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## GRE阅读机经350篇

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编写说明:本资料在之前最受欢迎的《阅读机经320篇》的基础上更新了2021年的30篇新题,并且 之前有部分文章增加了新题,这些新题都是在近期考试考到过的。同时还修订了之前个别打印错误 和解析升级。所有题目均有答案和解析。

#### 答案见最后一页!

African American musicians in the 1950s faced a dilemma regarding classical music. A cosmopolitan display of knowledge about modern classical music enabled artists such as Duke Ellington to counter **misconceptions** that jazz musicians were untutored. Yet jazz musicians' interest in classical music was often taken as an admission that jazz innovations were derived from European sources. After Charlie Parker expressed admiration for Bartok, an interviewer asked if Parker's musical innovations were adaptations of classical predecessors ideas. Often, comparisons with modem European composers connected jazz to the presumed superior standards of classical music without recognizing that jazz articulated its own musical vision—by developing expressive and improvisational principles rooted in a wide variety of African American musics—that challenged the hegemony of European standard in American music.

- 1. The author mentions Bartok primarily in order to
- A. emphasize the cosmopolitanism of some African American musicians
- B. contrast innovations in jazz with innovations in classical music
- C. provide an example of a presumption about jazz
- D. highlight a jazz musician's interest in modern classical music
- E. note a European influence on American jazz musicians
- 2. The author would be most likely to agree with which of the following assertions about the "misconceptions"?
- A. They were fostered by those who assumed that innovations in jazz reflected the influence of European classical composers.
- B. They were inadvertently perpetuated by some jazz musicians who expressed admiration for classical composers.
- C. They were particularly prevalent among listeners who were familiar with jazz but not with European classical music.
- D. They were incompatible with a thorough understanding of many jazz musicians' musical backgrounds.
- E. They were beginning to wane by the time that Duke Ellington emerged as a prominent figure in the world of jazz.

The following passage comes from a study of the relationship between habitat and disease.

In a set of small, northern, temperate lakes, large epidemics of a common, virulent fungus in host populations of the zooplankton Daphnia dentifera are more common in steep-sided U-shaped lakes than in gently sloped V-shaped lakes. According to one hypothesis, this is due to differences in host susceptibility. However, in a study of twelve lakes we found no relationship between basin shape and host susceptibility in an in situ microcosm experiment in which hosts from each lake were incubated with spores. Thus, hosts were not dramatically less susceptible to this virulent fungal parasite in V-shaped lakes where epidemics are uncommon. This result echoes those from more controlled lab experiments with genetically similar organisms from fewer Jakes. We continued to find no relationship between host susceptibility and basin shape even when we controlled for slight variation of temperature between lakes (since temperature elevates transmission) and mean bod size of adults among lakes (since size also elevates transmission). If anything, hosts collected in summer 2005 from lakes that had epidemics in the previous year were marginally less susceptible to infection than hosts collected from lakes without epidemics in 2004, a result consistent with previously observed rapid evolution of hosts in response to epidemics.

- 1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. formulate a new interpretation of existing data
- B. reconcile two competing theories
- C. consider and reject an explanation
- D. discuss the importance of a novel hypothesis
- E. suggest a direction for future research
- 2. According to the passage, which of the following was true in 2005 of Daphnia dentifera from lakes that had had epidemics in 2004?
- A. They were slightly less susceptible to infection than Daphnia dentifera from lakes that had no epidemic.
- B. They were slightly smaller in size than Daphnia dentifera from lakes that had had no epidemic.
- C. They were more likely to have been involved in the experiment than Daphnia dentifera from lakes that had had no epidemic.
- D. They could probably tolerate cooler water temperatures than Daphnia dentifera from lakes that had had no epidemic.
- E. They were more likely to act as hosts for the virulent fungus than Daphnia dentifera from lakes that had had no epidemic.
- 3. The passage suggests which of the following about virulent fungus outbreaks?
- A. They are more likely to occur in lakes where Daphnia dentifera have greater genetic diversity.
- B. They are less likely to happen in lakes where Daphnia dentifera are larger in size.
- C. They tend to happen in the same lakes year after year.
- D. They are less likely to happen in steep-sided lakes.
- E. They are more likely to occur in comparatively warmer lakes.

The Wall Street millionaire Alfred Loomis was an amateur physicist who made significant contributions to scientific research. In 1928 he purchased three identical clocks, the most accurate available at that time. Loomis set up the clocks in a triangular orientation to one another, to break the gravitationally induced synchronic action among their pendulums, and by analyzing their minute variations, verified a theoretically predicted tidal effect of the Moon on clocks. These results later contributed to the development of LORAN (Long-Ranges Navigation), which triangulates the positions of ships and aircraft by comparing the difference in arrival times of signals coming from multiple radio beacons at various groundbased locations, a calculation that depends on accurate timekeeping.

- 1. It can be inferred from the passage that the development of LORAN was made possible in part by
- A. Loomis' refutation of previously accepted theoretical predictions about the tidal effect of the Moon
- B. Loomis' ability to finance multiple major research efforts with his own money
- C. the ability to direct multiple radio beacons from an aircraft or ship to various locations on land
- D. the ability to measure discrepancies between timekeeping instruments caused by the Moon
- E. the ability to synchronize a clock on board an aircraft with one on board a ship
- 2. According to the passage, Loomis' clock experiment accomplished which of the following?
- A. It enabled Loomis to achieve his goal of using highly accurate timekeeping to make scientific advances in navigation.
- B. It provided confirmatory Evidence for an effect for which a scientific explanation had already been proposed.
- C. It enabled Loomis to refine his theory about be tidal effect of the Moon on clocks.
- D. It spurred the development of clocks that are not affected by gravity.
- E. It brought Loomis' work to the attention of professional physicists.

People who suffer a heart attack on an airplane are at particular risk because of the relatively long time it takes to get them to a hospital. Last year Minerva Airlines trained its cabin crews in the use of on-board defibrillators to restart the heart. Since then, the survival rate for passengers who suffer heart attacks on Minerva flights has increased. Even so, the training might not have contributed to this increase, because \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Which of the following most logically completes the passage?

- A. the risk of suffering a heart attack increases with age and the average age of passengers has decreased somewhat since last year
- B. few other airlines equip their planes with defibrillators or train their cabin crews in the use of them
- C. Minerva now offers fewer transoceanic flights than it did last year
- D. the electrical impulse delivered by a defibrillator can, if administered to a person with a normal heart rhythm, induce an abnormal heartbeat
- E. heart attacks can sometimes be triggered by stress, which is increased by airline travel

While Gayl Jones's fiction has received significant critical, attention, her comparably quiet, yet formidable, corpus of poetry has been virtually ignored by scholars. Significantly, Jones's first publication appeared in verse, and her literary production from 1969 through the early 1980s includes nearly as many poems as short stories, betraying a formative and consistent involvement with poetry. Jones's lack of critical recognition as a poet is at least partially traceable to her documented ambivalence regarding genre boundaries and artistic identity: "I've never really considered myself a poet. I've written what I call poetry but I've always thought of myself as primarily a fiction writer and so I write poetry from the viewpoint and interest of a storyteller." Consistent with this selfconceptualization, Jones's critical observations regarding the work of other poets often focus on techniques traditionally associated with fiction writing: narrative and its rendering usually appear to outweigh the various poetic conventions of prosody and form. While reviewing the work of Sterling Brown, Jones provides a checklist of what chiefly attracts her in poetry: characterization and narrative voice are foregrounded, accompanied by such structural concerns of fiction as dramatic forms and scenes, all of which combine to reveal a sensibility interested primarily in formulating a poetics of effective storytelling.

- 1. According to the passage, the "checklist" provides a record of which of the following?
- A. The features of Sterling Brown's poetry that Jones finds unique
- B. The techniques that Jones believes distinguish poetry from fiction
- C. Jones's effort to distinguish herself from other poets
- D. Ways in which Jones influenced Sterling Brown
- E. The qualities in poetry that most interest Jones
- 2. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage regarding the nature of Jones's poetry?
- A. It reflects her self-identification as a teller of stories.
- B. It is more assertive than her poetry criticism.
- C. It is acclaimed more as storytelling than as actual poetry.
- D. It uses dramatic forms and scenes in unprecedented ways.
- E. Its concern with narrative voice is greater than that of most fiction of the period.
- 3. The passage suggests which of the following regarding critics of Jones's work?
- A. Their lack of interest in Jones's poetry has been prompted by their unawareness of the extent of her poetic production.
- B. They have tended to judge Jones's work in different genres according to the definitions of those genres accepted by Jones's contemporaries.
- C. The nature of their focus on Jones has been influenced by Jones's own characterizations of her work.
- D. They have discounted Jones's observations regarding the work of other poets as narrow-minded.
- E. They have foregrounded Jones's explorations of prosody and form at the expense of her interest in narrative.

Some recently discovered Hittite tablets corroborate many of the descriptions of ancient life that appear in the Iliad and even list Greek cities that reportedly sent ships to Troy. What this find entails is that the Iliad is not simply creative literature, as is commonly believed, and hence not a matter for literary discussion alone. Rather, it is also history and should be examined by historical science.

The argument given relies on which of the following as an assumption?

- A. The cities and events that were mentioned in the Iliad but not in the tablets are fictitious.
- B. The Hittite tablets and the Iliad are not derived from a common source that had no basis in historical fact.
- C. Before the discovery of the tablets, historians had never examined the Iliad.
- D. Purported works of creative literature should be examined by historians to find out whether they record historical facts.
- E. A work that does not contain historical facts is a mater for literary discussion.

The scientific method is not radically different from the rational attitude in everyday life or in other domains of human knowledge. Historians, detectives, and plumbers-indeed, all human beings-use the same basic methods of induction, deduction, and assessment of evidence as do physicists or biochemists. **Modern science tries to carry out these operations in a more careful and systematic way by using controls and statistical tests, insisting on replication, and so forth.** Moreover, scientific measurements are often much more precise than everyday observations; they allow us to discover hitherto unknown phenomena, and they often lead to discoveries that conflict with "common sense." But the conflict is at the level of conclusions, not the basic approach.

- 1. The passage implies that one difference between modern science and "the rational attitude in everyday life" is that modern science
- A. is often undermined by everyday observations
- B. is more likely to yield new discoveries
- C. is undervalued by the nonscientific, community be,
- D. utilizes induction and deduction
- E. calls for evaluation of relevant evidence
- 2. Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted sentence in the context of the passage as a whole?
- A. It qualifies a statement made earlier in the passage.
- B. It questions the validity of evidence presented earlier in the passage.
- C. It contradicts a commonly held opinion.
- D. It implies that there is a similarity between two processes of reasoning.
- E. It advocates for a particular methodological approach.

As a classic text on alchemy, George Ripley's Compound of Alchemy (1471) has received substantial scholarly attention, primarily focused on the English print editions published by Ralph Rabbards (1591). However, the work known to sixteenth-and early seventeenth-century Europe was not the Compound known today from Rabbards' editions. Rabbards strived to produce the fullest possible version of the text, including two prefatory poems, "Prologue" and "Preface", and an associated dedicatory poem. Yet no authoritative master text" dates from Ripley's lifetime in which all of these elements are preserved. Rather, the Compound's text was adapted over a century of circulation in the form of multiple copies, later reassembled by diligent scribes-a process that continued even after the work's translation into Latin and European vernaculars.

- 1. The passage suggests which of the following about "Prologue" and "Preface"?
- A. They may have been originally written by someone other than George Ripley.
- B. They were not included in copies of the Compound until long after Ripley's death.
- C. They have been largely ignored by scholars who focused on the Rabbard's editions.
- D. They may not have appeared together in every sixteenth-century copy of the Compound.
- E. Their overall content and style changed considerably over a century of circulation.

- 2. The passage suggests which of the following about "diligent scribes"?
- A. They were instrumental in translating the Compound into Latin in the seventeenth century.
- B. Their efforts had a considerable impact on later scholarly investigations of the Compound.
- C. Many of them were guided in their work by Ralph Rabbards' print editions of the Compound.

The distinction between the nutritional quality and quantity of prey is one component of the hypotheses that attempt to explain the declining populations of Steller sea lions in the Gulf of Alaska beginning in the 1970s. One view holds that the quantity of prey available was high overall, but because of the species composition of available prey (primarily nonfatty fish of the gadid family), the diet was nutritionally inferior-the junk food hypothesis. An alternative view is that gadids are nutritionally adequate but were not available in sufficient numbers because of fishing or some other factor. In either case, juvenile sea lions would be affected more than mature individuals because of the younger animals' higher energy requirements and relative inexperience at foraging.

- 1. The passage indicates that proponents of the junk food hypothesis assert which of the following about non-fatty fish of the gadid family?
- A. They provide adequate nourishment for sea lions when supplemented with a small number of other species.
- B. They provide adequate nutrition for adult sea lions but not for juveniles.
- C. They have been steadily declining in quantity in the Gulf of Alaska since the 1970s.
- D. They are inadequate to satisfy sea lions' nutrition requirements even when available in abundance.
- E. They are too challenging for juvenile sea lions to catch in significant numbers.

- 2. The highlighted sentence performs which of the following functions in the passage?
- A. It demonstrates that over-fishing in the Gulf of Alaska is the likely cause of Steller sea lion decline.
- B. It supports an argument that the reason for the Steller sea lion decline in the Gulf of Alaska is unlikely to be determined.
- C. It gives an explanation for the decline in Steller sea lions in the Gulf of Alaska that is at odds with the junk food hypothesis.

Recent archaeological excavations of the massive warehouses of Huánuco Pampa—an important city in the Incan empire of the twelfth to sixteenth centuries—initially led archaeologists to believe that the city was a center for the distribution of food and goods to settlements in the surrounding region. However, excavations in those settlements have yielded few traces of the pottery containers used to store goods in Huánuco Pampa's warehouses. This absence of pottery traces is inconclusive since goods may have been distributed in containers other than those belonging to the warehouses.

One sixteenth-century Spanish document may inadvertently reveal the answer: while detailing countless instances of goods being brought to the warehouses from the surrounding region, the document says nothing about goods being distributed throughout the surrounding region from the warehouses. Thus initial suggestions about the city s role as a distribution center may be incorrect: Huánuco Pampa's reason for maintaining these huge warehouses may have been simply to ensure its own well-being during periods of hardship.

- 1. The passage is primarily concerned with
- A. comparing the merits of different kinds of historical evidence
- B. tracing the origins of a widely held belief about a body of historical evidence
- C. citing evidence that suggests a new interpretation of archaeological remains
- D. evaluating the usefulness of particular historical sources
- E. correcting a misperception by reexamining historical data
- 2. The author suggests which of the following about the sixteenth-century Spanish document discussed in the passage?
- A. Although the document was initially used by archaeologists to support a particular theory about Huánuco Pampa's warehouses, it was subsequently interpreted as contradictory of that theory.
- B. Although the document intends to record the flow of food and goods between Huánuco Pampa and the surrounding region, it provides a wealth of information about Huánuco Pampa's political life.
- C. Although it discusses warehouses in very general terms, the document reveals much information about how Huánuco Pampa allocated its warehoused supplies throughout the region.
- D. Although the document does not discuss whether Huánuco Pampa distributed food and goods throughout the surrounding region, the fact that it does not implies that the city did not perform this function.
- E. Although the document was known to archaeologists prior to the excavation of Huánuco Pampa, that excavation revealed the document to be more accurate about Huánuco Pampa's daily life than was previously thought.
- 3. Which of the following, if true, would cast the most doubt on the author's reasoning about the probable purpose of the Huánuco Pampa warehouses?
- A. Further examination reveals that the sixteenth-century Spanish document cited by the author was intended solely to record the amount of food and goods farmers and artisans in the surrounding region contributed to Huánuco Pampa's warehouses each year.
- B. Several large warehouses similar to those of Huánuco Pampa are unearthed in subsequent archaeological excavations in the region surrounding Huánuco Pampa.
- C. A contemporaneous document is discovered establishing that Huánuco Pampa's political influence in the surrounding region was far greater than archaeologists and historians had previously supposed.
- D. Traces of pottery storage containers similar in style to those of the Huánuco Pampa warehouses are discovered in a section of the Incan empire remote from Huánuco Pampa.
- E. Archaeologists discover that Huánuco Pampa was able to maintain constant stores of goods in its warehouses despite fluctuations in agricultural conditions in the surrounding region.

Simulations indicate, and observations confirm, that the particles constituting Saturn's rings are giving up angular momentum to moons of the planet. The simulations predict that over just a few hundred million years, the related energy transfer will cause the rings' collapse. An analogous process occurs around young stars in the disks of matter from which planets emerge, and these protoplanetary disks do vanish that quickly, computer models show. Yet if Saturn's rings are so short-lived, a large comet or moon—the rings' presumed source—must have broken apart in Saturn's vicinity within the past several hundred million years. That is quite unlikely. It would have been much more probable in the young solar system—4 billion years ago or more.

- 1. It can be inferred that the author of the passage mentions protoplanetary disks because
- A. the computer modeling techniques used to study them were later applied to Saturn's rings
- B. conclusions about them might reasonably be applied to Saturn's rings
- C. the accepted understanding of them is challenged by observations of Saturn's rings
- D. the material of which Saturn's rings are composed must at one time have been in a protoplanetary disk around the Sun
- E. observations of Saturn's rings may serve as a substitute for observations of protoplanetary disks

- 2. The passage suggests which of the following about the "energy transfer"?
- A. Its effects are obscured by the angular momentum of Saturn's moons.
- B. It is part of a process that also imparts angular momentum to at least some of Saturn's moons.
- C. It proceeds more slowly than does an analogous energy transfer that occurs in the vicinity of young stars.

The seemingly unrelated aims of functional strength and aesthetic appeal had been not only successfully integrated in many of the classic suspension bridges of the past two centuries but also commonly achieved by engineers alone or leading teams. Thomas Telford was in fact both engineer and architect of his Menai Suspension Bridge, and John Roebling was both engineer and architect of his Brooklyn Bridge. That these engineering structures especially have come to be regarded as architectural icons demonstrates the aesthetic heights that an engineer can achieve.

Engineers less artistically confident than Telford and Roebling have engaged consulting architects to advise them on the design of everything from the facades placed on massive anchorages and skyscraper-high towers to the finishing details like deck railings and lampposts. Othmar Ammann, the chief engineer of the George Washington and many other New York City bridges, often sought the help of famous architects. When the George Washington was but an idea on paper, Ammann engaged Cass Gilbert, the architect of the Woolworth Building and other landmarks, to depict how the towers might be finished in stone. Since money was tight when the bridge was being completed, however, the steel-framed towers were left bare-a look that the Swiss architect Le Corbusier found extremely appealing-and bare steel became the new aesthetic standard for monumental bridge towers.

- 1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. explore the interplay between two professional disciplines
- B. discuss the personal qualities needed to succeed in a particular endeavor
- C. consider what qualities give aesthetic appeal to structures of a particular kind
- D. present the evolution of a relationship between competing goals
- E. explain how apparently disparate goals actually support each other

- 2. The passage implies that Othmar Ammann was
- A. responsible for a design that became an aesthetic touchstone for later bridges
- B. financially constrained from hiring the architects he wished for the George Washington Bridge
- C. less certain of his aesthetic design abilities than Telford and Roebling were of theirs
- 3. According to the passage, which of the following is true of Cass Gilbert's ideas for finishing the towers of the George Washington Bridge?
- A. They had to be abandoned during construction.
- B. They impressed Le Corbusier.
- C. They were judged to be too costly when the project was initially proposed.
- D. They derived from themes Gilbert had explored in the Woolworth Building.
- E. They started a fashion that was followed in later bridge towers.

Most Oakville residents want a community swimming pool to be built but do not want to finance it with local tax revenues. Oakville's mayor argues that although the town has no financial reserves, building pool will not lead to higher taxes, since an unused townowned land parcel is available and admission fees will cover the entire cost of operating the pool as well as repayment of the S3 million debt for construction.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the mayor's argument?

- A. Admission to the community pool will cost most residents who frequently use it more than they would have paid in increased taxes for pool open to residents free of charge.
- B. Because of the types of accidents that can happen in and around swimming pools, the largest part of the operating expenses for the community pool will be lifeguards' salaries and liability insurance.
- C. The operation of a pool would bring increased traffic to the road leading to the site of the proposed pool and would require the town to fund costly road improvements.
- D. The same survey that established that a majority of Oakville's residents would use a community pool also found that over one-third of the town's residents would have preferred that it be built at a different site.
- E. Opponents of the pool have not advanced any other proposals for the use of the currently unused town-owned land parcel.

Isobel Grundy rightly argues that in researching pre-nineteenth-century women's historical writing, scholars must define history broadly and include historical fiction, biography, court memoirs, and family history. Grundy also believes that these writings provide "a history of a whole female culture, while embodying a pre-nineteenth-century feminine" relationship to history. On this point, am skeptical, as I do not believe there was a characteristic women's relationship to history. Instead, my research suggests that pre-nineteenth-century British women writers' engagement with historical discourse depended on such things as their political commitments and class affiliations and their perceptions of developing historical genres and markets. We must give sufficient attention to the myriad individual authors and texts before generalizing widely about women writers' engagements with history.

- 1. The passage implies that its author would agree with which of the following statements about "historical fiction, biography, court memoirs, and family history"?
- A. These genres had their origins primarily among pre-nineteenth-century British women writers.
- B. These genres were probably more reflective of women's views in pre-nineteenth-century Britain than they were in later periods.
- C. These genres can help scholars develop a comprehensive view of British women's historical writing.
- D. These genres have generally been regarded by scholars as more reliable sources of information about pre-nineteenth-century women than have other genres of historical writing.
- E. These genres are remarkably homogeneous in the way they represent the lives of prenineteenth-century women in Britain.
- 2. Which of the following describes a difference between the author and Grundy regarding British women writers' engagement with historical discourse?
- A. The author thinks the engagement was determined primarily in response to developing literary markets; Grundy thinks it had little to do with such markets.
- B. The author believes the engagement is reflected in numerous genres; Grundy thinks that one genre is specifically feminine.
- C. The author emphasizes the heterogeneity of factors that influenced the engagement Grundy suggests that the engagement was unified by one particular factor.
- D. The author thinks the engagement was limited to women in certain social classes; Grundy thinks it was common to all classes.
- E. The author believes the engagement was just beginning in the late 1700s; Grundy thinks it reached its peak then.

Much of ecological theory consists of models that are so highly idealized that they are of little real-world predictive value. In addition, many of the parameters used in models—such as birth and death rates—are exceedingly difficult to estimate accurately in the field. Consequently, ecological theory is rarely directly relevant to the practice of conservation biology. One notable exception is MacArthur's theory of island biogeography, which predicts the species richness of an island on the basis of its size and degree of isolation. This theory could provide important insights into nature preserves, which can be analogous to islands, often consisting of relatively undisturbed ecosystems surrounded by biologically distinct areas.

- 1. Which of the following best describe the function of the sentence highlighted in the passage?
- A. It suggests direction for future presented earlier in the passage.
- B. It presents evidence that will support the theory that is introduced in the following sentence.
- C. It guestions the usefulness of a particular version of the theory.
- D. It clarifies an ambiguous statement made earlier in the passage
- E. It presents a general rule to which the passage will identify exception.

- 2. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would probably agree with which of the following statements?
- A. The practice of conservation biology may be directly affected by MacArthur's theory of island biogeography.
- B. Undisturbed systems surrounded by biologically distinct areas be helpful in estimating birth and death rate parameters more accurately.
- C. The similarity between nature preserves and the island studied in MacArthur's biogeography theory may help predict species richness in nature preserves.

The gender and class associations of handicrafts altered by the middle of the nineteenth century. During the eighteenth century, crafts such as embroidery, drizzling [unraveling and rewinding of metallic threads from brocades], and collage had been prized for their aristocratic associations and practiced by men as well as women. But in the early nineteenth century, handicraft became coded as a woman's hobby specifically, and it was increasingly identified with a middle-class sensibility, as a thrifty, skillful mode of domestic management. This does not mean handicraft was limited to the middle class, on the contrary, needlework continued to be popular with upper-class women, while domestic ornamentation was prized even by the very poor. But it means that handicraft now signified the moral, managerial virtues of the bourgeoisie, not just aristocratic leisure, and that members of other classes were emulating these middle-class ideals when they did craftwork. In the nineteenth century, when high-art venues were largely closed off to women, they channeled their creative urges into the world around them, using the elements most readily available. This kind of domestic decoration was also sanctioned because it added to the comforts of the home, whereas more ambitious high art was condemned as a selfish use of time taken away from the family.

Indeed, by the mid-nineteenth century, the handicraft's most visible and urgent function was to signify womanhood. Craft items were made by the home's female inhabitant and thus appeared to be an extension of her body, as well as carrying the signs of her taste and skill. The woman's hands had held it, her mind had planned it, her eyes had gauged it, and she had communicated something of her intangible subjectivity to the completed object. For the Victorians, then, women were ensconced in a cocoon of items of their own manufacture, representing otherwise invisible aspects of their identity. This is the image behind Ruskin's famous claim that "wherever a true wife comes, this home is always around her." The craft was frequently described as "pretty" or "elegant," qualities that elided the object with its maker's own body. The craft was the woman's home skills made concrete, a tangible trace of her household labor that was all the more valuable for having been produced in leisure hours, for it showed that labor was leisure, that she never stopped working to improve the domestic abode.

- 1. The author suggests that during the eighteenth century, the practice of making handicrafts.
- A. attracted nearly as many men as it did women
- B. began to be redefined in contradistinction to high art
- C. grew in popularity as it expanded beyond a focus on embroidery
- D. was considered virtuous because it was associated with thrift
- E. would have appealed to those who aspired to emulate the elite
- 2. The author quotes Ruskin primarily in order to
- A. elaborate on a point made earlier in the paragraph
- B. identify an important influence on ideas about domesticity
- C. introduce an idea that began to shift perceptions of handicrafts
- D. note an exception to a general tendency
- E. characterize a contradiction underlying a cultural attitude
- 3. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. cite factors that ushered in a historical change
- B. dispel a misconception about a form of expression
- C. examine the cultural implications of a realm of activity
- D. reconsider certain assumptions about gender and class
- E. question an interpretation of a shift in social values

- 4. It can be inferred that the author would be most likely to agree with which of the following claims about handicraft during the nineteenth century?
- A. They were probably appreciated more as a source of enjoyment for women than because they contributed to the ornamentation of the home.
- B. They appeared to have increased in importance for women as an expression of their identification with a particular social class
- C. They sometimes became an outlet for creative impulses that would have found expression in the high arts if social conditions had been different.
- D. They allowed middle-class women to develop skills that proved important in activities other than handicrafts.
- E. They grew in popularity as middle-class women became more familiar with the kinds of craftwork that had been done primarily by aristocratic women in an earlier age.

The theory of motivated reasoning suggests that, in legal decisions, different judges will assess the same information differently, depending on their backgrounds and fundamental values. Attitudinalists (theorists who contend that judges' decisions are driven by their own policy preferences) have concurred that their findings on ideological decision making could be explained by the "human reflex" to "convince oneself of the propriety of what one prefers to believe—motivated reasoning."

Motivated reasoning, however, is subject to "reasonableness constraints." For example, the accuracy of decision making is enhanced when the stakes for the decision are higher, when the decision must be justified, and when the decision will be made public. Such circumstances often apply to judicial decisions. The presence of stronger arguments contrary to preferences reduces the influence of motivations. The limitations of the power of motivated reasoning are apparent from the numerous unanimous opinions of the United States Supreme Court (whose members generally represent a range of ideological predispositions) and other cases in which justices appear to vote contrary to their ideological preferences. One would anticipate that the influence of such motivated reasoning is at its apex when the law is relatively less determinate, which is consistent with the findings of empirical research.

- 1. The author suggests which of the following about motivated reasoning?
- A. It allows judges to take into consideration on a wide range of views beyond those that they themselves hold.
- B. It has a greater impact on the decision of judges with certain kinds of policy preferences than on the decisions of judges with other preferences.
- C. It is unlikely to result in ideologically biased judicial decisions in cases where the law is open to multiple interpretations
- D. Its effects on a decision may be mitigated by exposure to compelling arguments that challenge the decision maker's biases.
- E. Its impact on judicial decision making may be more evident in decisions rendered by the United States Supreme Court than in decisions rendered by other courts.
- 2. It can be inferred that the author the uses the United States Supreme Court to illustrate the argument because of a belief that the
- A. Supreme Court is obligated to render its decisions without regard to its members' ideological predispositions
- B. record of the Supreme Court shows it to be roughly similar to other courts in the frequency with which its decision particular policy preference
- C. extent to which decisions made by the Supreme Court are affected by reasonableness constraints is relatively easy to determine
- D. unanimous decisions sometimes handed down by the Supreme Court would be unlikely to come from an ideologically diverse court if motivated reasoning were unchecked
- E. members of the Supreme Court provide clear and extended explanations of the reasoning that has informed their decisions
- 3. The author suggests which of the following about the "circumstances" mentioned in the passage?
- A. They allow decision makers to rationalize lapses in their objectivity.
- B. They tend to undermine the efficacy of reasonableness constraints.
- C. They may weaken the effect of policy preferences on decisions.
- D. They are insufficiently distinguished from one another by attitudinalists.
- E. They can disguise the extent to which a decision has been influenced by motivated reasoning.

Astronomers can measure any given star's radial velocity by examining its spectrum—light spread out into its constituent wavelengths. If an object is moving toward us, its spectral lines shift to sorter wavelengths; if it's moving away, the lines swing to longer wavelengths. The higher the velocity, the greater the shift. Although this sort of spectral analysis is straightforward for nearby stars, it becomes far more difficult for distant stars in the Milky Way's outer halo. Even age telescopes can't gather enough of their light. For this reason, astronomer Ulrich Heber conjectures that there are probably several low-mass hypervelocity stars yet to be discovered. Although these diminutive objects live longer than B-type stars, which are extremely luminous and blue, they radiate much less light.

- 1. Which of the following statements best describes the organization of the passage?
- A. An astronomical phenomenon is described, then an exception to that phenomenon is identified.
- B. A method of data collection is outlined, then its accuracy is challenged.
- C. An innovative method of analysis is described, then new findings based on this method are summarized.
- D. A problem with an instrument is identified, then a suggestion for correcting that problem is presented.
- E. A technique and its limitations are explained, then a prediction is stated.
- 2. The passage indicates that compared to low-mass hypervelocity stars, B-type stars
- A. are less numerous in the Milky Way's outer halo
- B. burn out more quickly and are more luminous
- C. are in closer proximity to Earth's solar system
- D. are larger in size but emit light at similar wavelengths
- E. emit a more complex spectrum

Crows, herring gulls, and sparrows all live on the island of Firsten. Crows feed on sparrow eggs and therefore pose a threat to the sparrow population. Although gulls are not nearly as good at finding sparrow nests as crows are, sparrows typically also lose some eggs to gull predation. Nevertheless, sparrows that nest near gull nests tend to lose fewer eggs to predators than sparrows nesting far away from gull nests, since

Which of the following most logically completes the argument?

- A. the presence of gulls frightens away Crows
- B. crows pose no threat to adult sparrows
- C. gulls find sparrow nests by watching female sparrows enter the nest
- D. there are far more crows on Firsten than there are sparrows
- E. sparrows on Firsten typically hide their nests very carefully

Many scholarly discussions of novelist Willa Cather (1873-1947) debate whether Cather belongs more to the nineteenth-century realist tradition or to the modernist revolution of the early twentieth century. While Cather's preoccupation with nineteenth-century agrarian culture has won her the respect of readers and critics, her distrust of modernity left her with a historically unstable position in the modernist canon. Resistance to the changes wrought by the twentieth century, of course, does not necessarily disqualify one from the "modernist" label. The impulse to reconnect with more primitive, earlier times is a hallmark of modernist aesthetics, shaping the search for meaning in a fragmented, disenchanted, mechanized world. Yet more often than not, [literary critic] Phyllis Rose explains, the early tenth-century atmosphere of experimentation and "making it new" and an attendant critical discourse that "valued complexity, ambiguity, even obscurity" resulted in Cather's labeling as "naively traditional" and "essentially nostalgic and elegiac." In effect in modernist studies she has been treated as a romantic regional writer. unconcerned with the international terrain so integral to modem thinking-at least until scholars, in the 1980s and 1990s, began reevaluating the historical record, demonstrating her innovative departures from nineteenth-century fiction, including antiheroism, gender-bending episodic narrative, antirealism, simple prose, emphasis on memory and time, and the exploration of immigration, empire, and race. Today it is not uncommon to encounter critics announcing Cather's newfound canonical status as a modernist-indicated most clearly by her inclusion in works such as The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism published in 2005.

- 1. The author would be most likely to agree with which of the following claims about Cather's "preoccupation with nineteenth-century agrarian culture?
- A. It is regarded by some as evidence of an attitude toward the modern world that is characteristic of many modernist writers.
- B. Its definitive role in Cather's writing distinguishes Cather from most authors who were considered to be central to the modernist literary tradition.
- C. It was clearly an important element of Cather's early fiction but played little role in her later, more mature novels.
- D. It has frequently been misinterpreted by the very readers and critics who are most strongly drawn to Cather's fiction
- E. Divergent interpretations of it have led critics to form diametrically opposed conclusions about the overall quality of Cather's literary output
- 2. The author mentions the "critical discourse" primarily to
- A. explain why some critics rejected the idea that any particular literary style was uniquely modernist
- B. challenge an assumption about the extent to which Cather's novels express a nostalgic view of the past
- C. suggest that most of Cather's readers have little in common with the scholarly commentators who have written about her work
- D. demonstrate that literary critics' views about Cather's fiction diverge widely on certain points
- E. introduce an explanation of criteria used to determine whether Cather belonged in a particular literary category
- 3. The reference to the highlighted work serves primarily to
- A. suggest that no major advances in Cather scholarship have been made since 2005
- B. describe an important milestone in a scholarly trend that began in the 1980s
- C. cite a publication that has significantly influenced many scholars' views of Cather
- D. question the current critical consensus regarding a defining quality of modernism
- E. acknowledge that an author's canonical states can be subject to arbitrary shifts

Because densely populated urban centers concentrate human activity, we think of them as pollution crisis zones. Ecology-minded discussions often focus on ways to make cities seem somewhat less oppressively man-made, such as increasing the area devoted to 40 parks or easing the intensity of development. But most such changes would actually undermine cities' extraordinary energy efficiency. Per unit of area, cities in the United States generate more greenhouse gases, use more energy, and produce more solid waste than most other American regions of comparable size. On a map depicting negative environmental impacts in relation to surface area, therefore, cities would look like intense hot spots. If you plotted the same negative impacts by resident or household, however, the reverse would hold.

- 1. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- A. Increasing the space devoted to parks in urban areas would not necessarily make cities seem less man-made.
- B. Because they are densely populated, cities tend to have a disproportionately negative impact on the environment.
- C. Although densely populated cities are relatively energy efficient, they are still the largest contributors to environmental pollution.
- D. Decreasing the density of urban populations might in some respects worsen their environmental impact.
- E. The extraordinary energy efficiency of cities suggests that concerns about the environment in urban areas may be unwarranted.

- 2. The passage implies that in the United States relatively sparsely populated areas exceed cities in per capita rate of
- A. solid-waste production'
- B. intensity of development
- C. greenhouse-gas emissions

No ambitious politician will challenge an elected public official running for reelection unless that official appears vulnerable. Nonetheless, public officials who do not appear vulnerable as they attempt to win reelection rarely run unopposed.

If the statements given are true, which of the following is a conclusion that can be properly drawn from them?

- A. No officeholder who is vulnerable will run for reelection if an ambitious politician is likely to challenge that officeholder.
- B. If a person who is not an ambitious politician challenges an elected public official who is running for reelection, then that official does not appear vulnerable.
- C. If an elected official running for reelection appears vulnerable, that official's challengers will all be ambitious politicians.
- D. Some elected officials running for reelection are challenged by people who are not ambitious politicians.
- E. Ambitious politicians will nun for election to a public office only if the holder of that office is running for reelection and appears to be vulnerable.

The infectious disease known as whooping cough is commonly thought to be a childhood illness, but a recent study suggests that more adults contract this illness than was previously suspected. Although the disease is life-threatening in children, in adults it typically causes only a persistent cough which, though annoying, is rarely serious. Therefore, the incidence of whooping cough in adults poses no significant public health threat.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument depends?

- A. Whooping cough is more difficult to diagnose in adults than in children.
- B. Adults with whooping cough do not readily transmit the disease to children.
- C. Most adults who contract whooping cough get the disease from children with whom they are in close contact.
- D. A disease poses no significant public health threat unless it is life-threatening.
- E. Under comparable conditions of exposure, adults contract whooping cough more readily than do children.

Sensationalism—the purveyance of emotionally **charged** content, focused mainly on violent crime, to a broad public—has often been decried, but the full history of the phenomenon has yet to be written. Scholars have tended to dismiss sensationalism as unworthy of serious study, based on two pervasive though somewhat incompatible assumptions: first, that sensationalism is essentially a commercial product, built on the exploitation of modern mass media, and second, that it appeals almost entirely to a simple, basic emotion and thus has little history apart from the changing technological means of spreading it. An exploration of sensationalism's early history, however, challenges both assumptions and suggests that they have tended to obscure the complexity and historicity of the genre.

- 1. According to the passage, scholars have not given sensationalism serious consideration because they believe sensationalism
- A. possesses largely emotional rather than rational content
- B. is produced with an eye to making money
- C. lacks historical complexity
- 2. In the contest in which it appears, "charged" most nearly means
- A. electrified
- B. accused
- C. attacked
- D. fraught
- E. admonished

Some economists suggest that all firms would be expected to pay workers doing identical jobs the same wage. However, studies show that high-profit industries tend to pay more. While some of this observed wage gap could be due to difficulties in measuring workers' talent, it is unlikely that such measurement problems can explain everything. Although talent is hard to measure, factors with which it is presumably correlated, such as education and tenure, are not. Yet studies that control for those factors still find big wage disparities. Moreover, although receptionists, for example, do not become less talented when they leave a high-profit industry to work in an industry with lower profits, their pay tends to drop in line with the wage gap between the two.

- 1. According to the passage, which of the following is true regarding difficulties in measuring workers' talent.
- A. These difficulties cannot fully explain the observed wage gap.
- B. These difficulties are greater in high-profit industry than in low-profit industries.
- C. These difficulties can be eliminated by controlling for education and tenure.
- 2. Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted sentence in the context of the passage as a whole?
- A. To analyze an unusual trend regarding measurement problems that was referred to earlier in the passage
- B. To offer a hypothesis that explains the measurement problems referred to earlier in the passage
- C. To cite an instance that supports an assumption about measurement problems that was made earlier in the passage
- D. To evaluate an assertion regarding the wage disparity that was mentioned in the preceding sentence
- E. To qualify the claim regarding workers doing identical jobs that was made in the first sentence

As they unearth long-ignored women's writings, some feminist literary scholars have a tendency to evaluate those writings according to current ideological standards. This tendency, however understandable, has certain pitfalls, as feminist response to three late-seventeenth-and early-eighteenth-century English female play wrights demonstrates. Mary Pix, Catharine Trotter, and Delarivier Manley each wrote at least four plays and were known collectively as the "Female Wits". These women saw themselves as participating in a common endeavor, but feminist scholars have evaluated their works in very different terms. Trotter and Manley have been praised for their depiction of "feminist" themes. Trotter because of her insistence on feminine virtue, and Manley because of her depiction of strong, if sometimes villainous, heroines while Pix's works, because they depict women in ways now considered stereotypically "feminine", are often dismissed.

Yet Pix is conservative only within a present-day context: within the context of late-seventeenth-and early- eighteenth-century English drama, Pix's plays were more formally innovative than Manley's and more successful than either Manley's or Trotter's. She also broke new ground regarding subject matter, **addressing contemporary social issues such as class upheaval**. However, these acts are rarely acknowledged by scholars of the Female Wits.

- 1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. consider the consequences of a scholarly over sight
- B. question the ideological consistency of certain literary critics
- C. show the shortcomings of a critical propensity
- D. discuss the contradictions inherent in a literary movement
- E. demonstrate certain difficulties involved in unearthing obscure literary works
- 2. According to the passage, feminist literary scholars of the Female Wits have a tendency to
- A. overlook the originality of certain features of Pix's plays
- B. exaggerate the stereotypically feminine characteristics of Pix's heroines
- C. dwell on the progressive nature of Pix's views on social issues
- D. downplay the villainous nature of some of Manley's heroines
- E. misinterpret Trotter's insistence on feminine virtue
- 3. The author's reference to Pix's "addressing contemporary social issues such as class upheaval" serves primarily to
- A. suggest that Pix's political and social views were stereotypically "feminine"
- B. identify a Pixian subject that feminist scholars have consistently misinterpreted
- C. help explain why Pix's plays proved to be more successful than either Manley's or Trotter's
- D. support the claim that Pix's plays pursued previously unexplored topics
- E. identify a factor that contributed to the formal innovativeness of Pix's plays

In European lowland heathlands, heather bushes, grasses, and bracken compete with one another for the sandy soil's scarce nutrients, with none acquiring permanent dominance. In Dutch heathlands, however, atmospheric nitrogen pollution produced by intensive animal farming has turned heathlands into grassland, the result of an interaction between nitrogen pollution and heather-eating beetles. Additional nitrogen usually increases growth of both grass and heather, and at first heather usually thrives because the grasses cannot penetrate the canopy of its bushes. Heather beetle population size, like that of many herbivorous insects, varies from year to year. When heather beetles are abundant, their larvae grow particularly well on the nitrogen-enriched heather shoots. Voraciously feeding larvae and adults then defoliate the bushes, tipping the competitive balance between heather and grasses irrevocably.

- 7. It can be inferred from the passage that an abundance of heather beetles in Dutch heathlands
- A. may be prevented by the proper management of heathlands
- B. can be caused by a lack of atmospheric nitrogen
- C. can result in grasses gaining increased access to sunlight
- D. helps check the growth of a wide variety of plants
- E. will inevitably be followed by years of heather beetle scarcity
- 8. Which of the followings best describes the function of the highlighted sentence in the author's explanation?
- A. It supplies information to explain changes in atmospheric nitrogen pollution.
- B. It emphasizes the extent to which Dutch heathlands are ecologically fragile environments.
- C. It provides an example of a factor beyond the control of those seeking to preserve heather bushes.
- D. It suggests that the presence of intensive animal farming has been unfairly blamed for the demise of Dutch heathlands.
- E. It explains why there might be a lag between increases in atmospheric nitrogen and damage to heather.

To evaluate any given intellectual property policy, we must weigh the costs and benefits of awarding copyright protection. If an innovation, then the benefits of the protection are nonexistent, and so, by the cost-benefit criterion it is unwarranted. Such a situation arose in 1998, when the United States Congress extended the term of copyright from 50 years after an author's death to 70. Book buyers are harmed by this. A book's price is higher under copyright because the publisher continues to owe **royalties** to the author's heirs and does not compete with others printing the same book. Against that drawback, there is no countervailing benefit. **Authors are hardly likely to find motivation in the prospect of earnings that will arrive more than 50 years after their death.** Moreover, the extension was applied retroactively to existing copyrights but authors do not need incentives to write books they have already written.

- 1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
- A. argue that intellectual property policies are often unwarranted
- B. show how a particular criterion can be used to evaluate an intellectual property policy
- C. summarize the costs and benefits of introducing intellectual property policies
- D. approve the reasoning that was used to justify a particular intellectual property policy
- E. challenge a claim that the benefits of intellectual property policies outweigh the costs
- 2. The author mentions "royalties" primarily in order to identify
- A. a benefit that is likely to motivate authors
- B. a way in which publishers compete with one another
- C. a factor that contributes to a negative effect of copyright
- D. a reason underlying Congress' actions regarding copyright
- E. an unintended effect of extending the term of copyright
- 3. It can be inferred that which of the following assumptions underlies the statement in the highlighted sentence?
- A. Concern for their heirs is not a factor that motivates authors to publish.
- B. Authors are motivated by factors other than the prospect of financial gain.
- C. Sales of a book are unlikely to change after its author's death.
- D. Publishers tend to act in their own best interest rather than in the author's
- E. The earnings of most authors tend to decline over time.

Mayor: Vehicle exhaust produces dangerously high ozone levels in our city in hot, humid weather. As an incentive for people to commute by bus rather than by car, special free commuter buses will be scheduled on hot, humid days. Since a bus can carry about 40 people but produces only about 20 times as much exhaust as a car, ozone levels will be lower as long as the buses are more than half full.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- A. Most of the people who would take the special free buses are currently members of carpools.
- B. The city does not currently have enough buses to transport all of the commuters who normally commute by car.
- C. Buses that would be operating on hot, humid days would rarely, if ever, be filled to capacity.
- D. The amount of vehicle exhaust produced in the city is not significantly higher on hot, humid days.
- E. Not all commuter routes are used by enough people to warrant providing bus service for them.

Sensations of nausea in people are accompanied by higher-than-normal blood levels of a particular hormone, vasopressin. Therefore, either nausea triggers the production of vasopressin or abnormally high levels of vasopressin cause nausea.

Which of the following is an assumption on which the argument relies?

- A. Sensations of nausea are never present when vasopressin is at low levels.
- B. High levels of vasopressin have no effect on the body other than to cause sensations of nausea.
- C. Sensations of nausea and high levels of vasopressin do not have a common cause that makes them occur together.
- D. Mild nausea causes the release of small quantities of vasopressin, and high levels of vasopressin cause intense nausea.
- E. People differ in the blood level of vasopressin that is normal for them.

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