The passage states that the Shaker sect fled from England to New York State in 1774. Therefore, you should have chosen answer (D).

Example II:

At present, the Shakers are represented by

(A) 6,000 worldwide members
(B) 18 active communities
(C) two remaining all-female communities
(D) two female members

Sample Answer

Ⓐ Ⓑ ● Ⓓ

According to the passage, only two active Shaker communities remain, with a total membership of 18, all female. Therefore, you should have chosen answer (C).

Now begin work on the questions.

Questions 1–12 refer to the following passage.

The reasons for the extinction of a species and for the rapid rates of change in our environment are currently the focus of much scientific research. An individual species' susceptibility to extinction depends on at least two things: the taxon (the biological group—kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, or genus) to which a species belongs, and the overall rate of environmental change. Fossil evidence shows that more mammals and birds become extinct than do mollusks or insects. Studies of the extinction of the dinosaurs and other reptiles during the Cretaceous Period show that a changing environment affects different taxa in different ways. Some may be dramatically affected, others less so.

The best way to answer the question of what causes an extinction is to combine fields of inquiry and a variety of viewpoints. Using the fossil record and historical documentation, the different rates of the extinction of various taxa and different responses to environmental change can be detected. Then the evolutionary development of the different species can be compared, and traits that may be disadvantageous can be singled out. Finally, researchers can use mathematical formulae to determine whether a population is likely to adapt itself to the changing environment or disappear. Hopefully, as more of this information is collected, specialists in different fields—e.g. physiological and behavioral ecology, population ecology, community ecology, evolutionary biology and systematics, biogeography, and paleobiology—will work together to make predictions about the broader changes that might occur in the ecosystem.