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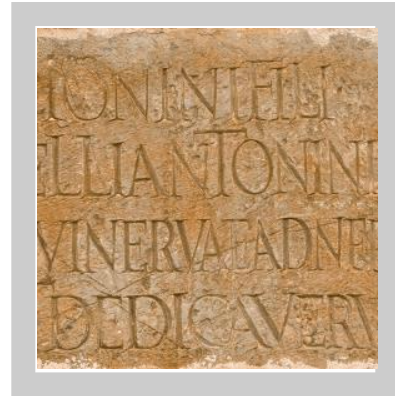
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Latin as a Second Language

Many people believe that it is beneficial to learn a second language. Knowing two languages makes it easier to travel to foreign countries, communicate with people from other cultures, and conduct international business. Even if you do not learn to speak another language fluently, studying a language is a useful academic exercise because it requires concentration and logical thinking.

Some people choose to learn Latin, which is a dead language. Latin has not been spoken for over a thousand years. Nevertheless, schools in many different countries offer courses in Latin. Some argue that Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin. Latin is also the basis for all of the modern Romance languages. If

you already know Latin, languages like Italian and Spanish will be easier to learn. Nonetheless, if you choose to study a language that no one speaks anymore, many of the practical advantages of learning a second language are erased. This means you should think carefully about which language you choose to learn.



- 1) The author apparently believes that Latin is
 - A. completely useless as a second language
 - B. less useful than spoken languages
 - C. useful for English speakers but no one else
 - D. more useful than other dead languages, such as ancient Greek

- 2) Based on information in paragraph 1, it can be understood that the word **beneficial** belongs to which of the following word groups?
 - A. healthy, wholesome, nutritional
 - B. wise, smart, intelligent
 - C. advantageous, helpful, valuable
 - D. common, usual, customary

- 3) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that a "dead language" is a language that is
 - A. over a thousand years old
 - B. not spoken anymore
 - C. useful for learning modern vocabulary
 - D. the basis for other languages

- 4) Someone who knows Latin will likely be able to
- I. think logically
 - II. learn Spanish easier
 - III. communicate with foreigners
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 5) According to the author, Latin can be helpful for English speakers because it is
- A. the basis for all of the modern Romance languages
 - B. a way to conduct international business
 - C. taught in schools in many different countries
 - D. a way to help build their vocabulary
- 6) As used in paragraph 2, something that is **derived** must
- A. come before something else
 - B. come from something else
 - C. be the same as something else
 - D. replace something else
- 7) The main purpose of this passage is to
- A. educate the reader about the advantages and disadvantages of learning a second language
 - B. explain that although learning Latin has advantages it is a less useful choice
 - C. highlight the reasons why some people think learning Latin is a good idea
 - D. argue against the continuation of teaching Latin in schools around the world

Answers and Explanations

1) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Many people believe that it is beneficial to learn a second language.” Then he or she lists some advantages of learning a second language: that it “makes it easier to travel to foreign countries, communicate with people from other cultures, and conduct international business.” In paragraph 2, he or she writes that “some people choose to learn Latin,” even though it “is a dead language” and “has not been spoken for over a thousand years.” Although the author notes that there are some advantages of studying Latin, he or she ultimately argues that “if you choose to study a language that no one speaks anymore, many of the practical advantages of learning a second language are erased.” Since the author claims there are fewer practical or useful advantages of Latin as compared to a spoken language, we can understand that the author apparently believes that Latin is less useful than spoken languages. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

In paragraph 2, the author writes that there are some advantages to studying Latin: “Some argue that Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin. Latin is also the basis for all of the modern Romance languages, including Italian and Spanish.” This means the author does not apparently believe that Latin is completely useless as a second language. This makes **(A)** incorrect.

In paragraph 2, the author notes: “Some argue that Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin. Latin is also the basis for all of the modern Romance languages, including Italian and Spanish.” This means that knowing Latin would likely also be helpful for people who speak modern Romance languages, so the author does not apparently believe that Latin is useful for English speakers but no one else. This eliminates **(C)**.

The author notes two advantages of Latin in paragraph 2, but he or she does not compare the usefulness of Latin to other dead languages. This means the author does not apparently believe that Latin is more useful than other dead languages, such as ancient Greek. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

2) C

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

beneficial (*adjective*): producing a benefit or favorable result; helpful.

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Many people believe that it is beneficial to learn a second language.” Then he or she lists some advantages of learning a second language. The author writes, “Knowing two languages makes it easier to travel to foreign countries, communicate with people from other cultures, and conduct international business. Even if you do not learn to speak another language fluently, studying a language is a useful academic exercise, because it requires concentration and logical thinking.” This tells us that since there are so many useful advantages of learning a second language, many people believe it is helpful to learn a second language. This means *beneficial* must belong to the word group *advantageous, helpful, valuable*. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Although the author suggests it is helpful to learn a second language, the passage does not provide information to suggest that it is *healthy, wholesome, or nutritional* for a person to learn another language. These words suggest a physical benefit, not just an academic or cultural benefit. This eliminates **(A)**.

While the author may agree it is smart to learn a second language, he or she lists advantages that make it useful to learn a second language. This means that *beneficial* specifically means useful, so it does not belong to the word group *wise, smart, intelligent*. This makes **(B)** incorrect.

Although the author tells us that “many people believe that it is beneficial to learn a second language,” the passage does not provide information about whether many people actually do learn a second language. We do not know if it is common for people to learn a second language. This means that beneficial does not belong to the word group *common, usual, customary*. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

3) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Some people choose to learn Latin, which is a dead language.” Then the author tells us, “Latin has not been spoken for over a thousand years,” and later in the paragraph he or she describes it as “a language that no one speaks anymore.” This information suggests that when a language is not spoken anymore, people consider it to be dead. From this we can infer that a dead language is a language that is not spoken anymore. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Although the author writes, “Latin has not been spoken for over a thousand years,” he or she does not suggest that a language has to be over a thousand years old to be considered dead. This eliminates **(A)**.

The author writes, “Some argue that Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin.” But though Latin is useful to English speakers for learning modern vocabulary, we do not know whether other dead languages are useful for learning modern vocabulary. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

The author writes, “Latin is also the basis for all of the modern Romance languages, including Italian and Spanish.” But though Latin is the basis for other languages, we do not know whether other dead languages are the basis for other languages. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

4) B

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Even if you do not learn to speak another language fluently, studying a language is a useful academic exercise, because it requires concentration and logical thinking.” This lets us know that someone who knows Latin will likely be able to think logically, since learning another language requires logical thinking. This supports **option (I)**.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Latin is also the basis for all of the modern Romance languages. If you already know Latin, languages like Italian and Spanish will be easier to learn.” This lets us know that someone who knows Latin will likely be able to learn Spanish easier. This supports **option (II)**.

In paragraph 1, the author writes, “Knowing two languages makes it easier to travel to foreign countries, communicate with people from other cultures, and conduct international business.” But in paragraph 2, he or she explains that “Latin has not been spoken for over a thousand years” and that “if you choose to study a language that no one speaks anymore, many of the practical advantages of learning a second language are erased.” Since no one speaks Latin anymore in other countries or cultures, it is not easier to communicate with people from other cultures if you know Latin. This means that these advantages of learning a second language would not apply to someone who chooses to study Latin. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

5) D

Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

To answer this detail question correctly, we need to find where the author discusses Latin in the passage. A good way to do this is to scan the topic sentence of each paragraph, since this sentence will likely tell us what information can be found in the rest of that paragraph. The topic sentence of paragraph 2 reads: “Some people choose to learn Latin, which is a dead language.” This lets us know that the details we are looking for can likely be found in paragraph 2.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Some argue that Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin.” This tells us that Latin can be helpful for English speakers because it is a way to help build their vocabulary. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

Although in paragraph 2 we learn that Latin is “the basis for all of the modern Romance languages,” this does not make Latin helpful for English speakers. This means **(A)** is incorrect.

In paragraph 1, the author says that one advantage of knowing a second language is that it is a way to “conduct international business,” but this is not true of Latin, because it is “a language that no one speaks anymore.” This eliminates **(B)**.

In paragraph 2, we learn that “schools in many different countries offer courses in Latin.” However, this does not make Latin helpful for English speakers. This makes **(C)** incorrect.

6) B

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

derived (*adjective*): received or obtained from a source or origin; originated.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Some argue that Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin.” This tells us that the reason Latin helps English speakers build their vocabulary is because many English words come from Latin. This means that something that is *derived* must *come from something else*, in the way that many English words come from Latin. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

Although we can understand from the passage that Latin came before English, it is English words that are derived, not the language of Latin. This means that something that is derived does not necessarily have to *come before something else*. This eliminates **(A)**.

The passage does not suggest that many English words are exactly the same as Latin words. It only suggests that many English words come from Latin. This means that something derived is not necessarily *the same as something else*. This makes **(C)** incorrect.

Although the author tells us that Latin is a dead language and “has not been spoken for over a thousand years,” this does not mean that English replaced Latin. This tells us that something that is derived does not necessarily *replace something else*. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

7) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 1, the author identifies advantages of studying a second language, such as: “Knowing two languages makes it easier to travel to foreign countries, communicate with people from other cultures, and conduct international business.” He or she also writes, “Even if you do not learn to speak another language fluently, studying a language is a useful academic exercise....” Then, in paragraph 2, the author explains that “some people choose to learn Latin, which is a dead language.”

The author gives two advantages of studying Latin: that “Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin” and that “Latin is also the basis for all of the modern Romance languages, including Italian and Spanish.” But the author ultimately argues that “if you choose to study a language that no one speaks anymore, many of the practical advantages of learning a second language are erased,” so “you should think carefully about which language you choose to learn.” The author explains why he or she believes that Latin, a dead language, does not have as many advantages as spoken languages. This tells us that the main purpose of this passage is to explain that although learning Latin has advantages it is a less useful choice.

Therefore **(B)** is correct.

In paragraph 1, the author lists the advantages of learning a second language. But in paragraph 2, the author focuses specifically on Latin and explains why it is not the most useful language to study. Although the author implies there are disadvantages of studying Latin, he or she does not discuss any disadvantages of learning a second language in general. This means that the main purpose is not to educate the reader about the advantages and disadvantages of learning a second language.

This makes **(A)** incorrect.

In paragraph 2, the author gives two reasons why some people think learning Latin is a good idea. He or she writes, “Some argue that Latin can help English speakers build their vocabulary, since many English words are derived from Latin. Latin is also the basis for all of the modern Romance languages, including Italian and Spanish.” But the rest of the passage suggests that Latin is less useful as a second language than other languages. This means that the main purpose is not to highlight the reasons why some people think learning Latin is a good idea. This makes **(C)** incorrect.

In paragraph 2, the author writes that “schools in many different countries offer courses in Latin.” However, although the author suggests that Latin is less useful than other languages, he or she does not argue against the continuation of teaching Latin in schools around the world. This means this is not the main purpose of this passage.

This eliminates **(D)**.