GMAT 2025 Verbal Practice Paper Set 1 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :2 Hours 15 Minutes	**Maximum Marks :**205-805	**Total Questions :**64

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. The GMAT exam is 2 hours and 15 minutes long (with one optional 10-minute break) and consists of 64 questions in total.
2. The GMAT exam is comprised of three sections:
3. Quantitative Reasoning: 21 questions, 45 minutes
4. Verbal Reasoning: 23 questions, 45 minutes
5. Data Insights: 20 questions, 45 minutes
6. You can answer the three sections in any order. As you move through a section, you can bookmark questions that you would like to review later.
7. When you have answered all questions in a section, you will proceed to the Question Review & Edit screen for that section.
8. If there is no time remaining in the section, you will NOT proceed to the Question Review & Edit screen and you will automatically be moved to your optional break screen or the next section (if you have already taken your optional break).
9. Each Question Review & Edit screen includes a numbered list of the questions in that section and indicates the questions you bookmarked.
10. Clicking a question number will take you to that specific question. You can review as many questions as you would like and can edit up to three (3) answers.

Verbal Reasoning

Passage 1

Although the hormone adrenaline is known to regulate memory storage, its effects on retrieval are debated. Adrenaline's modulation of retrieval is difficult to interpret because retrieval protocols usually involve new learning, which is known to be affected by adrenaline. Say, for example, that researchers test the effect of adrenaline on participants' ability to remember a story. If participants are injected with adrenaline before being asked to recall the story, the adrenaline might enhance or impair their recall performance not by affecting retrieval directly, but rather by affecting their ability to learn the information presented in the retrieval protocol (i.e., the researcher's questions). To evaluate the hormone's effect on retrieval without the confounding effects of new learning, McGaugh and colleagues tested the effects of adrenaline

on memory for intentionally forgotten information. Research has shown that when participants are asked to memorize two lists (list 1 and list 2) and are then instructed to forget list 1, they exhibit poorer recall of list 1 than do participants who are not instructed to forget it-a phenomenon known as intentional forgetting. This phenomenon is attributed to retrieval inhibition, a mechanism that makes the unwanted information less likely to be retrieved, whether intentionally or unintentionally. McGaugh and colleagues reasoned that if adrenaline enhances retrieval, it should reduce intentional forgetting. They hypothesized that participants given adrenaline after being instructed to forget list 1 would recall more words from that list than participants given a placebo. After participants memorized list 1, they were told to forget it and memorize list 2. Immediately afterwards, they received an injection of either adrenaline or a placebo and then completed a distractor task. Finally, they were asked to recall as many words as possible from list 1. Adrenaline-treated participants did indeed recall significantly more words from list 1 than placebo-treated participants, suggesting that adrenaline enhances the retrieval of intentionally forgotten memories.

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1. According to the passage, which of the following is a reason that researchers have found it difficult to interpret the effects of adrenaline on memory retrieval?

(A) Adrenaline affects how information is encoded in memory but not how it is retrieved.
(B) Adrenaline facilitates retrieval in some situations but hinders it in others.
(C) Retrieval protocols typically involve the learning of new information.
(D) The effects of adrenaline on retrieval are temporary.
(E) The effects of adrenaline on retrieval cannot be easily separated from the effects of other hormones.

Correct Answer: (C) Retrieval protocols typically involve the learning of new information.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This is a detail-retrieval question asking for specific information stated in the passage. We need to identify the reason given for the difficulty in studying adrenaline's effect on retrieval.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The passage directly addresses this in the second sentence: "Adrenaline's modulation of retrieval is difficult to interpret because retrieval protocols usually involve new learning, which is known to be affected by adrenaline." The problem is that the act of testing retrieval (e.g., asking questions) introduces new information that the participant learns, and since adrenaline affects learning, it confounds the results.
Let's analyze the options:
(A) The passage is about the difficulty of studying retrieval, not a statement that adrenaline doesn't affect it.
(B) The passage does not mention that adrenaline's effects are contradictory in different situations.
(C) This option is a direct paraphrase of the reason given in the passage. The involvement of "new learning" in retrieval protocols is the central problem.
(D) The passage does not discuss the duration of adrenaline's effects.

(E) The passage focuses on the confounding effect of new learning, not other hormones.

Step 3: Final Answer:
The passage explicitly states that the difficulty arises because retrieval tests often involve new learning. Therefore, option (C) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

For questions beginning with "According to the passage," the answer is almost always a direct restatement of a sentence from the text. Scan the passage for keywords from the question (like "difficult to interpret") to find the exact sentence containing the answer.

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2. Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted sentence ("This phenomenon ... unintentionally.")?

(A) It describes a phenomenon that adrenaline was expected to affect.
(B) It describes a phenomenon that researchers had previously misinterpreted.
(C) It explains why McGaugh and colleagues decided to study the effects of adrenaline on intentional forgetting.
(D) It explains why participants in the experiment were asked to memorize two different lists of words.
(E) It explains a finding that appears to contradict the main conclusion of the passage.

Correct Answer: (A) It describes a phenomenon that adrenaline was expected to affect.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This question asks for the rhetorical function of a specific sentence. We need to understand how this sentence fits into the overall argument of the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The highlighted sentence, "This phenomenon is attributed to retrieval inhibition, a mechanism that makes the unwanted information less likely to be retrieved, whether intentionally or unintentionally," provides the scientific explanation for "intentional forgetting." The entire experiment by McGaugh and colleagues is designed around this concept. They reasoned that if adrenaline enhances retrieval, it should counteract retrieval inhibition and thus reduce intentional forgetting. Therefore, the sentence is describing the very mechanism (and the phenomenon it causes) that the experiment is designed to test the effects of adrenaline on.
Option (A) accurately captures this. The "phenomenon" (intentional forgetting, caused by retrieval inhibition) is what adrenaline was hypothesized to affect.
Option (B) is incorrect; there is no mention of a previous misinterpretation.
Option (C) is close but less precise. The sentence explains *what* intentional forgetting is, which is part of *why* they studied it, but its primary function is to define the target of the experiment.

Option (D) is incorrect; the sentence explains the mechanism of forgetting, not the reason for the experimental design of using two lists.
Option (E) is incorrect; the phenomenon does not contradict the main conclusion, it is central to it.

Step 3: Final Answer:
The sentence defines the phenomenon that is the target of the experiment's intervention, making option (A) the best description of its function.

Quick Tip

When asked about the function of a sentence, consider its relationship to the sentences immediately before and after it. Ask yourself: "Does it provide a definition, an example, a cause, an effect, or a counterargument?"

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3. It can be inferred from the passage that McGaugh and colleagues would likely agree with which of the following statements?

(A) Retrieval inhibition does not occur unless participants are explicitly told to forget information.
(B) Adrenaline enhances retrieval by counteracting the effects of retrieval inhibition.
(C) Retrieval inhibition is the only mechanism involved in intentional forgetting.
(D) Adrenaline affects retrieval more than it affects the encoding of new information.
(E) Adrenaline's effects on retrieval cannot be tested in humans.

Correct Answer: (B) Adrenaline enhances retrieval by counteracting the effects of retrieval inhibition.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This is an inference question. We must deduce the researchers' position based on the logic of their experiment and its conclusion as presented in the passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The passage lays out the researchers' logic:
1. Intentional forgetting is caused by "retrieval inhibition."
2. They reasoned that "if adrenaline enhances retrieval, it should reduce intentional forgetting."
3. Their experiment showed that adrenaline-treated participants recalled *more* forgotten words.
4. The conclusion is that "adrenaline enhances the retrieval of intentionally forgotten memories."
Putting these steps together, the logical inference is that adrenaline works by overcoming or counteracting the retrieval inhibition that causes the forgetting in the first place.

Option (B) states this inferred mechanism directly.
Option (A) is too absolute; the passage says retrieval inhibition makes information less likely to be retrieved "whether intentionally or unintentionally," suggesting it might not require an explicit instruction.
Option (C) is too strong; the passage doesn't claim it's the "only" mechanism.
Option (D) is not supported; the experiment was designed to isolate retrieval from new learning (encoding), not to compare the magnitude of the effects.
Option (E) is false; the experiment described was conducted on human participants.

Step 3: Final Answer:
The logic of the experiment strongly supports the inference that the researchers believe adrenaline enhances retrieval by working against retrieval inhibition. Option (B) is the correct choice.

Quick Tip

For inference questions about a researcher's viewpoint, reconstruct their argument step-by-step: What was their hypothesis? How did they test it? What did they conclude? The correct inference will be a logical extension of this argument.

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4. The primary purpose of the passage is to

(A) reconcile two opposing theories about the effects of adrenaline on memory
(B) describe an experiment that tested the effects of adrenaline on memory retrieval
(C) evaluate the methodology used in a series of experiments on memory retrieval
(D) argue that adrenaline affects memory retrieval more than it affects memory storage
(E) explain the role of retrieval inhibition in intentional forgetting

Correct Answer: (B) describe an experiment that tested the effects of adrenaline on memory retrieval

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This is a primary purpose question that asks for the main idea of the entire passage.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The passage is structured as follows: It introduces a problem in a field of study (the difficulty of testing adrenaline's effect on retrieval), then it details a specific experiment (McGaugh and colleagues' study) designed to solve this problem, and finally, it presents the results and conclusion of that experiment. The central focus is the experiment itself.
Option (B) perfectly summarizes this structure. The passage is, at its core, a description of this specific experiment.
Option (A) is incorrect; the passage focuses on a single experiment, not on reconciling two broad theories.
Option (C) is incorrect; it describes the methodology but does not critically "evaluate" it.

Option (D) is incorrect; the passage is about demonstrating an effect on retrieval, not comparing it to storage.
Option (E) is incorrect; explaining retrieval inhibition is a key part of the background for the experiment, but it is not the main purpose of the passage. The main purpose is to show how that concept was used in the experiment.

Step 3: Final Answer:
The entire passage is built around the description of McGaugh's experiment, making option (B) the correct answer.

Quick Tip

To find the primary purpose, ask yourself what the main subject of the majority of the passage is. If most of the text is dedicated to explaining a particular study—its setup, execution, and results—then the purpose is likely to describe that study.

Passage 2
Archaeological discoveries of Pacific Islander settlements on the historically uninhabited islands of the Galápagos Archipelago have led researchers to speculate about the nature and extent of pre-Columbian travel in the Pacific. When Thor Heyerdahl wrongly claimed that the Galápagos had been colonized by South Americans before the arrival of the Spanish, he revived the more general question of the technical feasibility and extent of pre-Columbian transoceanic travel. Could Pacific Islanders have traveled to the Galápagos, which lie 600 miles off the coast of South America? Could they, furthermore, have traveled between the Galápagos and South America? One factor against such travel is the wind pattern in this region of the Pacific. Because the prevailing winds generally blow from the east, Galápagos-bound vessels sailing from the Pacific Islands would have had to beat windward. Only the most sophisticated vessels with triangular sails are capable of this, and there is no evidence of such sails in the Pacific Islands during the period in question. A second, related point is that the winds would have consistently blown Galápagos-bound vessels from South America off course. A third point is the lack of archaeological evidence that Pacific Islanders reached South America. While the sweet potato, a crop of South American origin, was grown in the Pacific Islands in pre-Columbian times, the evidence suggests that it arrived via drifting plant matter rather than human transport.

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5. The passage is primarily concerned with

(A) describing the history of the debate regarding pre-Columbian transoceanic travel
(B) weighing the evidence regarding the possibility of pre-Columbian Pacific Islander contact with the Galápagos Islands
(C) resolving the question of how the sweet potato came to be grown in the Pacific Islands
(D) evaluating the importance of the Galápagos Islands in the history of Pacific Islander navigation
(E) challenging Heyerdahl's theory regarding the origins of Pacific Islander settlements in the Galápagos Islands

Correct Answer: (B) weighing the evidence regarding the possibility of pre-Columbian Pacific Islander contact with the Galápagos Islands

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This question asks for the main purpose of the passage. We need to identify the central topic and the author's approach to it.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The passage raises the question of whether Pacific Islanders could have traveled to the Galápagos and South America. It then systematically presents several pieces of evidence that argue against this possibility: unfavorable wind patterns, lack of appropriate sailing technology, and the absence of archaeological evidence in South America. It also addresses a potential piece of counter-evidence (the sweet potato) and offers an alternative explanation for it. This structure is best described as an evaluation or "weighing" of evidence.
Option (B) accurately reflects this. The passage is focused on assessing the evidence for and against the specific possibility of Pacific Islander contact.
Option (A) is too broad; the passage focuses on a specific case (Pacific Islanders and the Galápagos), not the entire history of the debate.
Option (C) is too narrow; the sweet potato is just one detail in the larger argument.
Option (D) is incorrect; the passage questions whether such navigation occurred, it doesn't evaluate the islands' importance to it.
Option (E) is incorrect; while it mentions Heyerdahl's theory was wrong, the main focus is on the Pacific Islander travel question, not on Heyerdahl's specific claims about South Americans.

Step 3: Final Answer:
The passage's main function is to analyze the evidence concerning a specific historical possibility, making option (B) the best answer.

Quick Tip

A good way to determine the primary purpose is to see how the different parts of the passage relate to each other. Here, all the specific points (wind, sails, sweet potato) serve the larger goal of evaluating the likelihood of Pacific Islander travel to the Galápagos.

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6. The passage suggests which of the following regarding the period in question?

(A) The prevailing winds in the region surrounding the Galápagos blew primarily from the east.
(B) Pacific Islanders are known to have traveled between the Pacific Islands and South America.
(C) Pacific Islanders used vessels with triangular sails.
(D) South Americans are known to have traveled to the Galápagos Islands.
(E) The Galápagos Islands were uninhabited.

Correct Answer: (A) The prevailing winds in the region surrounding the Galápagos blew primarily from the east.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This is an inference or detail question that asks what the passage indicates about the specific historical period being discussed.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The passage presents several points of evidence. One key factor discussed is the wind pattern: "Because the prevailing winds generally blow from the east, Galápagos-bound vessels sailing from the Pacific Islands would have had to beat windward." This sentence directly states a fact about the wind during the period.
Let's review the options based on the text:
(A) This is a direct paraphrase of the information given about the wind patterns.
(B) The passage argues against this conclusion.
(C) The passage states the opposite: "there is no evidence of such sails in the Pacific Islands during the period in question."
(D) The passage mentions Heyerdahl's claim about this was wrong, and the focus is on Pacific Islanders, not South Americans.
(E) The very first sentence contradicts this, referring to "Archaeological discoveries of Pacific Islander settlements on the historically uninhabited islands of the Galápagos," implying that while they were uninhabited before, settlements were found there. The question is about travel, not initial habitation.

Step 3: Final Answer:
The passage explicitly states that the prevailing winds blew from the east, making option (A) the correct statement.

Quick Tip

Be careful to distinguish what the author presents as a fact or premise from what the author presents as a hypothesis or conclusion being debated. The wind direction is presented as a factual premise in the argument.

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7. Which of the following pieces of evidence, if true, would most undermine the author's conclusion regarding the sweet potato?

(A) Archaeological evidence confirms that the sweet potato was cultivated in the Galápagos Islands in pre-Columbian times.
(B) The cultivation of the sweet potato in the Pacific Islands was limited to a few islands.
(C) The variety of sweet potato grown in the Pacific Islands is not the variety that is most resistant to decay during long sea voyages.

(D) The sweet potato is not the only South American plant found on the Pacific Islands in pre-Columbian times.
(E) The genetic variety of the sweet potatoes grown in the Pacific Islands suggests that the original sweet potatoes may have arrived at different times.

Correct Answer: (C) The variety of sweet potato grown in the Pacific Islands is not the variety that is most resistant to decay during long sea voyages.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This is an "undermine the argument" question. We need to find a new piece of information that weakens the author's specific conclusion about the sweet potato.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The author's conclusion is that the sweet potato "arrived via drifting plant matter rather than human transport." This conclusion serves to dismiss the sweet potato as evidence for human contact. To undermine this, we need evidence that makes the "drifting plant matter" theory less likely and the "human transport" theory more likely.
Let's analyze the options:
(A) This is consistent with the passage and doesn't affect the transport method.
(B) The geographic distribution doesn't explain the method of arrival.
(C) If the variety of sweet potato that arrived in the Pacific Islands was fragile and could not survive a long, unprotected sea voyage adrift, this would severely weaken the "drifting plant matter" hypothesis. It would strongly imply that the plant must have been protected during transport, as it would have been on a boat by humans. This directly undermines the author's conclusion.
(D) This would strengthen the case for contact in general, but it doesn't specifically undermine the author's conclusion *about the sweet potato*. The author could argue all the plants drifted.
(E) Multiple arrivals could have happened through drifting at different times. This doesn't necessarily support human transport over drifting.

Step 3: Final Answer:
Evidence suggesting the sweet potato could not have survived a drifting journey is the strongest underminer of the author's conclusion, making option (C) the best answer.

Quick Tip

To undermine a conclusion, look for an answer choice that attacks the author's underlying assumptions. The author assumes the sweet potato could have survived drifting. Option (C) challenges this assumption directly.

Passage 3
What causes a helix in nature to appear with either a dextral ("right-handed," or clockwise)

twist or a sinistral ("left-handed," or counterclockwise) twist is one of the most intriguing questions in the science of form. Most scientists have maintained that the preferential handedness of objects such as DNA molecules, protein amino acids, and the shells of snails is due to chance. For example, Jacques Monod, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, attributed the twist (or "chirality") in molecules to the chance selection between two structurally equal molecules, one dextral and one sinistral. He proposed that the choice of twist occurred when the first molecule was formed and that this initial choice set the precedent for all subsequent molecules of that type. However, a new theory challenges the notion that chance is responsible for the predominance of one type of twist. According to this theory, the chirality found in molecules, crystals, and shells has its origins in the fundamental chirality of elementary particles of matter. This theory holds that the universe is fundamentally asymmetric, or chiral, in that the weak force, one of the four fundamental forces of nature, has a handedness of its own. The effects of this force are normally observable only at the subatomic level, but they can be amplified in molecules, crystals, and shells. While the connection between the chirality of elementary particles and that of macroscopic structures, such as snail shells, is not yet fully understood, the new theory provides a potential explanation for the prevalence of specific twists in nature.

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8. The passage is primarily concerned with

(A) summarizing the history of a scientific debate
(B) discussing two competing explanations for a natural phenomenon
(C) describing the evidence in favor of a new scientific theory
(D) casting doubt on the accuracy of a long-held scientific assumption
(E) explaining the relationship between two types of natural phenomena

Correct Answer: (B) discussing two competing explanations for a natural phenomenon

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This question asks for the primary purpose of the passage, which means we need to identify the main topic and the author's overall goal.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The passage introduces a natural phenomenon: the "handedness" or chirality of helices in nature. It then presents two different explanations for this phenomenon. The first is the long-held view that it is due to "chance." The second is a "new theory" that challenges this view, attributing the handedness to a fundamental property of the weak force. The structure of the passage is a presentation and contrast of these two competing ideas.
Option (B) perfectly captures this structure. The passage discusses two rival explanations (chance vs. weak force) for a natural phenomenon (chirality).
Option (A) is too general; the passage focuses on the content of the explanations, not just the history of the debate.
Option (C) is too narrow; describing the new theory is only half of the passage's purpose. The other half is describing the theory it competes with.
Option (D) is part of what the passage does, but (B) is a more complete description of the

overall content.
Option (E) is incorrect; it discusses two explanations for one phenomenon, not a relationship between two phenomena.

Step 3: Final Answer:
The passage's main objective is to outline two competing scientific explanations, making option (B) the correct choice.

Quick Tip

When a passage introduces a long-held scientific view and then presents a "new theory" with the word "However," its primary purpose is often to compare, contrast, or discuss these two competing ideas.

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9. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would be most likely to agree with which of the following statements about the "new theory"?

(A) It provides the best explanation for the observed chirality of molecules, crystals, and shells.
(B) It correctly identifies the weak force as the single influence responsible for the chirality found in nature.
(C) It provides a plausible explanation for the chirality found in nature.
(D) It provides a useful model for understanding the relationship between elementary particles and macroscopic structures.
(E) It requires further testing before it can be accepted by the scientific community.

Correct Answer: (C) It provides a plausible explanation for the chirality found in nature.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This is an inference question about the author's attitude towards the "new theory." We need to analyze the language the author uses to describe it.

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The author presents the new theory as a challenger to the established "chance" theory. The author's tone is balanced and objective. The final sentence is key: "While the connection...is not yet fully understood, the new theory provides a potential explanation..." The use of "potential explanation" indicates that the author views the theory as a viable and reasonable possibility, but not as definitively proven. The word "plausible" means reasonable or probable, which aligns perfectly with "potential."
Let's analyze the options:
(A) "best explanation" is too strong. The author does not make this judgment.
(B) "correctly identifies" and "single influence" are too strong and absolute. The author does not claim it is proven correct.
(C) "plausible explanation" accurately reflects the author's cautious but positive presentation

of the theory as a "potential explanation."
(D) The passage states the relationship is "not yet fully understood," so it cannot be a "useful model" for understanding it yet.
(E) While it is true that a theory that is "not yet fully understood" would require further testing, option (C) is a more direct description of the theory's current intellectual contribution as described by the author. The author's main point is that it's a "potential explanation," which is synonymous with "plausible explanation."

Step 3: Final Answer:
The author's description of the new theory as a "potential explanation" best supports the inference that it is considered a "plausible explanation," making option (C) correct.

Quick Tip

Pay close attention to the author's choice of adjectives and qualifying phrases. Words like "potential," "suggests," or "plausible" indicate a cautious and balanced tone, while words like "proves," "best," or "correctly" indicate a much stronger, more certain stance.

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10. According to the "new theory" described in the passage, the handedness of the weak force normally affects the material world in which of the following ways?

(A) It influences the configuration of elementary particles at the subatomic level.
(B) It determines the direction in which molecules twist.
(C) It affects the formation of crystals.
(D) It is responsible for the structure of snail shells.
(E) It is the single most important factor determining the structure of DNA molecules.

Correct Answer: (A) It influences the configuration of elementary particles at the subatomic level.

Solution:

Step 1: Understanding the Concept:
This is a detail question asking what the new theory claims about the *normal* effect of the weak force. The keyword here is "normally."

Step 2: Detailed Explanation:
The passage states: "The effects of this force are normally observable only at the subatomic level, but they can be amplified in molecules, crystals, and shells." This sentence draws a clear distinction between the normal effect and the amplified effects. The normal effect is confined to the subatomic level.
Let's review the options:
(A) This option describes an effect at the subatomic level, involving elementary particles, which is exactly where the passage says the force's effects are "normally observable."
(B), (C), and (D) These are all listed as examples of *amplified* effects on macroscopic or

molecular structures, not the *normal* effects.
(E) This is too strong ("single most important factor") and describes an amplified effect, not the normal one.

Step 3: Final Answer:
According to the new theory, the weak force's normal sphere of influence is at the subatomic level. Option (A) is the only choice that reflects this.

Quick Tip

Be vigilant for qualifying words in both the passage and the question. The word "normally" in the question is crucial for distinguishing the correct answer from the distractors, which describe the "amplified" effects.
