

4 月 27 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 28

Early life insurers in the United States found themselves facing the problem of obtaining reliable information, as they needed to rely on applicants themselves to provide truthful, complete answers to a standard set of questions. In an attempt to personalize the relationship between insurers and their individual applicants, firms selected highly respected local citizens to act as their agents. These agents were expected to evaluate the appearance of candidates, unearth evidence of unhealthy family histories or questionable habits, and attest to the respectability of the people writing testimonial letters on an applicant's behalf. In short, the initial purpose of the agency system was not to actively solicit customers, but, rather, to recreate the glass-bowl mentality associated with small towns or city neighborhoods.

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Passage 31

Scientific consensus is that humans first began to have a warming effect on Earth's climate within the past century, after coal-burning factories, power plants, and motor vehicles began releasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases

in significant quantities into the air. **However, evidence suggests that human agricultural activities may have had such an effect much earlier:** concentrations of CO₂ started rising about 8000 years ago, even though natural trends indicate they should have been dropping; methane levels rose similarly about 3,000 years later. Without these rises, however, current temperatures in northern parts of North America and Europe would be cooler by three to four degrees Celsius-enough to inhibit agriculture-and an ice age would probably have begun several thousand years ago in northeastern Canada.

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Passage 51

The relevance of the literary personality—a writer’s distinctive attitudes, concerns, and artistic choices—to the analysis of a literary work is being scrutinized by various schools of contemporary criticism. Deconstructionists view the literary personality, like the writer’s biographical personality, as irrelevant. The proper focus of literary analysis, they argue, is a work’s intertextuality(interrelationship with other texts), subtexts (unspoken, concealed, or repressed discourses), and metatexts (self-referential aspects), not a perception of a writer’s verbal and aesthetic “fingerprints.” New historicists also devalue the literary personality, since, in their emphasis on a work’s historical contexts, they credit a writer with only those insights and ideas that were generally available when the writer lived. However, to readers interested in literary detective work--say scholars of classical(Greek and Roman) literature who wish to reconstruct damaged texts or deduce a work’s authorship—the literary personality sometimes provides vital clues.

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Passage 54

The discovery of subsurface life on Earth, surviving independently from surface life, refuted the belief that biological processes require not only liquid water but sunlight as well, thus greatly enhancing the possibility of life beyond Earth. **Take Jupiter’s moon Europa.** Space probes show a body covered with a thick layer of ice. As Europa orbits its planet, however, it flexes due to the gravitational tug-of-war between it, its sister moons, and Jupiter. Through friction, this flexing produces heat in the moon’s interior capable of melting ice. Indeed, observations suggest liquid water exists beneath Europa’s icy crust. Photosynthetic life is impossible there because sunlight is completely absent, but life such as the microbes that flourish deep within earth may still be possible.

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Passage 135

The revival of mural painting that has occurred in San Francisco since the 1970s, especially among the Chicano population of the city's Mission District, has marked differences from its social realist forerunner in Mexico and the United States some 40 years earlier. Rather than being government sponsored and limited to murals on government buildings, the contemporary mural movement sprang from the people themselves, with murals appearing on community buildings and throughout college campuses. Perhaps the biggest difference, however, is the process. In earlier twentieth-century Mexico, murals resulted from the vision of individual artists. But today's murals are characteristically the products of artists working with local residents on design and creation.

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Passage 139

Analyzing levels of proportional representation of American Indians in state and local government jobs is important for several reasons. First, the basic idea underlying the theory of representative bureaucracy is that the demographic composition of bureaucracy should mirror the demographic composition of the general public. This is because in addition to its symbolic value, increased access to managerial position may lead to greater responsiveness on the part of policy makers to the policy interests of traditionally disadvantaged groups such as American Indians. Second, the focus on higher level jobs in bureaucracies (as opposed to non-managerial positions) is especially important because managerial positions represent a major source of economic progress for members of traditionally disadvantaged groups, as these jobs confer good salaries, benefits, status, security, and mobility. Third, it is important to know if there has been growth in the American Indian share of more desirable public sector positions over the last two decades. For instance, Peterson and Duncan argue that the population and power of American Indians have been growing in certain states. **Peterson and Duncan also suggest that this growth may reflect the possibility that American Indian population are becoming more active in nontraditional areas of politics, assimilating into mainstream culture, and securing with greater frequency leadership positions in non-tribal government.**

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Passage 147

Our study revealed that nest-guarding long-tailed skinks (a species of lizard) homed (returned to their nests) more successfully when displaced shorter distances. There are two reasons why homing success rates decreased with increasing displacement distance. One possibility is that females were simply displaced too far to find their way home. **However, this is unlikely given that some individuals managed to find their way home from each distance we used.** The second possibility deals with trade-offs between the risks associated with making a long return trip and the benefits of returning. Animals should expend energy only when the associated costs are low. As reptiles increase the time spent moving, their daily energy expenditure increases dramatically. The energetic costs of returning home and the chances that the eggs will have been preyed upon during the return trip both increase substantially as displacement distance increases. For example, the 130 hours (5.5 days) that female skinks spent returning from a distance of 300 meters is sufficient for an egg-eating snake to locate and prey upon the entire clutch. However, females with larger clutches were more likely to home at distances over 50 meters. For these females, the relative fitness benefits associated with having more eggs successfully hatch may outweigh the energetic costs of returning to a nest site, even if the nest may have already been preyed upon.

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Passage 193

In 1995, after an absence of nearly 70 years, wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park. During the wolf-free era, heavy browsing of aspen trees by elk populations spelled doom not only for trees themselves but for a host of other creatures dependent on them, such as beavers, whose population in Yellowstone crashed after wolves were removed. Without beavers to create ponds, wetland ecosystems--aquatic plants, amphibians, birds--were devastated. When wolves returned, grazers and browsers resumed normal patterns of behaviors, preferring safer, open areas over the dense cover and streambanks where carnivores can lurk. Keeping elk wary and on the move, wolves gave aspen and other young trees the opportunity to grow and become reestablished.

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Passage 194

Unlike herbivores and omnivores, predators have traditionally been thought not to balance nutrient intake because of the assumption that animal tissue as a food source varies little and is nutritionally balanced. But chemical analysis of invertebrate prey reveals

remarkable variation in nutrient composition among species; even within species, nutrient composition may vary considerably. Greenstone suggested that predators may select food items according to their nutrient contents. Jensen et al (2011) have shown experimentally that even sit-and-wait invertebrate predators with limited mobility can work to address nutrient deficiencies. The wolf spider, for instance, has been shown to regulate nutrient intake by extracting more dry mass from a prey item if it contains a higher proportion of a nutrient that was deficient in the previous prey.

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1-3. The (i)_____ of molecular oxygen on Earth-sized planets around other stars in the universe would not be (ii)_____ sign of life: molecular oxygen can be a signature of photosynthesis (a biotic process) or merely of the rapid escape of water from the upper reaches of a planetary atmosphere (an abiotic process).

A. dearth	D. a controversial
B. presumption	E. an unambiguous
C. detection	F. a possible

6-8. Coagulation factors are useful proteins whose simple names—many are known only by Roman numerals—_____ their importance and the specificity of their roles in the thinning and clotting of blood.

- A. nullify
- B. obviate
- C. mitigate
- D. belie
- E. mask
- F. accentuate

20-3. Historian Barbara Alpern Engel’s task in writing a book about women in Russia must have been a (i)_____ one, because the (ii)_____ the Russian empire’s peoples meant that Russian women could never be treated as a homogeneous group.

A. motivating	D. unity among
B. boring	E. disinterest in
C. daunting	F. diversity of

21-9. Benjamin Franklin's reputation is so much one of appearing scientific investigation with commonsense empiricism that it is somewhat startling to realize how _____ the great experiment's mentoring truly was.

- A. reasonable
- B. speculative
- C. pragmatic
- D. conjectural
- E. careless
- F. judicious

25-10. For all the _____ the new CEO has received from the press recently, her staff have a decidedly less rosy view of her.

- A. encomiums
- B. tributes
- C. evaluations
- D. critiques
- E. attention
- F. publicity

34-6. Despite the occasional (i)_____ of their venues, the culture of corporate conferences is a deeply (ii)_____ conference, each day consisted of nearly nine hours of continuous lectures and panels enlivened by pleasantries or anything that could be construed as a joke. The only (iii)_____ sensory deprivation of the sessions came from the handsome color slides favored by the corporate presenters.

A. seclusion	D. sycophantic	G. allusion to
B. opulence	E. ascetic	H. ramification of
C. enormity	F. mercenary	I. respite from

36-3. The politician's record while in office, though (i)_____, hardly accounts for her high standard three decades later—a standing all the more (ii)_____ because of continuing assaults on her reputation during those years.

A. bewildering	D. unusual
B. admirable	E. regrettable
C. unappreciated	F. persistent

44-6. It is possible for human to go 40 or more hours without sleep and still be able to (i)_____ information acquired at the beginning of the sleepless period. Thus, when we are considering a role for sleep in human memory consolidation, we are referring to a possible role in the (ii)_____ encoding of information and optimizing of recall, not a (iii)_____ of sleep for recalling events of the prior day.

A. legitimize	D. longer-term	G. requirement
B. augment	E. acute	H. surplus
C. disgorge	F. qualitative	I. facet

49-5. The research on otters' environmental requirements is surprisingly (i)_____. One reason for this has to do with the estimation of how much they use different areas. Doing so may be (ii)_____ in some kinds of terrain, such as Shetland where the Eurasian otters are active in daytime and have clear individual markings. There it is possible to identify the individuals over stretches of coast of a few kilometers and to see what kinds of coast they use. However, the field conditions are (iii)_____.

A. straightforward	D. quite problematic	G. routine
B. controversial	E. relatively simple	H. deceptive
C. difficult	F. largely unnecessary	I. exceptional

61-1. There are no _____ criteria of excellence in art: works that once were ignored or even reviled now fetch millions of dollars at auction, while those that were most highly praised in their day now languish in storage.

- A. subjective
- B. dubious
- C. transitory
- D. immutable
- E. uncontroversial

66-2. Barry was a skilled _____: though his arguments were completely flawed, they were clever-sounding enough to deceive everyone who heard them.

- A. sophist
- B. scholar
- C. quibbler
- D. doctrinaire
- E. pedant

68-9. For certain economists, “pure” economic theory, that is, economic theory _____ a specific social structure, is impossible, much like a concept of anatomy that investigates no specific species.

- A. attuned to
- B. abstracted from
- C. derived from
- D. divorced from
- E. sensitive to
- F. analyzed in

79-7. Church, Nussbaum, Waldman, and Wills have written very different books—Nassbaum and Wills range both farther and deeper—but each one of the four strives for _____, wanting to save us from the errors of partisans and zealots.

- A. concision
- B. evenhandedness
- C. frankness
- D. trustworthiness
- E. succinctness
- F. impartiality

81-1. The chairman, faced with the need to forge a consensus on a number of proposals, acknowledged that it would be difficult to reconcile the push for a radical overhaul with the stance of those who want _____ change.

- A. deliberate
- B. indiscriminate
- C. genuine
- D. immediate
- E. wholesale

83-6. The difficulty for nineteenth-century advocates of the claim that forests helped regulate climate was that their argument (i)_____ historical anecdote and observations. Proving the forest-climate link through verifiable and experimental scientific means rather than observation was (ii)_____ for these individuals, a situation that eventually led to the link (iii)_____ justifications for forest conservation.

A. lacked	D. problematic	G. being revived in
B. discounted	E. unnecessary	H. dropping out of
C. employed	F. straightforward	I. losing out to

85-7. The current _____ of repackaged music under Miles Davis' name might prompt any reasonable person to conclude that the recording vault has been plundered bare.

- A. glut
- B. revival
- C. hodgepodge
- D. surfeit
- E. modicum
- F. dearth

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Issue 题号 16, 75

Argument 题号 62, 15