

# GMAT Verbal Reasoning Sample Paper

## GMAT Verbal Reasoning: Reading Comprehension

Many historians who study European women of the Renaissance try to measure “independence,” “options,” and other indicators of the degree to which the expression of women’s individuality was either permitted or suppressed. Influenced by Western individualism, these historians define a peculiar form of personhood: an innately bounded unit, autonomous and standing apart from both nature and society. An anthropologist, however, would contend that a person can be conceived in ways other than as an “individual.” In many societies, a person’s identity is not intrinsically unique and self-contained but instead is defined within a complex web of social relationships.

In her study of the fifteenth-century Florentine widow Alessandra Strozzi, a historian who specializes in European women of the Renaissance attributes individual intention and authorship of actions to her subject. This historian assumes that Alessandra had goals and interests different from those of her sons, yet much of the historian’s own research reveals that Alessandra acted primarily as a champion of her sons’ interests, taking their goals as her own. Thus Alessandra conforms more closely to the anthropologist’s notion that personal motivation is embedded in a social context. Indeed, one could argue that Alessandra did not distinguish her personhood from that of her sons. In Renaissance Europe the boundaries of the conceptual self were not always firm and closed and did not necessarily coincide with the boundaries of the bodily self.

Question: The passage suggests that the historian mentioned in the second paragraph (lines 5-9) would be most likely to agree with which of the following assertions regarding Alessandra Strozzi?

- A. Alessandra was able to act more independently than most women of her time because she was a widow.
- B. Alessandra was aware that her personal motivation was embedded in a social context.
- C. Alessandra had goals and interests similar to those of many other widows in her society.
- D. Alessandra is an example of a Renaissance woman who expressed her individuality through independent action.
- E. Alessandra was exceptional because she was able to effect changes in the social constraints placed upon women in her society.

## GMAT Verbal Reasoning: Sentence Correction

Question 1: Unlike most severance packages, which require workers to stay until the last day scheduled to collect, workers at the automobile company are eligible for its severance package even if they find a new job before they are terminated.

1. the last day scheduled to collect, workers at the automobile company are eligible for its severance package.
2. the last day they are scheduled to collect, workers are eligible for the automobile company's severance package.
3. their last scheduled day to collect, the automobile company offers its severance package to workers.
4. their last scheduled day in order to collect, the automobile company's severance package is available to workers.
5. the last day that they are scheduled to collect, the automobile company's severance package is available to workers.

Question 2: The growth of the railroads led to the abolition of local times, which was determined by when the sun reached the observer's meridian and differing from city to city, and to the establishment of regional times.

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## GMAT Critical Reasoning

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

A new machine for harvesting corn will allow rows to be planted only fifteen inches apart, instead of the usual thirty inches. Corn planted this closely will produce lower yields per plant. Nevertheless, the new machine will allow corn growers to double their profits per acre because \_\_\_\_\_.

1. with the closer spacing of the rows, the growing corn plants will quickly form a dense canopy of leaves, which will, by shading the ground, minimize the need for costly weed control and irrigation
2. with the closer spacing of the rows, corn plants will be forced to grow taller because of increased competition for sunlight from neighboring corn plants
3. with the larger number of plants growing per acre, more fertilizer will be required

4. with the spacing between rows cut by half, the number of plants grown per acre will almost double
5. with the closer spacing of the rows, the acreage on which corn is planted will be utilized much more intensively than it was before, requiring more frequent fallow years in which corn fields are left unplanted