

Supported inferences and evidence

Reading and Writing / Information and Ideas / Inferences / Command of Evidence

Prerequisites: Distinguish observations, assumptions and conclusions

Level: Foundational to intermediate instruction

Coverage: 12 original questions: 1 diagnostic, 3 worked examples, 3 guided, 3 independent, 1 exit ticket and 1 extension. Selected skill coverage, not the complete SAT syllabus.

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Student worksheet

Select one answer per question. Explain the supporting equation, context clue or evidence. Questions 1-10 are practice, 11 is the exit ticket, and 12 is an extension.

Question 1

Some seeds recovered from a dry cave germinated after watering. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. All old seeds can germinate.
- B. At least some recovered seeds remained capable of germination.
- C. The cave receives heavy rain.
- D. Dry storage always preserves seeds.

Reasoning: _____

Question 2

A garden harvested more food this year and planted a larger area. It recorded no yield per area. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. Each square meter produced more food.
- B. Soil fertility increased.
- C. Total harvest increased, but increased yield per area is not established.
- D. Weather improved.

Reasoning: _____

Question 3

Visitors who chose an optional audio guide stayed longer on average than other visitors. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. Guide use caused longer visits.
- B. Every guide user stayed longer than every nonuser.
- C. The guide was compulsory.
- D. The groups differed in average visit length.

Reasoning: _____

Question 4

A bird species nests in both natural cavities and artificial boxes. In one study, boxes sheltered more nests than cavities. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. The species can use more than one type of nesting site.
- B. It never uses natural cavities.
- C. Boxes always improve survival.
- D. All birds prefer boxes.

Reasoning: _____

Question 5

Two historians agree on a bridge's completion year but disagree about its designer's overseas travel. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. They disagree on the completion year.
- B. Their disagreement concerns the designer's experience.
- C. Neither studied the bridge.
- D. The designer certainly traveled abroad.

Reasoning: _____

Question 6

A detector recorded no signal above its threshold during a trial. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. No phenomenon occurred.
- B. The detector found no signal strong enough to exceed its threshold.
- C. The detector cannot function.
- D. Every future trial will be identical.

Reasoning: _____

Question 7

A survey sampled residents of one town. Most respondents supported a new park. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. Most people in every town support parks.
- B. Every sampled resident supported the park.
- C. A majority of respondents supported this park.
- D. The park will certainly be built.

Reasoning: _____

Question 8

A translation preserves the original's plot but changes several metaphors to fit the new language. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. It changes all story events.
- B. The translator preserved some features while adapting others.
- C. The original had no metaphors.
- D. The translation is more accurate in every respect.

Reasoning: _____

Question 9

The team repeated an experiment three times and observed similar results. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. The results were consistent across these trials.
- B. No future trial can differ.
- C. The explanation is certainly correct.
- D. Every instrument gives the same result.

Reasoning: _____

Question 10

A species was observed at a higher elevation this year than in earlier records. The passage gives no cause. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. Climate change caused the shift.
- B. All members permanently moved uphill.
- C. The newest recorded location is higher than earlier recorded locations.
- D. The earlier records were false.

Reasoning: _____

Question 11 - Exit ticket

A student improved after using a study app and receiving tutoring during the same month. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. The app alone caused improvement.
- B. Tutoring had no effect.
- C. Improvement occurred while both supports were present.
- D. The app guarantees improvement for everyone.

Reasoning: _____

Question 12 - Extension

An author notes that two proposed explanations fit the available evidence and further tests could distinguish them. Which conclusion is supported?

- A. One explanation is already proven.
- B. Both explanations are impossible.
- C. Further evidence may help choose between the explanations.
- D. Testing cannot add information.

Reasoning: _____