Command of Evidence: Data Questions

Module 1 Homework

Now put it all together. Here are twenty data questions at Module 1 level, with all five kinds mixed and nothing to tell you which is which. Each one is an isomorph of a question from the Official Guide practice tests (the same questions you'll find in Bluebook): the same skeleton on a new topic, at about the same length and the same difficulty or a little higher. Work each one through the four steps: claim, frame, predict, test. To keep pace with the real test (about 71 seconds a question), give yourself 24 minutes.

Question 1

Five Trails in Brightwater State Park

Trail	Round-trip length (miles)	Elevation gain (feet)	Starts at a public bus stop?
Ridge Loop	5.4	900	yes
Cedar Creek	3.8	400	no
Hollow Pond	5.0	650	yes
Summit Path	8.1	2,100	yes
Marsh Boardwalk	2.6	20	no

A scout leader planning a car-free hike needs a trail that starts at a public bus stop and is at most 5 miles long, round trip, because some of her scouts are young. Of the five trails in Brightwater State Park, only one meets both needs: _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) Hollow Pond.
B) Summit Path.
C) Cedar Creek.
D) Ridge Loop.

Question 2

Rural Schools in Larkin County, 1920–1950

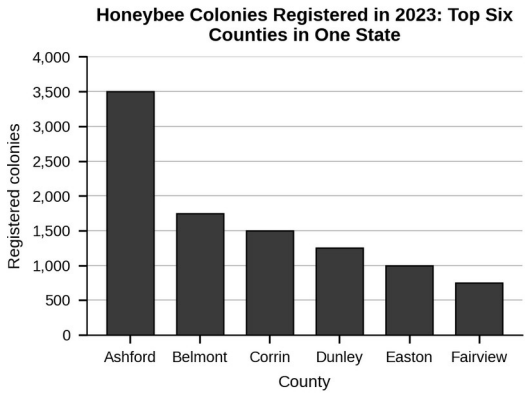
Year	Number of one-room schools	Students enrolled in county schools
1920	84	5,120
1930	61	5,480
1940	37	5,310
1950	12	7,040

Between 1920 and 1950, many rural counties closed their one-room schoolhouses and began busing children to larger consolidated schools. Records from rural Larkin County, shown in the table, reflect that change: over those three decades, _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) the county kept nearly all of its one-room schools even as enrollment climbed.
B) the county lost both one-room schools and enrolled students.
C) one-room schools dwindled from 84 to 12 as enrollment grew by nearly 2,000.
D) enrollment held roughly steady even as one-room schools closed.

Question 3

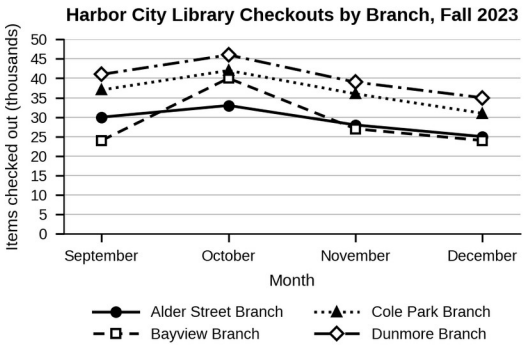


Many states now require beekeepers, from backyard hobbyists to large commercial operators, to register their hives so that inspectors can track outbreaks of honeybee diseases. A 2023 report from one such state ranks its counties by number of registered colonies; the graph shows the top six. Ashford County, home to several large commercial operations, led the state by a wide margin with roughly 3,500 colonies. By comparison, _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the text?

A) Corrin and Dunley Counties had fewer than 2,000 colonies combined.
B) Belmont County, in second place, had only half as many.
C) Easton County had about 1,500 colonies.
D) Fairview County, in sixth place, had fewer than 500.

Question 4



Each fall, Harbor City's public library counts how many items each of its four branches lends out per month. In 2023, checkouts at every branch climbed to a high in October, when the city's schools hold their annual reading challenge, and then tapered off as the holidays approached. One branch, however, stood out: it lent more items than any of the other three not just in October but in all four months. That branch was the _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

A) Alder Street Branch.
B) Bayview Branch.
C) Cole Park Branch.
D) Dunmore Branch.

Question 5

Used-Device Prices on One Resale Website (average price, US dollars)

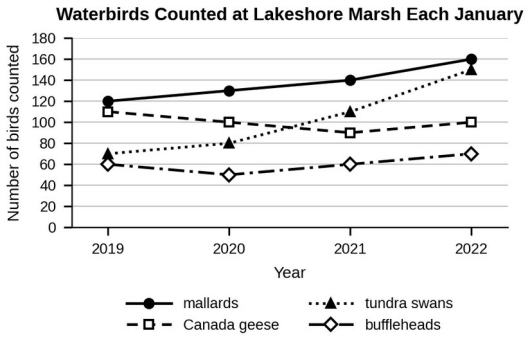
Year	Smartphones	Laptops	Tablets	Game consoles
2015	$214	$412	$158	$241
2017	$198	$389	$171	$268
2019	$206	$401	$155	$255
2021	$231	$377	$175	$249

Used electronics usually lose value as newer models arrive, but shortages can push resale prices up. A resale website tracked prices for four kinds of used devices from 2015 to 2021, a period that included major supply disruptions. Of the four, only one resold for less, on average, in 2021 than in 2015: _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) laptops.
B) smartphones.
C) game consoles.
D) tablets.

Question 6



Bird counts help biologists track how populations shift over time. Each January, volunteers at Lakeshore Marsh count four kinds of wintering waterbirds: mallards, Canada geese, tundra swans, and buffleheads. Tundra swans were long among the marsh's scarcer winter visitors, but a local birding club claims that 2022 was the swans' best winter of the four shown.

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to support the birding club's claim?

A) Buffleheads were the least numerous of the four species in every year shown.
B) The roughly 150 tundra swans counted in 2022 topped the species' count in every earlier year shown.
C) Canada goose counts fell from 2019 to 2021 and then rose in 2022.
D) In 2022, tundra swans trailed mallards, the most numerous species that year, by about 10 birds.

Question 7

Eruption Records for Five Ember Basin Geysers

Geyser	Eruptions per day	Average eruption length (seconds)	Average interval (minutes)
Copper Kettle	60	65	24
Lantern Geyser	15	270	96
Old Bellows	3	220	480
Sapphire Spout	30	135	48
Wren's Pool	120	40	12

Few geysers erupt on a fixed schedule, so geologists compare them by interval: the average time from the start of one eruption to the start of the next. For the five Ember Basin geysers in the table, the data show that _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) Old Bellows has a shorter average interval than Copper Kettle does.

B) eruptions at Lantern Geyser are spaced farther apart than at any other geyser in the table.

C) no geyser in the table erupts again sooner, on average, than Wren's Pool does.

D) Sapphire Spout's average interval is twice as long as Lantern Geyser's.

Question 8

Approximate Dates of Five Archaeological Finds

Specimen	Where found	Approximate date
wool tunic	Peru	about 300 BCE
barley grains	Israel	about 2000 BCE
cattle skull	England	about 1290 CE
dog jawbone	Germany	about 13,000 BCE
grape seeds	France	about 1560 CE

Ancient DNA can reveal how people first domesticated plants and animals, but it does not last forever. After an organism dies, its DNA gradually breaks into shorter and shorter fragments, which are harder and harder to piece back together. A research team has chosen five specimens for sequencing, from grape seeds to a dog's jawbone. Because fragmentation increases with age, the team should expect the most fragmented DNA to come from the _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) barley grains, the oldest of the five specimens in the table.

B) grape seeds, the most recent of the five specimens in the table.

C) cattle skull, the only specimen in the table dated to the 1200s.

D) dog jawbone, more than twice as old as any other specimen.

Question 9

Known Copies of the Medieval Poem _The Lay of Arvel_

Collection holding the copy	City	Approximate date copied	Year copy identified
Ravello Archive	Naples	1420	1882
St. Anselm Library	Lyon	1385	1907
Hartwell Collection	Oxford	1450	1931
Kesten Abbey Library	Bruges	1190	2023

Until recently, scholars knew the medieval poem *The Lay of Arvel* only from three handwritten copies. Because every copyist could introduce new errors, older copies tend to preserve a poem's original wording more faithfully. A fourth copy turned up in 2023, misfiled among sermons in a small abbey library, and scholars already rank it well above the other three, since _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) it reveals the city in which the poem was first composed.
B) it is the only known copy that was made before 1300.
C) it is held in the same city as one of the three earlier copies.
D) it was copied in the same century as the Ravello Archive's copy.

Question 10

Visitor Counts at the Association's Member Gardens

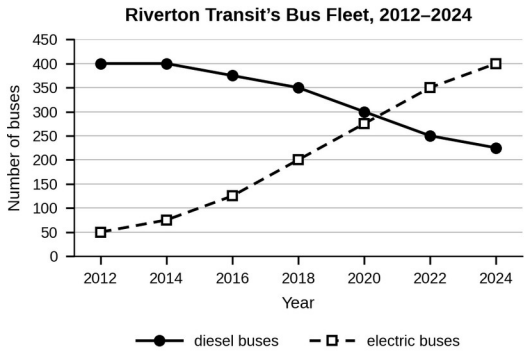
Garden	2021	2022	2023
Fernhill Garden	14,820	17,350	19,940
Saltmarsh Conservatory	9,610	11,240	10,870
Ridgeline Arboretum	41,300	43,950	46,120
Old Mill Gardens	5,480	6,020	6,710

Botanical gardens across the region have added evening concerts and lantern-lit tours in recent years. In its newsletter, a regional garden association claims that, thanks to such programs, attendance has risen every year since 2021 at each of its four member gardens. The association's own figures, however, contradict that claim: _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the text?

A) Old Mill Gardens drew fewer visitors in 2022 than it had in 2021.
B) Ridgeline Arboretum drew roughly seven times as many visitors as Old Mill Gardens in each year shown.
C) the gardens that added evening programs gained visitors the fastest.
D) Saltmarsh Conservatory had fewer visitors in 2023 than in 2022.

Question 11

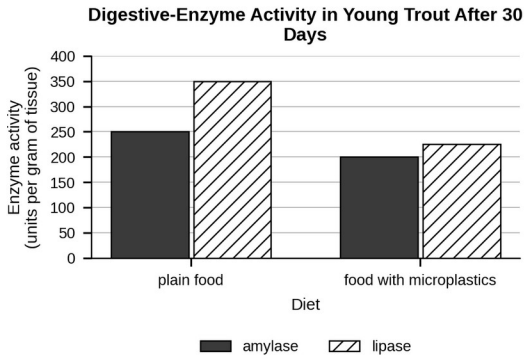


In 2012, Riverton's transit agency adopted a plan to replace its diesel buses with battery-electric ones: as each diesel bus wore out, it would be retired, and every new bus bought would be electric. Because electric buses cost more up front, the plan was controversial at first. A city audit has now concluded that the plan has largely succeeded.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the audit's conclusion?

A) Electric buses, only a small fraction of the fleet in 2012, made up most of it by 2022.
B) The number of electric buses first rose above the number of diesel buses in 2020.
C) The fleet had more diesel buses than electric ones in every year from 2012 through 2020.
D) In 2014, the fleet had more than five times as many diesel buses as electric ones.

Question 12

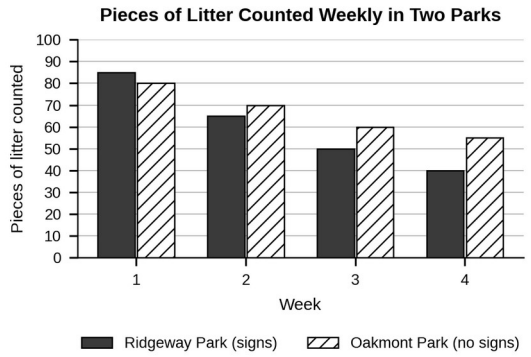


Fish biologist Teodor Haas and his colleagues raised two groups of young trout for 30 days, feeding one group food mixed with microplastics, the tiny plastic particles now found in rivers and lakes around the world, and feeding the other group the same food without them. The team then measured the activity of two digestive enzymes in each fish: amylase, which breaks down starches, and lipase, which breaks down fats. The researchers had hypothesized that swallowing microplastics changes how active these enzymes are in fish.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support Haas and his colleagues' hypothesis?

A) Whatever their diet, the trout showed more lipase activity than amylase activity.
B) Lipase was more active in the trout fed microplastics than in the trout fed plain food.
C) Neither enzyme was as active in the trout fed microplastics as in the trout fed plain food.
D) Eating microplastics cut amylase activity by more than it cut lipase activity.

Question 13



After signs asking visitors not to litter went up in Ridgeway Park, a city council member credited the signs alone for the park's noticeably cleaner grounds over the following month. During those same four weeks, volunteers had counted the litter in Ridgeway once a week, and they had done the same in nearby Oakmont Park, which is similar in size and use but got no signs.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that weaken the council member's claim?

A) The two parks' litter counts differed the most in week 4.
B) Ridgeway Park had less litter than Oakmont Park in every one of the weeks after week 1.
C) In week 1, Ridgeway Park had slightly more litter than Oakmont Park did.
D) Without signs, Oakmont went from about 80 pieces of litter in week 1 to about 55 in week 4.

Question 14

Fall Enrollment in Two Introductory Language Courses at Wexford University

Course	Students enrolled, 2015	Students enrolled, 2023
Spanish	2,150	2,440
Korean	38	84

Since the late 2010s, interest in learning Korean has surged around the world, fueled in part by the global popularity of Korean films, television dramas, and popular music. Wexford University's 2023 enrollment report suggests that the trend has reached its campus as well. The report sets fall enrollment in two introductory courses against the 2015 figures: Spanish, long the university's most popular language course, and Korean, first taught in 2014 with a single small section. Although Spanish remains by far the larger course, the report notes, introductory Korean _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the comparison?

A) more than doubled in size, far outpacing Spanish's growth of under 15 percent.
B) attracted more students who had never studied a foreign language before than introductory Spanish did.
C) added more students between 2015 and 2023 than introductory Spanish did.
D) accounted for most of the growth in the two courses' combined enrollment.

Question 15

Tracking Data for Five Warbler Populations

Population (tagging site)	Share that migrates (%)	Average migration distance (km)	Average body mass (g)	Breeding season (days)
Alder Ridge	88	3,150	11.2	74
Brookmere	71	2,480	10.6	81
Calloway Marsh	95	4,020	12.9	66
Elk Bend	64	1,370	9.8	88
Fenwood	79	2,210	10.1	79

In the classification scheme that ecologist Lionel Baptiste and his team used, a bird population counts as migratory only if at least 60 percent of its members travel between breeding and wintering grounds each year. The scheme then sorts migratory populations by distance: a population whose members average more than 2,000 kilometers is a long-distance migrant, and one whose members average 2,000 kilometers or less is a short-distance migrant. After fitting tiny tracking tags on warblers at five sites in eastern Canada, the team reported that one of the populations is a short-distance migrant and the other four are long-distance migrants.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the team's report?

A) Every population averages more than 2,000 kilometers of migration except the Brookmere population, whose members travel only 81 kilometers.

B) Only Elk Bend falls short of the 60 percent mark, and the other four populations all average more than 2,000 kilometers.

C) All five populations clear the 60 percent mark, and Elk Bend is the only one whose members average 2,000 kilometers or less.

D) All five populations clear the 60 percent mark, but two of them, Elk Bend and Fenwood, average 2,000 kilometers or less.

Question 16

Results for Five College Eight-Person Crews on a 2,000-Meter Course

Crew	Stroke rate (strokes per minute)	Average boat speed (meters per second)
Ashby	40	5.7
Birchwood	38	5.5
Elmstead	35	5.3
Cedarline	32	5.7
Fernhill	31	5.4

Many rowing coaches assume that the higher a crew's stroke rate (the number of strokes its rowers take each minute), the faster its boat will go. Sports scientist Odile Marchetti tested that assumption by timing five college crews over the same 2,000-meter course. Marchetti argues that stroke rate alone does not determine speed, because crews rowing at lower rates can make up the difference by pulling each stroke longer and harder. In fact, she claims, a big gap in stroke rate need not mean any gap in speed at all.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support Marchetti's claim?

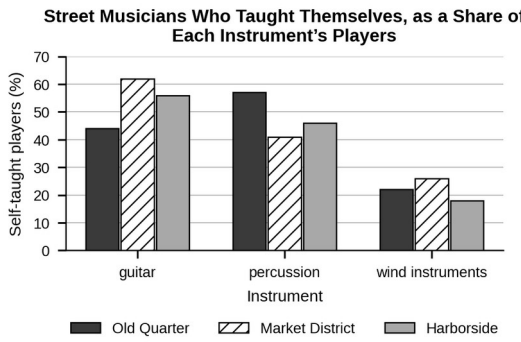
A) Across the five crews, boat speed rises steadily as stroke rate rises.

B) Fernhill, which rows at the lowest stroke rate, is also the slowest of the five crews.

C) Of the two crews with the highest stroke rates, Birchwood is the faster.

D) Cedarline matches Ashby's average boat speed while rowing 8 fewer strokes per minute.

Question 17



Do today's street musicians still learn the old way, by teaching themselves? Sociologist Ines Varga-Holm, herself a former street guitarist, put that question to more than 300 street musicians in three neighborhoods of her port city, asking whether each had first learned from a teacher or on their own. The answer varied with both the instrument and the neighborhood. Self-taught players were usually outnumbered by those who had taken lessons, but not always: the survey found that _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the statement?

A) wind players were the least likely to be self-taught in every neighborhood.
B) self-taught players made up more than half of the guitarists in both the Market District and Harborside.
C) the Old Quarter had the largest number of self-taught percussionists of the three neighborhoods.
D) in Harborside, self-taught players made up a majority of both the guitarists and the percussionists.

Question 18

Where the Surviving Restaurants Stood

Type of restaurant	Survivors standing alone	Survivors on a restaurant row	Share of survivors on a restaurant row
café	41	14	25.5%
bakery	27	8	22.9%
noodle shop	63	25	28.4%
pizzeria	96	29	23.2%

Do restaurants fare better when they open near other restaurants? The question matters to city planners, who must decide whether to cluster new restaurant permits or spread them out. Economists Signe Arvidsen and Tomas Ekwueme followed every café, bakery, noodle shop, and pizzeria that opened in one city during a ten-year period, noted which were still open five years after opening, and sorted these survivors by whether they stood alone or sat on a "restaurant row," a block with at least three other restaurants. Just one opening in ten, for each type, had been on such a row. The economists argue that clustering helps restaurants of these types survive.

Which choice best describes data from the table that support the economists' argument?

A) More restaurants of every type survived standing alone than on a restaurant row.
B) Restaurant rows held about a tenth of each type's openings but more than a fifth of its survivors.
C) Noodle shops had a larger share of their survivors on restaurant rows than cafés did.
D) Pizzerias had both the most survivors on restaurant rows and the largest share of their survivors located there.

Question 19

Wooden Hulls Built at the Marlow Boatyard, 1840–1889

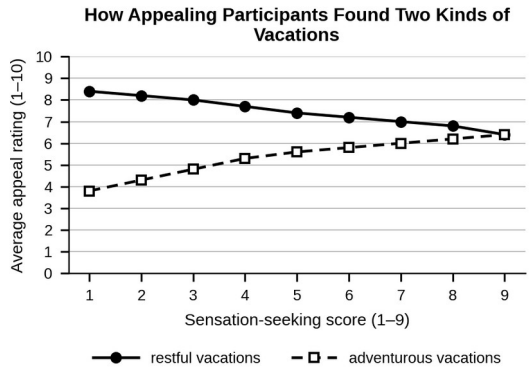
Decade	Pine hulls	Teak hulls
1840s	9	1
1850s	52	7
1860s	86	9
1870s	141	19
1880s	23	4

Teak, a dense tropical hardwood that resists rot far better than pine, was the boatbuilding wood that nineteenth-century buyers wanted most. But teak had to be shipped in from Burma and India, while pine grew in the forests just upriver from the Marlow Boatyard in New England. Historian Ruth Okonkwo, who spent two years studying the yard's surviving ledgers, argues that the yard struggled to get enough teak to keep up with that demand. The ledgers, which record every hull the yard built from 1840 to 1889, bear this out: _____

Which choice most effectively uses data from the table to complete the statement?

A) teak hulls sold for considerably more than pine hulls did.
B) the number of teak hulls built rose steadily from the 1840s through the 1880s.
C) in every decade, pine hulls outnumbered teak hulls by more than five to one.
D) the 1870s, the yard's busiest decade, produced more hulls of both kinds than any other decade did.

Question 20



Participants in a study by psychologists Mira Castell and Owen Pryor first completed a questionnaire that scored, from 1 to 9, how strongly each of them seeks out new and thrilling experiences. They then rated, on a scale of 1 to 10, how appealing they found two kinds of vacations: restful trips built around relaxation and adventurous trips built around physical challenge. Castell and Pryor conclude that only the most extreme thrill seekers, those at the very top of the sensation-seeking scale, find adventurous trips as appealing as restful ones.

Which choice best describes data from the graph that support the researchers' conclusion?

A) Restful vacations led at every score from 1 through 8, and the two kinds tied at 9.
B) Participants who scored 8 or 9 rated adventurous vacations above restful ones.
C) The gap between the ratings of the two kinds of vacations was widest among the most cautious participants.
D) Ratings of restful vacations held steady across the scale, while ratings of adventurous vacations climbed.