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Exercise 17

Volcanic rock that forms as fluid lava chills rapidly is called pillow lava. This rapid chilling occurs when lava erupts directly into water (or beneath ice) or when it flows across a shoreline and into a body of water. While the term “pillow lava” suggests a definite shape, in fact geologists disagree. Some geologists argue that pillow lava is characterized by discrete, ellipsoidal masses. Others describe pillow lava as a tangled mass of cylindrical, interconnected flow lobes. Much of this controversy probably results from unwarranted extrapolations of the original configuration of pillow flows from two-dimensional cross sections of eroded pillows in land outcroppings. Virtually any cross section cut through a tangled mass of interconnected flow lobes would give the appearance of a pile of discrete ellipsoidal masses. Adequate three-dimensional images of intact pillows are essential for defining the true geometry of pillowed flows and thus ascertaining their mode of origin. Indeed, the term “pillow,” itself suggestive of discrete masses, is probably a misnomer.

(165 words)

1. In the passage, the author is primarily interested in
 - (A) analyzing the source of a scientific controversy
 - (B) criticizing some geologists' methodology
 - (C) pointing out the flaws in a geological study
 - (D) proposing a new theory to explain existing scientific evidence
 - (E) describing a physical phenomenon

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply

2. The author of the passage would most probably agree that the geologists mentioned in the fourth sentence have made which of the following errors in reasoning?
 - ☐ Generalized unjustifiably from available evidence.
 - ☒ Deliberately ignored existing counterevidence.
 - ☒ Repeatedly failed to take new evidence into account.
3. The author implies that the “controversy” might be resolved if
 - (A) geologists did not persist in using the term “pillow”
 - (B) geologists did not rely on potentially misleading information
 - (C) geologists were more willing to confer directly with one another
 - (D) two-dimensional cross sections of eroded pillows were available
 - (E) existing pillows in land outcroppings were not so badly eroded

Draft passages in Proust's 1909 notebooks indicate that the transition from essay to novel *Remembrance of Things Past* began in *Contre Saint-Beuve*, when Proust introduced several examples to show the powerful influence that involuntary memory exerts over the creative imagination. In effect, in trying to demonstrate that the imagination is more profound and less submissive to the intellect than Saint-Beuve assumed, Proust elicited vital memories of his own and, finding subtle connections between them, began to amass the material for *Remembrance*. By August, Proust was writing to Vallette, informing him of his intention to develop the material as a novel. Maurice Bardeche, in *Marcel Proust, romancier*, has shown the importance in the drafts of *Remembrance* of spontaneous and apparently random associations of Proust's subconscious.

(124 words)

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply

4. According to the passage, in drafts of *Contre Saint-Beuve* Proust set out to show that Saint-Beuve made which of the following mistakes as a critic?

- ☐ A Saint-Beuve made no effort to study the development of a novel through its drafts and revisions.
- ☐ B Saint-Beuve assigned too great a role in the creative process to a writer's conscious intellect.
- ☐ C Saint-Beuve concentrated too much on plots and not enough on imagery and other elements of style.

5. In the context in which it appears, "spontaneous" in the last sentence most nearly means.

- ☐ A contrived
- ☐ B powerful
- ☐ C abstruse
- ☐ D involuntary
- ☐ E premeditated

The great variety of plants in Hawaii is a result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds. There is some dispute about the method of transport involved. Some biologists argue that ocean and air currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii. Yet the results of flotation experiments and the low temperatures of air currents cast doubt on these hypotheses. More probable is bird transport, either externally, by accidental attachment of the seeds to feathers, or internally, by the swallowing of fruit and subsequent excretion of the seeds. While it is likely that fewer varieties of plant seeds have reached Hawaii externally than internally, more varieties are known to be adapted to external than to internal transport.

(119 words)

6. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with
- (A) discussing different approaches biologists have taken to testing theories about the distribution of plants in Hawaii
 - (B) discussing different theories about the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (C) discussing the extent to which air currents are responsible for the dispersal of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (D) resolving a dispute about the adaptability of plant seeds to bird transport
 - (E) resolving a dispute about the ability of birds to carry plant seeds long distances
7. The author mentions the results of flotation experiments on plant seeds most probably in order to
- (A) support the claim that the distribution of plants in Hawaii is the result of the long-distance dispersal of seeds
 - (B) lend credibility to the thesis that air currents provide a method of transport for plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (C) suggest that the long-distance dispersal of seeds is a process that requires long periods of time
 - (D) challenge the claim that ocean currents are responsible for the transport of plant seeds to Hawaii
 - (E) refute the claim that Hawaiian flora evolved independently from flora in other parts of the world

Recent scholarship has strongly suggested that the aspects of early New England culture that seem to have been most distinctly Puritan, such as the strong religious orientation and the communal impulse, were not typical of New England as a whole, but were largely confined to the two colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Thus, what in contrast to the Puritan colonies appears to Professor Davis to be peculiarly Southern was not only more typically English than the cultural patterns exhibited by Puritan Massachusetts and Connecticut, but also almost certainly characteristic of most other early modern British colonies from Barbados north to Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Within the larger framework of American colonial life, then, not the Southern but the Puritan colonies appear to have been distinctive, and even they seem to have been rapidly assimilating to the dominant cultural patterns by the late Colonial period.

(145 words)

8. Which of the following statements could most logically follow the last sentence of the passage?

- (A) Thus, had more attention been paid to the evidence, Davis would not have been tempted to argue that the culture of the South diverged greatly from Puritan culture in the seventeenth century.
- (B) Thus, convergence, not divergence, seems to have characterized the cultural development of the American colonies in the eighteenth century.
- (C) Thus, without the cultural diversity represented by the America South, the culture of colonial America would certainly have been homogeneous in nature.
- (D) Thus, the contribution of Southern colonials to American culture was certainly overshadowed by that of the Puritans.
- (E) Thus, the culture of America during the Colonial period was far more sensitive to outside influences than historians are accustomed to acknowledge.

A serious critic has to comprehend the particular content, unique structure, and special meaning of a work of art. And here she faces a dilemma. The critic must recognize the artistic element of uniqueness that requires subjective reaction; yet she must not be unduly prejudiced by such reactions. It is necessary that a critic develop a sensibility informed by familiarity with the history of art and aesthetic theory. On the other hand, it is insufficient to treat the artwork solely historically, in relation to a fixed set of ideas or values. The critic's knowledge and training are, rather, a preparation of the cognitive and emotional abilities needed for an adequate personal response to an artwork's own particular qualities.

(118 words)

9. Select the sentence that gives a reason why it is insufficient to treat a work of art solely historically.
10. The author's argument is developed primarily by the use of
- (A) an attack on sentimentality
 - (B) an example of successful art criticism
 - (C) a critique of artists training
 - (D) a warning against extremes in art criticism
 - (E) an analogy between art criticism and art production



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