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Question: 1

The author of this essay is mainly

A. arguing for a return to a climate more favorable to professional musicians.
B. examining the causes of the increasing success of amateur musicians over professionals.
C. revealing the psychological toll the current economy takes on professional musicians.
D. disputing the claim that unsuccessful professional musicians simply don't work hard enough.
E. comparing the relative contributions of professional and amateur musicians.

Answer: B

Explanation:
In the first paragraph of the essay, the author characterizes amateurs as "an elite group within the music scene" and states that there are several "technological, demographic, and economic factors" that account for them doing better than professionals. The tone of the essay is documentary—the author doesn't make any judgments about whether this is a good development or a bad one. He simply states that amateurs are more successful relative to professionals than they have been before and goes on to examine the reasons for this.

Question: 2

Which of the following statements about musicians does the essay most directly support?

A. Bars and coffee houses should be willing to pay a fair wage to professional musicians.
B. The most popular professional bands have not been affected by the changes that plague most professional musicians.
C. It is much easier for amateur musicians to book shows now than it was a decade ago.
D. Professional musicians have recently lost some of their most important sources of income.
E. With the shrinking music scenes, it is nearly impossible for a modern musician to support himself on music alone.

Answer: D

Explanation:
The key is the phrase "directly support." The essay needs to come right out and say the correct answer, not imply that it is true. Paragraph 3 says that digital file sharing "robs the professionals of what has traditionally been one of their biggest sources of revenue." Paragraph 2 provides less direct evidence, saying that many clubs that were once able to pay professionals now can't. Professionals have lost most of their income from both small clubs and recordings.

Question: 3

In his discussion of professional musicians in the last paragraph, the author

A. indicates that amateurs deserve their new, higher status.
B. shows that in the current climate, professionals may not have the ability to purchase and maintain the tools that they need.
C. points out the decrease in the market for wedding gigs and lessons.
D. questions an assumption about the status of professional musicians.
E. predicts a decline in the number of professional musicians.

Answer: B

Explanation:
The second sentence in the final paragraph is a giveaway. If the "amateurs are the only ones who can afford to buy new gear and fix broken equipment, keep their cars in working order to get to shows, and pay to promote their shows," then the professionals must not be able to do any of those things.

Question: 4

According to the essay, amateur musicians are becoming more successful at both amateur and professional gigs because professionals

A. exclusively performs high-paying gigs and are unwilling to play in clubs.
B. are not able to relate to ordinary people as well as amateurs can.
C. have financial needs that they are not able to meet in the current musical climate.
D. are in an industry that is particularly susceptible to economic changes.
E. don't receive the same respect as people with more lucrative careers.

Answer: C

Explanation:
The essay as a whole discusses how the current musical scene negatively affects professional musicians while leaving amateurs unharmed. The second paragraph, for example, discusses how professionals are no longer able to make a living playing small venues and must "fight more desperately than ever for those few lucrative gigs." The final paragraph states that because of the effect on their finances, professionals are unable to maintain the gear and transportation they need to "keep the higher-paying gigs." It goes on to say that "a fairly skilled amateur... will be able to fake his way through most of what a professional does ... to play professional shows." Therefore, professionals are falling behind amateurs at small venues (which professionals can't afford to play because of the lack of pay) and at professional gigs (where professionals can't play because they can't afford professional gear).

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Question: 5

Skeptical visitors often dismiss the Castle Blood hauntings on the basis of the lack of a tangible experience. such as spirit knockings. that are called conclusive evidence of the occult. and ignore less obvious phenomen

a. such as faint whisperings and cold mists. a tangible experience, such as spirit knockings, that are called conclusive evidence of the occult, and ignore less obvious phenomena, such as

A. a tangible experience, such as spirit knockings, that are called conclusive evidence of the occult, and ignore less obvious phenomena, such as what is experienced as

B. a tangible experience, such as spirit knockings, that is called conclusive evidence of the occult, and ignore less obvious phenomena, such as

C. what they think of as tangible experience, such as spirit knockings, that are called conclusive evidence of the occult, and ignore less obvious phenomena, such as what is experienced as

D. what they think of as tangible experience, such as spirit knockings, that are called conclusive evidence of the occult, and ignore less obvious phenomena, such as

Answer: C

Explanation:

The question contains an error of agreement. "a tangible experience ... that are called" should be "a tangible experience ... that is called."

Question: 6

A frequent source of stress for entering freshmen happens when students enroll in out-of-state schools and it makes them grow apart from their high school friends.

A. when students enroll in out-of-state schools, and it makes them grow apart

B. by a student enrolling in an out-of-state school, which makes him grow apart

C. when students enroll in out-of-state schools, thereby growing apart

D. when a student who enrolls in out-of-state schools, and so grows apart

E. if a student enrolls in an out-of-state school, he would grow apart

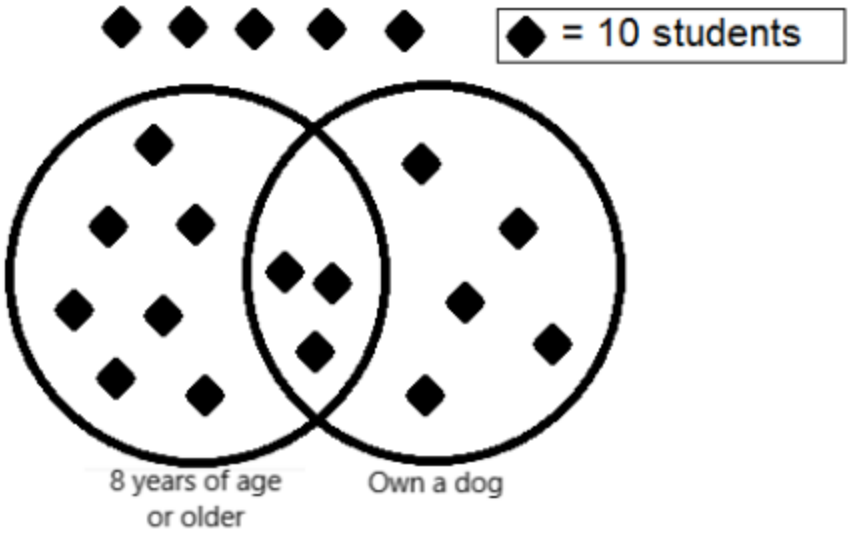
Answer: B

Explanation:

The "and it" is an awkward way of joining the two clauses. Does "it" refer to enrolling or to out- of-state schools? The "thereby" in choice C connects the ideas much more nicely. By the act of enrolling in out-of-state schools, students grow apart from their friends.

Question: 7

Refer to the pictograph below of a survey of students at a local elementary school. Each symbol represents 10 students in a sample of 200 students.



If one student is selected at random, the chance that student will be under 8 years of age is

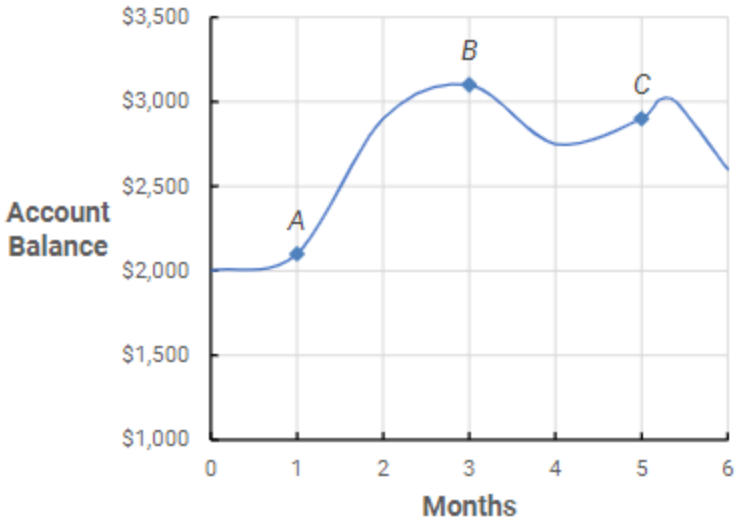
A. 3 out of4
B. 1 out of 3
C. 1 out of 2
D. 4 out of 5

Answer: C

If one student is selected at random, the chance that student will be both under 8 and not own a dog is
A.1 out of 3
B. 1 out of 4
C. 4 out of 5
D. 2 out of 3
Answer: B
Explanation:
To find the chance that a student will be 8 years of age or under, first count all of the symbols not contained in the 8 years of age or older circle. There 10 are of the 20 not in the 8 years of age or older circle. This can be reduced to 1 out of 2. To find the chance that a student is both under 8 years of age and does not own a dog count all of the symbols outside of both circles. There are 5 of the 20 that are not in either circle. This can be reduced to 1 out of 4.

Question: 8

The graph models Derrick's bank account for a 6-month period. Points *A*, *B*, and *C* represent the account balance in month 1, 3, and 5 respectively.



The amount that Derrick's account increases from point A to point B is roughly much as the amount that it decreases from point B to point C.

A. Twice as much
B. three times as much
C. half as much
D. one third as much

Answer: B

For months from point A to point C the average (arithmetic mean) balance in Derrick's account was approximately...

a. $2,000–$2,200
b. $2,250–$2,450
c. $2,550–$2,750
d. $2,800–$3,000

Answer: C

Explanation:

Point can be approximated at $2,200, while Point B can be approximated at $3,100, and Point C at S2,800. This means that the increase from Point A to Point B is approximately S900, and the decrease from Point B to Point C is approximately S300. This means that the account increases by approximately three times as much from Point A to Point B as it decreases from Point B to Point C. The months from point to point C are months 1-5. The approximations for each of these months are $2,200, $2,500, $3,100, $2,800, $2,800. The average of all of these amounts comes out to:

$$\$2{,}200 + \$2{,}500 + \$3{,}100 + \$2{,}800 + \$2{,}800 = \$13{,}400$$

$$\$13{,}400 \div 5 = \$2{,}680$$

This means that it is approximately between $2,550–$2,750.

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Question: 9

For each of the following descriptions give either a *yes* or a *no* as to whether or not it describes a comet.

Yes	No	Description
○	○	Have collided with Earth
○	○	Have an orbital period of only 150 years
○	○	Are formed when gravity causes parts of the nebula to clump together

Answer:

Yes	No	Description
●	○	Have collided with Earth
○	●	Have an orbital period of only 150 years
○	●	Are formed when gravity causes parts of the nebula to clump together

Explanation:
This can be determined from reading both of the passages. At the beginning of paragraph 5 in the text about comets it states that they have collided with earth. In the next paragraph it discusses their orbital period. It says they can have both a short and long orbital period so there is no one specific length of their orbital period. The part about gravity causing parts of a nebula to clump together is discussed in the text about stars.

Question: 10

Decide whether or not the following statements are true or false based on the text.

True	False	Statement
○	○	Both stars and comets can be seen with the naked eye.
○	○	Comets have an oval shaped orbit while stars have a circular shaped orbit.
○	○	A nebula and a comet are both composed of 97% hydrogen.

Answer:

True	False	Statement
●	○	Both stars and comets can be seen with the naked eye.
○	●	Comets have an oval shaped orbit while stars have a circular shaped orbit.
○	●	A nebula and a comet are both composed of 97% hydrogen.

Explanation:
Even though it states that there is only around one comet visible to the naked eye per year that still makes the first statement true. It does state that comets have an oval shaped orbit but does not say anything about a star having a circular shaped orbit or even orbiting at all. It is stated that a nebula is composed of 97% hydrogen but there is no mention of the composition of a comet.

Question: 11

The table below displays 5 toy companies production for dolls, action figures, and toy cars for the year 2014. Assume that these are the only toys the company produces.

Company	Total Dolls	Total Action Figures	Total Toy Cars
Pop Toys	2,800	3,500	3,700
Wild West Toys	3,000	3,400	3,200
Tots Toys	3,500	3,100	3,500
Lots of Toys	3,000	2,900	3,400
Uptown Toys	2,700	2,800	3,100

For each of the following statements, select *True* if it the statement can be shown to be true based on the information in the table. Otherwise select *False*.

True	False	Statement
○	○	No one company produces more than 25% of the total dolls produced
○	○	Wild West Toys produced the largest volume of toys overall
○	○	Lots of Toys produced more toy cars as a percentage of total production than Tots Toys

Answer:

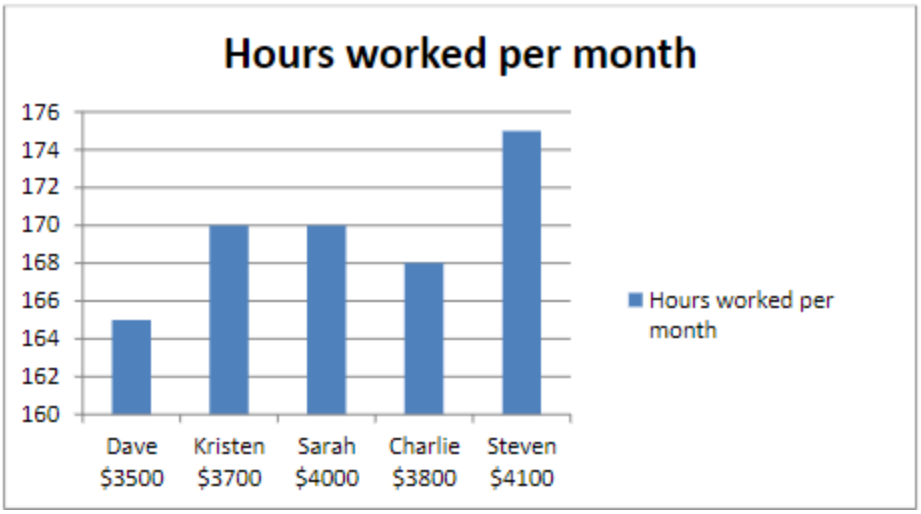
Yes	No	Statement
●	○	No one company produces more than 25% of the total dolls produced
○	●	Wild West Toys produces the largest volume of toys overall
●	○	Lots of Toys produces more toy cars as a percentage of their total production than Tots Toys

Explanation:

The total number of dolls produced can be found by adding up each company's production to get 15,000 total dolls produced. Since Tots Toys produced the most dolls, they are the only company that needs to be checked. $\left(\frac{3,500}{15,000}\right) \times 100 = 23.33\%$. So, they produce less than 25% and this statement is true. To check the next statement first find Wild West Toys total production, which is 9,600. Then compare that to the total production of all other companies. If even one of them produced more toys, then the statement is false. Tots Toys produced 10,100 so this statement is false. For the last statement, first find the percentage of total production for toy cars for both companies. Lots of Toys would be $\left(\frac{3,400}{9,300}\right) \times 100 \approx 36.56\%$, and Tots Toys would be $\left(\frac{3,500}{10,100}\right) \times 100 \approx 34.65\%$. So, this would be a true statement.

Question: 12

Below is a chart of 5 employees and the number of hours they work per month. The number under their name is their salary per month.



Select the expression below that best represents the calculation of their hourly wage. Then select the employee that is paid the most per hour. In the equations, H is hourly wage, M is monthly salary, and T is the number of hours per month.

Calculation of hourly wage	
○	$M = \frac{H}{T}$
○	$H = \frac{M}{T}$
○	$H = M \times T$
○	$T = \frac{H}{M}$

Paid most per hour	
○	Dave
○	Kristen
○	Sarah
○	Charlie
○	Steven

Answer:

Calculation of hourly wage	
○	$M = \frac{H}{T}$
●	$H = \frac{M}{T}$
○	$H = M \times T$
○	$T = \frac{H}{M}$

Paid most per hour	
○	Dave
○	Kristen
●	Sarah
○	Charlie
○	Steven

Explanation:

The hourly wage is the amount of money they make per hour. So, the calculation should be total money divided by total hours, or $H = \frac{M}{T}$. Then, once you have this calculation you can perform it on each employee to see who make the most per hour. It will show that Sarah at approximately $23.53 makes the most per hour.

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