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- 01 What can be inferred from paragraph 1 about Ancient Near Eastern societies prior to the advent of Sumerian civilization?
- (A) They were more socially integrated and economically advanced.
 - (B) They were less connected to other societies in the region.
 - (C) They were impoverished because of limited resources.
 - (D) They were ruled by a small group of hereditary elites.

Paragraph 1 is marked with an arrow [➡].

- 02 Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
- (A) Additional natural resources were found in neighboring regions, and it was inevitable that societies would join together in a global network to satisfy their mutual demands.
 - (B) This emerging global network placed increasing demands on the resources in the region, making foreign products more attractive to neighboring societies.
 - (C) Societies soon realized that exchanging local products for foreign goods could help balance the demand for resources regionally.
 - (D) As societies became aware that abundant natural resources in other regions could meet local demand and that trade could provide reciprocal benefits, a global network emerged.

Ancient Sumer and Near Eastern Civilization

1 ➡ The rise of Sumerian civilization in Southern Mesopotamia during the fourth millennium BC coincided with a broader regional pattern, a phenomenon where socioeconomic and political mechanisms began to influence the lives of people living in disparate areas, often hundreds, or even thousands, of kilometers apart. It was in this period that increasingly complex interactions established an interdependent web of societies in the Ancient Near East, from the Mediterranean lands of Egypt to Persia in the east. This emerging global network derived from the realization among societies that other regions offered environments replete with unique natural resources, and that it was to their mutual advantage to establish exchange mechanisms to satisfy demand for foreign goods. Across the region, the economic and social evolution was not only a consequence of material necessities but also the nascent rivalry among urban elites who contended for eminence through the accumulation of exotic extravagances, believing such luxuries were manifestations of power. Ancient Sumer is reflective of this evolving regional interconnectedness.

2 ➡ A combination of environmental and social elements gave rise to the Sumerian civilization. For example, the lower Tigris-Euphrates river valley in which the Sumerians lived was characterized by wide, marshy plains. The plains were excellent for agriculture because rivers brought fertile soil to the alluvial valleys from the highlands, and people farmed the land by diverting river water into canals to irrigate their crops. However, the region was not rich in natural resources: the timber that was abundant in the hills of northern Mesopotamia was scarce in Sumer, and although the Sumerians were able to produce surpluses of barley, wheat, and dates, valuable gemstones were relatively absent in the area, and they were forced to trade for these and other items

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- 03 According to paragraph 2, the Sumerian civilization lacked all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) timber
- (B) limestone
- (C) grain
- (D) precious gems

Paragraph 2 is marked with an arrow [➡].

- 04 The word “taxing” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) turbulent
- (B) rigid
- (C) arduous
- (D) pathetic

- 05 According to paragraph 3, what did Sumerians use to turn the soil before the arrival of the plow?

- (A) Handheld hoes made with bronze
- (B) Wooden sticks affixed with iron handles
- (C) Simple hoes and sharpened sticks
- (D) Pumps that ejected water from irrigation canals

Paragraph 3 is marked with an arrow [➡].

- 06 The word “incentive” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) opportunity
- (B) motivation
- (C) capability
- (D) intelligence

like frankincense and limestone. Trade, which was facilitated by the construction of docks where sea and river craft could unload cargo, was tightly controlled by Sumerian rulers, and consisted primarily of agricultural products and textiles made of linen and wool. The two great rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, linked Sumer with ports on the Persian Gulf, from which Sumerians could conduct trade with societies as distant as India.

3 ➡ Sumerians were among the first people to make bronze alloy, a technological innovation that was of great use to an agricultural people. The alloy was strong and far less brittle than iron, and it was especially useful for taxing jobs. It was applied to agriculture by way of the metal-tipped plow, an instrument that was durable enough to handle repeated use and could be pulled by oxen to turn the soil in a fraction of the time necessary with antecedent technologies, such as primitive handheld hoes and sharpened wooden sticks. Combined with irrigation canals, these plows drastically expanded agricultural production capacity, leading to sizable yields. More grains and fruits meant that larger populations could be supported, and the abundance also provided the opportunity for rulers of Sumer’s city-states to regulate the exchange of surplus yields abroad to generate local wealth.

4 ➡ One of the central aspects shaping the dynamic milieu of individuals within the community and that of the relations between city-states was the role of the temple-palaces as administrative mechanisms for economic and legal matters. In particular, these public institutions provided standardized accounting practices to replace what had previously existed only as a system of informal bartering for goods and services. This involved internal record keeping of accounts and the establishment of prices to be adopted for transactions in the community at large. A written system of contracts was also conceived, and loans were distributed at interest. The unit system for

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07 According to paragraph 4, all of the following are true of the Sumerian economy EXCEPT

- (A) financial policies were governed by temple-palaces
- (B) money was loaned at interest
- (C) accounting methods were standardized
- (D) administrators ignored the global market

Paragraph 4 is marked with an arrow [➡].

08 Paragraph 6 suggests that the Akkadian leader Sargon probably

- (A) controlled the entire landmass from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf
- (B) ruled only a few city-states around the Persian Gulf
- (C) controlled only the municipalities important to terrestrial trade routes
- (D) ruled Sumerian cities crucial to seafaring trade in the region

Paragraph 6 is marked with an arrow [➡].

09 Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

This resulted in disputes and a period of general unrest between neighboring states.

Where would the sentence best fit?

Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.

standard prices was based on measured weights of silver, and these financial policies were often handed down by formal rulings. By mediating the flow of raw materials to the community, as well as regulating specialized production and trade, the temple-palaces created a monetized market exchange within their walls, and gave rise to a specialized group of merchants who had the incentive to develop expertise in handicrafts, metal working, and the manufacture of prestigious textiles. Trade in items like copper and lapis lazuli, a semi-precious stone, thus increased as more and more administrative districts tapped into the profitable global system.

5 As a consequence, long-distance trade increased significantly, and in turn, competition for precious resources ensued. ■ Skirmishes sometimes broke out as tensions mounted, and people looked to military leaders for protection. ■ City-states that could raise strong armies had an obvious advantage in this race to control the region's raw materials and access to precious water resources and valuable trade routes. ■ Despotic kings emerged, claiming authority from the gods for their rule, and those that were able to successfully defend the city from invasion sometimes derived enough political strength to assimilate neighboring regions under their control.

■ Some of these city-states, such as Ur, Uruk, and Lagash, experienced periods of stability, fortune, and hegemony in the region; however, no single power could dominate the realm for long, and each forfeited its short-lived preeminence.

6 ➡ Still, some leaders vaunted the vast expanse of their rule. Sargon of Akkad took over the area of Sumer and claimed to rule the entire landmass from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. However, historians dispute Sargon's claim. In retrospect, it is likely that his dominion was mainly confined to the cities connecting the overland trade routes.

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- 10 Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. **This question is worth 2 points.**

Drag your answer choices to the spaces where they belong. To remove an answer choice, click on it.
To review the passage, click on **View Text**.

Sumerian Civilization was indicative of a broader pattern of emerging interconnectedness among societies in the Ancient Near East.

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Answer Choices

- (A) Sumerians competed for power in urban areas by accumulating luxury goods as symbols of their wealth.
- (B) The Sumerians developed a complex financial system, which was overseen by administrators in the temple-palaces.
- (C) A few Sumerian monarchs were able to conquer their neighbors, and remained in power until the decline of the Sumerian Civilization.
- (D) Although the region lacked many important raw materials, Sumerians were able to trade surplus agricultural items for products from abroad.
- (E) Prior to the time in which Sumerian Civilization arose, other equally complex societies existed throughout the ancient world.
- (F) As competition for valuable resources intensified, armed battles played a key role in the political restructuring of the region.

Passage 2

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11 According to paragraph 1, Cabaret Voltaire drew a wide array of patrons because

- (A) its owner was a celebrated author and refugee
- (B) its activities appealed to those interested in composing strange texts
- (C) it offered an unconstrained environment in a convenient location
- (D) it provided a place for many artists to collaborate

Paragraph 1 is marked with an arrow [➡].

12 The word “prevalent” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) habitual
- (B) ascendant
- (C) common
- (D) valuable

Dadaism as a Revolutionary Art Movement

1 ➡ The origins of the Dada movement can be traced back to the establishment of Cabaret Voltaire, a Zurich-based club owned by German poet and exile Hugo Ball. Because of its free-spirited atmosphere and positioning in accessible Switzerland, the club attracted a wide range of people, many of whom had fled their native countries to escape persecution prior to the First World War. When regular poetry readings began there in the early 1900s, the events brought together a loosely organized group comprising visual artists and performers who were experimenting with bizarre art forms and dedicated to expanding the definition and the understanding of art itself.

2 As numbers visiting the club swelled, Ball quickly decided that the group needed to find a name that would identify themselves to other artists across the continent and entice others to join. Although there are several stories about how the name of the group was chosen, the most likely account is that Ball chose it at random from a copy of the German dictionary by stabbing the book with a knife. The tip of the knife landed on the German word *dada*, meaning “hobby,” a serendipitous choice that aptly reflected the purposefully amateurish works associated with the club.

3 The Dada philosophy represented a break from cultural and educational standards that were prevalent at the time; adherents even went so far as to challenge the very foundations and institutions that make up human society. In fact, this sense of nihilistic idealism and rebellion against proper education was the overarching theme that characterized Dadaism, which promoted dissent from the conventions of modern art.

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13 According to paragraph 4, all of the following are aspects of Dadaism EXCEPT

- (A) a focus on abstract subjects
- (B) a critical stance toward the commerce of art
- (C) a hostility toward conventional tastes
- (D) a disregard for beauty

Paragraph 4 is marked with an arrow [➡].

14 According to paragraph 5, Marcel Duchamp created the Mona Lisa postcard because

- (A) he felt that it would make a humorous piece of art
- (B) he wanted to illustrate the silliness of prevalent customs
- (C) he took great pleasure in the Mona Lisa
- (D) he wanted to become famous

Paragraph 5 is marked with an arrow [➡].

15 The word “them” in the passage refers to

- (A) Gatherings
- (B) artists
- (C) illustrations
- (D) sidewalks

4 ➡ Even prior examples of experimental art styles – such as the cubist and surrealist art that arose around the turn of the century – were not immune to Dadaist criticisms. Some fringe members of the Dada movement derided the commercial success of other modern artists, such as the cubist Pablo Picasso, accusing them of “selling out.” Accomplished modern artists were alleged to be self-absorbed, greedy, and preoccupied with fame, and accused of abandoning their creative integrity. Dadaists viewed them as unauthentic examples of revolutionaries and began to stress “antiart” as a way to combat the confines of modern art; a true Dadaist represented everything that was opposite to art. Aesthetics were ignored, interpretation was left solely in the hands of the viewer, and concerns for mainstream ideas were entirely abandoned. The group strove to offend, rather than placate, in order to combat what they believed was the commercialization of the creative process. This desire was perhaps best explained by one of the group’s central figures, Marcel Duchamp, who once stated, “Dada is the nonconformist spirit that has existed in every century, every period since man is man.”

5 ➡ Duchamp, for instance, made a name for himself by recreating cherished pieces of art and distorting them to show the absurdity of tradition. The most famous example of this is his Mona Lisa postcard, where he drew a moustache and goatee on the face of the celebrated subject. According to Duchamp, it poked fun at the institution of art. This image has since become a symbol of anarchistic art, and one of the more famous examples of the Dada movement.

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16 The word “spontaneous” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) in unison
- (B) convulsive
- (C) unsophisticated
- (D) without planning

17 What can be inferred about the Dada performances mentioned in paragraph 6?

- (A) Performers sought to bring art into the everyday realm.
- (B) Participation was limited to those who could draw.
- (C) Contributors lacked a true understanding of fashion.
- (D) Spectators enjoyed partaking in them.

Paragraph 6 is marked with an arrow [➡].

18 Why does the author mention “*Fountain*” in paragraph 7?

- (A) To provide an example of a piece of Dadaist art that revolutionized the art world
- (B) To illustrate how Marcel Duchamp earned respect by employing commonplace items
- (C) To demonstrate how the Dada philosophy did not require the artist to be skilled
- (D) To show how most of Duchamp’s pieces were intrinsically elementary

Paragraph 7 is marked with an arrow [➡].

6 ➡ The Dadaists also employed a previously unexplored art form, the performance, which involved an act that was designed to draw attention from the public. Many historians describe this concept as an offshoot of the poetry readings that took place at Cabaret Voltaire, but as the influence of Dada spread outward to Paris, the performance adapted to the styles and talents of those involved, whether it was spoken word, visual art, or an alternative. Members literally took their work to the streets, taking over public spaces even at the risk of being arrested by the authorities.

Gatherings of sketch artists would draw intricate chalk illustrations on the sidewalks, only to have the rain wash them away, and shops found their windows covered by Dada works displaying images of banal or mundane objects. The key to a successful performance was to act spontaneous, to do something outrageous, and to involve the audience as much as possible. Hence, the boundaries between art and life were stripped away.

7 ➡ Within a few years, talk of these performances inspired many European artists to explore Dada, but the movement did not reach America until Duchamp relocated to New York City in 1915. ■ Upon landing, he met another artist, Man Ray, who was experimenting with innovative camera techniques, and the two formed an immediate friendship. ■ While Man Ray’s photographs showed the juxtaposition of the human figure with everyday objects—a woman’s hips and a violin, for example—Duchamp continued to focus on the mundane objects themselves, such as in his famous *Fountain*, an ordinary manufactured urinal placed on its side and signed “R. Mutt 1917.”

■ Despite its simplicity, the object remains one of his most famous works and is still heralded as a breakthrough in the discipline. ■ Duchamp, Man Ray, and other burgeoning artists frequently exhibited their work, garnering both critical and popular acclaim from fellow New Yorkers, and managed to stimulate an entire generation of artists to test the boundaries of art, as well as Dadaist self-identity.

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19 Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

Ironically, an art movement that originated as a reaction to mainstream culture began to increasingly find public acceptance.

Where would the sentence best fit?

Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.

20 **Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. **This question is worth 2 points.**

Drag your answer choices to the spaces where they belong. To remove an answer choice, click on it.

To review the passage, click on **View Text**.

The Dada movement, which began in the early twentieth century, involved a number of artists who challenged the long-held traditions of art.

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Answer Choices

(A) Friendships among artists were based on similar ideas, exploration of cutting-edge methods, and showcasing pieces at shared displays.

(B) Followers of the movement fought against the conventions of art by purposefully creating works that violated these traditions.

(C) Acclaimed pieces of art were damaged to bring about a greater awareness of the nonsensical nature of customs.

(D) The name of the group was chosen arbitrarily by using a knife to stab a German dictionary.

(E) Artists working in New York collaborated to introduce Dadaist principles and presented normal objects as art.

(F) Participation in public shows involving random forms of dissent was intended to blur the lines between creativity and everyday experiences.

Passage 3

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- 21 According to paragraph 1, terrestrial insects transfer respiratory gases between their bodies and the atmosphere by
- (A) contracting the internal organs that are attached to blood vessels
 - (B) controlling the relative moisture levels of their exoskeletons
 - (C) forcing air through internal conduits and holes in their body covering
 - (D) moving air back and forth between the trachea and abdomen

Paragraph 1 is marked with an arrow [➡].

- 22 The word “configuration” in the passage is closest in meaning to
- (A) appearance
 - (B) symmetry
 - (C) arrangement
 - (D) distribution

- 23 Why does the author include comments about the anatomy of worker termites in paragraph 2?
- (A) To indicate the diversity of termite body types within the colony
 - (B) To give an example of why some termites build such large mounds
 - (C) To suggest a reason why moisture conservation is necessary in the nest
 - (D) To show that termites have developed diverse physical traits in different regions

Paragraph 2 is marked with an arrow [➡].

The Architecture of Termite Mounds

1 ➡ In termites, as with all terrestrial insects, the physical transfer of respiratory gases between internal tissues and the atmosphere occurs directly, without the use of lungs or a closed circulatory system. Respiration is accomplished through tracheal movements that expel carbon dioxide out of the body via respiratory tubes. Mechanical ventilation due to abdominal movement also plays a role when insects are active, as small openings in the exoskeleton called spiracles provide the ventilation points. The spiracles may be opened to let in oxygen or closed by muscular valves to regulate both gaseous exchange and internal moisture.

2 ➡ External moisture regulation is crucial to subterranean and mound-building worker termites (soldiers and reproductive members of the nest have thicker, protective skin), because as soft-bodied organisms, their thin cuticles make them particularly prone to desiccation. This anatomical feature in part dictates the configuration of termite mounds, which are carefully designed and constructed by the workers to regulate the humidity of the interior nests, or termitaries. The most impressive of intact termite structures are the colossal (up to 30 meters wide and 7 meters tall) mounds that dot the landscape in parts of South America, Africa, and Australia.

3 ➡ The architecture of termite mounds is complex and specially adapted to the environments they inhabit. Construction of the mound is carried out using termite excreta, semi-digested wood, and soil, collectively referred to as carton. Carton, once dry, creates a hard and impervious barrier, offering protection against invaders and minimizing humidity loss from evaporation. The concoction contains a higher percentage of organic matter than surrounding soils and thus retains moisture within the termitary during periods of drought. While the walls of carton

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- 24 Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 3 about the habitat in which termites live?
- (A) Its climate sometimes produces storms that threaten the survival of the colony.
 - (B) It is characterized by impermeable ground where standing water can accumulate.
 - (C) Its soils have a low nutrient value due to the lack of organic content.
 - (D) It experiences varying amounts of precipitation throughout the year.

Paragraph 3 is marked with an arrow [➡].

- 25 According to paragraph 4, the construction of channels and ducts by the termites results in
- (A) an equilibrium between the supply and consumption of oxygen in the nest
 - (B) an increased rate of respiration among members of the colony
 - (C) a reduction in the amount of atmospheric carbon dioxide entering the mound
 - (D) a concentration of oxygen within the nest that inhibits population growth

Paragraph 4 is marked with an arrow [➡].

protect the interior and prevent the mound from caving in, the freely draining mineral soils beyond the mound help control moisture levels during rainy periods, as poorly drained soils could create boggy conditions that would be toxic to the mound's residents. The setting and structure of the mounds thus combine to help maintain relatively stable internal humidity levels. However, the structure must be able to conserve moisture while simultaneously allowing for proper ventilation.

4 ➡ Although individual termites do not consume large volumes of oxygen, termites within a particular colony often number in the millions, resulting in a collective demand that is substantial. In order to make certain that adequate oxygen and carbon dioxide levels are maintained, termite mounds include a complex system of channels and ducts through which air circulation is facilitated. The entire structure is the result of a homeostatic process, wherein termites work together to balance the metabolic oxygen exchange with the ventilation oxygen exchange, the former representing oxygen consumed within the nest and the latter, atmospheric oxygen replacing it.

5 Termites must continually make adjustments to the configuration of the mound to account for changes in air quality resulting from variations in both outside weather conditions and the activities within the colony. Scientists estimate that termites incorporate approximately one cubic meter of soil into the mound annually, with natural erosion accounting for an equivalent amount lost during the same period. The nature of the ongoing construction is determined by the requirements of the colony; if there is insufficient air circulation, or if oxygen demands have increased, the insects extend the mound higher to enable a greater volume of air to enter the structure. Near the top of the windward face, a series of openings provide access to fresh air, while similar ports on the bottom of the leeward side allow for the expulsion of carbon

26 Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? *Incorrect* choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- (A) Discrepancies between weather and interior mound conditions change the air quality, causing termites to adjust their behaviors.
- (B) Fluctuations in external and internal conditions necessitate ongoing structural modification of the mound to preserve air quality.
- (C) Periodic alterations of the mound's air quality are a response to the termites' activities both inside and outside the colony.
- (D) Divergences between the air currents within the mound and the surrounding environment affect the quality of the structure.

27 According to paragraph 6, how do fungi contribute to the thermoregulation of the nest?

- (A) They insulate the nest by increasing the amount of vegetation.
- (B) They raise the body temperatures of the termites by providing food.
- (C) They force warm air to ascend by emitting a type of gas.
- (D) They generate warmth by breaking down organic substances.

Paragraph 6 is marked with an arrow [➡].

28 The word “incorporated” in the passage is closest in meaning to

- (A) integrated
- (B) interspersed
- (C) intertwined
- (D) interconnected

dioxide. Because wind speed generally increases with altitude, the great height of the structure guarantees that the pressure of the incoming air is sufficient to circulate oxygen throughout the nest.

6 ➡ Efforts to ensure adequate oxygen levels must be balanced against the need to maintain a consistent temperature range within the termitary, on average somewhere between 25°C and 35°C throughout the year. Some thermoregulation is achieved through biotic processes, perhaps the most significant of which is the heat generated by the termites' own metabolism. Some termites, such as *Macrotermes* species, also benefit from symbiotic fungi. ■ Located in the lowest portion of the nest, these organisms produce heat through the continual fermentation of plant matter, which the termites then ingest. As the warm air rises, it gradually fills the rest of the termitary until it is eventually forced up through a large corridor that runs vertically through the center of the nest, serving as a chimney. ■ Thermoregulation may also be reinforced through the solar orientation of the mound: Compass Termites (*Amitermes meridionalis*) of Australia construct mounds that are thinner along the north-south axis (minimizing the exposure to solar energy in summer) and thicker along the east-west axis. ■ The thicker walls maximize the thermal energy the structure receives in winter, when the sun is at a low angle. ■

7 The thermoregulation of the mound is closely connected to the ventilation system used to maintain air quality and humidity, with adjustments to one affecting the function of the others. Scientists have found it useful to conceptualize the termite mound as a process, and have recently begun to consider whether the aspects of this structure that result in stable climatic conditions may be incorporated into human buildings.

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- 29 Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

As a primary corridor, it plays an essential role in heat distribution by connecting to smaller ventilation passages in the mound.

Where would the sentence best fit?

Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage.

- 30 **Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. **This question is worth 2 points.**

Drag your answer choices to the spaces where they belong. To remove an answer choice, click on it.

To review the passage, click on View Text.

The mound provides a stable environment in which termites can work and live.

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Answer Choices

- (A) Maintenance of optimal humidity levels within the nest is essential to termite survival, and is reflected in the design and placement of the mound.
- (B) The external walls ensure that harmful species are unable to enter and threaten the colony or damage the nest.
- (C) The strategic placement of ventilation passages ensures the diffusion of gases and that air is able to circulate correctly within the mound.
- (D) Temperature regulation of the nest is achieved by the physical processes of the residents and the orientation of the mound.
- (E) The height of the mound structure limits the force of the air entering the nest, thus protecting the termites from strong winds.
- (F) Some features of termite mounds are very efficient, but they are not applicable to climate-control functions in human residences.