

5 月 3 日 GRE 考试回顾

阅读

Passage 13

Biologists have long debated about whether egg production in birds is biologically highly costly, some theorizing that egg production is energetically or nutritionally demanding. Lack, however, suggested that clutch size—the number of eggs a bird lays per breeding cycle—is far below the potential limit of egg production. He suggested that clutch size had instead evolved in relation to the number of young that the parents could successfully rear. Subsequently, most studies focused on limitations operating during chick rearing, particularly among altricial species (species in which the parents feed their young in the nest). Lack later recognized that in precocial species (species in which young feed themselves), clutch size might be explained by different factors—the availability of food for egg-laying females, for example.

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Passage 20

In 1995 the Galileo spacecraft captured data about Jupiters atmosphere—namely, the absence of most of the predicted atmospheric water—that challenged prevailing theories about Jupiters structure. The unexpectedness of this finding fits a larger pattern in which theories about planetary composition and dynamics have failed to predict the realities discovered through space exploration. Instead of normal planets whose composition could be predicted by theory, the planets populating our solar system are unique individuals whose chemical and tectonic identities were created through numerous contingent events. One implication of this is that although the universe undoubtedly holds other planetary systems, the duplication of the sequence that produced our solar system and the development of life on Earth is highly unlikely.

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Passage 34

Archaeologists studying Bonito phase (ca. A.D. 900-1140) Native American ceramics from Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, observed that many pots had been altered after firing to revise their decorative designs—usually, intricate geometric patterns painted in black on white slipped surfaces. In some cases, a new design was imposed over an earlier one; less often, the original design was simply covered with white slip. Crown and Wills doubt that the alterations were made to correct design errors. Many Chaco pots with design errors were left unaltered. Furthermore, when errors were corrected, revisions were made

prior to firing—either by painting directly over the error or by scraping off designs and applying new slip and paint, which is a less time-consuming method than repainting and refiring flawed pots.

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Passage 44

Exotic insect pests can produce both short-and long-term effects on forest ecosystems. Short-term effects include the disturbances directly associated with the action of the pest, which may cause the defoliation, loss of vigor, or death of trees. Long-term effects are primarily mediated by changes in tree species composition and the consequent alterations of forest structure, productivity, and nutrient uptake. Exotic pests are more efficient than most abiotic disturbances (e.g., fire or wind) at producing long-term changes in species composition. Pests often target specific tree species and, if they become established, they usually remain as permanent components of the ecosystem. Shifts in forest species composition ramify through the ecosystem in many ways because tree species have different, often unique properties.

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Passage 61

Our terrestrial food supply comes from ecosystems transformed to produce a few comestible species through the removal of competitors, predators, and pests, but marine capture fisheries depend on the overall productivity of natural ecosystems. There is, however, increasing concern about the impact of fishing and other human activities on marine ecosystems, which are now far from pristine. One option for moving toward both biodiversity and terrestrial food supply goals is to produce greater yields from less land, thereby freeing land for conservation purposes. By contrast, the objective of maintaining or resorting the biodiversity of marine ecosystems may conflict with the objective of maintaining or increasing our food supply from the sea, since the level of fishing required to achieve the latter may compromise the former.

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Passage 115

Although the passenger pigeons, now extinct, were abundant in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century America, archaeological studies at twelfth-century Cahokian sites in the present day United States examined household food trash and found that traces of passenger pigeon were quite rare. Given that the sites were close to a huge passenger pigeon roost documented by John James Audubon in the nineteenth century and that Cahokians consumed almost every other animal protein source available, **the archaeologists conducting the studies** concluded the passenger pigeon population had once been very limited before increasing dramatically in post-Columbian America.

Other archaeologists have criticized those conclusions on the grounds that passenger pigeon bones would not be likely to be preserved. But all the archaeological projects found plenty of bird bones and even **tiny bones from fish**.

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填空

11-7. Changes made to ecosystem in order to achieve a goal, such as food production or flood control, often _____ significant unforeseen trade-offs between other important products and service the ecosystems provide.

- A. predict
- B. delay
- C. foretell
- D. obscure
- E. yield
- F. engender

23-5. The (i)_____ quality of much contemporary drawing may be attributable to the use of photography as a drawing shortcut. Photography (ii)_____ modern arts, but when it is used as a tracing tool in order to (iii)_____ the difficulties of achieving correct proportion, the resulting art often feels static and lifeless.

A. inert	D. frequently enervated	G. augment
B. jubilant	E. wonderfully enriched	H. foreground
C. sensuous	F. inevitably circumscribed	I. circumvent

31-10. The performer can be _____ in his comedy, but he is fundamentally a bighearted person who displays a core sweetness even at his most manic.

- A. inflammatory
- B. pedestrian
- C. gloomy
- D. uninspired
- E. puerile
- F. provocative

42-10. In 1884, Sewall and Dow agreed to join Roosevelt in the Dakota territory for reasons that appear to have been _____: Sewall later recalled that Roosevelt guaranteed them a share of anything made in his cattle business.

- A. pecuniary

- B. straightforward
- C. economic
- D. selfless
- E. quixotic
- F. altruistic

47-3. As he has matured as a scholar, Felmar has come to see the merit of qualification. His conclusions, which early in his career he (i)_____, are now often (ii)_____.

A. stated as absolutes	D. hedged
B. refused to reveal	E. simplified
C. backed up extensively	F. reiterated

67-4. Even if the merits of the proposal are (i)_____, faculty members may be reluctant to (ii)_____, given their fear of offending the group that champions it.

A. unparalleled	D. demur
B. dubious	E. approve
C. obvious	F. acquiesce

74-4. The humor in this play derives from its (i)_____. The new production, however, inexplicably goes in the opposite direction; it is so (ii)_____ that the audience does not even seem to realize that the play is supposed to be a comedy.

A. verbal nimbleness	D. accessible
B. political allusions	E. plodding
C. deadpan dialogue	F. implausible

88-1. Many Latin American writers and critics have come to bristle at the very mention of the type of fiction termed “magic realism,” but to the common reader the appeal of such fiction is _____.

- A. elusive
- B. undiminished
- C. unfathomable
- D. unexpected
- E. derivative

写作

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