**SAT/PSAT Reading Test Question Stems**

**Reading Informational Text**

* **Standard 9-10.1: 34% of the PSAT sample**

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

* + **The author indicates that, in comparison to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ has tended to be…**
  + **Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?**
  + **It is reasonable to conclude that the main goal of the \_\_\_\_ described in the passage is to…**
  + **The author most strongly implies which of the following about “ \_\_\_\_”?**
  + **The author describes the people who \_\_\_\_ as interested in the \_\_\_\_?**
  + **The author of Passage 1 suggests that \_\_\_\_?**
  + **The authors of Passage 2 indicate that \_\_\_ should primarily be considered a…**
  + **Which choice would best support the claim that the authors of Passage 2 recognize that the “ \_\_\_\_”**
* **Standard 9-10.2: 12.8% of the PSAT sample**

Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

* + **Which statement best summarizes the information presented in the graph?**
  + **According to the graph, which statement is true about…**
  + **Based on the passage, what is \_\_\_’s hypothesis regarding…**
  + **What information discussed in paragraph \_\_\_ is represented by the graph?**
  + **Which statement about the effect of \_\_\_\_ is best supported by the graph?**
  + **What is the author’s main point about…**
  + **Which choice best states the relationship between the two passages?**
* **Standard 9-10.4:** **12.8% of the PSAT sample**

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).

* + **As used in line \_\_\_\_\_, “\_\_\_” most nearly means…**
  + **What main effect do the quotations by \_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_ have on the tone of the passage?**
  + **As used in line \_\_\_\_, “ \_\_\_\_” is closest in meaning to…**
* **Standard 9-10.5: 12.8% of the PSAT sample**

Analyze in detail how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).

* + **Which choice best describes the structure of the first paragraph?**
  + **The author uses the phrase “\_\_\_\_\_” as an example of…**
  + **The reference to the \_\_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_\_ primarily serves to… a) illustrate… b) emphasize… c) demonstrate that… d) call attention to…**
  + **The passage’s discussion of \_\_\_\_ primarily serves to… a) introduce the concept of… b) demonstrate that…. c) list differences between… d) emphasize the importance of…**
  + **The author uses “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” as examples of…**
  + **The reference to “ \_\_\_\_\_\_” serves mainly to…**
* **Standard 9-10.6:** **6.4% of the PSAT sample**

Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.

* + **The author recognizes counterarguments to the position she takes in the passage by… a) acknowledging… b) admitting… c) drawing an analogy between… d) conceding that…**
  + **The passage is written from the perspective of someone who is…**
  + **How would the authors of Passage 2 most likely respond to the “\_\_\_\_” referred to in line \_\_\_\_, Passage 1?**

**Reading Literature**

* **Standard 9-10.1: 8.5% of the PSAT sample**

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

* + **The narrator indicates that the particular nature of \_\_\_ resulted in...**
  + **Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?**
  + **It can be reasonably inferred that after … this happened:**
* **Standard 9-10.2: 6.4% of the PSAT sample**

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

* + **The main purpose of the passage is to…**
  + **Which choice best summarizes the first two paragraphs of the passage?**
  + **Which situation is most similar to the one described in lines \_\_\_\_?**
* **Standard 9-10.4: 4.3% of the PSAT sample**

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

* + **As used in line [number], “[word]” most nearly means:**
  + **What main effect do the quotations by \_\_\_\_ in lines \_\_\_ have on the tone of the passage?**