

## S4\_RT Exam Key Answers

**N.B:** Correct answers are **underlined in bold and italicized**. The letter corresponding to your answer may vary depending on your exam version (there are four different versions), so please do not take it into consideration. Each correct answer receives **2 pts**.

**Q1.** In §1, the phrase *a lesson in homogeneity* can be most accurately described as:

- a. a slight against civil rights workers.
- b. an ironic observation about the uniform character of the student body.**
- c. a comment on the poor quality of the education at Big State U.
- d. a sarcastic comment about the authors' former students.
- e. the author's rueful view of his poor teaching skills.

**Explanation :** The sentence preceding this phrase discusses the homogenous, or uniform, makeup of the student body in the 1960s. The author is using the word lesson ironically in that a lack of diversity is not something on which many educators would pride themselves.

**Q2.** In §2, the expression *sea change* means:

- a. increase.
- b. storm.
- c. decrease.
- d. wave.
- e. transformation.**

**Explanation :** A sea change is a transformation. This can be inferred from the next sentence, which states that colleges adopted policies of affirmative action. Affirmative action is a transformation in college admissions.

**Q3.** The author uses the quote from President Lyndon Johnson in §2 to:

- a. provide an example of discrimination in the past.
- b. show how Howard University benefited from affirmative action policies.
- c. make the passage more interesting.
- d. explain the rationale for affirmative action.**
- e. prove that affirmative action has been effective at promoting diversity.

**Explanation :** The author clearly states that President Johnson aptly explained the reasoning behind affirmative action.

**Q4.** According to the passage, the greatest danger of abolishing affirmative action in college admissions is:

- a. allowing reverse discrimination to take hold of college admissions.
- b. creating a "slippery slope" of discrimination and prejudice.
- c. losing the benefits of a diverse campus.**
- d. returning to the segregation of the past.
- e. complicating the job of the college admissions board.

**Explanation :** After stating that he considers the trend of abolishing affirmative action to be very dangerous, the author explains how a diverse student body makes his classes much richer.

**Q5.** From the information provided in the passage, one can conclude that the author

- a. has personally benefited from the effects of affirmative action.**
- b. considers affirmative action a necessary evil.
- c. favors accepting poorly qualified candidates for the sake of diversity.
- d. despises the opponents of affirmative action.
- e. thinks that affirmative action will eventually be unnecessary.

**Explanation :** According to the author, one of the main benefits of affirmative action is diversity in the classroom and he states that this diversity has been a boon to my experience as a teacher. So, affirmative action has personally benefited the author. None of the other choices is supported by the passage.

**Q6.** The word *feasible* in §4 most nearly means:

- a. advantageous.
- b. **possible.**
- c. attractive.
- d. probable.
- e. suitable.

**Explanation :** Feasible can mean capable of being done (possible) or capable of being used (suitable). In this context, the author is suggesting that, for many minorities, extracurricular activities and the like are not economically possible, that is they are unaffordable.

**Q7.** The tone of this passage can best be described as:

- a. impassioned.
- b. impartial.
- c. **reasonable.**
- d. sarcastic.
- e. dispassionate.

**Explanation :** The author expresses his opinion about affirmative action in a moderate, or reasonable, tone. He is neither dispassionate nor passionate, in that he expresses some emotion but not much. He is not impartial, as he is expressing an opinion.

- Q8.** The author gives all the following reasons for continuing affirmative action in college admissions EXCEPT that it
- a. fosters diversity.
  - b. provides fair access to higher education.
  - c. is necessary to promote social mobility.
  - d. exposes students to a broad spectrum of society.
  - e. prepares students for the future.**

**Explanation :** It is diversity, the result of affirmative action, not affirmative action itself, that prepares students for the future.

- Q9.** The argument for affirmative action in the workplace that most closely mirrors the author's reasoning about affirmative action in college admissions is
- a. it is the law of the land.
  - b. diversity in the workplace better prepares a company to compete in the marketplace.**
  - c. a diverse workforce is more efficient.
  - d. a less-qualified minority candidate is still a great asset to a company.
  - e. it is the right thing to do.

**Explanation :** The author's main argument for affirmative action is that the student body benefits from diversity. His final point is that students who have been exposed to a broad spectrum of American society are better prepared for their futures. The idea that diversity benefits a company and makes it better prepared to compete in marketplace most closely mirrors this reasoning.

- Q10.** According to the author, why is affirmative action still important on American campuses?
- a. To give minorities fair access to institutions of higher learning
  - b. To ensure diversity on college campuses
  - c. To prepare students for American society
  - d. To eliminate prejudice against minority groups
  - e. All of the above**

**Explanation :** All of the above. The passage states that "Take for example the extra-curricular activities, AP classes, and internships that help certain applicants impress the admissions board."