GMAT-Reading-Test 57

### Passage 57

In recent years, teachers of introductory courses in

Asian American studies have been facing a dilemma

nonexistent a few decades ago, when hardly any texts

in that field were available. Today, excellent antho-

**(5)**logies and other introductory texts exist, and books on

individual Asian American nationality groups and on

general issues important for Asian Americans are

published almost weekly. Even professors who are

experts in the field find it difficult to decide which of

**(10)** these to assign to students; nonexperts who teach in

related areas and are looking for writings for and by

Asian American to include in survey courses are in an

even worse position.

A complicating factor has been the continuing lack

**(15)** of specialized one-volume reference works on Asian

Americans, such as biographical dictionaries or desktop

encyclopedias. Such works would enable students

taking Asian American studies courses (and professors

in related fields) to look up basic information on Asian

**(20)** American individuals, institutions, history, and culture

without having to wade through mountains of primary

source material. In addition, give such works, Asian

American studies professors might feel more free to

include more challenging Asian American material in

**(25)** their introductory reading lists, since good reference

works allow students to acquire on their own the back-

ground information necessary to interpret difficult or

unfamiliar material.

1. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

doing which of the following?

(A) Recommending a methodology

(B) Describing a course of study

(C) Discussing a problem

(D) Evaluating a past course of action

(E) Responding to a criticism

2. The “dilemma” mentioned in line 2 can best be

characterized as being caused by the necessity to make a

choice when faced with a

(A) lack of acceptable alternatives

(B) lack of strict standards for evaluating alternatives

(C) preponderance of bad alternatives as compared to

good

(D) multitude of different alternatives

(E) large number of alternatives that are nearly identical

in content

3. The passage suggests that the factor mentioned in lines

14-17 complicates professors’ attempts to construct

introductory reading lists for courses in Asian American

studies in which of the following ways?

(A) By making it difficult for professors to identify

primary source material and to obtain standard

information on Asian American history and culture

(B) By preventing professors from identifying excellent

anthologies and introductory texts in the field that

are both recent and understandable to students

(C) By preventing professors from adequately

evaluating the quality of the numerous texts

currently being published in the field

(D) Such courses were offered only at schools whose

libraries were rich in primary sources.

(E) By making it more necessary for professors to select

readings for their courses that are not too

challenging for students unfamiliar with Asian

American history

and culture

(E) By making it more likely that the readings

professors assign to students in their courses will be

drawn solely from primary sources

4. The passage implies that which of the following was

true of introductory courses in Asian American studies a

few decades ago?

(A) The range of different textbooks that could be

assigned for such courses was extremely limited.

(B) The texts assigned as readings in such courses were

often not very challenging for students.

(C) Students often complained about the texts assigned

to them in such courses.

(D) Such courses were the only means then available by

which people in the United States could acquire

knowledge of the field.

5. According to the passage, the existence of good one-

volume reference works about Asian Americans could

result in

(A) increased agreement among professors of Asian

American studies regarding the quality of the

sources available in their field

(B) an increase in the number of students signing up for

introductory courses in Asian American studies

(C) increased accuracy in writings that concern Asian

American history and culture

(D) the use of introductory texts about Asian American

history and culture in courses outside the field of

Asian American studies

(E) the inclusion of a wider range of Asian American

material in introductory reading lists in Asian

American studies

**ANSWERS**

C

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