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Exercise 6

Some modern anthropologists hold that biological evolution has shaped not only human morphology but also human behavior. The role those anthropologists ascribe to evolution is not of dictating the details of human behavior but one of imposing constraints—ways of feeling, thinking, and acting that “come naturally” in archetypal situations in any culture. Our “frailties”—emotions and motives such as rage, fear, greed, gluttony, joy, lust, love—may be a very mixed assortment, but they share at least one immediate quality: we are, as we say, “in the grip” of them. And thus they give us our sense of constraints.

Unhappily, some of those frailties—our need for ever-increasing security among them—are presently maladaptive. Yet beneath the overlay of cultural detail, they, too, are said to be biological in direction, and therefore as natural to us as are our appendixes. We would need to comprehend thoroughly their adaptive origins in order to understand how badly they guide us now. And we might then begin to resist their pressure.

1. Which of the following most probably provides an appropriate analogy from human morphology for the “details” versus “constraints” distinction made in the passage in relation to human behavior?
 - (A) The ability of most people to see all the colors of the visible spectrum as against most people’s inability to name any but the primary colors
 - (B) The ability of even the least fortunate people to show compassion as against people’s inability to mask their feelings completely
 - (C) The ability of some people to dive to great depths as against most people’s inability to swim long distances
 - (D) The psychological profile of those people who are able to delay gratification as against people’s inability to control their lives completely
 - (E) The greater lung capacity of mountain peoples that helps them live in oxygen-poor air as against people’s inability to fly without special apparatus
2. It can be inferred that in his discussion of maladaptive frailties the author assumes that
 - (A) evolution does not favor the emergence of adaptive characteristics over the emergence of maladaptive ones
 - (B) any structure or behavior not positively adaptive is regarded as transitory in evolutionary theory
 - (C) maladaptive characteristics, once fixed, make the emergence of other maladaptive characteristics more likely
 - (D) the designation of a characteristic as being maladaptive must always remain highly tentative
 - (E) changes in the total human environment can outpace evolutionary change

The molecules of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere affect the heat balance of the Earth by acting as a one-way screen. Although these molecules allow radiation at visible wavelengths, where most of the energy of sunlight is concentrated, to pass through, they absorb some of the longer-wavelength, infrared emissions radiated from the Earth's surface, radiation that would otherwise be transmitted back into space. For the Earth to maintain a constant average temperature, such emissions from the planet must balance incoming solar radiation. If there were no carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, heat would escape from the Earth much more easily. The surface temperature would be so much lower that the oceans might be a solid mass of ice.

Line 5
10
15

(120 words)

3. According to the passage, the greatest part of the solar energy that reaches the Earth is
- (A) concentrated in the infrared spectrum
 - (B) concentrated at visible wavelengths
 - (C) absorbed by carbon dioxide molecules
 - (D) absorbed by atmospheric water vapor
 - (E) reflected back to space by snow and ice

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

4. According to the passage, atmospheric carbon dioxide performs which of the following functions
- ☐ A absorbing radiation at visible wavelengths
 - ☐ B absorbing outgoing radiation from the Earth
 - ☐ C helping to retain heat near the Earth's surface



Initially the Vinaver theory that Malory's eight romances, once thought to be fundamentally unified, were in fact eight independent works produced both a sense of relief and an unpleasant shock. Vinaver's theory comfortably explained away the apparent contradictions of chronology and made each romance independently satisfying. It was, however, disagreeable to find that what had been thought of as one book was now eight books. Part of this response was the natural reaction to the disturbance of set ideas. Nevertheless, even now, after lengthy consideration of the theory's refined but legitimate observations, one cannot avoid the conclusion that the eight romances are only one work. It is not quite a matter of disagreeing with the theory of independence, but of rejecting its implications: that the romances may be taken in any or no particular order, that they have no cumulative effect, and that they are as separate as the works of a modern novelist.

(154 words)

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

5. It can be inferred from the passage that the author believes which of the following about Malory's works?

- ☐ A There are meaningful links between and among the romances.
- ☐ B The subtleties of the romances are obscured when they are taken as one work.
- ☐ C Any contradictions in chronology among the romances are less important than their overall unity.

6. The author of the passage concedes which of the following about the Vinaver theory?

- (A) It gives a clearer understanding of the unity of Malory's romances.
- (B) It demonstrates the irrationality of considering Malory's romances to be unified.
- (C) It establishes acceptable links between Malory's romances and modern novels.
- (D) It unifies earlier and later theories concerning the chronology of Malory's romances.
- (E) It makes valid and subtle comments about Malory's romances.

7. It can be inferred from the passage that, in evaluating the Vinaver theory, some critics were

- (A) frequently misled by the inconsistencies in Malory's work
- (B) initially biased by previous interpretations of Malory's work
- (C) conceptually displeased by the general interpretation that Vinaver rejected
- (D) generally in agreement with Vinaver's comparisons between Malory and modern novelists
- (E) originally skeptical about Vinaver's early conclusions with respect to modern novels

The historian Frederick J. Turner wrote in the 1890's that the agrarian discontent that had been developing steadily in the United States since about 1870 had been precipitated by the closing of the internal frontier--that is, the depletion of available new land needed for further expansion of the American farming system. Actually, however, new lands were taken up for farming in the United States throughout and beyond the nineteenth century. The emphasis of the presumed disappearance of the American frontier obscured the great importance of changes in the conditions and consequences of international trade that occurred during the second half of the nineteenth century. Huge tracts of land were being settled and farmed in Argentina, Australia, Canada, and in the American West, and these areas were joined with one another and with the countries of Europe into an interdependent market system. Consequently, agrarian depressions no longer were local or national in scope, and they struck several nations whose internal frontiers had not vanished or were not about to vanish. Between the early 1870's and the 1890's, the mounting agrarian discontent in America paralleled the almost uninterrupted decline in the prices of American agricultural products on foreign markets.

(198 words)

8. The author is primarily concerned with

- (A) showing that a certain interpretation is better supported by the evidence than is an alternative explanation
- (B) developing an alternative interpretation by using sources of evidence that formerly had been unavailable
- (C) questioning the accuracy of the evidence that most scholars have used to counter the author's own interpretation
- (D) reviewing the evidence that formerly had been thought to obscure a valid interpretation
- (E) presenting evidence in support of a controversial version of an earlier interpretation.

9. According to the author, changes in the conditions of international trade resulted in an
- (A) underestimation of the amount of new land that was being famed in the United States
 - (B) underutilization of relatively small but rich plots of land
 - (C) overexpansion of the world transportation network for shipping agricultural products
 - (D) extension of agrarian depressions beyond national boundaries
 - (E) emphasis on the importance of market forces in determining the prices of agricultural products

10. The author implies that, after certain territories and countries had been joined into an interdependent market system in the nineteenth century, agrarian depressions within that system

- (A) spread to several nations, excluding those in which the internal frontier remained open
- (B) manifested themselves in several nations, including those in which new land remained available for farming
- (C) slowed down the pace of new technological developments in international communications and transportation
- (D) affected the local and national prices of the nonagricultural products of several nations
- (E) encouraged several nations to sell more of their agricultural products on foreign markets

11. The author's argument implies that, compared to the yearly price changes that actually occurred on foreign agricultural markets during the 1880's, American farmers would have most preferred yearly price changes that were

- (A) much smaller and in the same direction
- (B) much smaller but in the opposite direction
- (C) slightly smaller and in the same direction
- (D) similar in size but in the opposite direction
- (E) slightly greater and in the same direction

When the same parameters and quantitative theory are used to analyze both termite colonies and troops of rhesus macaques, we will have a unified science of sociobiology. I have been increasingly impressed with the functional similarities between insect and vertebrate societies and less so with the structural differences that seem, at first glance, to constitute such an immense gulf between them. Consider termites and macaques. Both form cooperative groups that occupy territories. In both kinds of society there is a well-marked division of labor. Members of both groups communicate to each other hunger, alarm, hostility, caste status or rank, and reproductive status. From the specialist's point of view, this comparison may at first seem facile—or worse. But it is out of such deliberate oversimplification that the beginnings of a general theory are made. (134 words)

12. Which of the following best summarizes the author's main point?
- (A) Oversimplified comparisons of animal societies could diminish the likelihood of developing a unified science of sociobiology.
 - (B) Understanding the ways in which animals as different as termites and rhesus macaques resemble each other requires training in both biology and sociology.
 - (C) Most animals organize themselves into societies that exhibit patterns of group behavior similar to those of human societies.
 - (D) Animals as different as termites and rhesus macaques follow certain similar and predictable patterns of behavior.
 - (E) A study of the similarities between insect and vertebrate societies could provide the basis for a unified science of sociobiology.
13. Select the sentence in the passage in which the author suggests that there are significant structural differences between insect and vertebrate societies.

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