Reading Comprehension Test

The Reading Comprehension Assessment Test is a computerized test that will take between 45 minutes and an hour to complete. The test is comprised of 20 questions divided into two types.

The first type consists of reading passages followed by questions based on the text. The narratives presented vary in length. The questions ask students to demonstrate their ability to:

- Recognize main ideas,
- Recognize the tone of a passage,
- Synthesize information,
- Recognize the organizing principles of a paragraph or passage,
- Extract points that are implied, and
- Follow moderately complex arguments or speculations.

The second type of question focuses on sentence relationships. The student will be presented with two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between the two sentences. The questions require the students to recognize if:

- One sentence is used to illustrate another,
- A sentence contradicts another, or
- A sentence supports another with similar information.

Below are two sample questions:

(1) Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.

Scientists have yet to create an effective shark repellent. In the 1970s a fish, the Moses sole, was found to exude a substance that repels some shark species. However, the substance, pardoxin, is difficult and costly to synthesize; also, it quickly deteriorates and is not as powerful as might be desired.

The last sentence suggests that
A. paradoxin might be less promising than was first believed
B. scientific research is plagued by inadequate funding
C. paradoxin could have unforeseen side effects
D. scientists were mistaken about the actual source of paradoxin

The correct answer is (A) “paradoxin might be less promising than was first believed.”

(2) Some questions will ask you to read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage.

There are two types of pottery that I do. There is production pottery – mugs, tableware, the kinds of things that sell easily. These pay for my time to do the other work, which is more creative and satisfies my needs as an artist.

The author of the passage implies that
A. artists have a tendency to waste valuable time
B. creativity and mass production are incompatible
C. most people do not appreciate good art
D. pottery is not produced by creative artists

The correct answer is (B) “creativity and mass production are incompatible.”