, *likely*, *tends to*, *most*, *suggests*, *few doubt*	*proves*, *demonstrates*, *must*, *always*, *never*, *all*, *every*

Spotting the Echo Trap

Every echo trap borrows the passage's words and changes one thing. Learn the four favorite changes:

- ❖ **The wrong link.** The right words joined the wrong way: a cause turned into a result, a hope into a plan.
- ❖ **The wrong owner.** One person's view handed to another, or one group's trait to another group.
- ❖ **The wrong strength.** *Some* becomes *all*, *suggests* becomes *proves*.
- ❖ **The literal image.** A figure of speech read as fact: a clerk who is *drowning in paperwork* turned into one who nearly drowned.

MASTER KEYS **Different Words, Same Concept**

- ➢ The right answer says the passage's concept in new words; the echo trap says the passage's words with a new concept.
- ➢ Trace every key word home. If one piece of a choice has no home in the passage, the choice fails, however good the rest sounds.
- ➢ Know the nine elements: Synonym Swap and Numbers in Words; Specific → General, General → Specific, Negative Flip, and Mirror Image; Figure → Fact, Naming the Move, and Full Paraphrase.
- ➢ Decode images and name the moves before you read the choices; most hard right answers are rebuilt, not copied.
- ➢ Same concept, same strength: *may* stays *may*, and *some* stays *some*.

Quiz 1 · Name the Element

For each pair, name the element that turns the text's words into the right answer's words. Use the element names from this chapter. One pair uses several elements at once.

No.	The text says	The right answer says	Element
1	The mayor was *candid* about the shortfall.	The mayor spoke *frankly* about the shortfall.	
2	Sparrows, finches, and wrens returned to the restored meadow.	Several kinds of birds returned to the restored meadow.	
3	The repairs were not without risk.	The repairs carried some risk.	
4	The tram line carried more riders than the bus line.	The bus line carried fewer riders than the tram line.	
5	Yearly visitors to the museum rose from 4,000 to 12,000.	Yearly visitors to the museum tripled.	
6	Claim: the new bike lanes made cycling safer.	In the year after the lanes opened, bicycle crashes on those streets fell, while crashes on other streets held steady.	
7	Silence settled over the dinner table like snow.	No one at dinner spoke.	
8	Some engineers favor steel for the bridge. Others point out that timber is lighter and cheaper to ship.	The second sentence presents an alternative to the view in the first.	
9	The coach's decision was hardly a surprise.	The coach's decision was largely expected.	
10	Her letters show that she depended on her brother's advice.	her dependence on her brother's advice	
11	The bridge was finished in 1932, two years before the tunnel.	The tunnel was finished after the bridge.	
12	It would be a stretch to call the festival a financial success, but it did bring visitors new to the valley.	Although the festival probably made little money, it attracted people who had not come to the valley before.	

Quiz 2 · Trace It Home

Each right answer below has numbered pieces. For each piece, write the passage words it comes home to, and name the element that carried it.

2.1

For decades, many birdwatchers assumed that the rattling call of the marsh wren served only to attract mates. Recordings made by ecologist Hana Brix, however, show males giving the same call when rivals approach their nests in late summer, long after mating has ended.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

Right answer: **[1]** Contrary to a long-held belief, **[2]** the marsh wren's call serves more than one purpose.

Piece	Comes home to	Element
[1]		
[2]		

2.2

In the town's 1890 census, farmers outnumbered shopkeepers four to one. By 1930, shopkeepers had become the larger of the two groups.

Which choice best describes the change, according to the text?

Right answer: **[1]** In 1890, shopkeepers made up only a fifth of the two groups combined, **[2]** but by 1930 there were fewer farmers than shopkeepers.

Piece	Comes home to	Element
[1]		
[2]		

2.3

Critic Ines Varga admired the novel's opening chapters, but she wrote that its final third "runs out of breath," hurrying through events that the early chapters had promised to explore.

Based on the text, what is Varga's view of the novel?

Right answer: **[1]** She praises part of the novel **[2]** but finds its ending weak, **[3]** because it treats important events too briefly.

Piece	Comes home to	Element
[1]		
[2]		
[3]		

Quiz 3 · Decode and Choose

Eight questions in SAT form, one for each of the most common elements and one that combines them. In every one, the right answer uses different words for the same concept, and at least one wrong answer is an echo trap. Trace every word home before you choose.

Question 1

In 2018, the town of Larkhaven replaced the asphalt in four schoolyards with grass, gravel paths, and young trees. Teachers at the four schools later reported that students argued less during recess and returned to class calmer. Nurses at the schools also recorded fewer playground injuries than in the years before the change.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

A) Teachers at four Larkhaven schools reported that the grass and young trees made recess shorter.

B) Larkhaven replaced its schoolyards because nurses had recorded many playground injuries.

C) Larkhaven's new schoolyards seem to have improved students' behavior and safety.

D) Students in Larkhaven prefer grass and gravel paths to asphalt.

Question 2

The glassmakers of the Venetian island of Murano guarded their methods closely for centuries. Historian Teodor Ilić notes, however, that the secrecy was never complete: dozens of Murano glassmakers left for workshops elsewhere in Europe during the 1600s, and few of them arrived without the knowledge they had sworn to protect.

According to the text, what does Ilić indicate about the glassmakers who left Murano?

A) Most of them brought Murano's glassmaking methods with them.

B) Few of them were able to find work in workshops elsewhere in Europe.

C) They had sworn to protect the methods of workshops elsewhere in Europe.

D) Most of them returned to Murano before the end of the 1600s.

Question 3

For years, ecologists described the hagfish as a scavenger that feeds on the carcasses of whales and fish that sink to the seafloor. In 2011, however, researchers reported video, recorded off the coast of New Zealand, that shows a hagfish seizing a live red bandfish and pulling it out of the bandfish's burrow.

Which choice best states the main purpose of the text?

A) To describe how hagfish locate the carcasses of whales on the seafloor

B) To present an observation that challenges a long-standing view of how hagfish feed

C) To explain why red bandfish dig burrows off the coast of New Zealand

D) To argue that hagfish eat live fish more often than they eat carcasses

Question 4

Snowshoe hares turn white in winter and brown in summer, and the timing of the change is set mainly by day length rather than by snow cover. Biologist Ana Kerrigan tracked hares in a region where the snow now melts weeks earlier in spring than it did fifty years ago, while the hares' coats still change on the old schedule.

Based on the text, what can most reasonably be inferred about the hares in Kerrigan's region?

A) Their coats now change color earlier in spring than they did fifty years ago.

B) Snow cover, not day length, now sets the timing of their color change.

C) They have moved to areas where the snow melts later in spring.

D) Their change to brown coats now comes later, relative to the snowmelt, than it did fifty years ago.

Question 5

Psychologist Dara Lumen interviewed people after they had spent two hours repairing their own worn clothing instead of replacing it. Lumen claims that mending gives people a sense of control over their belongings that buying new things does not.

Which quotation from a study participant would best illustrate Lumen's claim?

A) "Buying a new jacket turned out to be cheaper than I expected, so I bought two."

B) "I spent two hours repairing clothes, which was longer than I had planned."

C) "Once I fixed the zipper myself, I felt that I, not the store, decided how long that jacket would last."

D) "My grandmother taught me to sew when I was young, and I still have her thread."

Question 6

In a review of architect Lena Sauer's new public library, critic Tomás Rey writes that the building "holds its books the way a lantern holds light." As Rey notes, its glass walls let passersby see the shelves from the street, and after dark its reading rooms glow.

Based on the text, what does Rey suggest about the

library?

A) Its design puts its collection on view to people outside the building.

B) It uses lanterns rather than electric lamps in its reading rooms.

C) Its glass walls make the reading rooms too bright for readers after dark.

D) It holds more books than any other library that Sauer has designed.

Question 7

Several ecologists have attributed the decline of a puffin colony on one North Atlantic island to warming seas, which have driven away the small fish that the puffins feed their chicks. The explanation is not without merit, but it leaves unexplained why a second colony, only a few kilometers away and feeding in the same waters, has grown during the same years.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

A) The island's puffins have begun feeding their chicks larger fish as the seas have warmed.

B) The colony's decline may owe something to warming seas, but that explanation appears to be incomplete.

C) The second colony has grown because its puffins feed in different waters than the island's puffins do.

D) Warming seas have driven the small fish out of the North Atlantic, so puffin colonies there are declining.

Question 8

In 2010, volunteers counted 240 monarch butterflies at a coastal grove where the insects spend the winter. In 2020, they counted 60 at the same grove, even though they searched for twice as many hours as they had a decade earlier.

Which choice best describes the change at the grove, according to the text?

A) The volunteers counted 60 fewer monarchs in 2020 than in 2010.

B) The volunteers counted twice as many monarchs in 2020 as in 2010.

C) The number of monarchs counted fell by half, while the hours spent searching also fell by half.

D) The number of monarchs counted fell by three-quarters, even though the search effort doubled.

Answers and Explanations

Quiz 1 · Name the Element

No.	Element	Why
1	**Synonym Swap**	*candid* → *frankly*.
2	**Specific → General**	three named birds → *several kinds of birds*.
3	**Negative Flip**	*not without risk* → *some risk*.
4	**Mirror Image**	the same comparison, told from the bus line's side.
5	**Numbers in Words**	12,000 is three times 4,000.
6	**General → Specific**	a finding that shows *safer* in action. This element produces evidence for the claim, not a restatement of it.
7	**Figure → Fact**	silence that settles *like snow* → no one spoke. The answer also states the silence with a negative, but the change that matters is the image decoded.
8	**Naming the Move**	the content is named by its job: *presents an alternative*.
9	**Negative Flip**	*hardly a surprise* → *largely expected*.
10	**Synonym Swap**	the word-form variant: *depended on* → *dependence on*.
11	**Mirror Image**	*before the tunnel* → the tunnel came *after*.
12	**Full Paraphrase**	*a stretch to call … a financial success* → *probably made little money* (Negative Flip, Figure → Fact); *visitors new to the valley* → *people who had not come to the valley before* (Negative Flip).

Quiz 2 · Trace It Home

2.1

Piece	Comes home to	Element
[1]	*For decades, many birdwatchers assumed*	Specific → General (*birdwatchers assumed* → *a long-held belief*)
[2]	*served only to attract mates* and *the same call when rivals approach their nests … long after mating has ended*	Negative Flip (*only one* → *more than one*) and Specific → General (mates and rivals → *purpose*)

2.2

Piece	Comes home to	Element
[1]	*farmers outnumbered shopkeepers four to one*	Numbers in Words (1 of every 5 is a fifth) and Mirror Image (told from the shopkeepers' side)
[2]	*shopkeepers had become the larger of the two groups*	Mirror Image (*shopkeepers larger* → *fewer farmers*)

2.3

Piece	Comes home to	Element
[1]	*admired the novel's opening chapters*	Synonym Swap (*admired* → *praises*) and Specific → General (*opening chapters* → *part of the novel*)
[2]	*its final third "runs out of breath"*	Figure → Fact (*runs out of breath* → *weak*)
[3]	*hurrying through events that the early chapters had promised to explore*	Synonym Swap (*hurrying through* → *too briefly*) and Specific → General (*events … promised to explore* → *important events*)

Quiz 3 · Decode and Choose

Answer Key **1. C 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. C 6. A 7. B 8. D**

1 → C. Main idea · Specific → General.

Trace it home. *Argued less* and *returned to class calmer → behavior*; *fewer playground injuries → safety*; grass, gravel, and trees → *new schoolyards* (Specific → General). *Seem to* matches *reported*: the strength is kept.

Echo traps. A borrows *teachers*, *grass*, *young trees*, and *recess*, then invents a shorter recess. B borrows *nurses* and *injuries* and turns a later result into the reason for the change (the wrong link). D borrows the materials and invents a preference.

2 → A. Detail · Negative Flip.

Trace it home. *Few … arrived without the knowledge → most … brought* it (Negative Flip); *the knowledge they had sworn to protect → Murano's glassmaking methods* (Synonym Swap).

Echo traps. B borrows *few*, *workshops*, and *elsewhere in Europe*, but attaches *few* to finding work. C borrows *sworn to protect* and hands the oath to the wrong workshops (the wrong owner). D is outside the text.

3 → B. Main purpose · Naming the Move.

Trace it home. *For years, ecologists described → a long-standing view* (Specific → General); *researchers reported video … that shows → an observation*; *however → challenges* (Naming the Move).

Echo traps. A borrows *carcasses*, *whales*, and *seafloor*. C borrows *red handfish*, *burrow*, and *New Zealand*. D goes too far: one video says nothing about how often (the wrong strength).

4 → D. Inference · Mirror Image.

Trace it home. The snow melts *earlier*, and the coats change *on the old schedule*. Told from the coats' side, the change now comes *later* relative to the snow (Mirror Image).

Echo traps. A borrows *earlier*, *spring*, and *fifty years ago* but says the opposite of *the old schedule*. B borrows *snow cover* and *day length* and reverses their roles. C is outside the text: nothing says the hares moved.

5 → C. Illustrate the claim · General → Specific.

Trace it home. *A sense of control over their belongings → I … decided how long that jacket would last*; *mending → fixed the zipper myself* (General → Specific). *Not the store* carries the contrast with buying new things.

Echo traps. A borrows *buying new*. B borrows *two hours* and *repairing* but says nothing about control. D is about the participant's past, not about control.

6 → A. Inference · Figure → Fact.

Trace it home. *Holds its books the way a lantern holds light* → shows its books, as a lantern shows its light (Figure → Fact); *passersby → people outside*; *books* and *shelves → collection* (Synonym Swap).

Echo traps. B reads the image literally. C borrows *glass walls*, *reading rooms*, and *after dark*, then invents a complaint. D borrows *holds* and *books* and invents a comparison.

7 → B. Main idea · Full Paraphrase.

Trace it home. *Not without merit → may owe something* (Negative Flip, with the mild strength kept); *leaves unexplained why a second colony … has grown → appears to be incomplete* (Full Paraphrase).

Echo traps. A borrows *feed their chicks* and *small fish*, then invents larger fish. C contradicts *feeding in the same waters*. D borrows the first sentence's words and stretches them to every colony, which the growing second colony disproves (the wrong strength).

8 → D. Detail with numbers · Numbers in Words.

Trace it home. 240 to 60 is a drop of 180, which is three-quarters of 240; *twice as many hours → doubled* (Numbers in Words). *Even though* keeps the passage's contrast.

Echo traps. A borrows the number 60 and does the wrong arithmetic: the drop is 180. B borrows *twice* and attaches it to the butterflies. C gets both numbers wrong.