

SAT Rhetorical Synthesis Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read the notes and the student's goal. Circle the answer that best meets that goal.

1. A student has taken these notes:
- The town opened North Library in 1980.
 - North Library has 18,000 books.
 - The town opened South Library in 2005.
 - South Library has 25,000 books.

The student wants to compare the sizes of the two book collections. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. South Library has 25,000 books, compared with North Library's 18,000.
- B. Both libraries are located in the town.
- C. South Library opened in 2005.
- D. North Library opened in 1980, before South Library.

2. A student has taken these notes:
- Artist Lena Cho creates sculptures from discarded fabric.
 - Cho collects fabric from local clothing workshops.
 - Her exhibition Threadlines opened in May.
 - The exhibition contains twelve sculptures.

The student wants to emphasize Cho's reuse of materials. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. Cho's exhibition contains twelve works.
- B. Threadlines opened in May.
- C. Cho turns discarded fabric from local clothing workshops into sculptures.
- D. Lena Cho is an artist with an exhibition called Threadlines.

3. A student has taken these notes:
- Two sensors measure air temperature.
 - Sensor A weighs 40 grams.
 - Sensor B weighs 75 grams.
 - Both sensors record a reading every minute.

The student wants to identify a similarity between the sensors. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. The two sensors differ in weight by 35 grams.
- B. Sensor A is lighter than Sensor B.
- C. Sensor B weighs 75 grams.
- D. Both sensors record temperature once per minute.

4. A student has taken these notes:
- A local history project recorded interviews with longtime residents.
 - Volunteers transcribed the recordings.
 - The transcripts are searchable online.
 - The project began in 2022.

The student wants to explain how readers can locate a specific topic in the interviews. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. Volunteers helped with a local history project.
- B. Readers can search the online transcripts of the resident interviews for a specific topic.
- C. The history project began in 2022.
- D. Longtime residents were interviewed for the project.

5. A student has taken these notes:
- Researcher Maya Patel studies coastal erosion.
 - Patel uses photographs taken from fixed observation points.
 - Repeating photographs from the same points helps reveal changes in the shoreline.
 - The project includes six beaches.

The student wants to explain the purpose of using fixed observation points. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. Photographs taken repeatedly from the same points help Patel identify shoreline changes.
- B. Patel studies six beaches affected by coastal erosion.
- C. Coastal erosion is the focus of Patel's work.
- D. Photographs are part of the project.

6. A student has taken these notes:
- The novel *The Open Gate* was published in 1912.
 - It follows a family moving from a farm to a city.
 - A stage adaptation premiered in 1930.
 - The adaptation preserves the family's move but removes several minor characters.

The student wants to describe both a similarity and a difference between the novel and the adaptation. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. *The Open Gate* is a novel about a family.
- B. A stage adaptation premiered in 1930.
- C. Both versions follow a family's move to a city, but the adaptation omits several minor characters.
- D. The novel was published in 1912.

7. A student has taken these notes:
- The Alder Bridge opened in 1920.
 - It spans 80 meters.
 - The Cedar Bridge opened in 1975.
 - It spans 140 meters.

The student wants to compare the bridge lengths. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. Both bridges have names taken from trees.
- B. The Alder Bridge opened before the Cedar Bridge.
- C. The Cedar Bridge spans 140 meters, compared with the Alder Bridge's 80 meters.
- D. The Cedar Bridge opened in 1975.

8. A student has taken these notes:
- Scientist Nora Lee studies pollen preserved in lake sediment.
 - Different plant species produce distinctive pollen.
 - Pollen in older sediment can identify plants that lived nearby in the past.
 - Lee collected samples from four lakes.

The student wants to explain why ancient pollen is useful to Lee. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. Lee collected samples from four lakes.
- B. Lee studies pollen preserved in sediment from four lakes.
- C. Nora Lee is a scientist who studies pollen.
- D. Distinctive pollen in old sediment helps Lee identify plants that once grew near a lake.

9. A student has taken these notes:
- The play Harbor Lights premiered in 1990.
 - Its author later adapted it into a novel.
 - The novel was published in 1998.
 - Both versions follow a family running a ferry service.

The student wants to identify a similarity between the versions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. Both versions follow a family that runs a ferry service.
- B. The play premiered eight years before the novel was published.
- C. The novel was published in 1998.
- D. Harbor Lights was first performed as a play.

10. A student has taken these notes:
- A team tested two insulating materials.
 - Material P costs \$4 per square meter.
 - Material Q costs \$7 per square meter.
 - Under the test conditions, both reduced heat loss by the same amount.

The student wants to emphasize a cost advantage of Material P. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. Material Q costs \$7 per square meter.
- B. Material P achieved the same tested reduction in heat loss as Q at a lower cost per square meter.
- C. The team tested two materials.
- D. Material P and Material Q were tested under the same conditions.

11. A student has taken these notes:

- A museum is cataloging a collection of woven baskets.
- Each basket is photographed from several angles.
- Multiple views document patterns hidden on the underside.
- The collection contains 60 baskets.

The student wants to explain the purpose of taking multiple photographs. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. The museum has 60 baskets.
- B. The museum is preparing a catalog.
- C. Photographing baskets from several angles documents patterns that a single view might miss.
- D. Woven baskets are part of a museum collection.

12. A student has taken these notes:

- An urban orchard planted three apple varieties.
- Each variety ripens in a different month.
- Staggered ripening extends the harvest period.
- Volunteers maintain the orchard.

The student wants to explain why planting several varieties lengthens the harvest. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes?

- A. Volunteers maintain the urban orchard.
- B. The orchard contains apple trees.
- C. Three varieties were planted in the orchard.
- D. Because its three apple varieties ripen in different months, the orchard can harvest fruit over a longer period.

Answer key

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

1. A: South Library has 25,000 books, compared with North Library's 18,000.

The correct answer directly compares collection sizes with the relevant counts. The other statements concern dates or location, not the requested comparison.

2. C: Cho turns discarded fabric from local clothing workshops into sculptures.

The discarded source material and its transformation into sculptures directly establish reuse. The title, opening month, and count do not accomplish that goal.

3. D: Both sensors record temperature once per minute.

The common recording interval gives a similarity. The other choices emphasize differences or describe only one sensor.

4. B: Readers can search the online transcripts of the resident interviews for a specific topic.

Searchable online transcripts directly explain how to locate a topic. The other choices provide background but no method.

5. A: Photographs taken repeatedly from the same points help Patel identify shoreline changes.

The correct answer explains why consistent observation locations are useful: they reveal changes over time. The other choices state the topic or scope without explaining the method's purpose.

6. C: Both versions follow a family's move to a city, but the adaptation omits several minor characters.

The correct answer includes the shared central event and the changed cast. The other choices give information about only one version or omit the required comparison.

7. C: The Cedar Bridge spans 140 meters, compared with the Alder Bridge's 80 meters.

The requested comparison is length, so both spans are relevant. Opening dates do not accomplish that goal.

8. D: Distinctive pollen in old sediment helps Lee identify plants that once grew near a lake.

The answer connects distinctive pollen to identifying past plants, explaining the method's usefulness rather than just its location or researcher.

9. A: Both versions follow a family that runs a ferry service.

The family and ferry service are shared by both versions. The other choices establish chronology or describe only one version.

10. B: Material P achieved the same tested reduction in heat loss as Q at a lower cost per square meter.

The lower cost and equal tested performance establish P's advantage. The answer does not claim equal performance under every possible condition.

11. C: Photographing baskets from several angles documents patterns that a single view might miss.

The multiple angles reveal otherwise hidden patterns. That explains the procedure's purpose; the collection size does not.

12. D: Because its three apple varieties ripen in different months, the orchard can harvest fruit over a longer period.

The answer states the causal link between different ripening times and an extended harvest. Merely counting varieties does not explain the result.