

Practice SAT Reading Test

65 Minutes, 52 Questions

Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage.

Bend Sinister

The following passage is adapted from a novella. Dr. Forsythe is attending a winter gala at the estate of a local Duke, Lord Cress. After overhearing part of a confidential conversation regarding his late wife, Forsythe plans to leave the party, but is stopped on his way by the Duke's son, Francis.

Forsythe's disposition, so recently buoyant and carefree, swiftly darkened to the extent that, were he to auscultate himself at that moment, the diagnosis could only reveal
5 an acute saturninity, or else some other sinister malady that corrupts the body and gives the mind a likeness of wetted ash. A perfect fool, he thought, a perfect and exemplary fool. Feeling a sudden unrest in his
10 abdomen, Forsythe doubled himself so that his brow might rest on the cool, polished stone of the balustrade. He could not weep; nor could he seem to muster his wrath or rancor. Each time he tried, the sensation flared just for a
15 moment within his throat before, like the meek flame of a vicar's candle, it was smothered in the wintry air.

Indeed, all that Forsythe felt was ill. Slowly, caustically, something was leaving his body—
20 an obstinate fever on the edge of breaking; a vast, black contusion rising to the surface from the deepest stratum of his flesh. *How cruel*, he thought, raising his head, *and how impudent. How many knew? All of them, perchance?* All
25 but he before tonight, for the matter was surely no great secret if its substance had trickled down to common parlor gossip. Forsythe had to resist a perverse temptation to

laugh. It was comical in a way, with the
30 dramatic irony of a farcical play. He had studied through the lens of his microscope the waste of germs and infinitesimal parasites— invisible to most—that provoke such majorities of the world's suffering. And yet, in so focusing
35 his view, he had failed to perceive an affliction that towered before him for fifteen years; one that to others was unmistakable.

"My wife", he whispered aloud, "Mother to Francis, Earl of Pembroke." Forsythe recalled
40 treating Lord Cress for pneumonia the winter prior. Despite a fearsome cough that for two months racked his torso—cracking three ribs in a particularly violent episode—the decrepit nobleman had greedily held fast his grip on
45 life. Two months Forsythe had spent in the Duke's stifling bedchamber, tending to his every ache. Even as the sick man slept, Lady Cress insisted Forsythe remain nearby. Silently, he recounted all the hours—hours he might
50 have shared with his wife—that instead he'd squandered with Lord Cress, expelling his phlegm-choked snores upward where they filled the sagging, silk canopy of camphor and
55 egesta. *Remarkable*, thought Forsythe, gazing back through the frosted window to where Lady Cress was dancing a quadrille. *She's gone along with this the whole while.*

The scandal, of course, would have transpired well before the Forsythes were
60 wed—but despite its remoteness, the Doctor found the details of the affair simpler and simpler to apprehend. Lady Cress failed to yield, and the Duke, no doubt as desperate for a male heir as he was wanton, sired himself an
65 illegitimate son; one that they would pass off for an Earl. Inside the manor he could discern the form of Lord Cress, snowy-haired and mustachioed, at rest in his gilt wheelchair on a low platform above the dancers. His wet lips
70 drew themselves into a grin as he quaffed another goblet of sherry. *The whole, illustrious*

history of the nobles, thought Forsythe, is here epitomized. They are crooks, base criminals, usurpers—wretched, godless and cruel.

75 Disgusted, Forsythe turned away and started toward the edge of the portico. He was interrupted, however, by a slender figure emerging from the blue shadow of a mulberry tree.

80 “Good evening, Doctor,” greeted Francis Cress, approaching, “are the festivities pleasing to you?”

Forsythe, finding himself incapable of assembling a sensible reply, simply nodded

85 and sipped his Apollinaris.

1. What is the purpose of the italics as used throughout the passage?

- (A) To provide a third-person perspective from an outside perspective
- (B) To give psychological insight of Lord Cress
- (C) To denote the words of an omniscient narrator
- (D) To present the internal monologue of the protagonist

2. Based on lines 9-17, Forsythe would appear to an observer as

- (A) acerbic and wrathful
- (B) uncomfortable and preoccupied
- (C) morbid and depressed
- (D) solemn and weeping

3. We can infer from the passage as a whole that when Forsythe asks “*How many knew,*” to what is he most likely referring that they knew?

- (A) That Cress was actually Mr. Forsythe’s illegitimate son
- (B) That Mr. Forsythe had secretly murdered the Duke when he was supposedly caring for him
- (C) That Lady Cress and Mr. Forsythe had once been lovers
- (D) That the Duke and Forsythe’s wife had had an affair

4. The irony of Forsythe’s situation is best exemplified in the contrast between his

- (A) sense of humor and social aptitude
- (B) inconspicuousness and visibility
- (C) scientific skill and social ignorance
- (D) social prowess and comic disposition

5. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 7-12 (“*A perfect...balustrade*”)
- (B) Lines 12-17 (“*He could...air*”)
- (C) Lines 30-37 (“*He had...unmistakable*”)
- (D) Lines 58-66 (“*The scandal...Earl*”)

6. We can infer from lines 45-57 that Forsythe most significantly regrets

- (A) not spending enough time with his wife
- (B) agreeing to make home visits to patients
- (C) misdiagnosing Lord Cress's illness
- (D) Lady Cress's involvement in the scandal

7. As it is used in line 44, "greedily" most nearly means

- (A) prejudicially
- (B) materialistically
- (C) mercenarily
- (D) covetously

8. As it is used in line 63, the word "yield" most nearly means

- (A) give in to a demand
- (B) profit from a venture
- (C) bear children
- (D) produce crops

9. We can infer from lines 71-74 that Forsythe spares his wife the same critique he has of the Duke and Lady Cress because

- (A) Her female gender
- (B) Her lack of noble birth
- (C) Her propensity for wanton behavior
- (D) Her recent death

10. The word "assembling", as used in line 84 most nearly means

- (A) building
- (B) mobilizing
- (C) accumulating
- (D) contriving

Questions 11-21 are based on the following passage.

An Economic Historian analyzes how Sweden has been able to make relatively rapid economic recoveries.

In times of widespread economic distress, experts will sometimes turn to the outliers of a downtrend in order to study the features of their commercial, governmental, and social structures that have seemingly immunized them to financial meltdown. Recently, Sweden's system has come under particular scrutiny due to the relatively stable condition of its economy throughout the recession that struck the majority of the Western world in 2007.

Sweden's modern economic policies—known collectively in the colloquial as “the Swedish model”—began to emerge in the early 1930s at the height of the Great Depression in Europe. The Depression arrived at a moment in time in which Sweden was particularly ripe for comprehensive reform; in hopes of stabilizing a rapidly declining economy, the Swedish people elected the Social Democratic Party to power in 1932. Unlike contemporary socialist parties in Europe, Sweden's Social Democrats—rather than calling for the full socialization of private industry—made combating unemployment through bipartisan, interventionist legislation their main priority. As a result, the Social Democrats—who primarily represented an urban labor demographic—managed to forge a working alliance with the Farmer's Party, Bondeförbundet, in exchange for protecting Sweden's agricultural interests.

Working together, the two parties reinvented the government's role in Swedish society and business. The first reforms aimed to encourage spending among average citizens

by raising the minimum wage and lowering taxes on the lower and middle classes. In a further effort to allow spending among the out-of-work, ill and elderly, federal funding was also funneled into unemployment insurance, medical care and retirement pensions. In the spirit of partnership with the Bondeförbundet, unemployment aid was granted not only to recently laid-off factory laborers, but also to workers in Sweden's rural farming communities, which helped to enervate a mass migration of people into the cities. Apart from extending unemployment benefits, the government also reinforced its agricultural industry by subsidizing farms when necessary, and establishing tariffs to protect the price of domestically grown crops.

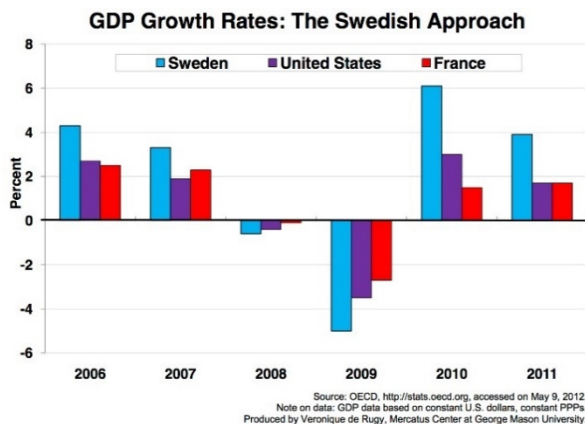
Naturally, Sweden's aggressive new policies came with a price tag—particularly its massive investment in public works projects. But despite creating a large federal deficit, in 1934 Sweden became the first country to fully emerge from the Depression, and foreign creditors were quickly recompensed. Sweden's successful use of deficit spending on public works and welfare has since come to be identified with Keynesian economics, named for the British economist John Maynard Keynes. By 1936, Sweden's unemployment had returned from 12% to 5%, and its industrial production exploded to 50% more than it had been prior to the Depression.

Many countries—including the U.S.—have used Keynesian initiatives to varying degrees of success as a jumpstart for their failing economies. It is difficult even for economists to say with any certainty why the policy has worked so well for Sweden. One possible contributor is the remarkable capacity for compromise demonstrated by Swedish politicians, businessmen, labor unions and farmers, even in times of financial turmoil.

80 Although the Social Democrats have remained in power in Sweden for the majority of the last century, 90% of Swedish industry remains privately owned; labor disputes, in contrast, are settled by a federal bureau trusted by workers and management alike.

85 Sweden today is as healthy as ever. Partly, it has been buoyed by the international recovery, as a whole. Despite concern over the stability of the Chinese economy, global markets are booming, and Sweden is no
90 exception. Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, for instance, has pledged to have the lowest unemployment rate in the EU by 2020. It remains to be seen, however, if enough countries will remain for that to be much of an
95 accomplishment.

Notwithstanding, a weak krona has catalyzed investment from international investors, and Sweden is ripe for bull-market explosion. Monies that were previously
100 pumped into developing markets are now being funneled toward a much safer, yet no less promising, Stockholm, and the general feeling among the electorate is that the country is as healthy as ever. Sweden, for
105 whatever reason, always seems to land on her feet.



<http://mercatus.org/sites/default/files/GDP-Growth-Rates-Swedish-Approach-original.jpg>

11. As used in line 3, “outliers” most nearly refers to

- (A) those of European origin
- (B) unusual cases
- (C) untruthful examples
- (D) random events

12. It can be inferred from the passage that a socialist party elsewhere in Europe during the 1930’s was, relative to the Swedish socialist party,

- (A) more likely to encourage significant government spending
- (B) significantly more militaristic and expansionist
- (C) less likely to achieve compromise with other parties
- (D) more likely to achieve agreement with the French Farmer’s party

13. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 21-26 (“Unlike...priority.”)
- (B) Lines 38-43 (“In a further...pensions.”)
- (C) Lines 57-60 (“But despite...recompensed.”)
- (D) Lines 60-65 (“Sweden’s successful...Keynes.”)

14. According to the passage, Sweden’s success is owed to a plan that

- (A) encouraged spending, allotted unemployment aid, and protected farming
- (B) encouraged frugality, restructured healthcare, and boosted education
- (C) moved people out the cities into rural areas to boost agricultural production
- (D) encouraged spending within the upper classes only and supplied factory jobs for working-class farmers

15. The distribution of power among Swedish political parties for the majority of the last century can best be characterized as

- (A) communal and dictatorial
- (B) democratic and chaotic
- (C) stable and unilateral
- (D) federated and tightfisted

16. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 27-32 (“As a result...agricultural interests.”)
- (B) Lines 33-38 (“Working together...classes.”)
- (C) Lines 79-82 (“Although...privately owned;”)
- (D) Lines 90-95 (“Sweden’s Prime...accomplishment.”)

17. Which choice best summarizes the fifth paragraph of the passage (lines 69-84)?

- (A) Other Western countries like the U.S. should take a page out of Sweden’s book.
- (B) The Social Democratic Party’s consistent command fosters Sweden’s relative stability.
- (C) 90% of Swedish industry remains privately owned.
- (D) Sweden’s singular success with Keynesian economics can most likely be attributed to compromise.

18. We can infer from the passage as a whole that Swedish culture is likely characterized by all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) social harmony
- (B) willingness to compromise
- (C) ideological flexibility
- (D) civil discord

19. One conclusion that can be attained by viewing the accompanying graph is that

- (A) The United States has spent recklessly during the Obama administration
- (B) France is subject to the most market volatility
- (C) countries are susceptible to global trends
- (D) Sweden’s devaluation of the krona has contributed to its recent growth

20. If 1930 were graphed alongside the other years, it would most likely resemble

- (A) 2008
- (B) 2009
- (C) 2010
- (D) 2011

21. The author of the passage would most likely consider the information in the figure to be

- (A) excellent evidence for the arguments made in the passage because Sweden is doing very well
- (B) excellent evidence for the arguments made in the passage because Sweden is doing poorly
- (C) compelling evidence but far too restricted in the time span covered
- (D) representative of a perspective with which the author disagrees

Questions 22-32 are based on the following passage.

A scientific historian discusses how and why the chemical periodic table gradually gained popularity.

5 Alongside the Watson-Crick “Double Helix” and Einstein’s “Equation of General Relativity,” the Periodic Table of Elements is among the most important and instantly recognizable features of modern science.

10 While the table as we know it today emerged just 150 years ago, the story of its conceptual evolution harkens back all the way to Ancient Greece, when Aristotle proposed that all mass is composed of a mixture of simple elements.

15 Medieval alchemists made minor contributions to the creation of the table through their tedious observation of the known elements’ physical and chemical properties. But although inquisitive minds made gradual progress

20 toward understanding matter in its elemental form throughout the millennia, it was not until the 17th century that the discoveries which laid the table’s foundation truly accelerated.

 Throughout Europe, the Age of Enlightenment ushered in a renewed and unprecedented interest in scientific

25 investigation. A devotee to the zeitgeist, 17th century scientist Robert Boyle redefined the word “element” to describe a substance that cannot be degraded into simpler forms by

30 chemical reaction. His definition not only liberated the word from its erroneous Aristotelian origins, but it survived for a full 300 years—during which it was used in the

35 invention of the table—until the discovery of subatomic particles in the 20th century.

 In 1789, the chemist Antoine-Laurent de Lavoisier included in his “Treatise of

40 Chemistry” a rudimentary list of substances that would not undergo further degradation. Lavoisier’s list includes many familiar elements, but also several nonmaterial substances such as light, and the mythical heat

45 particle known as “caloric.” It was not until the early 19th century that a scientist first

attempted to examine the elements based on shared chemical properties. Johann Döbereiner’s “triad theory,” though methodically misguided, succeeded in dividing

50 halogens, alkali metals, and alkaline earth metals into chemically distinct groups for the first time in recorded history.

 Curiously, however, it was neither a chemist nor a physicist to first recognize the

55 novel periodicity of elemental properties, but geologist Alexander-Emile de Chancourtois. Creating the closest precursor of the periodic table, Chancourtois—utilizing the invaluable molar mass work of Amedeo Avogadro—

60 graphed 63 known elements in order of increasing atomic weight on his “telluric helix,” and observed an element’s chemical reactivity. Unfortunately, because Chancourtois inexplicably included several polyatomic ions

65 on the helix, and published his report using geological rather than chemical terminology, his discovery was largely ignored. Two years later, English chemist John Newlands proposed a “law of octaves” that was based, shockingly,

70 on the standard musical scale, and which suggested that the periodicity of the elements follows a similar eight “note” pattern. Though his contemporaries heavily criticized Newlands, the idea was eventually vindicated

75 by the octet theory of chemical bonding, which confirmed the significance of the eight-element series in chemical behavior.

 Despite the work of Chancourtois and Newlands, Siberian-born chemist Dmitri

80 Mendeleev is almost exclusively credited with the design of the first periodic table, and, at least until the mid-20th century, with the discovery of elemental periodicity. Like Chancourtois, Mendeleev arranged the

85 elements in order of atomic weight, arriving eventually at a table or chart-style layout which he published in 1869. Although Mendeleev’s table eliminated the chemical inconsistencies of the telluric helix, and was

90 accompanied by standard chemical terminology, large pockets of the scientific community remained resistant to the notion of periodicity.

95 However, as Mendeleev assembled the table, he had noticed several gaps in the pattern of properties which—cleverly—he hypothesized to be areas held by yet undiscovered elements. Apart from reserving space on the table for these elements, he went
 100 so far as to predict not only their existence, but their chemical properties as well. Several years later, the spectroscopic discovery of one of these elements—specifically gallium—and the confirmation of Mendeleev’s predictions
 105 caused the popularity of his theory to skyrocket, and the periodic table quickly became a standard fixture in the study of chemistry.

110

22. The overall organizational pattern of the passage is best described as

- (A) chronological
- (B) educational
- (C) scientific
- (D) symmetrical

23. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) evaluate the research that led to a scientific discovery
- (B) rank the significance of scientists in regard to a standard scientific tool
- (C) debunk a common understanding of the development of the field of Chemistry
- (D) present the historical context of a scientific breakthrough

24. What does the author suggest about Robert Boyle?

- (A) He discovered a pattern in chemical properties.

(B) He was very anti-Enlightenment, but managed to accidentally change the course of science.

(C) He was more intelligent than Aristotle.

(D) He redefined a word that became foundational to our modern understanding of chemistry.

25. The most plausible reason as to why Chancourtois was the one to discover periodic patterns in the elements was his

(A) curiosity was greater than that of his contemporaries

(B) occupation as a geologist afforded him a different scientific perspective than others

(C) lasting friendship with Amedeo Avogadro

(D) renown within the fields of physics and chemistry

26. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

(A) Lines 53-56 (“Curiously...Chancourtois.”)

(B) Lines 63-67 (“Unfortunately...ignored.”)

(C) Lines 72-75 (“Though his...bonding,”)

(D) Lines 78-83 (“Despite...periodicity.”)

27. What does the author suggest about chemists and physicists in lines 63-77?

(A) They value musical patterns above mathematical ones.

(B) They are able to find periodic patterns in chemical elements.

(C) They are reluctant to give consideration to ideas from those outside the worlds of chemistry and physics.

(D) They do not tolerate the ideas of people of non-European intellectual backgrounds.

28. The quotation marks in “law of octaves” (line 69) denote

(A) the title Newlands gave his discovery

(B) a euphemism for the scientific terminology

(C) degrading sarcasm by those who believed their work superior to music

(D) dialogue between Newlands and Mendeleev

29. The word “vindicated” as it is used in line 74 most nearly means

- (A) exonerated
- (B) verified
- (C) liberated
- (D) explained

30. The author would most likely agree that
(A) Mendeleev should be solely credited for the periodic table of elements because he was the first to organize elements by atomic number.

- (B) Geology is a superior science to physics.
- (C) Although Mendeleev is credited for the periodic table of elements, the work of many scientists influenced the understanding of chemical elements.
- (D) The periodic table will not be relevant in another decade because of the fast progression of scientific discovery.

31. The main purpose of the passage is to

- (A) answer a pressing scientific question.
- (B) discuss the relationship between different fields of science.
- (C) describe the diminution of the periodic table of elements.
- (D) explain the evolution of the periodic table of elements.

32. According to the passage, the figure shown was created by

- (A) roughly by Aristotle in Ancient Greece.
- (B) Antoine-Laurent de Lavoisier as a master list of all elements.
- (C) first by Alexander-Emile de Chancourtois and then perfected by Dmitri Mendeleev.
- (D) roughly by Dmitri Mendeleev but with significant gaps.

Questions 33-42 are based on the following passage.

Passage 1 is adopted from the "Mayflower Compact," written in 1620. Passage 2 is adopted from "The Social Contract," written in 1763 by Jean Jacques Rousseau.

Passage 1

In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian Faith and Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the First Colony in the Northern Parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, Covenant and Combine ourselves together in a Civil Body Politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth.
Anno Domini 1620.

Passage 2

Man was born free, but everywhere he is in chains. This man believes that he is the master of others, and still he is more of a slave than they are. How did that transformation take place? I don't know. How may the

restraints on man become legitimate? I do believe I can answer that question....

At a point in the state of nature when the obstacles to human preservation have become greater than each individual with his own strength can cope with . . . an adequate combination of forces must be the result of men coming together. Still, each man's power and freedom are his main means of self-preservation. How is he to put them under the control of others without damaging himself...?

This question might be rephrased: "How is a method of associating to be found which will defend and protect -- using the power of all -- the person and property of each member and still enable each member of the group to obey only himself and to remain as free as before?" This is the fundamental problem; the social contract offers a solution to it.

The very scope of the action dictates the terms of this contract and renders the least modification of them inadmissible, something making them null and void. Thus, although perhaps they have never been stated in so many words, they are the same everywhere and tacitly conceded and recognized everywhere. And so it follows that each individual immediately recovers his primitive rights and natural liberties whenever any violation of the social contract occurs and thereby loses the contractual freedom for which he renounced them.

The social contract's terms, when they are well understood, can be reduced to a single stipulation: the individual member alienates himself totally to the whole community together with all his rights. This is first because conditions will be the same for everyone when each individual gives himself totally, and secondly, because no one will be tempted to make that condition of shared equality worse for other men....

Once this multitude is united this way into a body, an offense against one of its members is an offense against the body politic.

- 80 It would be even less possible to injure the body without its members feeling it. Duty and interest thus equally require the two contracting parties to aid each other mutually. The individual people should be motivated
- 85 from their double roles as individuals and members of the body, to combine all the advantages which mutual aid offers them....

33. It can be inferred that the authors of Passage 1 viewed whom as the most important authority?

- (A) themselves, specifically their leaders
- (B) God
- (C) Lord King James
- (D) the Civil Body Politic

34. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 1-3 (“We...James,”)
- (B) Lines 3-7 (“by...Faith”)
- (C) Lines 12-15 (“Covenant...aforesaid;”)
- (D) Lines 21-25 (“In witness...James,”)

35. As used in line 3, “dread” most nearly means

- (A) terror
- (B) fearsome
- (C) abominable
- (D) revered

36. In passage 1, Domini indicates that the main objective of the laws and ordinances established is to

- (A) establish ultimate authority
- (B) keep troublemakers in check
- (C) maintain a good relationship with the King
- (D) benefit the people of the colony

37. The author of Passage 2 is most likely aware of man’s difficulty in reconciling the divide between

- (A) religion and quality of earthly life
- (B) dominion and safety
- (C) slave and slave-master
- (D) kindness and personal interest

38. As used in line 51, “fundamental” most nearly means

- (A) constitutional
- (B) first
- (C) foundational
- (D) organic

39. According to Passage 2, what is the central tenet of the social contract?

- (A) personal liberty is a farce
- (B) the slave must bow before the slave-master to prevent revolt
- (C) all men are not created equally, and it is naïve to presume so
- (D) man must give himself entirely to the state to ensure social order

40. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- (A) Lines 29-32 (“Man...they are.”)
- (B) Lines 51-53 (“This is...to it.”)
- (C) Lines 61-66 (“And so...renounced them.”)
- (D) Lines 69-71 (“the individual...his rights.”)

41. As used in line 70, “alienates” most nearly means

- (A) estranges
- (B) isolates
- (C) gives
- (D) underscores

42. The main focus of both passages as a whole can best be summarized as
- (A) the role of God in formulating social policy
 - (B) an endorsement of the socialist paradigm
 - (C) the compromise between personal sovereignty and societal security
 - (D) a rejection of the importance of individual liberty

Questions 43-52 are based on the following passage.

An art historian discusses Michelangelo's contributions to Mannerist architecture.

We remember Michelangelo for his sculpture—the “Pietàs,” the “Captives,” and the “David” in particular—and for his iconic frescoes on the nave and ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. But far too often we forget, hidden in the colossal shadow of his work in the fine arts, Michelangelo's equally influential role in fueling the Mannerist movement in Italian architecture.

While the lingering specter of the early Renaissance is, at times, overbearingly present in his early architectural projects—Michelangelo's design for the Medici Chapel is very nearly a direct reproduction of Brunelleschi's sacristy—he quickly evolved a distinct and, to some extent, iconoclastic style that parallels the Mannerist premonitions of his artwork. Begun in the early 1520's, shortly after the Medici Chapel, the vestibule of Michelangelo's Laurentian Library genuinely embodies the precepts of Mannerism.

Disquieting in design, and utterly without regard for classical convention, the vestibule is an exceedingly high, narrow room, whose massive, dark and imposing staircase seems to push visitors outward, rather than inviting them inside. The columns, in true Mannerist style, are without function; crowded together chaotically in the corners of the room, and crushed halfway into its walls. The pilasters at the sides of the windows are unaccountably tapered—further challenging the neat verticality of classical tradition—and crowned with capitals belonging to no established style whatsoever. Above them lie bizarrely paltry panels, serving no estimable purpose other than to further confuse the vestibule's layout. In the words of art historian Anthony Bertram, “No other work of Michelangelo so icily and so relentlessly expresses his disillusion and dry anguish. There is anger and fierceness in the ‘Last Judgment,’ pity and compassion in the late

‘Pietas;’ but here there is only the dark night of the soul.”

For the next forty years, Michelangelo continued to introduce the stark, complex, and disturbing motifs found in his Library to the architecture, sculptures, and paintings that would later come to christen the Mannerist movement. Late in life, he undertook a massive series of architectural projects, beginning with the completion of Antonio Sangallo's Palazzo Farnese. Abandoning Sangallo's neat Renaissance expression of order, Michelangelo clustered the upper two thirds of the Palazzo's façade with tightly grouped pilasters and half-pilasters, and a series of narrow windows that seem to withdraw ominously into the building. Later still, his work on the Palazzo dei Conservatori—with its use of enlarged pilasters to unite two separate stories, and the deep recession of the lower story—prefigures not only the Mannerist style, but also the major structural gestures of Baroque.

Michelangelo's final great architectural achievement is his contribution to the design of St. Peter's Basilica. Donato Bramante, St. Peter's original architect, had planned the Basilica as a centrally-focused, enlarged Greek cross, while Sangallo—his successor—began redesigning the building in accordance with the elongated and less balanced Latin cross. When Michelangelo took charge following Sangallo's death—despite the compulsive iconoclasm and mental anguish so palpable in his other works—he called immediately for a return to Bramante's original, centrally balanced design, tearing up the foundation for Sangallo's ostentatious extensions. While Michelangelo left his signature with the intermittent Mannerist crowding of pilasters around the dome's exterior, for the most part he allowed his unique voice to fall with more subtlety alongside the other contributors to St. Peter's, including Gianlorenzo Bernini, who oversaw the Basilica's completion nearly sixty years after Michelangelo's death.

43. The primary purpose of the passage is to
(A) evaluate Michelangelo's contribution to early Renaissance architecture
(B) analyze the themes of the Mannerist movement
(C) explain the development of modern Italian architecture
(D) inform the reader of the breadth of Michelangelo's artistry
44. The author suggests that Michelangelo's style is
(A) wholly Classical
(B) mostly Mannerist
(C) a blend of Classical and Mannerist
(D) a mixture of Classical, Mannerist, and Medieval
45. "Brunelleschi's sacristy" is most likely mentioned in line 14 in order to demonstrate an example of
(A) the evolution that Michelangelo's art made over the years
(B) the method by which Michelangelo crafted most of his architectural projects
(C) Michelangelo's highly original style in an architectural design
(D) the influence of the early Renaissance on Michelangelo
46. Based on lines 21-36, we can generalize that Mannerist and Classical art can be characterized as what, respectively?
(A) imposing and accessible
(B) functional and random
(C) creative and unappealing
(D) chaotic and orderly
47. Michelangelo's work on The Laurentian Library can best be characterized as
(A) uniform
(B) disconcerting
(C) vibrant
(D) magnanimous
48. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
(A) Lines 17-20 ("Begun in...Mannerism")
(B) Lines 26-29 ("The columns...its walls")
(C) Lines 34-36 ("Above them...layout")
(D) Lines 40-43 ("There is...the soul.")
49. As used in line 62, "prefigures" most nearly means
(A) heralds
(B) resembles
(C) announces
(D) looks like
50. In constructing St. Peter's Basilica, Michelangelo succeeded in finding a balance between
(A) his own style and the conservatism of Bramante
(B) the central focus of the Greeks and the spatial elongation of the Latins
(C) the compulsive anguish of his earlier works and the peaceful tranquility of his later ones
(D) the subtle pilasters around the exterior with iconic crosses in the interior
51. As used in line 79, "signature" most nearly means
(A) autograph
(B) mark
(C) inscription
(D) dedication
52. The author would most likely agree that
(A) Michelangelo's influence on Italian architecture is too often overlooked
(B) Michelangelo's paintings are not as important as his architecture
(C) Michelangelo's transition into Mannerism made him temporarily unpopular
(D) Michelangelo's later works were more impressive than his earlier works

Answer Key

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. D | 27. C |
| 2. B | 28. A |
| 3. D | 29. B |
| 4. C | 30. C |
| 5. C | 31. D |
| 6. A | 32. D |
| 7. D | 33. B |
| 8. C | 34. B |
| 9. B | 35. D |
| 10. D | 36. D |
| 11. B | 37. B |
| 12. C | 38. C |
| 13. A | 39. D |
| 14. A | 40. D |
| 15. C | 41. C |
| 16. C | 42. C |
| 17. D | 43. D |
| 18. D | 44. C |
| 19. C | 45. D |
| 20. B | 46. D |
| 21. A | 47. B |
| 22. A | 48. D |
| 23. D | 49. A |
| 24. D | 50. A |
| 25. B | 51. B |
| 26. A | 52. A |