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

D

D

A

E