

SAT Inference Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

1. A community center offered the same workshop on Tuesday afternoon and Saturday morning. Both sessions had the same number of available seats. The Saturday session filled within a day, while seats remained available for Tuesday. The organizers had advertised both sessions in the same places.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The Saturday instructor was more experienced.
- B. The Saturday time attracted more registrations initially.
- C. The Tuesday workshop will be canceled.
- D. Tuesday afternoon is inconvenient for most residents.

2. A botanist found that seedlings near a window leaned toward the light. When the pots were rotated, new growth gradually bent toward the window again.

Which conclusion is best supported by the observations?

- A. The seedlings' new growth responded to the direction of light.
- B. The seedlings grew at the same rate throughout the study.
- C. The seedlings grew faster after the pots were rotated.
- D. The seedlings leaned because the window side of the room was warmer.

3. An old catalog lists a painting as unsigned. During conservation, a small signature was found beneath a layer of darkened varnish. The conservator determined that the signature was part of the original paint layer.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The painting was completed after the catalog was published.
- B. All unsigned paintings contain hidden signatures.
- C. The signature may have been difficult to see when the catalog was prepared.
- D. The catalog writer deliberately concealed the signature.

4. At a bakery, demand for small loaves rose after customers were allowed to buy half loaves. Sales of full-sized loaves fell, but the total weight of bread sold each week remained nearly unchanged.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The price per unit of weight must have increased.
- B. The bakery doubled its total production.
- C. Every customer preferred half loaves.
- D. Customers changed the sizes they bought without substantially changing the total quantity of bread purchased.

5. A scientist can measure the age of a rock sample with two methods. Method A requires much more material than Method B. The available sample is too small for Method A but large enough for Method B.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The scientist must collect more rock before dating the sample.
- B. The sample size permits Method B but rules out Method A in this case.
- C. Method A was developed earlier than Method B.
- D. Method B always gives more accurate dates.

6. A writer's early drafts describe a narrator as certain of her memories. In the published version, the narrator repeatedly questions whether she remembers events correctly.

Which conclusion about the revision is best supported?

- A. The published narrator remembers every event accurately.
- B. The writer removed all accounts of past events.
- C. The writer made the narrator's confidence in her memory less secure.
- D. The writer revised the narrator because early readers found her unconvincing.

7. A shop began displaying repair instructions beside replacement parts. Afterward, fewer customers asked employees how to install the parts, although sales of the parts remained steady.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The posted instructions may have answered some questions customers previously asked employees.
- B. Every customer read the instructions.
- C. Customers stopped repairing their belongings.
- D. Sales of the parts rose after the instructions were posted.

8. A marine researcher used a sound recorder for one month. The device stored sound only when its sensor detected a signal above a set volume. Several hours in the file contain no recordings.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The sea contained no animals during those hours.
- B. The missing recordings do not establish that the surroundings were completely silent.
- C. The recorder captured every sound regardless of volume.
- D. The device necessarily ran out of power.

9. A sculptor made several small clay models before beginning a large stone work. In the models, the figure's pose changes repeatedly, but its facial expression remains nearly identical.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The sculptor never changed any part of the design.
- B. The final stone work has the same pose as the last clay model.
- C. The models suggest more experimentation with pose than with facial expression.
- D. The sculptor considered the facial expression unimportant.

10. A student found that two translations of a speech use different words but preserve the same sequence of arguments and examples.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. One translation must be intentionally misleading.
- B. The two translators worked from different versions of the speech.
- C. Different wording always changes the order of an argument.
- D. The translations differ in wording without necessarily differing in the organization of the argument.

11. A town offered free swimming lessons at two pools. Attendance was higher at the pool served by a bus route. The study did not collect information about instructors, pool size, or the neighborhoods served.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The attendance difference alone does not establish that bus access caused higher attendance.
- B. Bus access was proved to have no effect.
- C. Both pools had identical instructors.
- D. Every participant arrived by bus.

12. A researcher repeated an experiment with a newly calibrated scale. The new measurements clustered more closely together, but their average remained almost the same.

Which conclusion is best supported by the text?

- A. The old scale had been giving readings that were too high.
- B. The new measurements varied less without a substantial shift in their average.
- C. Every new measurement equaled the old average.
- D. The new average was necessarily more accurate.

Answer key

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

1. B: The Saturday time attracted more registrations initially.

The registration patterns show only that more people signed up for Saturday at first. The text gives no reason for that and says nothing about instructors, residents' schedules, or canceling Tuesday.

2. A: The seedlings' new growth responded to the direction of light.

After the pots were rotated, new growth bent back toward the window, so it followed the direction of the light. The botanist measured no growth rates or temperatures.

3. C: The signature may have been difficult to see when the catalog was prepared.

A signature beneath darkened varnish may have been hard to see. The evidence does not establish deliberate concealment, a later date, or a rule about all paintings.

4. D: Customers changed the sizes they bought without substantially changing the total quantity of bread purchased.

The stable total weight alongside shifting loaf sizes supports a change in purchase size, not a substantial change in bread quantity. Price and universal preference are not established.

5. B: The sample size permits Method B but rules out Method A in this case.

The sample is too small for Method A but large enough for Method B, so only Method B can be used. Because Method B works, no more rock is needed, and the text says nothing about accuracy or which method is older.

6. C: The writer made the narrator's confidence in her memory less secure.

The narrator goes from certain to doubtful about her memories. The text doesn't say why the writer made that change or whether the memories are accurate, and the past events are still there.

7. A: The posted instructions may have answered some questions customers previously asked employees.

Fewer installation questions while sales held steady fits the instructions answering some questions. Sales didn't rise, and fewer questions doesn't show that every customer read the instructions.

8. B: The missing recordings do not establish that the surroundings were completely silent.

Sounds below the threshold would not be stored. Missing recordings therefore do not prove total silence or identify a specific equipment failure.

9. C: The models suggest more experimentation with pose than with facial expression.

The pose changes from model to model while the expression stays nearly the same, so the sculptor tried more versions of the pose. A steady expression doesn't show that the sculptor thought it unimportant, and the text never describes the finished stone work.

10. D: The translations differ in wording without necessarily differing in the organization of the argument.

The translations use different words but keep the same sequence of arguments and examples. Nothing points to deception or to different source texts.

11. A: The attendance difference alone does not establish that bus access caused higher attendance.

Unmeasured differences could also explain attendance. The observation neither isolates bus access as the cause nor proves it irrelevant.

12. B: The new measurements varied less without a substantial shift in their average.

Clustering more closely means less variation, and the average barely moved. A steady average gives no sign that the old readings ran high, and with no known true value the text can't say which average is more accurate.