

SAT Paired Passages Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

1. Text 1

Digitizing letters allows researchers to examine documents without traveling to an archive. For many projects, a clear scan provides the information needed.

Text 2

Digital scans are useful, but folds, watermarks, and paper texture can supply evidence that a scan does not fully capture. Some projects still require examining originals.

How would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to Text 1?

- A. By claiming that scans have no research value
- B. By arguing that researchers should always examine originals
- C. By agreeing that scans help access while emphasizing that some evidence requires the original
- D. By claiming that scans are more reliable than originals

2. Text 1

A public sculpture should be judged mainly by its appearance. The artist's intended message need not determine how viewers respond.

Text 2

Understanding an artist's intended message can enrich a viewer's response to a public sculpture, even when its appearance is immediately striking.

On which point do the texts most clearly differ?

- A. How much attention an artist's intended message deserves
- B. Whether a sculpture's appearance matters to viewers
- C. Whether public sculptures can be visually striking
- D. Whether artists should explain their intended messages

3. Text 1

Community gardens can give residents a place to exchange growing advice and work together. These social benefits deserve attention alongside food production.

Text 2

The value of a community garden cannot be measured only by the amount harvested. Shared work can also strengthen connections among neighbors.

Both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Community gardens are more valuable as meeting places than as sources of food.
- B. The harvest is the best measure of a community garden's value.
- C. Growing advice is more important than any other benefit.
- D. Community gardens can have benefits beyond the food they produce.

4. Text 1

A rise in recorded bird sightings near the lake suggests that the local bird population has increased.

Text 2

The number of volunteers reporting lake birds doubled this year. More reported sightings may reflect greater observation effort rather than a larger bird population.

How does Text 2 relate to Text 1?

- A. It explains why more birds came to the lake this year.
- B. It offers an alternative explanation for the observation in Text 1.
- C. It shows that the bird population has decreased.
- D. It confirms that the population exactly doubled.

5. Text 1

Using local stone helps a new building resemble older structures nearby. This visual continuity can be a reason to choose the material.

Text 2

A building material should be selected with attention to durability and maintenance as well as appearance. Local stone may look appropriate without being the best choice for every site.

How would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to Text 1?

- A. By insisting that every site must use local stone
- B. By denying that materials affect appearance
- C. By arguing that durability matters more than appearance
- D. By accepting visual continuity as one consideration while adding other criteria

6. Text 1

A translation can preserve a poem's literal meaning while losing its rhythm. Readers should consider sound as well as vocabulary when comparing translations.

Text 2

Translators must make decisions about both meaning and musical effects. Two accurate translations can therefore create different reading experiences.

Both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Preserving rhythm matters more than preserving literal meaning.
- B. Readers should prefer the most literal translation.
- C. Literal meaning alone does not capture every important feature of a translated poem.
- D. A poem can have only one accurate translation.

7. Text 1

Restoring a historic building should preserve visible signs of age. Replacing worn surfaces can remove evidence of how the building was used.

Text 2

Signs of age can be informative, but a building still used by the public must meet safety needs. Some worn surfaces require replacement even when they have historical value.

How would the author of Text 2 most likely respond to Text 1?

- A. By acknowledging the value of worn surfaces while adding a safety consideration
- B. By arguing that safety should outweigh historical value in every case
- C. By claiming that every worn surface is safe
- D. By rejecting the idea that worn surfaces show how a building was used

8. Text 1

A city should judge a bicycle route mainly by the number of trips made on it. High usage shows that the route serves a practical need.

Text 2

Usage is useful, but a route may also connect neighborhoods that previously lacked safe access. Such a connection can matter even before large numbers of riders adopt it.

On which point do the authors most clearly differ?

- A. Whether usage data are useful at all
- B. Whether usage should be the main basis for evaluating a route
- C. Whether new routes should connect neighborhoods
- D. Whether heavily used routes serve a practical need

9. Text 1

Reading an old recipe can reveal which ingredients its writer expected readers to obtain. Even an unsuccessful attempt to cook it may teach us about past food practices.

Text 2

Historical recipes provide evidence beyond the dishes they produce. Their instructions can reveal assumptions about tools, skills, and ingredient availability.

Both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Cooking an old recipe is the best way to learn from it.
- B. Modern readers have all the skills that old recipes assume.
- C. Recipes can provide historical information apart from a successfully prepared dish.
- D. A recipe cannot reveal anything about its audience.

10. Text 1

More nesting birds were counted after shrubs were planted along the school fence. The new shrubs may have improved nesting habitat.

Text 2

The count also took place later in spring than previous counts. Because nesting activity changes during the season, the timing difference should be considered before crediting the shrubs.

How does Text 2 relate to Text 1?

- A. It proves shrubs cannot support birds.
- B. It confirms the shrubs caused the increase.
- C. It questions whether the birds were counted correctly.
- D. It identifies another factor that could explain the observed increase.

11. Text 1

A translation should closely follow the sentence structure of the original so readers can experience the author's arrangement of ideas.

Text 2

Following an original sentence structure too closely can make a translation difficult to understand. Sometimes rearrangement better preserves how naturally the ideas reach the reader.

What is the central disagreement between the texts?

- A. How closely a translation should preserve the original sentence structure
- B. Whether a translation should keep the original's word choices
- C. Whether a translation should convey the author's ideas
- D. Whether a translator should add explanatory notes

12. Text 1

Classifying a newly found object by its shape is a useful first step, but objects with similar shapes can have different functions.

Text 2

Wear marks and the location where an object was found can help identify its use. These clues are especially valuable when shape alone is inconclusive.

Both authors would most likely agree with which statement?

- A. Shape never supplies useful information.
- B. An object's shape may be insufficient to establish its function.
- C. Wear marks prove an object has only one possible use.
- D. Wear marks are more reliable than shape for identifying function.

Answer key

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

1. C: By agreeing that scans help access while emphasizing that some evidence requires the original

Text 2 grants that scans are useful but says folds, watermarks, and paper texture can require the original. It says some projects need originals, not all of them.

2. A: How much attention an artist's intended message deserves

Text 1 plays down the artist's intended message; Text 2 says knowing it can enrich a response. Neither denies that appearance matters, and neither says artists should explain their work.

3. D: Community gardens can have benefits beyond the food they produce.

Both texts name social benefits beyond the harvest. Neither ranks those benefits above food, and both reject judging a garden by its harvest alone.

4. B: It offers an alternative explanation for the observation in Text 1.

More volunteers can report more sightings without any more birds, so Text 2 offers another explanation. It doesn't show that the population rose, fell, or doubled.

5. D: By accepting visual continuity as one consideration while adding other criteria

Text 2 keeps appearance as a reason and adds durability and maintenance. It doesn't rank those above appearance.

6. C: Literal meaning alone does not capture every important feature of a translated poem.

Both authors treat sound as part of a poem alongside its literal meaning. Neither ranks sound above meaning or favors the most literal version, and Text 2 says two accurate translations can differ.

7. A: By acknowledging the value of worn surfaces while adding a safety consideration

Text 2 grants that signs of age are informative and adds public safety. It says some worn surfaces need replacing, not all of them.

8. B: Whether usage should be the main basis for evaluating a route

Both authors find usage useful. Text 1 makes it the main measure, while Text 2 says a new connection can matter before many people ride it.

9. C: Recipes can provide historical information apart from a successfully prepared dish.

Both texts say recipes show past practices or assumptions, whether or not the dish turns out. Neither calls cooking the best way to learn from them.

10. D: It identifies another factor that could explain the observed increase.

A count later in spring could find more nesting birds, so Text 2 gives another possible reason for the increase. It doesn't rule out the shrubs or doubt the count itself.

11. A: How closely a translation should preserve the original sentence structure

Text 1 wants the original sentence structure kept; Text 2 allows rearranging it so the ideas read naturally. Both want the author's ideas to come through, and neither discusses word choice or notes.

12. B: An object's shape may be insufficient to establish its function.

Text 1 says objects with similar shapes can have different functions, and Text 2 turns to other clues when shape is inconclusive. Text 1 never mentions wear marks.