

Verbal Reasoning GRE sample questions (Part I)

Text completion questions:

Stock market bubbles, as a topic for discussion on cable business programs, usually follow a (1) _____ script. First, the host brings on a protagonist, who dismisses bubble fears with (2) _____ evidence. Second, the host brings on an antagonist, who highlights (3) _____ data to prove the case for an existing stock market bubble.

Blank (1)	Blank (2)	Blank (3)
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veracious	meticulous	abstruse
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calculable	facile	blanket
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responsible	cursory	indeterminate
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Answers: calculable, cursory, abstruse

Sample text fill-in question:

The rise of self-publishing has elicited both praise and _____ from book lovers.

- A. obeisance
- B. rue
- C. lament
- D. approbation
- E. astonishment

Answers: B and C

Sample questions 1-3 are based on this passage

A study, published in *Bioresource Technology*, looked at cleaner alternatives to using petroleum ether and ethanol for silymarin extraction. Silymarin is a complex of biological compounds that contain silibin, the active ingredient of milk thistle. Milk thistle seeds, by weight, contain up to 25% fat. Currently, most defatting methods call for multiple rinses of the seeds by petroleum ether, a volatile organic compound. Then ethanol is used to extract the silymarin. Researchers

found silymarin yields were greater using sulfuric acid and warm water than they were using the petroleum ether and ethanol combination.

Multiple choice question -- select one

1. The passage implies which of the following about milk thistle?
- A. Its fat content correlates with extraction method.
 - B. Silymarin is the active ingredient.
 - C. Sulfuric acid extracts silymarin better than petroleum ether.
 - D. Ethanol acts as a growth stimulant.
 - E. Fat insulates and protects its active ingredient.

Answer: E

Multiple choice questions -- select one or more

2. The passage suggests a sulfuric acid/water combination would lead to which outcome?
- A. Lower milk thistle production costs.
 - B. Wider acceptance of milk thistle as a dietary supplement.
 - C. Less residue on silymarin.

Answer: C

Select In-Passage Question

3. Select the sentence that details the first step in the silymarin extraction process:

Answer: Currently, most defatting methods call for multiple rinses of the seeds by petroleum ether, a volatile organic compound.