QUESTION 42.

Choice D is the best answer. Sentence 4 is most logically placed after sentence 7 because sentence 7 implies that the words used in the survey were used synonymously, even though the words convey different levels of reaction. Sentence 4 supports this idea with further explanation.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because it would be illogical and confusing to place sentence 4 after sentence 2, 3, or 5.

QUESTION 43.

Choice C is the best answer. The pronoun "some" is used correctly as the subject of the independent clause. The comma after "some" is needed to set off the nonrestrictive clause ("influenced by the sensationalized news coverage afterward") that follows it.

Choice A is incorrect because without a comma, the resulting restrictive clause changes the meaning of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because the pronoun "they" introduces an independent clause and provides another, unnecessary subject for the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because a comma is needed to set off the nonrestrictive clause.

QUESTION 44.

Choice A is the best answer. "Not unlike," which means the same as "like," most effectively signals the similarity between the two groups mentioned by the researchers.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect because they all indicate difference instead of similarity.

Section 3: Math Test — No Calculator

QUESTION 1.

Choice C is correct. Maria spends x minutes running each day and y minutes biking each day. Therefore, $x + y$ represents the total number of minutes Maria spent running and biking each day. Because $x + y = 75$, it follows that 75 is the total number of minutes that Maria spent running and biking each day.

Choices A and B are incorrect. The problem states that Maria spends time in both activities each day, therefore x and y must be positive. If 75 represents the number of minutes Maria spent running each day, then Maria spent no minutes biking each day. Similarly, if 75 represents the number of minutes Maria spent biking each day, then Maria spent no minutes running each day. The number of minutes Maria spends running each day and biking each day may vary; however, the total number of minutes she spends each day on these activities is constant and equal to 75. Choice D is incorrect. The number of minutes Maria spent biking for each minute spent running cannot be determined from the information provided.

QUESTION 2.

Choice C is correct. Using the distributive property to multiply 3 and $(x + 5)$ gives $3x + 15 - 6$, which can be rewritten as $3x + 9$.

Choice A is incorrect and may result from rewriting the given expression as $3(x + 5 - 6)$. Choice B is incorrect and may result from incorrectly rewriting the expression as $(3x + 5) - 6$. Choice D is incorrect and may result from incorrectly rewriting the expression as $3(5x) - 6$.

Alternatively, evaluating the given expression and each answer choice for the same value of x, for example $x = 0$, will reveal which of the expressions is equivalent to the given expression.

QUESTION 3.

Choice B is correct. The first equation can be rewritten as $y - x = 3$ and the second as $\frac{x}{4} + y = 3$, which implies that $-x = \frac{x}{4}$, and so $x = 0$. The ordered pair $(0, 3)$ satisfies the first equation and also the second, since $0 + 2(3) = 6$ is a true equality.

Alternatively, the first equation can be rewritten as $y = x + 3$. Substituting $x + 3$ for y in the second equation gives $\frac{x}{2} + 2(x + 3) = 6$. This can be rewritten using the distributive property as $\frac{x}{2} + 2x + 6 = 6$. It follows that $2x + \frac{x}{2}$ must be 0. Thus, $x = 0$. Substituting 0 for x in the equation $y = x + 3$ gives $y = 3$. Therefore, the ordered pair $(0, 3)$ is the solution to the system of equations shown.

Choice A is incorrect; it satisfies the first equation but not the second. Choices C and D are incorrect because neither satisfies the first equation, $x = y - 3$.

QUESTION 4.

Choice D is correct. Applying the distributive property, the original expression is equivalent to $5 + 12i - 9i^2 + 6i$. Since $i = \sqrt{-1}$, it follows that $i^2 = -1$. Substituting -1 for i^2 into the expression and simplifying yields $5 + 12i + 9 + 6i$, which is equal to $14 + 18i$.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect and may result from substituting 1 for i^2 or errors made when rewriting the given expression.

QUESTION 5.

Choice A is correct. Substituting -1 for x in the equation that defines f gives $f(-1) = \frac{(-1)^2 - 6(-1) + 3}{(-1) - 1}$. Simplifying the expressions in the numerator and denominator yields $\frac{1 + 6 + 3}{-2}$, which is equal to $\frac{10}{-2}$ or -5.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect and may result from misapplying the order of operations when substituting -1 for x.

QUESTION 6.

Choice C is correct. The value of the camera equipment depreciates from its original purchase value at a constant rate for 12 years. So if x is the amount, in dollars, by which the value of the equipment depreciates each year, the value of the camera equipment, in dollars, t years after it is purchased would be $32{,}400 - xt$. Since the value of the camera equipment after 12 years is \$0, it follows that $32{,}400 - 12x = 0$. To solve for x, rewrite the equation as $32{,}400 = 12x$. Dividing both sides of the equation by 12 gives $x = 2{,}700$. It follows that the value of the camera equipment depreciates by \$2,700 each year. Therefore, the value of the equipment after 4 years, represented by the expression $32{,}400 - 2{,}700(4)$, is \$21,600.

Choice A is incorrect. The value given in choice A is equivalent to $\$2{,}700 \times 4$. This is the amount, in dollars, by which the value of the camera equipment depreciates 4 years after it is purchased, not the dollar value of the camera equipment 4 years after it is purchased. Choice B is incorrect. The value given in choice B is equal to $\$2{,}700 \times 6$, which is the amount, in dollars, by which the value of the camera equipment depreciates 6 years after it is purchased, not the dollar value of the camera equipment 4 years after it is purchased. Choice D is incorrect. The value given in choice D is equal to $\$32{,}400 - \$2{,}700$. This is the dollar value of the camera equipment 1 year after it is purchased.

QUESTION 7.

Choice B is correct. Each of the options is a quadratic expression in vertex form. To rewrite the given expression in this form, the number 9 needs to be added to the first two terms, because $x^2 + 6x + 9$ is equivalent to $(x + 3)^2$. Rewriting the number 4 as $9 - 5$ in the given expression yields $x^2 + 6x + 9 - 5$, which is equivalent to $(x + 3)^2 - 5$.

Choice A is incorrect. Squaring the binomial and simplifying the expression in option A gives $x^2 + 6x + 9 + 5$. Combining like terms gives $x^2 + 6x + 14$, not $x^2 + 6x + 4$. Choice C is incorrect. Squaring the binomial and simplifying the expression in choice C gives $x^2 - 6x + 9 + 5$. Combining like terms gives $x^2 - 6x + 14$, not $x^2 + 6x + 4$. Choice D is incorrect. Squaring the binomial and simplifying, the expression in choice D gives $x^2 - 6x + 9 - 5$. Combining like terms gives $x^2 - 6x + 4$, not $x^2 + 6x + 4$.

QUESTION 8.

Choice C is correct. Ken earned \$8 per hour for the first 10 hours he worked, so he earned a total of \$80 for the first 10 hours he worked. For the rest of the week, Ken was paid at the rate of \$10 per hour. Let x be the number of hours he will work for the rest of the week. The total of Ken's earnings, in dollars, for the week will be $10x + 80$. He saves

90% of his earnings each week, so this week he will save $0.9(10x + 80)$ dollars. The inequality $0.9(10x + 80) \geq 270$ represents the condition that he will save at least $270 for the week. Factoring 10 out of the expression $10x + 80$ gives $10(x + 8)$. The product of 10 and 0.9 is 9, so the inequality can be rewritten as $9(x + 8) \geq 270$. Dividing both sides of this inequality by 9 yields $x + 8 \geq 30$, so $x \geq 22$. Therefore, the least number of hours Ken must work the rest of the week to save at least $270 for the week is 22.

Choices A and B are incorrect because Ken can save $270 by working fewer hours than 38 or 33 for the rest of the week. Choice D is incorrect. If Ken worked 16 hours for the rest of the week, his total earnings for the week will be $80 + $160 = $240, which is less than $270. Since he saves only 90% of his earnings each week, he would save even less than $240 for the week.

QUESTION 9.

Choice B is correct. Marisa will hire x junior directors and y senior directors. Since she needs to hire at least 10 staff members, $x + y \geq 10$. Each junior director will be paid $640 per week, and each senior director will be paid $880 per week. Marisa's budget for paying the new staff is no more than $9,700 per week; in terms of x and y, this condition is $640x + 880y \leq 9{,}700$. Since Marisa must hire at least 3 junior directors and at least 1 senior director, it follows that $x \geq 3$ and $y \geq 1$. All four of these conditions are represented correctly in choice B.

Choices A and C are incorrect. For example, the first condition, $640x + 880y \geq 9{,}700$, in each of these options implies that Marisa can pay the new staff members more than her budget of $9,700. Choice D is incorrect because Marisa needs to hire at least 10 staff members, not at most 10 staff members, as the inequality $x + y \leq 10$ implies.

QUESTION 10.

Choice B is correct. In general, a binomial of the form $x + f$, where f is a constant, is a factor of a polynomial when the remainder of dividing the polynomial by $x + f$ is 0. Let R be the remainder resulting from the division of the polynomial $P(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$ by $x + 1$. So the polynomial $P(x)$ can be rewritten as $P(x) = (x + 1)q(x) + R$, where $q(x)$ is a polynomial of second degree and R is a constant. Since -1 is a root of the equation $P(x) = 0$, it follows that $P(-1) = 0$.

Since $P(-1) = 0$ and $P(-1) = R$, it follows that $R = 0$. This means that $x + 1$ is a factor of $P(x)$.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect because none of these choices can be a factor of the polynomial $P(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$. For example, if $x - 1$ were a factor (choice A), then $P(x) = (x - 1)h(x)$, for some polynomial function h. It follows that $P(1) = (1 - 1)h(1) = 0$, so 1 would be another root of the given equation, and thus the given equation would have at least 4 roots. However, a third-degree equation cannot have more than three roots. Therefore, $x - 1$ cannot be a factor of $P(x)$.

QUESTION 11.

Choice D is correct. For $x > 1$ and $y > 1$, $x^{\frac{1}{3}}$ and $y^{\frac{1}{2}}$ are equivalent to $\sqrt[3]{x}$ and $\sqrt{y}$, respectively. Also, x^{-2} and y^{-1} are equivalent to $\frac{1}{x^2}$ and $\frac{1}{y}$, respectively. Using these equivalences, the given expression can be rewritten as $\frac{y\sqrt{y}}{x^2\sqrt[3]{x}}$.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because these choices are not equivalent to the given expression for $x > 1$ and $y > 1$.

For example, for $x = 2$ and $y = 2$, the value of the given expression is $2^{-\frac{5}{6}}$; the values of the choices, however, are $2^{-\frac{1}{3}}$, $2^{\frac{5}{6}}$, and 1, respectively.

QUESTION 12.

Choice B is correct. The graph of a quadratic function in the xy-plane is a parabola. The axis of symmetry of the parabola passes through the vertex of the parabola. Therefore, the vertex of the parabola and the midpoint of the segment between the two x-intercepts of the graph have the same x-coordinate. Since $f(-3) = f(-1) = 0$, the x-coordinate of the vertex is $\frac{(-3) + (-1)}{2} = -2$. Of the shown intervals, only the interval in choice B contains -2.

Choices A, C, and D are incorrect and may result from either calculation errors or misidentification of the graph's x-intercepts.

QUESTION 13.

Choice D is correct. The numerator of the given expression can be rewritten in terms of the denominator, $x - 3$, as follows: $x^2 - 2x - 5 = x^2 - 3x + x - 3 - 2$, which is equivalent to $x(x - 3) + (x - 3) - 2$. So the given expression is equivalent to $\frac{x(x-3) + (x-3) - 2}{x - 3} = \frac{x(x-3)}{x-3} + \frac{x-3}{x-3} - \frac{2}{x-3}$. Since the given expression is defined for $x \neq 3$, the expression can be rewritten as $x + 1 - \frac{2}{x-3}$.

Long division can also be used as an alternate approach.

Choices A, B, and C are incorrect and may result from errors made when dividing the two polynomials or making use of structure.

QUESTION 14.

Choice A is correct. If x is the width, in inches, of the box, then the length of the box is $2.5x$ inches. It follows that the perimeter of the base is $2(2.5x + x)$, or $7x$ inches. The height of the box is given to be 60 inches. According to the restriction, the sum of the perimeter of the base and the height of the box should not exceed 130 inches. Algebraically, that is $7x + 60 \leq 130$, or $7x \leq 70$. Dividing both sides of the inequality by 7 gives $x \leq 10$. Since x represents the width of the box, x must also be a positive number. Therefore, the inequality $0 < x \leq 10$ represents all the allowable values of x that satisfy the given conditions.

Choices B, C, and D are incorrect and may result from calculation errors or misreading the given information.

QUESTION 15.

Choice D is correct. Factoring out the coefficient $\frac{1}{3}$, the given expression can be rewritten as $\frac{1}{3}(x^2 - 6)$. The expression $x^2 - 6$ can be approached as a difference of squares and rewritten as $(x - \sqrt{6})(x + \sqrt{6})$. Therefore, k must be $\sqrt{6}$.

Choice A is incorrect. If k were 2, then the expression given would be rewritten as $\frac{1}{3}(x - 2)(x + 2)$, which is equivalent to $\frac{1}{3}x^2 - \frac{4}{3}$, not $\frac{1}{3}x^2 - 2$. Choice B is incorrect. This may result from incorrectly factoring the expression and finding $(x - 6)(x + 6)$ as the factored form of the expression. Choice C is incorrect. This may result from incorrectly distributing the $\frac{1}{3}$ and rewriting the expression as $\frac{1}{3}(x^2 - 2)$.

QUESTION 16.

The correct answer is 8. The expression $2x + 8$ contains a factor of $x + 4$. It follows that the original equation can be rewritten as $2(x + 4) = 16$. Dividing both sides of the equation by 2 gives $x + 4 = 8$.

QUESTION 17.

The correct answer is 30. It is given that the measure of $\angle QPR$ is 60°. Angle MPR and $\angle QPR$ are collinear and therefore are supplementary angles. This means that the sum of the two angle measures is 180°, and so the measure of $\angle MPR$ is 120°. The sum of the angles in a triangle is 180°. Subtracting the measure of $\angle MPR$ from 180° yields the sum of the other angles in the triangle MPR. Since $180 - 120 = 60$, the sum of the measures of $\angle QMR$ and $\angle NRM$ is 60°. It is given that $MP = PR$, so it follows that triangle MPR is isosceles. Therefore $\angle QMR$ and $\angle NRM$ must be congruent. Since the sum of the measure of these two angles is 60°, it follows that the measure of each angle is 30°.

An alternate approach would be to use the exterior angle theorem, noting that the measure of $\angle QPR$ is equal to the sum of the measures of $\angle QMR$ and $\angle NRM$. Since both angles are equal, each of them has a measure of 30°.

QUESTION 18.

The correct answer is 4. There are π radians in a 180° angle. A 720° angle is 4 times greater than a 180° angle. Therefore, the number of radians in a 720° angle is 4π.

QUESTION 19.

The correct answer is 8. Since the line passes through the point (2, 0), its equation is of the form $y = m(x - 2)$. The coordinates of the point (1, 4) must also satisfy this equation. So $4 = m(1 - 2)$, or $m = -4$. Substituting -4 for m in the equation of the line gives $y = -4(x - 2)$, or equivalently $y = -4x + 8$. Therefore, $b = 8$.

Alternate approach: Given the coordinates of two points through which the line passes, the slope of the line is $\frac{4 - 0}{1 - 2} = -4$. So, the equation of the line is of the form $y = -4x + b$. Since (2, 0) satisfies this equation, $0 = -4(2) + b$ must be true. Solving this equation for b gives $b = 8$.

QUESTION 20.

The correct answer is 6632. Applying the distributive property to the expression yields $7532 + 100y^2 + 100y^2 - 1100$. Then adding together $7532 + 100y^2$ and $100y^2 - 1100$ and collecting like terms results in $200y^2 + 6432$. This is written in the form $ay^2 + b$, where $a = 200$ and $b = 6432$. Therefore $a + b = 200 + 6432 = 6632$.

Section 4: Math Test - Calculator

QUESTION 1.

Choice B is correct. There are 2 dogs that are fed only dry food and a total of 25 dogs. Therefore, the fraction of dogs fed only dry food is $\frac{2}{25}$.

Choice A is incorrect. This fraction is the number of dogs fed only dry food divided by the total number of pets instead of the total number of dogs. Choice C is incorrect because it is the fraction of all pets fed only dry food. Choice D is incorrect. This fraction is the number of dogs fed only dry food divided by the total number of pets fed only dry food.

QUESTION 2.

Choice A is correct. Applying the distributive property, the given expression can be rewritten as $x^2 - 3 + 3x^2 - 5$. Combining like terms yields $4x^2 - 8$.