

# The SAT®

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## Practice

## Test #1

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# Reading Test

**65 MINUTES, 52 QUESTIONS**

Turn to Section 1 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.



## DIRECTIONS

Each passage or pair of passages below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage or pair, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage or passages and in any accompanying graphics (such as a table or graph).

### Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from the New York Times Narrative Best-Winner article, *Pants on Fire* by Varya Kluev.  
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I never kissed the boy I liked behind the schoolyard fence that one March morning. I never had dinner with Katy Perry or lived in Kiev for two months either, but I still told my entire fourth-grade class I did. The words slipped through my teeth effortlessly. With one flick of my tongue, I was, for all anybody knew, twenty-third in line for the throne of Monaco. “Actually?” the girls on the swings beside me would ask, wide eyes blinking with a childlike naivety. I nodded as they whispered under their breath how incredible my fable was. So incredible they bought into it without a second thought.

I lied purely for the ecstasy of it. It was narcotic. With my fabrications, I became the captain of the ship, not just a wistful passer-by, breath fogging the pane of glass that stood between me and the girls I venerated. No longer could I only see, not touch; a lie was a bullet, and the barrier shattered. My mere presence demanded attention — after all, I was the one who got a valentine from Jason, not them.

This way I became more than just the tomboyish band geek who finished her multiplication tables embarrassingly fast. My name tumbled out of their mouths and I manifested in the center of their linoleum lunch table. I became, at least temporarily, the fulcrum their world revolved around. Not only did I lie religiously and unabashedly — I was good at it. The

tedium of my everyday life vanished; I instead marched through the gates of my alcazar, strode up the steps of my concepts, and resided in my throne of deceit.

I believed if I took off my fraudulent robe, I would become plebeian. The same aristocracy that finally held me in high regard would boot me out of my palace. To strip naked and exclaim, “Here’s the real me, take a look!” would lead my new circle to redraw their lines — they would take back their compliments, sit at the table with six seats instead of eight, giggle in the back of the class when I asked a question. I therefore adjusted my counterfeit diadem and continued to praise a Broadway show I had never seen.

Yet finally lounging in a lavender bedroom one long-sought-after day, after absently talking about shows I didn’t watch and boys I didn’t know, I started processing the floating conversations. One girl, who I had idolized for always having her heavy hair perfectly

curled, casually shared how her parents couldn’t afford to go on their yearly trip the coming summer. I drew in an expectant breath, but nobody scoffed. Nobody exchanged a secret criticizing glance. Instead, another girl took her spoon of vanilla frosting out of her cheek and with the same air of indifference revealed how her family wasn’t traveling either. Promptly, my spun stories about swimming in crystal pools under Moroccan sun seemed to be in vain.

The following Monday, the girls on the bus to school still shared handfuls of chocolate-coated sunflower seeds with her. At lunch, she wasn’t shunned, wasn’t compelled to sit at a forgotten corner table. For that hour, instead of weaving incessant fantasies, I listened. I listened to the girls nonchalantly talk about yesterday’s soccer game where they couldn’t score a single goal.

Listened about their parent's layoff they couldn't yet understand the significance of. I listened and I watched them listen, accepting and uncritical of one another no matter how relatively vapid their story. I then too began 65 to talk, beginning by admitting that I wasn't actually related to Britney Spears.

1

Which choice best summarizes the passage?

- A) A girl becomes convinced that students lie to impress other people.
- B) A girl has a particular bad quality and realizes its futility.
- C) A girl weighs the outcomes of two particular situations.
- D) A girl becomes obsessed with a quality that she is unwilling to let go.

2

In line 29, "resided" most nearly means

- A) believed.
- B) enjoyed.
- C) commanded.
- D) lived.

3

The passage most clearly implies that the narrator's main motivation for lying was to

- A) become better at the skill.
- B) change how people behaved towards her.
- C) earn more valentines from boys.
- D) laugh at those inferior to her.

4

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) lines 17-20 ("My . . . them")
- B) lines 25-26 ("Not . . . it")
- C) lines 33-39 ("To . . . seen")
- D) lines 40-44 ("Yet . . . conversations")

5

The main purpose of the last paragraph is to

- A) compare two perspectives.
- B) describe an outcome in detail.
- C) illustrate a series of events.
- D) indicate a revelation.

6

In line 53, "vain" most nearly means

- A) futility.
- B) right.
- C) dark.
- D) perfection.

7

It can most reasonably be assumed from the passage that the narrator

- A) wanted to change how she was perceived.
- B) disliked the process of making friends at her school.
- C) muted during conversations with girls in her group.
- D) desired others to be the center of attention.

8

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) lines 2-4 ("I . . . did")
- B) lines 20-22 ("This . . . fast")
- C) lines 22-24 ("My . . . table")
- D) lines 40-44 ("Yet . . . conversations")

9

- The first paragraph of the passage mainly serves to
- A) introduce a particular characteristic.
  - B) define a specific term.
  - C) illustrate a type of relationship.
  - D) weigh the difference of two objects.

10

- In the passage, the narrator fears
- A) the idea of lying without purpose.
  - B) failing in her academic pursuits.
  - C) being ridiculed by her group of girls.
  - D) growing up to adulthood without friends.

**Questions 11-20 are based on the following passage.**

This passage is adapted from the MIT News Office article, *Moving beyond “defensive medicine”* by Peter Dizikes. © 2020 StudySet. All rights reserved.

Doctors face tough choices during difficult childbirths — often involving the decision of whether to perform a cesarian section operation. And in the background lies a question: To what extent are these medical decisions motivated by the desire to avoid liability lawsuits?

When doctors' actions are driven by a desire to avoid legal entanglements, it is known as “defensive medicine.” When it comes to childbirth, one common perception holds that doctors, at uncertain moments in the delivery process, would be more likely to intervene surgically to avoid other potential problems. Now, a unique study co-authored by an MIT economist sheds light on the practice of defensive medicine, with a surprising result.

The research, based on evidence from the U.S. Military Health System, finds that when doctors have immunity from liability lawsuits, they actually perform slightly more C-section operations, compared to when they are legally liable for those operations — about 4 percent more, over a 10-year period.

“When you’re worried about errors of commission, defensive medicine can lead to [less] treatment of patients,” says economist Jonathan Gruber, co-author of a new paper detailing the study’s findings.

The paper, “Defensive Medicine and Obstetric Practices: Evidence from the Military Health System,” is published this month in the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*. The authors are Gruber, who is the Ford Professor of Economics in the MIT Department of Economics, and Michael Frakes ’01 PhD ’09, a professor of law and economics at the Duke University School of Law. The finding adds new information to an area of medicine where legal liability issues loom large. As the scholars note in the paper, 74 percent of obstetricians and gynecologists face malpractice claims by age 45, compared to 55 percent of physicians in the area of internal medicine.

To conduct the study, Gruber and Frakes used Military Health System data to conduct what economists call a “natural experiment,” in which two otherwise similar groups of people are divided by one circumstance — often a policy change or social

program. In this case, the study examines the effects of the Feres Doctrine, stemming from a 1950 legal ruling, that active-duty members of the military receiving treatment from military facilities do not have recourse in case they suffer from negligent care. A significant portion of active-duty personnel receive medical

treatment under these circumstances. However, military personnel can also opt to receive private care outside of military bases. For this reason, military medical policy generates two pools of otherwise similar people, divided by their two care options — one with no liability for doctors, and one with liability. The idea for doing a study based on this comparison occurred to Gruber while he was working with the Military Health Service on other health care delivery issues.

“For decades, health economists have been searching to find the holy grail of a natural experiment to tell us what would happen if people couldn’t sue for malpractice,” Gruber notes.

The study examines Military Health System data on 1,016,606 births in military families, from 2003 to 2013.

About 44 percent of the deliveries occurred at military health facilities and 56 percent at civilian hospitals. Ultimately, as the study shows, C-sections are about 4 percent more common during the deliveries at military hospitals, compared to the times when mothers in the Military Health System deliver at civilian hospitals.

As Gruber notes, that finding will seem unexpected to those who associate defensive medicine with an increase in operations, treatment, and interventions.

“We tend to think of defensive medicine as … doctors doing extra testing because they’re afraid of getting sued,” he says. But this finding indicates that, in childbirth settings, doctors practice defensive medicine by intervening slightly less.

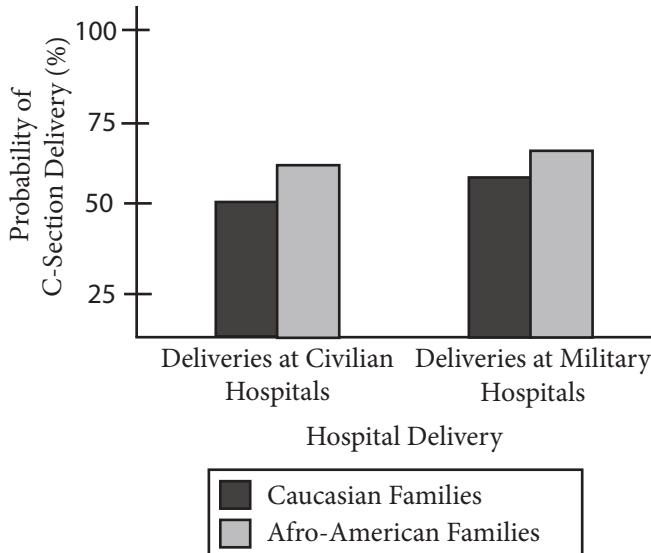
The current finding also adds nuance to an earlier paper by Gruber and Frakes, based on inpatient care generally, which found that across medical areas, doctors who cannot be sued tended to spend 5 percent less on the treatment of patients. Doctors who could be sued, then, were spending more on tests and treatments.

Among other things, Gruber observes, that earlier paper suggests that overall, defensive medicine leads doctors to spend more, although “it’s not the main driver of U.S. health care spending.”

However, as Gruber also notes, what is true of medicine generally need not be true of particular medical specialties.

**Figure 1**

Chance of C-Section for different Military Families



11

What function does the second paragraph (lines 7-15) serve in the passage as a whole?

- A) It acknowledges the limitations of an argument that is favored by the author of the passage.
- B) It illustrates with detail the argument made in the previous paragraph of the passage.
- C) It demonstrates a particular unethical approach to solving a problem.
- D) It defines a term that is used throughout the passage in the examination of a trend.

12

Which choice does the author explicitly cite as a trend for doctors that can be sued?

- A) decreased mortality of patients.
- B) decreased operations of patients.
- C) increased spending on patients.
- D) increased friendliness towards patients.

13

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) lines 16-21 (“The . . . period”)
- B) lines 34-38 (“As . . . medicine”)
- C) lines 49-50 (“A . . . circumstances”)
- D) lines 83-84 (“Doctors . . . treatments”)

14

The central idea of the sixth paragraph (lines 39-58) is that

- A) the policies made by the Feres Doctrine are unethical to the beliefs of many.
- B) Military Health System data provides ideal data for an experiment to be performed.
- C) the Feres Doctrine makes military members incapable of suing military doctors for negligent care.
- D) Military Health System data of America is superior to that of other nations.

15

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) lines 39-43 (“To . . . circumstance”)
- B) lines 44-48 (“In . . . care”)
- C) lines 50-52 (“However . . . bases”)
- D) lines 55-58 (“The . . . issues”)

16

As used in line 10, “perception” most nearly means

- A) belief.
- B) group.
- C) truth.
- D) fact.

17

As used in line 51, “opt” most nearly means

- A) coordinate.
- B) decline.
- C) choose.
- D) work.

18

Which choice best supports the conclusion that malpractice claims are widespread in the medical field?

- A) lines 9-12 (“When . . . problems”)
- B) lines 33-38 (“The . . . medicine”)
- C) lines 59-62 (“For . . . notes”)
- D) lines 89-91 (“However . . . specialities”)

19

Which choice is supported by the data in the figure 1?

- A) The probability of a C-section delivery for Caucasian families in both types of hospitals is higher than the probability for Afro-American families in both types of hospitals.
- B) The probability of a C-section delivery for Afro-American families in both types of hospitals is higher than the probability for Caucasian families in both types of hospitals.
- C) The chance of C-section deliveries in both types of hospitals for any type of family are lower than 50%.
- D) The chance of C-section deliveries in both types of hospitals for any type of family are higher than 75%.

20

Data presented in the figure most directly support which idea from the passage?

- A) The probability of C-section deliveries is higher when doctors can not be sued.
- B) Caucasian and African families have the same probability of C-section rates.
- C) African families tend to have a higher number of deliveries compared to that of Caucasian families.
- D) Caucasian families have different cultural values compared to that of African families.

**Questions 21-30 are based on the following passage.**

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