

SAT Main Idea and Details Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each text and question. Circle the best answer based on the text.

1. A town museum once displayed only objects donated by prominent local families. Its new exhibition includes tools, recipes, and recorded memories contributed by residents from many occupations. Curators say the change makes it possible to show daily life from a wider range of perspectives.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The museum is broadening the perspectives represented in its exhibitions.
 - B. The new exhibition focuses exclusively on local recipes.
 - C. Recorded memories are more accurate than physical objects.
 - D. Prominent families have stopped donating objects to the museum.
2. A school garden originally grew a single variety of bean. After students planted four varieties, they found that the varieties matured at different times. This allowed the class to harvest small amounts throughout the term instead of collecting the entire crop in one week.

According to the text, what was one result of planting four bean varieties?

- A. Students learned which variety produced the most beans.
 - B. All beans matured during the same week.
 - C. The harvest was spread over a longer period.
 - D. Each plant produced more beans.
3. When a local theater began offering captions, managers expected the service to help audience members with hearing difficulties. They later learned that some visitors learning English also used the captions to follow unfamiliar dialogue. The theater has continued offering the service at selected performances.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Managers stopped providing captions after testing them.
- B. The theater first offered captions to help visitors learning English.
- C. Most audience members attended to study English.
- D. Captions proved useful to more than one group of theatergoers.

4. An artist collected discarded window glass for a series of sculptures. Rather than polishing away the scratches, she positioned each piece so that light emphasized the marks. She wanted viewers to notice the material's earlier use as well as its new form.

Why did the artist emphasize the scratches?

- A. To make the sculptures appear brighter
 - B. To draw attention to the glass's history
 - C. To hide imperfections from viewers
 - D. To show that new glass is unsuitable for art
5. A city tested two ways to announce changes to bus routes: notices at stops and alerts in a mobile app. Interviews showed that some riders relied on the notices, while others checked only the app. Transit staff concluded that retaining both methods would reach more riders than choosing either method alone.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Using two announcement methods can serve riders with different information habits.
 - B. Mobile alerts reached every rider in the city.
 - C. The city plans to replace stop notices with app alerts.
 - D. Notices at bus stops are always more effective than apps.
6. Researchers comparing two editions of a novel found that the later edition shortened several descriptions but preserved the sequence of events. They argued that the revisions changed the pace of the narrative without changing its basic plot.

Which detail supports the researchers' distinction between pace and plot?

- A. The later edition is shorter than the earlier one.
- B. The later edition adds longer descriptions of the setting.
- C. Descriptions became shorter while the order of events stayed the same.
- D. The later edition introduced new events.

7. Volunteers digitizing a newspaper archive noticed that the same street sometimes appeared under different spellings. They created a search index linking those variants. Readers could then find articles about the street without knowing every spelling used in the archive.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. The volunteers made the archive easier to search by linking spelling variants.
- B. Every street in the archive had changed its official name.
- C. The volunteers rewrote all of the original articles.
- D. The volunteers corrected the misspelled street names in the articles.

8. A researcher placed temperature sensors on both sides of a stone wall. She took readings at sunrise and again at midday, repeating the procedure on five clear days. She excluded rainy days to avoid mixing observations made under different weather conditions.

Why did the researcher exclude rainy days?

- A. The sensors could measure only at sunrise.
- B. She wanted observations taken under comparable weather conditions.
- C. She wanted to measure how rain changes the wall's temperature.
- D. The sensors could not operate in wet weather.

9. A publisher began releasing large-print editions of several novels. Demand came not only from readers with limited vision but also from readers who found larger type more comfortable during long reading sessions. The publisher added more titles to the series.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. Large-print editions replaced every other format.
- B. Only readers with limited vision bought large-print books.
- C. Large-print editions attracted readers with different reasons for preferring larger type.
- D. The publisher designed the series mainly for people who read for long periods.

- 10.** A survey of neighborhood gardens found that gardeners shared seeds more often with people they had met at local events than with people known only through an online forum. The survey recorded exchanges but did not measure how much food the gardens produced.

Which information did the survey collect?

- A. The total harvest weight from every garden
- B. How many seeds each garden planted
- C. Which local events gardeners attended most often
- D. Whether and with whom gardeners exchanged seeds

- 11.** A pianist tested two arrangements of the same piece. One gave the melody to the highest notes throughout; the other moved it between high and low registers. Listeners recognized the tune in both, but many described the second arrangement as more varied.

Which choice best states the main idea of the text?

- A. An arrangement can change how varied a piece sounds while preserving its recognizable tune.
- B. Listeners could identify only the first arrangement.
- C. Moving the melody between registers made the tune harder to recognize.
- D. Listeners preferred the second arrangement to the first.

- 12.** To reduce accidental damage, a library replaced a display of fragile originals with high-resolution reproductions. The originals remained available to researchers by appointment in a supervised room.

What happened to the original documents?

- A. They were destroyed after copying.
- B. They remained accessible under supervised conditions.
- C. They were moved into the public display without protection.
- D. They were loaned to another library for safekeeping.

Answer key

1 A · 2 C · 3 D · 4 B · 5 A · 6 C · 7 A · 8 B · 9 C · 10 D · 11 A · 12 B

1. A: The museum is broadening the perspectives represented in its exhibitions.

The shift from prominent-family donations to many kinds of residents supports a broader representation of daily life. The other choices introduce unsupported claims or narrow the exhibition to one item type.

2. C: The harvest was spread over a longer period.

Because the varieties matured at different times, the class could harvest throughout the term. The text never compares how many beans the varieties or the plants produced.

3. D: Captions proved useful to more than one group of theatergoers.

Captions helped the people they were meant for, audience members with hearing difficulties, and also some visitors learning English. The English learners were a later discovery, and nothing says they were most of the audience.

4. B: To draw attention to the glass's history

The artist wanted viewers to notice the glass's earlier use, and the scratches show that history. She used light to bring out the marks, not to brighten the work or hide flaws.

5. A: Using two announcement methods can serve riders with different information habits.

Staff kept both methods because some riders read the notices and others check only the app. Dropping either method, or calling one always better, goes against that conclusion.

6. C: Descriptions became shorter while the order of events stayed the same.

Shorter descriptions change the pace, and the unchanged order of events shows the plot stayed the same. A shorter edition says nothing about plot, and choices B and D contradict the text.

7. A: The volunteers made the archive easier to search by linking spelling variants.

The index links the different spellings, so readers can find articles about the street under any of them. The volunteers didn't edit the articles, and nothing says any street was renamed.

8. B: She wanted observations taken under comparable weather conditions.

The last sentence gives the reason: she didn't want to mix observations made in different weather. The text never says the sensors failed in rain, and leaving out rainy days means she wasn't studying rain.

9. C: Large-print editions attracted readers with different reasons for preferring larger type.

Readers with limited vision and readers who wanted comfort during long sessions both bought the editions. The text doesn't say the series was designed for either group or that it replaced other formats.

10. D: Whether and with whom gardeners exchanged seeds

The survey recorded who shared seeds with whom and how the gardeners knew each other. It did not measure food production, and it says nothing about planting amounts or which events people attended.

11. A: An arrangement can change how varied a piece sounds while preserving its recognizable tune.

Listeners recognized the tune in both arrangements, and many heard the second as more varied. Calling an arrangement more varied is not the same as preferring it.

12. B: They remained accessible under supervised conditions.

The text says researchers could still examine originals by appointment in a supervised room. Removing them from the public display did not eliminate access.