

Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.

A Wolf in Coyote's Clothing

It's nighttime. All is still. Suddenly, the mournful howl of a coyote drifts through the crisp night air. This isn't the New Mexico desert or the **1** plains of Wyoming. This is downtown Chicago, New York City's Central Park, or suburban Connecticut. Over the past several decades, coyotes have been moving steadily eastward and showing up in **2** unexpected places. But that's not all that's strange about these eastern coyotes: They're also bigger than their western cousins. They live in groups and hunt in packs, **3** whereas Western coyotes are solitary and hunt alone. The differences piqued scientists' curiosity.

1

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) plains' of Wyoming.
- C) plain's of Wyoming.
- D) Wyoming plains'.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) out of the blue locations.
- C) totally random hangouts.
- D) wondrous positions.

3

The writer is considering deleting the underlined portion and ending the sentence with a period. Should the writer make this revision?

- A) No, because the information provides additional detail about visual differences between eastern and western coyotes.
- B) No, because the information completes the contrast between the behavior of the eastern and western coyotes.
- C) Yes, because the information provides irrelevant detail about western coyotes while the author is discussing eastern coyotes.
- D) Yes, because the information refutes what the author has already said about coyote traits.

4 Now, recent genetic studies have confirmed what many experts had suspected. The eastern “coyotes” are actually “coy-wolves”—that is, coyote-wolf hybrids.

Different eastern coyote populations have different exact genetic 5 compositions, which scientists have described the average eastern coyote as being a combination of three different species in the genus *Canis*. Specifically, the animals are mostly coyote, with a sizable wolf contribution, and a little bit of domestic dog thrown in for good measure. These three species can produce viable, fertile offspring because they all have 39 pairs of chromosomes. 6 Most animals

prefer to mate within their own species but sometimes, where there are small populations and few choices of mates,

hybridization can occur. When it does, the offspring 7 resembles something in between their two parent species.

The animals will have a new set of traits. In many cases, these traits 8 will often turn out to be neutral or even negative.

4

Which choice most effectively establishes the main topic of the paragraph?

- A) The eastern coyotes are actually coyote-wolf hybrids.
- B) Wolves and coyotes interbreed in places where they share a habitat and population numbers are low.
- C) Eastern coyotes are skillful hunters that have managed to take down larger prey animals than wolves.
- D) The genus *Canis* is composed of dog-like animals from all over the world - wolves, dogs, dingoes, and jackals.

5

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) compositions that
- C) compositions then
- D) compositions, but

6

At this point, the writer wants to illustrate the concept introduced in the preceding sentence by using another species as an example. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) Moreover, wolves and coyotes share the same breeding season and habits.
- B) In contrast, when horses and donkeys interbreed, they produce mules, which are sterile due to their odd number of chromosomes.
- C) However, higher numbers of chromosomes do not correspond with more sophisticated organisms; humans only have 23 pairs of chromosomes.
- D) In theory, jackals can interbreed with wolves and coyotes, but they do not live in North America.

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) resembled
- C) resemble
- D) has resembled

8

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) oftentimes will result as traits that are
- C) will turn out to be
- D) will turn out as resulting traits that are

In the case of the eastern coyote, however, it seems that the genetic contribution from wolves has actually been the key to the animals' success and expansion. **9** In the second half of the twentieth century, more of the population moved to cities and suburbs, and fewer acres have been needed for agriculture. Consequently, much of the land has been slowly reverting to forest.

With ample habitat and no **10** predators, species such as the white-tailed deer have populated the eastern U.S. in unprecedented numbers. Western coyotes — small and solitary hunters — are no match for even injured or young deer. **11** Hunting in packs by the larger eastern coyotes, the oversaturated deer population can be seriously impacted. Evolution is a process continuing all around us, and it doesn't always take millions and millions of years. As genetic tools get more sophisticated, sometimes we can even catch it in action.

9

At this point, the writer wants to give historical context for changes in the environment. Which choice best accomplishes that goal?

- A) Settlers had wiped out large predators like wolves and mountain lions in the eastern portion of the United States by the beginning of the nineteenth century, leaving the ecosystem without an apex predator.
- B) Wolves, with their larger size and adaptation to colder environments, are more effective predators in northern latitudes than coyotes.
- C) Some other hybrid animals, like the offspring of tigers and lions, tend to take after one parent much more than the other, usually the mother.
- D) The coyote population in western states has stayed steady over the twentieth century, while the wolf population in the northern United States and Canada has dwindled.

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) predators species, such as
- C) predators, species, such as
- D) predators species such as

11

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Hunting in packs, the larger eastern coyotes can have a serious impact on the oversaturated deer population.
- C) Hunting in packs, a serious impact can be had on the oversaturated deer population by the larger eastern coyotes.
- D) The oversaturated deer population, by the larger eastern coyotes being hunted in packs, can be seriously impacted.