THE CADUCEUS

The Official Newsletter of the Texas A&M Pre-Medical Society

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Visit our website for more information: *aggiepremed.com*

Sign-In Qr

TONIGHT'S MEETING

●Welcome to the Texas A&M Pre-Medical Society's ***FINAL*** general meeting of the **year**!! At tonight's meeting, the current officers will be giving updates regarding their positions and we will hear speeches from the 2023-2024 officer candidates!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Officer Interviews:** Sign-ups have been sent out. Schedule yours ASAP!
- **Med School Tour:** Our Top 20 members have been contacted with tour information! This semester we will be touring UTMB!!
- In order to officially become a member (and earn points), you **MUST** fill out the **membership form** (at bottom of page) and **pay dues**! Dues can be paid by cash, check, or online payment.
- Members who reach 25 points will receive a free decal sticker, and those who reach 50 points will receive a NEW t-shirt! Get with our Membership Director to redeem yours.
- **VOLUNTEERING:** You **must be a member** to volunteer. Plenty of new opportunities available (thank you Raf!). *Sign up to volunteer on our website*!
- Peer Mentorship: The committee has put together a fluid google doc comprised of many great resources! If you feel like you have something of value to add or have a question, go ahead and include it. Regard to my previous email regarding your semester OPSA requirement.

POINT OPPORTUNITIES

Pre-Med Meeting Attendance	**3 points**
Social Event Attendance	**3 points**
ECHO Meeting Attendance	**2 points**
Intramural Game Attendance	**2 points**
One Hour Of Volunteering	**1 point**
Wearing Pre-Med Shirt at Meeting	**1 point**

MEMBERSHIP

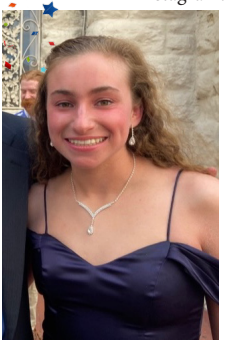
Exemplary	100 Points
Distinguished	75 Points
Honored	50 Points
Member	<50 Points

**The points system is used to determine our members' participation within the society. The various echelons of awarded membership allow one to truly benefit from all the society has to offer and to capitalize on this involvement during the medical school application process.

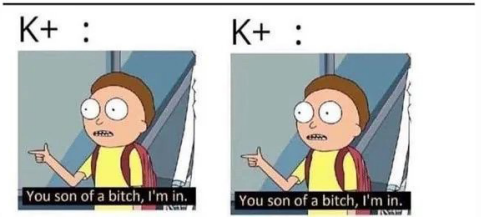
Membership Form QR

Member Spotlight:

Be an active member to be featured on The Cad & our Instagram!!



¡¡Congratulations to our Member of the Week, ***Angela Lubrano*** Thank you for being an active member!!



Practice MCAT Question

A team of researchers at a pharmaceutical company tests a new cancer drug. The researchers have concluded that the drug is effective, but other scientists CANNOT replicate the findings. Which is the most likely explanation for the lack of replicability of the original results?

A. Base rate fallacy
B. Hindsight bias
C. Observer bias
D. Public verifiability

Answer at the bottom of the last page

DUES AND MERCHANDISE	
Membership Dues Per **Year**	**$60**
Membership Dues Per **Semester**	**$45**
Fleece	**$55**
New T-Shirts	**$15**
Old T-Shirts	**$5**
Decal Stickers	**1- $3** **2 - $5**
** Dues Include A New T-Shirt **	

UPCOMING OPSA WORKSHOPS

PSA Money Talks:
- Friday, May 5, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Professional Communication 101
- Wednesday, May 3, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

For more information, questions, and/or concerns:
Professional School Advising (PSA)
979.847.8938
or visit https://careercenter.tamu.edu/Resources/Professional-School-Advising/PSA-Workshops

April

**NOTE: Volunteering opportunities are meant for members to attend as they please. Check your volunteering requirements (i.e. application, orientation, vaccines, dress code, etc.)!

**Visit *aggiepremed.com* for our Google Calendar!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19.	Boys & Girls Club 3-7 pm 20.	ECHO Meeting 7-8 pm B&G Club 3-7 pm 21.	B&G Club 3-7 pm Phoebe's Home 5-6:30 pm 22.	B&G Club 3-7 pm 23.	B&G Club 3-6 pm 24.	1.
2.	Boys & Girls Club 3-7 pm 3.	**Pre-Med Meeting 7-8 pm** B&G Club 3-7 pm 4.	B&G Club 3-7 pm Phoebe's Home 5-6:30 pm 5.	B&G Club 3-7 pm 6.	B&G Club 3-6 pm 7.	8.
9.	Boys & Girls Club 3-7 pm **Suture Clinic 6-7pm** 10.	ECHO Meeting 7-8 pm B&G Club 3-7 pm 11.	B&G Club 3-7 pm Phoebe's Home 5-6:30 pm 12.	B&G Club 3-7 pm 13.	B&G Club 3-6 pm 14.	15.
Officer Applications Due @ 11:59 pm 16.	Boys & Girls Club 3-7 pm 17.	**Pre-Med Meeting 7-8 pm** B&G Club 3-7 pm 18.	B&G Club 3-7 pm Phoebe's Home 5-6:30 pm 19.	B&G Club 3-7 pm 20.	B&G Club 3-6 pm **Med School Tour** 21.	**Med School Tour** 22.
Kickball Tournament 23.	Boys & Girls Club 3-7 pm 24.	ECHO Meeting 7-8 pm B&G Club 3-7 pm 25.	B&G Club 3-7 pm Phoebe's Home 5-6:30 pm 26.	B&G Club 3-7 pm 27.	B&G Club 3-6 pm 28.	**Pre-Med Banquet** 29.
30.	Boys & Girls Club 3-7 pm 1.	B&G Club 3-7 pm 2.	B&G Club 3-7 pm Phoebe's Home 5-6:30 pm 3.	B&G Club 3-7 pm 4.	B&G Club 3-6 pm 5.	6.

PRACTICE CARS MCAT PASSAGE

The origin of the impressive and enigmatic mounds of raised earth found in the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys has been the source of much conjecture. The long-popular idea that the mounds were the work of a vanished culture was convincingly refuted by the end of the nineteenth century by naturalist Cyrus Thomas, who proved not only that the mounds had been raised by early Native Americans, but also that mound building had continued in some areas up to the time of the arrival of the Europeans.

Archaeologists remained reluctant, however, to postulate a strictly Native American origin for mound building. Instead, diffusion of the practice from some area where it was already well established seemed to be the best way to explain its apparently sudden and relatively late appearance in the eastern Woodlands of the United States. A few archaeologists suggested that mound building had diffused, along with cord-marked pottery found in the Woodlands, across the Bering Strait from Asia, but they had to admit that the absence of both traits in the intervening regions was problematic. According to another theory, mound building had been brought across the Atlantic from Scandinavia.

But the most widely accepted diffusionist theory attributed the mounds to influences from further south, from the area that is now Mexico, exerted either by transmission of ideas or by an actual immigration of colonists. The great size of some mounds implied the existence of a large labor force with enough leisure time to devote to construction projects. The work of specialist craftspeople, freed from subsistence tasks, seemed to be manifest in the fine quality of artifacts found in the mounds. Leisure time and craft specialization were inconceivable except as by-products of agriculture, and so archaeologists assumed that the mound builders were farmers who grew maize, beans, and squash. These staple crops were, of course, of Mexican origin. One could construct a neat diffusionary model, based on this evidence: Mexican emigrants brought their staple crops, pottery making, and mound building into the Woodlands, and imposed themselves upon the local inhabitants as a privileged elite.

The credibility of the Mexican hypothesis was weakened, however, as archaeologists realized that the Ohio mounds were older than those found in the Mississippi Valley; one would have expected the age of sites to decrease, rather than increase, as one moved north and east, away from the supposed Mexican homeland. Furthermore, archaeological expeditions to the northeastern corner of Mexico failed to produce evidence of any ancestral mound-building culture. In addition, as village sites in Ohio were excavated, it became clear that the early mound builders had grown little, if any, maize.

The faltering case for a Mexican connection received a much-needed boost when radiocarbon tests dated the mounds of Louisiana's Poverty Point culture as early as 1200 BC, making them seven hundred years older than those in Ohio. The southerly location of Poverty Point, near the mouth of the Mississippi and not far from the Gulf coast, made it a plausible first stop for hypothetical Mexican culture bearers. However, pottery that was found at Poverty Point did not derive from Mexico, and maize was conspicuously absent. While squash might have been grown there, its presence at Poverty Point does not indicate a close relationship to Mexico because squash had diffused throughout the southeastern Woodlands regions as early as 2000 BC.

1) The author assumes that the diffusion of squash throughout the Woodlands region:

A.occurred alongside the diffusion of pottery.

B.is evidence of its hardiness.

C.was not due to Mexican influence.

D.explains why maize was not discovered at Poverty Point.

2) Which of the following of the archaeologists' assumptions described in paragraph 3 is NOT supported by evidence or reasoning in the passage?

A.The mound builders had a large labor force.

B.The mound builders had ample leisure time.

C.The mound builders grew maize, beans, and squash.

D.The mound builders included specialized craftspeople.

3) Which of the following aspects of the mounds described in the passage best explains archaeologists' reluctance to postulate a strictly Native American origin?

A.Their apparently sudden appearance

B.Their relatively early appearance

C.Their size

D.Their purpose

4) If cord-marked Woodland pottery were found in areas between the Bering Strait and the eastern Woodlands, this would support the notion that mound building diffused from:

A.Europe.

B.Asia.

C.Scandinavia.

D.Mexico.

5) Which of the following findings would most weaken the Mexican hypothesis as presented in the passage?

A.An abundance of leisure time is not correlated with an abundance of fine-quality artifacts.

B.Pottery from ancient Mexico is stylistically similar to Native American pottery found in the Woodlands.

C.There is evidence that emigration took place about 1200 BC from the area that is now Mexico to western areas of the U.S.

D.Leisure time tends to decrease when a people switches to farming from hunting and gathering.

Answer at the bottom of the last page.

Volunteering GroupMe

22-23 IM Group Me

PRACTICE MCAT QUESTION SOLUTION:

The solution is C.

a) The base rate fallacy refers to the error people make when they ignore the base rates (i.e., prior probabilities) when evaluating the probabilities (or frequencies) of events.
b) The hindsight bias (i.e., the "I knew it all along" effect) refers to the tendency for a person to overestimate how well he or she could have successfully predicted a known outcome (i.e., a "forecast," given before the outcome was known).
c) Any bias on the part of the observers recording the data could have contaminated the original results. In this case, it is possible that proper precautions (for example, ensuring that observers were "blind" with respect to which patients received the drug and which patients received the placebo) were not taken.

d) Public verifiability is the reason other scientists are attempting to replicate the original findings.

PRACTICE CARS MCAT PASSAGE SOLUTIONS:

1) The solution is C.

a) The author writes that "One could construct a neat diffusionary model…. Mexican emigrants brought their staple crops [including squash], pottery making, and mound building into the Woodlands" (paragraph 3). However, the author does not endorse this model. In the final paragraph of the passage, the author notes explicitly that the pottery found at Poverty Point (in the southern Woodlands region) "did not derive from Mexico," while acknowledging that "squash might have been grown there." The author, then, does not suggest that the diffusion of squash accompanied the diffusion of pottery.
b) There is no discussion in the passage of the "hardiness" of particular crops, or of hardiness explaining the presence of particular crops in the Woodlands region.
c) The author writes that "While squash might have been grown [in Louisiana's Poverty Point region], its presence at Poverty Point does not indicates a close relationship to Mexico because squash had diffused throughout the southeastern Woodlands region as early as 2000 BC" (final paragraph).
d) The author does not suggest that the "conspicuous absence" of maize at Poverty Point was due to the possible concurrent presence of squash there.

2) The solution is C.

a) The author provides some support for this claim: "The great size of some of the mounds implied the existence of a large labor force…" (paragraph 3).
b) The author supports this claim with some reasoning: "The great size of some of the mounds implied the existence of a large labor force with enough leisure time to devote to construction projects" (paragraph 3).
c) The author provides reasoning for the assumption that the mound builders were farmers but does not provide reasoning or support for the assumption that they were "farmers who grew maize, beans, and squash" (paragraph 3).
d) The author offers some reasoning to support this claim: "The work of specialist craftspeople, freed from subsistence tasks, seemed to be manifest in the fine quality of artifacts found in the mounds" (paragraph 3).

3) The solution is A.

a) "Archaeologists remained reluctant…to postulate a strictly Native American origin for mound building. Instead, diffusion of the practice from some area where it was already well established seemed to be the best way to explain its apparently sudden and relatively late appearance in the eastern Woodlands of the U.S." (paragraph 2).
b) To the contrary, the author suggests that it was the "relatively late appearance" of mound building (not its early appearance) that contributed to the diffusionist hypothesis.
c) The size of the mounds led to speculation about the size and nature of the labor force involved in their construction, but the author does not mention the size of the mounds as an aspect of the reluctance of archaeologists to see the mounds as of strictly Native American origin.
d) The purpose of the mounds is not discussed; the author calls them "enigmatic" mounds. In any case, their purpose is not given as a reason that archaeologists were reluctant to posit a strictly Native American origin for the mounds.

4) The solution is B.

a) The presence of cord-marked pottery in areas between the Bering Strait and the Eastern Woodlands is interpreted by the author as a potential sign of mound building having diffused from Asia, not from Europe.
b) The author writes that, "A few archaeologists suggested that mound building had diffused, along with cord-marked pottery found in the Woodlands, across the Bering Strait from Asia, but they had to admit that the absence of both traits in the intervening regions was problematic" (paragraph 2). If, however, cord-marked Woodland pottery were found precisely in the intervening regions (between the Bering Strait and the Eastern Woodlands), this would presumably remedy that "problematic" lack of evidence and offer support for the theory that the mound-building had also diffused from Asia.
c) The author mentions "another theory" that the mounds might have "been brought across the Atlantic from Scandinavia" (paragraph 2), but the presence of the pottery in the areas referred to in the question stem is not discussed in relation to that claim.
d) The presence of the pottery between the Bering Strait and the Eastern Woodlands is discussed as evidence that the mound-building might have diffused from Asia, not from the southern route of Mexico.

5) The solution is D.

a) The absence of this correlation would merely challenge the assumption that the presence of such artifacts implies leisure time (the passage indicates that specialized craftspeople were "freed from subsistence tasks" (paragraph 3). That the presence of large mounds implies leisure time, and therefore agriculture—a crucial building block in the "Mexican hypothesis"—would still stand.
b) Stylistic similarities between Mexican pottery and Native American pottery does not affect the Mexican hypothesis in one way or another. While such similarities might be interpreted as support for a Mexican influence on Native American culture (and thus could support the Mexican hypothesis), it is also possible that Native American pottery styles could have influenced Mexican styles.
c) There is no discussion in the passage of mound-building in the western areas of the U.S., so such evidence is irrelevant. One might speculate that people who emigrated to western areas of the U.S. might then have moved to the eastern areas, but that would support—rather than weaken—the Mexican hypothesis.
d) The Mexican hypothesis rests on a series of assumptions about the conditions that would have enabled the construction of the large mounds found in the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys. The author writes that "The great size of some mounds implied the existence of a large labor force with enough leisure time to devote to construction projects. The work of specialist craftspeople, freed from subsistence tasks, seemed to be manifest in the fine quality of the artifacts found in the mounds. Leisure time and craft specialization were inconceivable except as by-products of agriculture, and so archaeologists assumed that the mound builders were farmers who grew maize, beans, and squash. These staple crops were, of course, of Mexican origin" (paragraph 3). If, however, leisure time decreases with the advent of agriculture, then it would no longer follow that Mexican farmers were likely to have had the time to devote to the building of the mounds, which would of course weaken the hypothesis.