

Section 3: Critical Reading

Critical Reading Question 25

Choice (D) is correct. The phrase “as well” helps indicate that Maria’s reaction to Juan’s motives resembles his reaction to hers. If Juan was “confused about” her motives, she must be similarly confused about his. Having “misinterpreted,” or misunderstood, his motives would be a sign of such confusion.

Choice (A) is incorrect. To “commend” something is to express approval of it. Nothing in the sentence implies that Maria expressed approval of Juan’s motives.

Choice (B) is incorrect. To “tolerate” something is to put up with it. The sentence does not suggest that Maria tolerated Juan’s motives. Rather, it indicates that she was confused about them.

Choice (C) is incorrect. To “appreciate” something is to be thankful for it, or to recognize its good qualities. The sentence does not suggest that Maria appreciated Juan’s motives.

Choice (E) is incorrect. To “disentangle” something is to unravel it, or to resolve the complexity of it. The sentence suggests that Maria was confused about Juan’s motives, not that she disentangled them.

Critical Reading Question 26

Choice (C) is correct. “Currency” is something (generally money) in circulation as a medium of exchange. If during the Middle Ages, pepper became “as acceptable as coins for payment,” then one could say it became a common currency. And if spices like pepper were treated like money, then it makes sense to say that Europe came to “value” them, or consider them important.

Choice (A) is incorrect. Something that is “rare” is uncommon. Therefore, it would be contradictory to speak of a “common rarity.” Remember that in two-blank sentences, both words must make sense for an answer choice to be correct.

Choice (B) is incorrect. To say that pepper had become a “common expense” would indicate that it was something people needed to purchase on a regular basis. This would not exemplify the claim that Europe came to “reject” spices.

Choice (D) is incorrect. “Cash” makes some sense in the second blank, though it would not really be logical to say that cash is “as acceptable as coins for payment,” since coins are a form of cash. Moreover, “transform” does not make sense in the first blank. It is not clear how transforming, or changing, spices would result in pepper being used as cash.

Choice (E) is incorrect. To say that pepper became “as acceptable as coins for payment” would imply that people valued it. It would not suggest that Europe came to

“dislike” spices. Also, if people valued spices, it would not make sense to say that pepper became a common “target.”

Critical Reading Question 27

Choice (B) is correct. The part of the sentence that follows the colon serves to explain or illustrate the part that comes before it. If Bascom “augmented,” or added to, our knowledge of mountain formation, this would explain the claim that she was an “accomplished geologist.” If she inspired women to “pursue,” or strive to obtain, careers in geology, this would illustrate the claim that she was a “gifted teacher.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. To “perpetuate” something is to continue it. To be considered an “accomplished,” or expert, geologist, one would most likely need to do more than merely perpetuate our knowledge, so this is not the best word for the first blank. To “debunk” something is to expose or ridicule the falseness of it. Inspiring women to debunk careers in geology would not illustrate the idea that Bascom was a gifted teacher.

Choice (C) is incorrect. To “practice” a career is to work at it. This word makes sense in the second blank: a gifted teacher might well inspire people to practice certain careers. To “derail” something is to bring it to a sudden halt. Derailing our knowledge of mountain formation would not illustrate the claim that Bascom was an “accomplished geologist.”

Choice (D) is incorrect. To “clarify” something is to make it more clear. An “accomplished geologist” might well clarify our knowledge of mountain formation, so “clarified” makes sense in the first blank. To “belabor” something is to discuss it repeatedly and at length. This word always has a negative connotation. It is unlikely that a gifted teacher would inspire people to belabor anything.

Choice (E) is incorrect. To “court” a career is to seek to achieve it. This word makes sense when inserted in the second blank because a gifted teacher might well inspire women to court careers in geology. To “confound” something is to make it confused, or to frustrate it. An “accomplished geologist” would not be likely to confound our knowledge of mountain formation. It is more likely that an accomplished geologist would increase or improve our knowledge.

Critical Reading Question 28

Choice (C) is correct. To “repudiate” something is to vigorously reject it. The word “Repudiating,” then, indicates that what the writer “insisted” in the second part of the sentence will be the complete opposite of the “idea” expressed in the first part. If the idea is that city and suburb are “discrete,” or individually distinct, entities, then the writer must be insisting that they are somehow connected. Things that are “interdependent” are, by definition, connected. The words in this choice work together to create a logical sentence.

Choice (A) is incorrect. To insist that city and suburb are “bureaucratic”—that they have the characteristics of a large organization—would not necessarily involve “repudiating” the idea that they are “political entities.” Entities can be both political and bureaucratic.

Choice (B) is incorrect. To insist that city and suburb are “disenfranchised,” or deprived of a privilege, would not necessarily involve “repudiating” the idea that they are “unstable entities.” Entities can be both unstable and disenfranchised.

Choice (D) is incorrect. To insist that city and suburb are “complementary”—that they somehow complete one another—would not necessarily involve “repudiating” the idea that they are “enduring,” or lasting, entities. Entities can be both complementary and enduring.

Choice (E) is incorrect. To insist that city and suburb are “distinguishable”—that one can tell them apart—would not necessarily involve “repudiating” the idea that they are “unique,” or one-of-a-kind, entities. Indeed, one would expect unique entities to be distinguishable.

Critical Reading Question 29

Choice (C) is correct. “Ornate” means elaborately or excessively decorated. The phrase “In contrast” indicates that the word that best fits the blank will mean the opposite of “ornate.” “Austere,” in this context, means simple or unadorned. If Greek architecture was austere, then it would contrast with the typically ornate Roman architecture.

Choice (A) is incorrect. Something that is “contemporary” is current; two things that are “contemporary” are from the same time period as one another. Neither of these meanings establishes a clear contrast with the idea that Roman architecture was “ornate.”

Choice (B) is incorrect. Something that is “inspiring” has an animating or enlivening effect. This word does not contrast with “ornate.” Architecture that is ornate can also be inspiring.

Choice (D) is incorrect. Something that is “exquisite” is characterized by great beauty and delicacy. This word does not contrast with “ornate.” Things that are ornate are often exquisite.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Something that is “populist” is characteristic of populism, a political philosophy that supports the rights of the common people rather than those of the privileged elite. This word does not establish a meaningful contrast with “ornate.”

Critical Reading Question 30

Choice (C) is correct. The first sentence of the passage claims that fairy tales “direct children to discover their identities” and “suggest what experiences are needed to develop their characters further.” The subsequent sentence argues that fairy tales “intimate that a rewarding, good life is within reach despite adversity.” And the final sentence says that fairy tales warn children that “those who are too timorous and

narrow-minded to take these risks must settle for a humdrum existence.” These sentences suggest that the primary purpose of the passage is to “show how fairy tales help prepare children for the challenges of the real world.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. The primary purpose of the passage is not to compare the appeal of fairy tales to that of contemporary, or present-day, stories. The passage never mentions contemporary stories.

Choice (B) is incorrect. The passage never implies that fairy tales “serve different needs in different cultures.” It discusses fairy tales in general terms, rather than fairy tales’ impact on certain cultures.

Choice (D) is incorrect. The passage does not “caution that fairy tales may have a negative effect on children.” Rather, it implies that they have a positive effect in that they help prepare children for the challenges of the real world.

Choice (E) is incorrect. The passage suggests that fairy tales serve a valuable function by preparing children for the real world. The passage does not suggest that they are “an entertaining way to escape reality.”

Critical Reading Question 31

Choice (E) is correct. One cannot infer from the passage that the process of finding one’s identity is “enjoyable.” Rather, the passage focuses on the difficult and frightening aspects of this process.

Choice (A) is incorrect. An activity that is “demanding” requires much time and effort to accomplish. The passage states that to find one’s identity, one must overcome “adversity,” or a state of continued difficulty, and that one must not “shy away from . . . hazardous struggles.” The passage also characterizes this process as “taxing,” or burdensome. So one can infer from the passage that the process of finding one’s identity is demanding.

Choice (B) is incorrect. The passage suggests that the process of finding one’s identity involves “hazardous struggles,” so one can infer that it is dangerous.

Choice (C) is incorrect. The passage characterizes the process of finding one’s identity as “fearsome,” or frightening.

Choice (D) is incorrect. The passage implies that finding one’s identity leads to a “rewarding, good life” and that children who engage in this process “will succeed.” So one can infer that the process is “productive,” or yields favorable results.

Critical Reading Question 32

Choice (C) is correct. The author begins by asserting that “Fiction is an art that calls for the strictest attention to the real” and then gives two examples of fictional descriptions that do not demonstrate attention to the real, that fail because they “couldn’t be true.”

The quotation in line 10 then serves as an example of a description of something that is “eminently possible.” That is, it is a “credible,” or believable, description.

Choice (A) is incorrect. Although some might consider the quotation in line 10 to exemplify an “eccentric,” or unconventional, description, the passage is not about eccentricities of style. It is about the importance of truthfulness in fiction.

Choice (B) is incorrect. The quotation in line 10 is a somewhat unusual description. Nothing in the passage suggests that it exemplifies an “overused expression.”

Choice (D) is incorrect. A “literary allusion” is an implied reference in a work of literature to another work of literature or art, or sometimes to a person or event. Because the passage does not discuss literary allusions, it is unlikely that this quotation would be serving as an example of one.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Although a woman snatching “at her hair as if she heard something in it” might be considered a “dramatic gesture,” the passage is not about dramatic gestures. Rather, the passage discusses the importance of truthfulness in fiction.

Critical Reading Question 33

Choice (D) is correct. The author begins by claiming that “Fiction is an art that calls for the strictest attention to the real” and then asserts that “Even when one writes a fantasy, reality is the proper basis of it.” Thus, the primary purpose of the passage is to “emphasize the importance of grounding fiction in reality.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. Although the passage does refer to two writers (Graham Greene and Elizabeth Bowen), the primary purpose of the passage is not to discuss their different approaches to fiction. These writers are mentioned to help illustrate the author’s claims about the importance of fiction being based on reality.

Choice (B) is incorrect. It is not the author’s primary purpose to argue that realistic stories are preferable to fantasies. Rather, the author argues that fiction must pay strict attention to the real, “whether the writer is writing a naturalistic story or a fantasy.”

Choice (C) is incorrect. Although it may well be a challenge to ground fiction in reality, it is not the author’s primary purpose to “demonstrate” this challenge. Moreover, the author never indicates that “contemporary,” or current, writers in particular face this challenge.

Choice (E) is incorrect. The “traditional distinction between fiction and nonfiction” is that fiction is an imaginative creation, while nonfiction is generally understood to describe actual events. It is not the primary purpose of the passage to challenge this distinction.

Critical Reading Question 34

Choice (C) is correct. To be “dismissive” is to show indifference or disregard. The narrator begins by asserting that she “wasn’t impressed” by the “congregation’s praise,”

that it was “only what everyone said.” The use of the word “only” and the assertion that she “wasn’t impressed” suggest an attitude of “dismissiveness.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. The narrator states that she “wasn’t impressed” by the congregation’s praise of her father. There is nothing in the passage to suggest that she was amused by it.

Choice (B) is incorrect. “Chagrin” is a feeling of embarrassment. Nothing in the passage implies that the narrator feels chagrined about the congregation’s praise of her father. Rather, she is indifferent to it.

Choice (D) is incorrect. “Smugness” is a feeling of great, usually offensive, self-satisfaction. Nothing in the narrator’s response to the congregation’s praise suggests that she is smug about that praise.

Choice (E) is incorrect. “Revulsion” is a feeling of strong disgust. The narrator demonstrates no feelings of revulsion concerning the congregation’s praise of her father. Actually, the praise seems to have little effect on her.

Critical Reading Question 35

Choice (E) is correct. A “caricature” is a representation in which the subject’s features are exaggerated, usually producing a comic or grotesque effect. Describing how her father looked on television, the narrator says in lines 4-9 that “the bright lights exaggerated the furrows that ran between his nose and mouth,” that “his narrow eyes gave him a sinister air,” and that “he looked like a villain in a Saturday afternoon thriller.” Since television had the effect of exaggerating her father’s physical features and producing a somewhat grotesque effect, one could say that on television the father came across as a caricature.

Choice (A) is incorrect. A “dilettante” is a person who has a superficial interest in an art or a branch of knowledge. Lines 4-9 focus on the father’s physical appearance on television. They say nothing about his intellectual or artistic interests.

Choice (B) is incorrect. A “sycophant” is a self-seeking flatterer. Nothing about the father’s physical appearance suggests that he comes across on television as a sycophant.

Choice (C) is incorrect. A “paragon” is a model of excellence or perfection. Lines 4-9 focus on the father’s physical appearance on television. There is no indication that there is anything excellent or perfect about his appearance.

Choice (D) is incorrect. A “zealot” is a person who is fanatically committed to a cause or ideal. Zealots do not by definition have any particular physical features, though they are often described as “wild-eyed.” The father’s exaggerated “furrows,” “narrow eyes,” and “sinister air” do not necessarily suggest that he came across as a zealot. These are not generally considered characteristics or features of a person who is fanatically committed to something.

Critical Reading Question 36

Choice (D) is correct. The people considered the father to be a “champion of civil rights,” and lines 9-12 describe some of his political activities, including his involvement with “marches and meetings in the South.” In lines 13-15, the narrator says she is “privately embarrassed” to have a parent who admits to having gone to jail in Alabama (presumably as punishment for those civil rights activities). She clearly sees his “going to jail” as a “source of personal shame.” The students, on the other hand, are said to regard it as “almost miraculous.” They apparently see it as an act of “political courage.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. Although the narrator says she was “privately embarrassed” by her father’s “going to jail,” this does not necessarily mean that she sees her father’s punishment as evidence of a character flaw. And if the students regard it as “almost miraculous,” they probably do not see it as a “lapse of judgment.”

Choice (B) is incorrect. The narrator does not imply that her father’s “going to jail” is a “setback to her father’s career.” And while the students see it as “almost miraculous,” one cannot infer from this that they see it as “critical to overall success.”

Choice (C) is incorrect. If the students were supporters of the Civil Rights movement, which seems quite likely, then they might regard the father’s “going to jail” as unfair, or “the result of a grave injustice.” However, nothing implies that the narrator sees it as “insufficient punishment.” The passage says only that she was “privately embarrassed” by it.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Nothing in the passage suggests that the narrator saw the father’s “going to jail” as the “end of an era,” or an end to his work to gain civil rights. And nothing implies that the students saw it as “the renewal of an age-old struggle.”

Critical Reading Question 37

Choice (A) is correct. In lines 32-42, the father is said to have a “passion for oratory,” which he indulged by “staging absurd debates at the dinner table.” These debates are characterized as verbal “melees,” or free-for-all battles, that the father “won quite selfishly.” This description suggests that the father sought to display his verbal “adeptness,” or skill.

Choice (B) is incorrect. The debates that the father staged are described as “absurd,” or ridiculous, and the examples provided (debating whether a fruit is a vegetable or a zipper is a machine) support this characterization. These lines do not suggest that the father sought to “elicit valuable information.”

Choice (C) is incorrect. The debates that the father staged are described as “absurd,” not “long-standing.” Furthermore, the father did not seem interested in settling disputes; instead, he seemed to enjoy provoking them.

Choice (D) is incorrect. Although the father was a pastor and therefore presumably interested in “spiritual reflection,” that is not what the description in these lines illustrates. The debates that he stages are not spiritual in nature. Instead, they deal with “absurd” issues.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Although lines 32-42 imply that the father was amused by the debates, nothing suggests that he sought to “poke fun at his own pretensions.” Rather, he had fun at his children’s expense.

Critical Reading Question 38

Choice (C) is correct. The final paragraph indicates that, while the father preached, a look of pleasure seemed to “brighten the contours” of his face, “until it actually appeared to give off light as he spoke.” That is, he seemed “visibly radiant.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. Nothing in the final paragraph, or even the passage as a whole, suggests that the father was “fiercely protective.”

Choice (B) is incorrect. While the father might possibly be “loudly opinionated” during the debates at the dinner table, the final paragraph does not suggest that this was evident while he preached. Rather, these lines suggest that he radiated pleasure.

Choice (D) is incorrect. The final paragraph does not suggest that the father was “rhetorically unequalled” while preaching. There is no discussion in this paragraph of the father’s skill at using language. Rather, this paragraph concentrates on the way he looked while preaching.

Choice (E) is incorrect. The final paragraph does not suggest that the father was “disengaged,” or detached, while preaching. In fact, it suggests that he was very engaged, so much so that a look of pleasure seemed to “brighten the contours of his face.”

Critical Reading Question 39

Choice (D) is correct. The first and last paragraphs of the passage focus on the father’s public persona, describing his political activities, the way he comes across on television, and the way he appears to his congregation. The middle paragraph says more about his public persona but also describes the way he interacts with his children at home. So the passage can be said to “sketch the public and private personas” of this character.

Choice (A) is incorrect. The narrator never describes her own “religious convictions.” There is no discussion of anyone’s, even her father’s, religious convictions, so one cannot even infer what the narrator’s beliefs might be.

Choice (B) is incorrect. The passage makes reference to the father’s involvement in the Civil Rights movement, but it does not actually “analyze some key events” in that movement. No specific events are discussed in detail.

Choice (C) is incorrect. The narrator’s father does appear on television “occasionally,” but that does not mean he has achieved “national prominence.” Also, the father is a preacher in Philadelphia, which is a large city. He cannot be described as a “small-town preacher.”

Choice (E) is incorrect. Although the narrator describes the father in great detail, she does not show any desire to “emulate,” or try to imitate, him. In fact, she is unimpressed by his congregation’s praise of him, is “privately embarrassed” by his going to jail, and is angered by his behavior at the dinner table. Based on these descriptions, it is unlikely that she wants to emulate him.

Critical Reading Question 40

Choice (A) is correct. The first paragraph in Passage 1 suggests that although Arbella saw the “best years of her life drifting away in attendance upon her crotchety grandmother,” she lacked “the courage for open revolt.” The beginning of the second paragraph states that Arbella thought that her “only chance of escape . . . lay through marriage,” and thus she devised a plan to become engaged to a grandson of the Earl of Hertford. Passage 2 largely agrees with this assessment. Lines 44-46 say that “Having resolved to spring herself free . . . , Arbella launched her campaign in 1602 with a proposal of marriage” to the Earl’s grandson, Edward Seymour. Both passages agree, then, that Arbella’s planned engagement was a “way to remedy her present situation.”

Choice (B) is incorrect. Although Passage 1 speaks of Arbella’s “fires of resentment” toward her grandmother, it does not suggest that her planned marriage was primarily intended to “antagonize” her, nor does Passage 2 suggest this.

Choice (C) is incorrect. Neither passage suggests that Arbella had a “desire for publicity.” Indeed, Passage 1 suggests that she took an “indirect” course of action rather than pursuing an “open revolt,” which indicates that she did not want to draw attention to herself or her plan.

Choice (D) is incorrect. Arbella’s planned engagement to Edward Seymour may have created some “royal enemies” for her, but neither passage suggests that Arbella viewed the engagement as a way to “thwart,” or defeat, those enemies.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Passage 2 does indicate that “Arbella was a romantic,” though this serves primarily to explain her attraction to the Seymours. It does not necessarily mean that she was trying to “achieve romantic happiness.” And Passage 1 definitely does not suggest that Arbella viewed her planned engagement as a way to achieve romantic happiness. Rather, it implies that she viewed it as a way to escape from Hardwick House and her grandmother.

Critical Reading Question 41

Choice (A) is correct. The first paragraph of Passage 1 indicates that Arbella was living on a “pittance,” or a very small sum of money, and “saw the best years of her life drifting away in attendance upon her crotchety grandmother.” As a result, the “fires of resentment began to smolder beneath her protective humility.” This paragraph, then, presents Arbella as “living under conditions she found oppressive.”

Choice (B) is incorrect. The first paragraph describes Arbella as not having “the courage for open revolt” and suggests that she took an “indirect course” of action. This paragraph does not present Arbella as “publicly expressing her rebellious impulses.”

Choice (C) is incorrect. Although subsequent events made clear that Arbella should have feared “punishment at the hands of the Queen,” the first paragraph does not suggest that she actually did.

Choice (D) is incorrect. The first paragraph suggests that Arbella has not yet put her plans into effect. It does not present her as “feeling discouraged” at their failure.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Although one can infer that Arbella had bad relations with her grandmother, the first paragraph does not suggest that she was “anxiously trying to improve” those relations. Rather, it suggests she was trying to escape her grandmother altogether.

Critical Reading Question 42

Choice (E) is correct. The first paragraph in Passage 1 characterizes the grandmother as “crotchety,” or cranky and ill-tempered, and refers to her as a “dragon.” Passage 2 takes a more charitable view: it says that she was “circumspect,” or cautious, and that under pressure, she “rose to the occasion.” It also implies, through the contrasting description of Arbella in line 43, that she was rational and controlled. The author of Passage 2, then, offers a fairly subtle and complex description of the grandmother. This author would most likely consider the description of the grandmother as a crotchety dragon to be “overly simplistic.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. The description of the grandmother in the first paragraph of Passage 1 is quite harsh. Since the author of Passage 2 presents the grandmother in a more positive light, this author would probably not consider the characterization in Passage 1 to be “charitable,” or kind in judgment.

Choice (B) is incorrect. Considering that the author of Passage 2 offers a radically different characterization of the grandmother than does the author of Passage 1, it is unlikely that this author would consider the characterization in Passage 1 to be “historically accurate.”

Choice (C) is incorrect. It would be odd to characterize the description of the grandmother in Passage 1 as “unusually defensive.” Describing the grandmother as a crotchety dragon would not defend the grandmother in any way. If anything, this characterization would invite criticism.

Choice (D) is incorrect. There is nothing in Passage 2 to suggest that the author would find anything comic in the description of the grandmother in Passage 1.

Critical Reading Question 43

Choice (A) is correct. The author of Passage 1 finds it “hard to believe” Arbella’s claim that the Earl of Hertford made “overtures,” or proposals, to her through a lawyer. The author notes that the Earl had “suffered much” by previously marrying a woman with royal blood without the Queen’s consent and that “he went in fear and trembling” of the Queen. Therefore, he would “hardly have dared to embark on any such course.” So the

author judges Arbella's claim about the overtures by "examining it in light of the Earl's experiences and outlook."

Choice (B) is incorrect. Although the author refers in lines 16-18 to another tale circulating that summer, this author does not judge Arbella's claim about the overtures by contrasting it to this tale.

Choice (C) is incorrect. The author does not discuss "other unlikely claims made by Arbella." The author considers only this one claim about the "overtures."

Choice (D) is incorrect. The author does not consider "the lessons Arbella would likely have drawn from Katherine Grey's fate." Indeed, Arbella apparently did not draw any lessons at all. If she had, she probably would not have taken the "foolish step" of suggesting that the Earl initiate marriage negotiations.

Choice (E) is incorrect. The author does not discuss the story that the Earl told in his correspondence with the Queen and does not compare it to Arbella's claim about the "overtures."

Critical Reading Question 44

Choice (C) is correct. The author of Passage 1 reports that at Christmas 1602, Arbella sent word to the Earl of Hertford suggesting that he would do well to negotiate a marriage between her and a member of his family. The author then asserts that she "could not have taken a more foolish step." The Earl immediately locked up her messenger and informed the authorities of her overture. The foolishness of Arbella's plan, then, is that it did not anticipate these "negative outcomes."

Choice (A) is incorrect. There is nothing in the passage to suggest that Arbella "overestimated the power of the Queen." In fact, subsequent events suggest that she underestimated it.

Choice (B) is incorrect. Passage 1 never mentions any "experts who might have helped" Arbella.

Choice (D) is incorrect. Passage 1 never suggests that Arbella received "discouraging but sound advice," nor that she "ignored" any such advice.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Passage 1 does not suggest that the foolishness of Arbella's plan was that it "did not leave room for improvisation." This would imply that Arbella might have fared better had she improvised more. There is no evidence in Passage 1 to support this idea.

Critical Reading Question 45

Choice (D) is correct. In lines 37-41, the author of Passage 2 compares Arbella with her grandmother, Bess of Hardwick, and uses the three sentences beginning with "Where" to clearly show how the two women were different. Where Bess read legal papers, Arbella read foreign languages. Where Bess was circumspect, or cautious, Arbella was

impulsive. Where Bess performed well under pressure, Arbella tended toward hysteria. In these sentences, the term “where” helps establish how “clearly the two women differed in temperament.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. Lines 37-41 establish that Arbella and Beth had very different interests and temperaments. They do not show how “perfectly the women’s interests coincided.”

Choice (B) is incorrect. Lines 37-41 establish how different the two women were, but they say nothing about how often they may have “challenged one another.”

Choice (C) is incorrect. Lines 37-41 suggest that the women undertook different daily activities, but they do not suggest that the women thoroughly “outlined,” or planned, these activities.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Although one can infer from lines 37-41 that the women may have had problems getting along, the sentences beginning with “Where” do not demonstrate how “frequently the women’s plans led to problems.” Indeed, these sentences say nothing about the women’s plans.

Critical Reading Question 46

Choice (C) is correct. The author of Passage 2 says that in choosing to seek a marriage to Edward Seymour, Arbella “could hardly have alighted on a less suitable candidate.” In other words, Edward Seymour was a very inappropriate choice for a potential husband. This author also indicates that instead of being warned off by the “sad fate of Katherine Grey” (who was imprisoned for secretly marrying the Earl of Hertford), Arbella was instead drawn to “this tale of doomed love.” These statements suggest that the author of Passage 2 views Arbella as “deficient,” or lacking, in “good judgment.”

Choice (A) is incorrect. Passage 2 never indicates that Arbella did any harm to those around her. Rather, it implies that she was a foolish romantic.

Choice (B) is incorrect. While Passage 2 suggests that Arbella acted foolishly, it never implies that she treated others irresponsibly.

Choice (D) is incorrect. Nothing in Passage 2 suggests that its author finds Arbella to be “quite amusing.”

Choice (E) is incorrect. To be “malleable” is to be easily controlled or influenced. Passage 2 does not suggest that Arbella was particularly malleable. It does not indicate that anyone was influencing her decision-making.

Critical Reading Question 47

Choice (E) is correct. Both passages indicate that the Queen had imprisoned Katherine Grey and the Earl of Hertford, who were of royal blood, for marrying without her consent. They also imply that Arbella might suffer terrible consequences for seeking an unauthorized marriage to the Earl’s grandson, an action that, as Passage 1 puts it, was

“likely to enrage the Queen.” Passage 2 explains why. It argues that their “double dose of royal blood would have seemed doubly threatening to the Queen, making them potential rivals.” The information that the “Queen had sometimes felt endangered by others who might claim the throne” helps explain the Queen’s attitude and actions as recounted in both passages.

Choice (A) is incorrect. Although both Arbella and the Queen may have received extensive educations, this would not explain the Queen’s attitude and actions as recounted in the two passages.

Choice (B) is incorrect. It is hard to see how the Queen’s imprisonment during her youth would directly explain her attitude and actions as described in the two passages.

Choice (C) is incorrect. While the Queen might well have been raised in isolation from her family, this would not directly explain her attitude and actions as described in the two passages.

Choice (D) is incorrect. Although the Queen was, in fact, ruler “during an era of maritime exploration,” this would do nothing to account for her attitude and actions as described in the two passages.

Critical Reading Question 48

Choice (B) is correct. Passage 1 says that Arbella’s ill-fated plan followed the “sort of tortuous indirect course which the cowed and defeated resort to when they become desperate.” That is, it suggests that the underlying cause of Arbella’s mistakes was “despair,” or complete loss of hope. Passage 2 states that Arbella was “impulsive” and that her passions were “irrational” and “uncontrolled,” and it implies that these qualities explain her poor choice of an intended (she “could hardly have alighted on a less suitable candidate”). Passage 2, then, suggests that the underlying cause of Arbella’s mistakes was a lack of “prudence,” or careful good judgment.

Choice (A) is incorrect. To show “defiance” is to show bold resistance. Passage 1 implies that Arbella was “cowed and defeated,” which is the opposite of defiant. Passage 2 suggests that Arbella’s plan was foolish. It does not suggest that it failed because she received “inadequate assistance.”

Choice (C) is incorrect. This choice may be appealing because Arbella’s plan to marry Edward Seymour might possibly be considered an “overly ambitious” goal. But Passage 1 never suggests that Arbella’s mistakes stemmed from “great haste.” On the contrary, it notes that she spent years living with her grandmother before launching her plan and that the plan itself followed a “tortuous indirect course.”

Choice (D) is incorrect. Passage 2 certainly suggests that Arbella showed “poor judgment,” but Passage 1 never implies that her mistakes stemmed from “vanity,” or excessive pride in her appearance or accomplishments. Rather, it suggests that she did what she did out of desperation, in an effort to escape an unhappy situation.

Choice (E) is incorrect. Passage 1 implies that Arbella made some very poor decisions, which might indeed have stemmed from “incompetence,” or the inability to act

effectively. But Passage 2 never suggests that Arbella was characterized by “maliciousness,” or the tendency to be deliberately harmful and spiteful. Rather, it suggests that she was merely trying to improve her situation.