

PSAT Reading Practice Test 1: Key Ideas and Details

1. Which type of graphic element would be most helpful for teaching the names of the parts of a bicycle?

- A. Diagram
- B. Pie chart
- C. Bar graph
- D. Flowchart

Read the following sentence and answer questions 2-4.

Numerous robotic missions to Mars have revealed tantalizing evidence of a planet that may once have been capable of supporting life.

2. Imagine this sentence is a supporting detail in a well-developed paragraph. Which of the following sentences would best function as a topic sentence?

- A. Venus is an intensely hot planet surrounded by clouds full of drops of sulfuric acid.
- B. Of all the destinations within human reach, Mars is the planet most similar to Earth.
- C. Liquid water—a necessary ingredient of life—may once have flowed on the planet’s surface.
- D. Space research is a costly, frivolous exercise that brings no clear benefit to people on Earth.

3. Imagine this sentence is the topic sentence of a well-developed paragraph. Which of the following sentences would best function as a supporting detail?

- A. Of all the destinations within human reach, Mars is the planet most similar to Earth.

B. Venus is an intensely hot planet surrounded by clouds full of drops of sulfuric acid.

C. Space research is a costly, frivolous exercise that brings no clear benefit to people on Earth.

D. Liquid water—a necessary ingredient of life—may once have flowed on the planet’s surface.

4. How could this sentence function as a supporting detail in a persuasive text arguing that space research is worth the expense and effort because it teaches us more about Earth and ourselves?

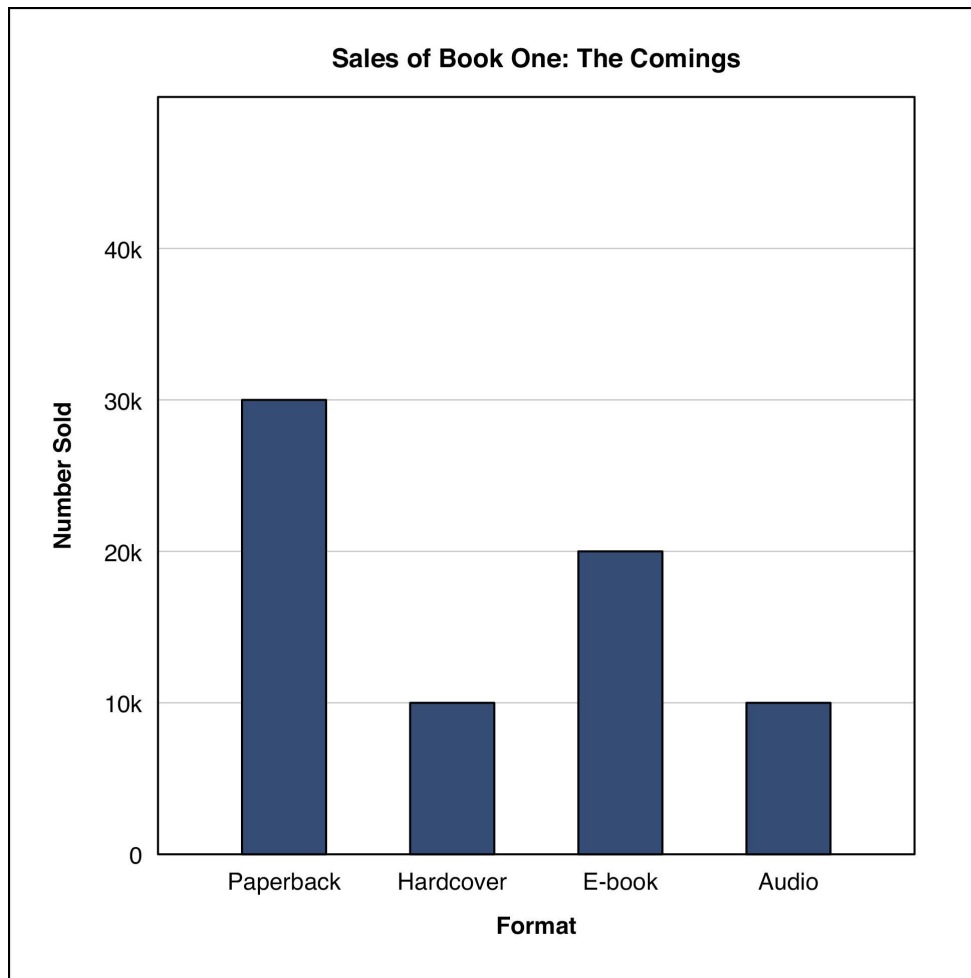
A. By using statistics to back up an argument that needs support to be believed

B. By showing how a space discovery could earn money for investors here on Earth

C. By providing an example of a space discovery that enhances our understanding of life

D. By developing the main idea that no space discovery can reveal information about Earth

The bar graph below provides information about book sales for a book called *The Comings*, which is the first book in a trilogy. Study the image and answer questions 5-6.



5. Which type of book has sold the most copies?

- A. E-book
- B. Hardcover
- C. Paperback
- D. Audio book

6. The marketing director for The Comings wants to use a different strategy for publishing book two in the series. Which argument does the bar graph best support?

- A. The first book in the trilogy has only sold 10,000 copies.
- B. The second book in the trilogy should not be released in hardcover.
- C. The second book in the trilogy should only be released as an e-book.
- D. The second and third books in the trilogy should be combined into

one.

Study the infographic below and answer questions 7-9.



Credit: Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/multimedia/infographics/getmoving.html>

7. Which of the following is not a sign that the infographic is credible?

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- A. The use of verifiable facts
 - B. The list of source materials
 - C. The professional appearance
 - D. The inclusion of an author's name
8. Zetta is unsure of the credibility of this source and has never heard of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Which fact could help her decide to trust it?
- A. The CDC is located in Atlanta.
 - B. The CDC has a .gov web address.
 - C. The CDC creates many infographics.
 - D. The CDC is also listed as a source consulted.
9. What could a skeptical reader do to verify the facts on the infographic?
- A. Interview one teenager to ask about his or her screen time.
 - B. Follow the links for the sources and determine their credibility.
 - C. Check a tertiary source like Wikipedia to verify the information.
 - D. Find different values for screen time on someone's personal blog.

Answer Key

1. A. A diagram illustrates complex visual ideas, so it could show which part of a bicycle is which and how they fit together. See Lesson: Summarizing Text and Using Text Features.
2. B. The sentence above conveys factual information about Mars in an excited tone that suggests a positive interest in the subject. This makes it most likely to fit into an informational paragraph sharing facts about Mars. See Lesson: Main Ideas, Topic Sentences, and Supporting Details.
3. D. If the above sentence were a topic sentence, its supporting details



would likely share information to develop the idea that Mars may have supported life in the past. See Lesson: Main Ideas, Topic Sentences, and Supporting Details.

4. C. The sentence above could act as an example to show how space discoveries teach us about Earth and ourselves. See Lesson: Main Ideas, Topic Sentences, and Supporting Details.

5. C. Larger bars in a bar graph indicate higher numbers. This book has sold more paperback copies than any other. See Lesson: Summarizing Text and Using Text Features.

6. B. The bar graph shows fewer hardcover sales than any other kind. This could help support an argument that later books should only be released in electronic and paperback forms. See Lesson: Summarizing Text and Using Text Features.

7. D. It is usually a good sign if an author is clearly named in a source. Although this source is authored by an organization, the CDC, instead of a single author, there are many other signs it is credible. See Lesson: Understanding Primary Sources, Making Inferences, and Drawing Conclusions.

8. B. When presenting this type of information, a government organization with a .gov web address is typically considered a reputable source. See Lesson: Understanding Primary Sources, Making Inferences, and Drawing Conclusions.

9. B. One way to verify facts is to check the sources an author used.

Verifying facts elsewhere may also be a good idea, but it is important to use reputable primary or secondary sources. See Lesson: Understanding Primary Sources, Making Inferences, and Drawing Conclusions.

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