

20. B See R✓3
The correct answer (B) is arrived at by skimming the entire passage to find the main ideas. The three paragraphs all describe a different aspect of preparing for the journey to the West. (A), (C), and (D) are mentioned in the passage as details to further describe aspects of the topic, getting started on the trip west.
21. D See R✓7
The correct answer (D) can be inferred from lines 1–7: *could either (travel by steamboat) or—as happened more often—travel by wagon*. This tells us that travel was NOT usually by steamboat. (A), (B), and (C) all describe travel east of the Missouri: lines 6–7.
22. B See R✓2
“Jump-off point” is a key phrase in this passage about pioneers traveling from the East to the West. In each paragraph the term “jump-off point” is linked to the concept of starting out or departing on the journey overland. Therefore, *point of departure* (B) is the correct answer choice.
23. B See R✓7
The correct answer (B) is found in lines 11–12. The town of Independence is the river town that is mentioned first in the passage. (C) and (D) are said to be *upriver* (north) of Independence. Lines 11–12 state that St. Joseph was *55 miles northwest (of Independence)*. Logical reasoning tells us that this point is farther west than Independence. A second clue is found in lines 11–14, which states that four days travel west could be saved by departing from St. Joe (Joseph), implying that St. Joseph was four days farther west than the other river towns.24.
B See R✓2
Clues to the meaning of “preeminent” in lines 7–12 are that Independence had been *preeminent* among the cities that offered provisions for people traveling west, *but* that this position was being threatened by *rival* cities. We can deduce that rivalry occurs when a strong position is challenged, and that answer choice (B) *superior* is correct. Word analysis: from Latin ‘*praeeminent*’ (be prominent, to project forward).
25. D See R✓7
The correct answer (D) is found in line 19 *A family man usually chose the wagon* and also lines in 24–25 . . . *most pioneers, with their farm background, were used to wagons*. To understand why other choices are incorrect refer to: (A) lines 21–24; (B) lines 7–8; (C) lines 7–11 and line 15.
26. D See R✓2
Clues to the meaning of the word “neophyte” in the phrase *the neophyte emigrants* are found in the first paragraph, in which we read that the travelers were *a family from the East* who with little preparation began their trip *right in their front yard*. We can deduce that these travelers to the West had little experience; therefore, answer choice (D) *inexperienced* is correct.
27. B See R✓6
The correct answer is (B) because the riverboat was mentioned only as transportation to reach Missouri from the East. Lines 17–19 describe the choices of transportation from the jump-off points on the Missouri River to the West, (A), (C), and (D).
28. C See R✓2
From the context of lines 6–7 we know that the topic is travel. The phrase *staying on the paddle-wheelers* is juxtaposed with *before striking overland* to indicate a contrast; we deduce that (C) *departing* is the answer choice that is correct in this context.
29. C See R✓2
The correct answer is (C). Clues to inferring that *inexperienced* is the best replacement are found in lines 15–16; . . . *the emigrants studied guidebooks and directions, asked questions of others . . .*. Studying guidebooks and directions, and asking questions of other travelers indicates that the emigrants lacked experience and needed information about the trip west. (A), (B), and (D) do not logically fit in this context.30. C See R✓6
The correct answer C is found in line 20 *but it provided space and shelter for children and for a wife . . .*, and also lines 24–25 . . . *most pioneers, with their farm background, were used to wagons*. (A), (B), and (D) are all negative features of a wagon for travel to the West, lines 21–23 and 19–20.
31. C See R✓5
In lines 19–23 we read a description of the problems that a covered wagon could have during the overland trip. “Those things” in line 23 refer to the problems of traveling by wagon.
32. C See R✓3
The correct answer is (C) because the passage discusses the issues of economics, not finance, geography, or culture. Key terms are *economic history, capitalist expansion, natural resources, capital, capital accumulation, and trade*.
33. B See R✓2
The meaning of the phrase “paved the way for” can be deduced by deciding in what way the key terms in the sentence are related: *natural resources, the development of abundant capital, to increase our growth*. The rest of the paragraph indicates that capital and growth developed positively because of natural resources; therefore, the correct answer is (B) *supported*.
34. D See R✓5
The pronoun “it” in line 9 refers to *Capital* in line 7, which is the topic of the sentence and which is followed by an explanation of what capital includes. The use of the word *also* and