During the 1970s, a number of state and federal courts adopted a broader legal definition of insanity proposed by the American Law Institute, which states: “A person is not responsible for criminal conduct if at the time of such conduct, as a result of mental disease or defect, he lacks substantial capacity either to appreciate the wrongfulness of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law.” The word substantial suggests that “any” incapacity is not enough to avoid criminal responsibility but that “total” incapacity is not required either. The use of the word appreciate rather than know implies that intellectual awareness of right or wrong is not enough; individuals must have some understanding of the moral or legal consequences of their behavior before they can be held criminally responsible.

According to the explanation provided in lines 43-58, use of the word appreciate in the phrase “to appreciate the wrongfulness” instead of know implies which of the following?

a. The difference between right and wrong is something people feel rather than know, which makes deciding legal responsibility difficult.
b. To know implies certainty, and distinguishing right from wrong is often a subjective matter in determining legal responsibility.

c. The word appreciate suggests than an action and that action's implications must be understood for there to be legal responsibility.

d. An insane person would “know” something the way a sane person would “know” something, and be able to appreciate that knowledge, too.

Answer: The best answer is C. Support for this choice is found in lines 53-58. This section of the passage explains the use of the word appreciate, which implies that before persons can be held criminally responsible, they "must have some understanding of the moral or legal consequences of their behavior."