SAT READING & WRITING SECTION

Command of Evidence : Quantitative

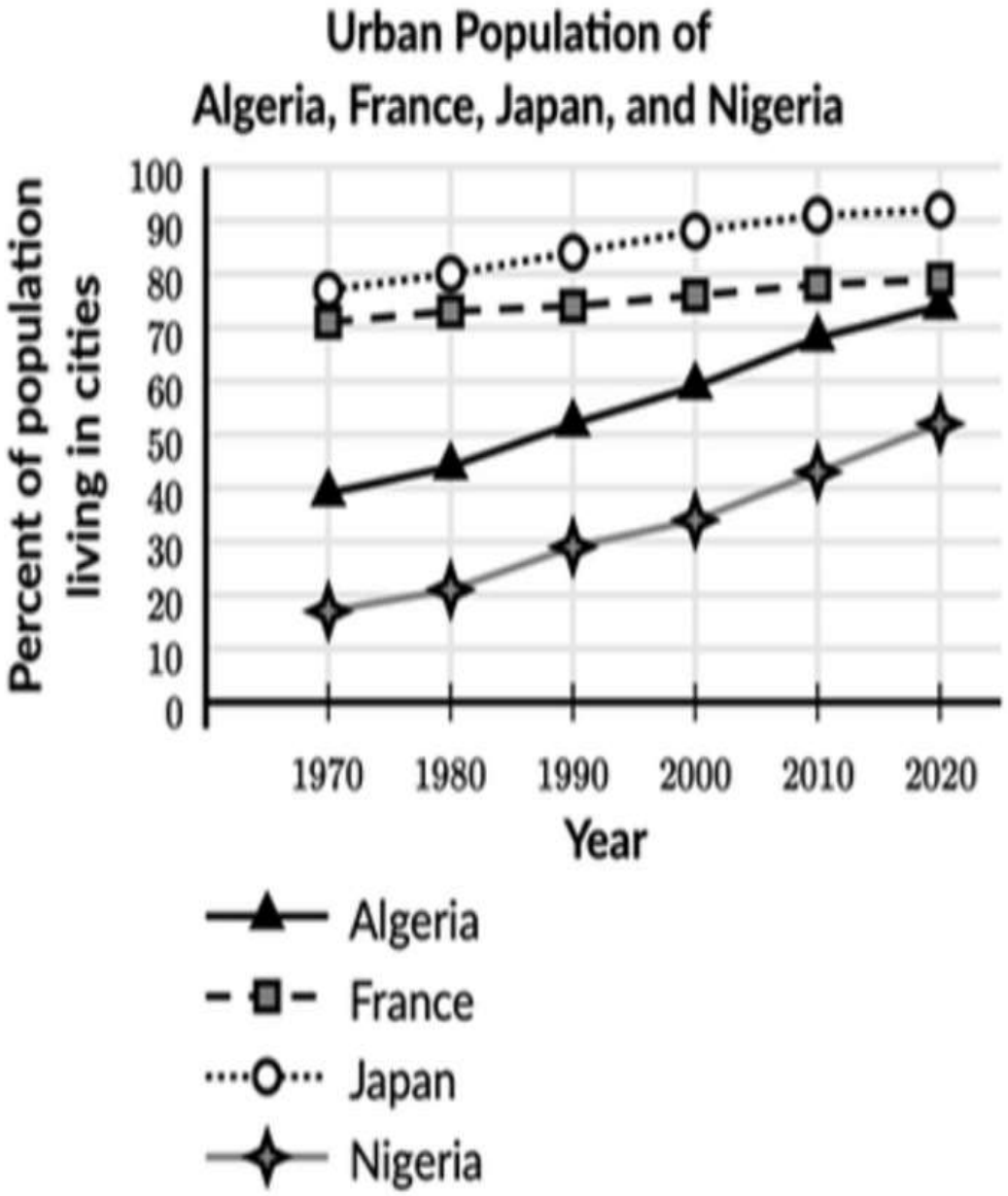
WALKTHROUGH OF THE SESSION

- What are “quantitative evidence ”questions?
- How should we think about quantitative evidence questions?
- How to approach quantitatives evidence questions?
- Tips & useful strategies

What are “Quantitative Evidence ”Questions?

On the Reading and Writing section of your SAT, some questions will provide you with a graph or table that presents information about an unfamiliar topic. The question will then offer some context for that information and ask you to complete a sentence by effectively using data from the graph or table.

Quantitative evidence questions will look like this:



The share of the world's population living in cities has increased dramatically since siht tub ,1970 ecnarF .mrofinu neeb ton sah egnahc ydaerla erew ,elpmaxe rof ,napaJ dna 70% htiw ,1970 ni dezinabru ylivaeh or more of the population living in cities. The main contributors to the world's urbanization since 1970 have been countries like Algeria.

SCULA

Question:

Which choice most effectively uses data from the graph to complete the assertion?

A. less than 20% urban in 1970 to more than 50% urban in .2020
B. less than 40% urban in 1970 to around 90% urban in .2020
C. around 40% urban in 1970 to more than 70% urban in .2020
D. around 50% urban in 1970 to around 90% urban in .2020

Answer:

This graph contains a lot of information, as does the paragraph. Let's simplify things by focusing on just the sentence we've been asked to complete:

The main contributors to the world's urbanization since 1970 have been countries like Algeria, whose population went from

So while the graph offers information about several countries, we only need to find data about Algeria.

Answer:

A quick glance at the choices shows that we're looking to compare the data for Algeria in two years: 1970 and .2020
The key to the graph shows us that Algeria's data is marked by a triangle and solid line. According to the graph:

- Algeria's urban population in 1970 looks to be around 40%
- Algeria's urban population in 2020 looks to be around 75%

Only choice C accurately reflects this data. **Choice C is the answer.**

How Should we Think About “Quantatitative Evidence “Questions?

Understanding the Argument

Every quantitative evidence question will provide more information than we need. One of the keys to successfully answering these questions is *knowing what data to look for* eht dnif dna sliated artxe eht lla yb detcartsid gnieb diova nac ew os , .ylkciuq erom rewsna

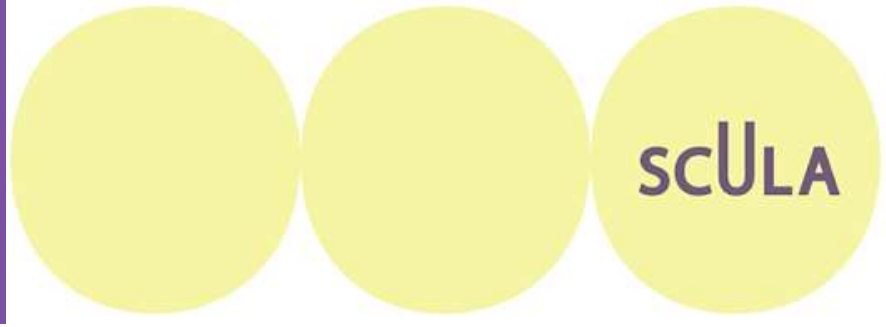
The way to do this is by carefully reading the prompt text. This paragraph will provide the context we need to understand the data in the graph or table. This paragraph will also **outline the argument that our quantitative evidence must support.**

This argument is the most important part of the question. Whichever data we use to complete the sentence must provide evidence in support of that argument. In other words: it tells us what to look for.

Reading The Data

The data provided in a quantitative evidence question can be presented in a variety of forms. The question might include a bar graph, a line graph, a table, or any number of other formats that can be used to visually represent data. Luckily, you've almost certainly encountered all of these types of data visualizations in your math and science courses. You can rely on this experience to help you accurately read graphs and tables on test day.

Remember, though: naht atad erom edulcni lliw selbat dna shparg taht dnuora daer dna hguorht tfis ot uoy eriuqer lliw hcihw ,deen uoy htrof dna kcab gnikool ro ,ylkciuq gnikrow er'uoy fI .noitamrofni artxe elbuoD .tfird ylisae nac seye ruoy ,hparg eht dna noitseuq eht neewteb .atad thgir eht ta dna ecalp thgir eht ni gnikool er'uoy taht kcehc



Evaluating Choices

Quantitative evidence questions will offer two different types of incorrect choices alongside the correct answer.

1. **False statements***

These choices are false according to the information in the graph or table. They misread or misrepresent data.

2. **True statements**

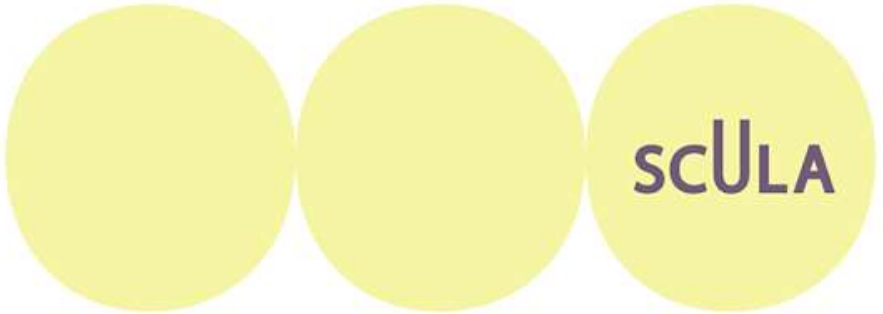
These choices are true according to the information in the graph or table. They accurately represent data, but they *fail to provide direct evidence for the argument being made*.

False statements are easy to eliminate. You can simply compare the claim in the choice to the data in the graph. If those things disagree, **you can eliminate that choice.**

True statements, however, are trickier to handle. Instead of deciding if they're true or false, you'll need to decide if they support the argument made in the paragraph. This is why the first challenge of "understanding the argument" is so important.

**Note: If a question includes false statements among the choices, then all incorrect choices for that question will be false.*

How to Approach Textual Evidence Questions?



Step 1: *Skim the graph*	Step 2 :*Read the paragraph*	Step 3: *Validate the choices*	Step 4: *Find the best evidence*
You don't need to dig into the graph or table yet, as you don't know what data to look for. However, it can still be useful to familiarize yourself with what the graph or table contains. You can read the title, the labels, the units, and the key. Those should give you a good idea of what the graph contains without taking up too much of your time.	The text should be your main focus. **It will tell you what data to look for.** Sometimes, like in our example question, the text will explicitly direct you to a specific piece of information: a certain time, place, or set of conditions that can be pinpointed within the graph or table. In these cases, you can simply identify the correct information in the graph or table and/or test the choices against the provided data.	As we identified earlier, quantitative evidence choices can contain both **true statements** dna **false statements**. Read the choices and check them against the information in the graph. Are the choices true or false? • If they're false, **eliminate the false choices.** • If they're true, **proceed to step .4**	Once you've validated the choices, you should have eliminated any statements that are false according to the graph or table. This leaves you with choices that are true, but that *may not provide effective evidence for the argument in the text* ruoy ekaT . ti tset dna tnemugra eht fo yrammus ylnO .eciohc gniniamer hcae tsniaga troppus tcerid edivorp lliw eciohc eno .tnemugra taht rof**You can select this choice with confidence.**

Top Tips!

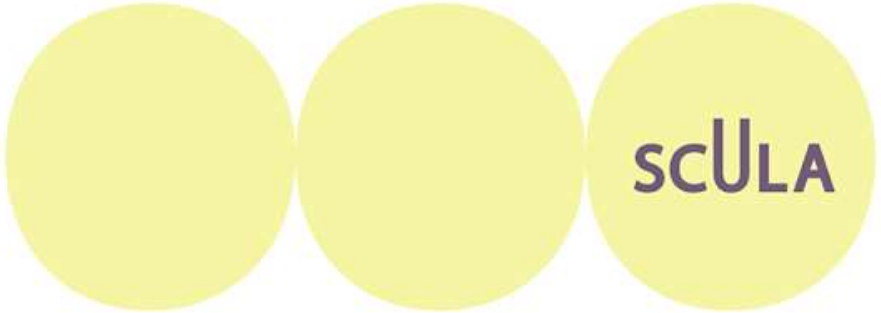
Use Your Finger/Cursor

When you're looking at a graph or table that contains multiple data points, your eyes can easily drift.
Placing your finger or your cursor directly on the information you're looking for can help you avoid silly mistakes due to looking in the wrong place.

Top Tips!

Check if the Choices are True or False

Usually, when one incorrect choice makes a false statement, all the incorrect choices for that question will make false statements. And when one incorrect choice is true, all the incorrect choices will be true. Determining this early can be helpful, as it changes the nature of your task. If the choices are false, you can easily eliminate your way to the correct answer. If the choices are true, you'll need to think more deeply about the argument being made.



THANK YOU!

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?