# **OVERALL STRUCTURE** QUESTIONS

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Craft and Structure	Overall Structure	

#### ID: 5e732e67

Many films from the early 1900s have been lost. These losses include several films by the first wave of Black women filmmakers. We know about these lost movies only from small pieces of evidence. For example, an advertisement for Jennie Louise Touissant Welcome's documentary *Doing Their Bit* still exists. There's a reference in a magazine to Tressie Souders's film *A Woman's Error*. And Maria P. Williams's *The Flames of Wrath* is mentioned in a letter and a newspaper article, and one image from the movie was discovered in the 1990s.

- A. The text identifies a complex problem, then presents examples of unsuccessful attempts to solve that problem.
- B. The text summarizes a debate among researchers, then gives reasons for supporting one side in that debate.
- C. The text describes a general situation, then illustrates that situation with specific examples.
- D. The text discusses several notable individuals, then explains commonly overlooked differences between those individuals.

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#### ID: 56ec23a0

Hiroshi Senju is known worldwide for his paintings of waterfalls. These paintings are large and tend not to show the entire waterfall. Instead, Senju focuses on just the point where the falling water reaches the pool below, keeping the top of the waterfall out of view. While Senju's paintings are rooted in art movements originating in the United States, the artist uses traditional Japanese techniques and materials that make his work instantly recognizable.

- A. It introduces an artist and then explains some common characteristics of well-known paintings by that artist.
- B. It explains a specific painting technique and then provides examples of artists who use the technique.
- C. It describes a famous painting and then compares it to a lesser-known painting from the same time period.
- D. It gives an opinion on an artist and then suggests multiple reasons why the artist's work has been largely overlooked.

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#### ID: 2903a041

Using NASA's powerful James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), Mercedes López-Morales and colleagues measured the wavelengths of light traveling through the atmosphere of WASP-39b, an exoplanet, or planet outside our solar system. Different molecules absorb different wavelengths of light, and the wavelength measurements showed the presence of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in WASP-39b's atmosphere. This finding not only offers the first decisive evidence of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere of an exoplanet but also illustrates the potential for future scientific breakthroughs held by the JWST.

- A. It discusses a method used by some researchers, then states why an alternative method is superior to it.
- B. It describes how researchers made a scientific discovery, then explains the importance of that discovery.
- C. It outlines the steps taken in a scientific study, then presents a hypothesis based on that study.
- D. It examines how a group of scientists reached a conclusion, then shows how other scientists have challenged that conclusion.

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#### ID: f2c48e47

The following text is from Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1910 poem "The Earth's Entail."

No matter how we cultivate the land,

Taming the forest and the prairie free;

No matter how we irrigate the sand,

Making the desert blossom at command,

We must always leave the borders of the sea;

The immeasureable reaches

Of the windy wave-wet beaches,

The million-mile-long margin of the sea.

- A. The speaker argues against interfering with nature and then gives evidence supporting this interference.
- B. The speaker presents an account of efforts to dominate nature and then cautions that such efforts are only temporary.
- C. The speaker provides examples of an admirable way of approaching nature and then challenges that approach.
- D. The speaker describes attempts to control nature and then offers a reminder that not all nature is controllable.

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#### ID: f631132b

In the *Here and Now Storybook* (1921), educator Lucy Sprague Mitchell advanced the then controversial idea that books for very young children should imitate how they use language, since toddlers, who cannot yet grasp narrative or abstract ideas, seek reassurance in verbal repetition and naming. The most enduring example of this idea is Margaret Wise Brown's 1947 picture book *Goodnight Moon*, in which a young rabbit names the objects in his room as he drifts off to sleep. Scholars note that the book's emphasis on repetition, rhythm, and nonsense rhyme speaks directly to Mitchell's influence.

- A. The text outlines a debate between two authors of children's literature and then traces how that debate shaped theories on early childhood education.
- B. The text summarizes an argument about how children's literature should be evaluated and then discusses a contrasting view on that subject.
- C. The text lists the literary characteristics that are common to many classics of children's literature and then indicates the narrative subjects that are most appropriate for young children.
- D. The text presents a philosophy about what material is most suitable for children's literature and then describes a book influenced by that philosophy.

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#### ID: 14b7dced

The following text is from Walt Whitman's 1860 poem "Calamus 24."

I HEAR it is charged against me that I seek to destroy institutions;

But really I am neither for nor against institutions

(What indeed have I in common with them?—Or what with the destruction of them?),

Only I will establish in the Mannahatta [Manhattan] and in every city of These States, inland and seaboard,

And in the fields and woods, and above every keel [ship] little or large, that dents the water,

Without edifices, or rules, or trustees, or any argument,

The institution of the dear love of comrades.

- A. The speaker questions an increasingly prevalent attitude, then summarizes his worldview.
- B. The speaker regrets his isolation from others, then predicts a profound change in society.
- C. The speaker concedes his personal shortcomings, then boasts of his many achievements.
- D. The speaker addresses a criticism leveled against him, then announces a grand ambition of his.

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#### ID: 8963273a

Musician Joni Mitchell, who is also a painter, uses images she creates for her album covers to emphasize ideas expressed in her music. For the cover of her album *Turbulent Indigo* (1994), Mitchell painted a striking self-portrait that closely resembles Vincent van Gogh's *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* (1889). The image calls attention to the album's title song, in which Mitchell sings about the legacy of the postimpressionist painter. In that song, Mitchell also hints that she feels a strong artistic connection to Van Gogh—an idea that is reinforced by her imagery on the cover.

- A. It presents a claim about Mitchell, then gives an example supporting that claim.
- B. It discusses Van Gogh's influence on Mitchell, then considers Mitchell's influence on other artists.
- C. It describes a similarity between two artists, then notes a difference between them.
- D. It describes the songs on *Turbulent Indigo*, then explains how they relate to the album's cover.

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#### ID: 6d44060a

Works of moral philosophy, such as Plato's *Republic* or Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, are partly concerned with how to live a morally good life. But philosopher Jonathan Barnes argues that works that present a method of living such a life without also supplying a motive are inherently useful only to those already wishing to be morally good—those with no desire for moral goodness will not choose to follow their rules. However, some works of moral philosophy attempt to describe what constitutes a morally good life while also proposing reasons for living one.

- A. It provides a characterization about a field of thought by noting two works in it and then details a way in which some works in that field are more comprehensive than others.
- B. It mentions two renowned works and then claims that despite their popularity it is impossible for these works to serve the purpose their authors intended.
- C. It summarizes the history of a field of thought by discussing two works and then proposes a topic of further research for specialists in that field.
- D. It describes two influential works and then explains why one is more widely read than the other.

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#### ID: d69bc408

The following text is adapted from Aphra Behn's 1689 novel *The Lucky Mistake*. Atlante and Rinaldo are neighbors who have been secretly exchanging letters through Charlot, Atlante's sister.

[Atlante] gave this letter to Charlot; who immediately ran into the balcony with it, where she still found Rinaldo in a melancholy posture, leaning his head on his hand: She showed him the letter, but was afraid to toss it to him, for fear it might fall to the ground; so he ran and fetched a long cane, which he cleft at one end, and held it while she put the letter into the cleft, and stayed not to hear what he said to it. But never was man so transported with joy, as he was at the reading of this letter; it gives him new wounds; for to the generous, nothing obliges love so much as love.

- A. It describes the delivery of a letter, and then portrays a character's happiness at reading that letter.
- B. It establishes that a character is desperate to receive a letter, and then explains why another character has not yet written that letter.
- C. It presents a character's concerns about delivering a letter, and then details the contents of that letter.
- D. It reveals the inspiration behind a character's letter, and then emphasizes the excitement that another character feels upon receiving that letter.

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#### ID: 97360a00

The following text is adapted from Gwendolyn Bennett's 1926 poem "Street Lamps in Early Spring."

Night wears a garment

All velvet soft, all violet blue...

And over her face she draws a veil

As shimmering fine as floating dew...

And here and there

In the black of her hair

The subtle hands of Night

Move slowly with their gem-starred light.

- A. It presents alternating descriptions of night in a rural area and in a city.
- B. It sketches an image of nightfall, then an image of sunrise.
- C. It makes an extended comparison of night to a human being.
- D. It portrays how night changes from one season of the year to the next.

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#### ID: b4d29611

Michelene Pesantubbee, a historian and citizen of the Choctaw Nation, has identified a dilemma inherent to research on the status of women in her tribe during the 1600s and 1700s: the primary sources from that era, travel narratives and other accounts by male European colonizers, underestimate the degree of power conferred on Choctaw women by their traditional roles in political, civic, and ceremonial life. Pesantubbee argues that the Choctaw oral tradition and findings from archaeological sites in the tribe's homeland supplement the written record by providing crucial insights into those roles.

- A. It details the shortcomings of certain historical sources, then argues that research should avoid those sources altogether.
- B. It describes a problem that arises in research on a particular topic, then sketches a historian's approach to addressing that problem.
- C. It lists the advantages of a particular research method, then acknowledges a historian's criticism of that method.
- D. It characterizes a particular topic as especially challenging to research, then suggests a related topic for historians to pursue instead.

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#### ID: f6352bd3

Many archaeologists assume that large-scale engineering projects in ancient societies required an elite class to plan and direct the necessary labor. However, recent discoveries, such as the excavation of an ancient canal near the Gulf Coast of Alabama, have complicated this picture. Using radiocarbon dating, a team of researchers concluded that the 1.39-kilometer-long canal was most likely constructed between 576 and 650 CE by an Indigenous society that was relatively free of social classes.

- A. It describes a common view among archaeologists, then discusses a recent finding that challenges that view.
- B. It outlines a method used in some archaeological fieldwork, then explains why an alternative method is superior to it.
- C. It presents contradictory conclusions drawn by archaeologists, then evaluates a study that has apparently resolved that contradiction.
- D. It identifies a gap in scientific research, then presents a strategy used by some archaeologists to remedy that gap.

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#### ID: acb852e7

The following text is from the 1923 poem "Black Finger" by Angelina Weld Grimké, a Black American writer. A cypress is a type of evergreen tree.

I have just seen a most beautiful thing,

Slim and still,

Against a gold, gold sky,

A straight black cypress,

Sensitive,

Exquisite,

A black finger

Pointing upwards.

Why, beautiful still finger, are you black?

And why are you pointing upwards?

- A. The speaker assesses a natural phenomenon, then questions the accuracy of her assessment.
- B. The speaker describes a distinctive sight in nature, then ponders what meaning to attribute to that sight.
- C. The speaker presents an outdoor scene, then considers a human behavior occurring within that scene.
- D. The speaker examines her surroundings, then speculates about their influence on her emotional state.

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#### ID: b4887dae

Mathematician Claude Shannon is widely regarded as a foundational figure in information theory. His most important paper, "A Mathematical Theory of Communication," published in 1948 when he was employed at Bell Labs, utilized a concept called a "binary digit" (shortened to "bit") to measure the amount of information in any signal and determine the fastest rate at which information could be transmitted while still being reliably decipherable. Robert Gallagher, one of Shannon's colleagues, said that the bit was "[Shannon's] discovery, and from it the whole communications revolution has sprung."

- A. It presents a theoretical concept, illustrates how the name of the concept has changed, and shows how the name has entered common usage.
- B. It introduces a respected researcher, describes an aspect of his work, and suggests why the work is historically significant.
- C. It names the company where an important mathematician worked, details the mathematician's career at the company, and provides an example of the recognition he received there.
- D. It mentions a paper, offers a summary of the paper's findings, and presents a researcher's commentary on the paper.

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#### ID: 34d7bb25

According to Indian economist and sociologist Radhakamal Mukerjee (1889-1968), the Eurocentric concepts that informed early twentieth-century social scientific methods—for example, the idea that all social relations are reducible to struggles between individuals—had little relevance for India. Making the social sciences more responsive to Indians' needs, Mukerjee argued, required constructing analytical categories informed by India's cultural and ecological circumstances. Mukerjee thus proposed the communalist "Indian village" as the ideal model on which to base Indian economic and social policy.

- A. The text recounts Mukerjee's early training in the social scientific disciplines and then lists social policies whose implementation Mukerjee oversaw.
- B. The text mentions some of Mukerjee's economic theories and then traces their impact on other Indian social scientists of the twentieth century.
- C. The text presents Mukerjee's critique of the social sciences and then provides an example of his attempts to address issues he identified in his critique.
- D. The text explains an influential economic theory and then demonstrates how that theory was more important to Mukerjee's work than other social scientists have acknowledged.

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#### ID: a70cbc53

Raymond Antrobus, an accomplished poet and writer of prose, recently released his debut spoken word poetry album, *The First Time I Wore Hearing Aids*, in collaboration with producer lan Brennan. The album contains both autobiographical and reflective pieces combining Antrobus's spoken words with Brennan's fragmented audio elements and pieces of music to convey how people who are deaf may experience sound, both its presence and absence. Some critics suggest that the album questions the function of sound in the world, highlighting that the experience of sound is multifaceted.

- A. It introduces a collaborative spoken word poetry project, details the approach taken to produce the work, and then provides an example of critique the album received upon release.
- B. It mentions a collection of spoken word poems, distinguishes one poem as being an exemplar on the album, and then offers a summary of the subject matter of the whole collection.
- C. It summarizes the efforts to produce a collection of spoken word poems, presents biographies of two people who worked on the album, and speculates about the meaning behind the poetry.
- D. It connects two artists to the same spoken word poetry project, explains the extent of their collaboration on each poem, and then provides an overview of the technique used to produce the work.