

Answers: Reading Quiz

1. B

If you consider the passage from a strictly visual standpoint, you can notice that it's broken up by dashes in two separate places. Dashes are virtually always important because they typically contain definitions or explanations, and you should make sure to pay close attention to them. In this case, the information you need is between the first set of dashes. There, the author states that the blurb has been *controversial*, i.e. it has provoked differing opinions. The answer is therefore B.

2. A

The key phrase is *But our ability to make these decisions [about what food to choose]—and indulge in our pleasures—is being compromised in ways that are unprecedented.* The fact that these decisions are being “compromised” means that there are fewer of them, as elaborated on in the following sentence (*the general trend is the same one we see in phones and fashion: standardization.*) Fewer decisions = more restricted. That makes the answer A.

3. C

Don't be fooled by Martin Blaser's statement, *We have long known that after eating we get a feeling of fullness. Most have assumed that it is because our stomach or intestines are stretched.* The phrase *most have assumed* indicates that Blaser is repeating the conventional wisdom – that is, what he does not believe. The point of the passage is that the massive increase (i.e. proliferation) of bacteria in the gut, rather than stretching of the stomach, may make people feel full. The answer is therefore C.

4. B

The topic sentence provides most of what you need to know. The phrase *two separate rulebooks* indicates that the passage will focus on the differences between two things, i.e. a contrast between them. And in fact, the passage first describes something big (general mechanics), and then describes something small (quantum relativity). The only answer that contains the idea of difference is B. A is incorrect because two theories are defined, not a single term. C is incorrect because the author does not make a claim – it merely describes two different theories. D is incorrect because there is no attitude or opinion involved at all; the author is referring to established scientific theories.

5. C

The key to this question is the first sentence of the second paragraph; the author's use of the contradictor *but* at the beginning of that sentence indicates that the sentence is important. What do we learn from it? That behavior standards were more "exacting" (strict) in the 17th century than they are today. In other words, behavior norms can change significantly over time. That makes the answer C.

6. A

Even though this passage is short, it's extremely dense, so make sure you focus on the most relevant information. The question asks specifically about *government actions*, so make sure you read the *entire* sentence in which that phrase appears, paying special attention to the information after the word *but*. If you do so, you'll learn that although Thoreau opposed government actions, he also believed that the body politic (i.e. the government) could be improved, i.e. changed for the better. That makes the answer C.

7. B

This question is much simpler than it might initially seem. Remember, the question is asking for the purpose of the phrase in question, i.e. what function it plays within the argument. If you read the entire sentence in which the phrase appears, you can see that it starts with *In other words*. What is the purpose of those words? To define or explain. In this case, the phrase is there to define the term "expectation of agency," which appears in the previous sentence. That makes B the answer.

8. D

Remember that this is an inference question, so the answer is not stated directly in the text. The passage states that *Molluscs, crinoids, and trilobites were some of the only living creatures on Earth [during the Silurian period]*. That makes three categories of creatures – a very small number. It can therefore be reasonably inferred that few types of animals were around at that time, making the answer D. A is incorrect because the passage only states that shark scales were found in Siberia; it says nothing about sharks living around the world. B is incorrect because the passage states that *Molluscs, crinoids, and trilobites were some of the only living creatures on the Earth before scorpions and centipedes appeared on land*.

9. A

The information you need to answer this question appears in the first two sentences. The “strong” words *always* and *intensify* indicate that these sentences are important. The first sentence states that *politics has always involved deception*, and the second indicates that the television *intensified this [deception]*. In other words, television made deception in politics worse, i.e. it “exacerbated” it. That makes A the answer.

10. D

The statement that *Humpback vocalizations, including the complex and wide-ranging ‘whale song’ performed by males, typically have an audio frequency between 80 and 4,000 hertz (Hz)* indicates that whale songs occur at many different frequencies, making D correct. That statement directly contradicts A (most whale songs are above 80 Hz); B is incorrect because the passage only states that *Born Free* was released in 1970 – it says nothing about when whale songs were first studied. C is incorrect because the passage only states that the new whale songs are difficult for *humans* to hear; it says nothing about other whales.