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Exercise 28

For women feminist literary critic, the subjectivity versus objectivity, or critic-as-artist-or-scientist, debate has special political significance, and her definition will court special risks whichever side of the issue it favors. If she defines feminist criticism as objective and scientific, the definition precludes the critic-as-artist approach and may impede accomplishment of the utilitarian political objectives of those who seek to change the academic establishment. If she defines feminist criticism as creative and intuitive, privileged as art, then her work becomes vulnerable to the prejudices of stereotypic ideas about the ways in which women think, and will be dismissed by much of the academic establishment.

These questions are political in the sense that the debate over them will inevitably be less an exploration of abstract matters in a spirit of disinterested inquiry than an academic power struggle in which the careers and professional fortunes of many women scholars -- only now entering the academic profession in substantial numbers -- will be at stake, and with them the chances for a distinctive contribution to humanistic understanding, a contribution that might be an important influence against sexism in our society.

(186 words)

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

1. The author specifically mentions all of the following as difficulties that particularly affect women who are theoreticians of feminist literary criticism
- ☐ A tendency of a predominantly male academic establishment to form preconceptions about women
 - ☐ B limitations that are imposed when criticism is defined as objective and scientific
 - ☐ C likelihood that the work of a woman theoretician who claims the privilege of art will be viewed with prejudice by some academics

2. Which of the following is presented by the author in support of the suggestion that there is stereotypic thinking among members of the academic establishment?

- (A) A distinctively feminist contribution to humanistic understanding could work against the influence of sexism among members of the academic establishment.
- (B) Women who define criticism as artistic may be seen by the academic establishment as being incapable of critical thinking.
- (C) The debate over the role of the literary critic is often seen as a political one.
- (D) Women scholars are only now entering academia in substantial numbers.
- (E) The woman who is a critic is forced to construct a theory of literary criticism.

3. It can be inferred that the author would define as "political" questions (in the second paragraph) that

- (A) are contested largely through contentions over power
- (B) are primarily academic in nature and open to abstract analysis
- (C) are not in themselves important
- (D) cannot be resolved without extensive debate
- (E) will be debated by both men and women

What causes a helix in nature to appear with either a dextral ("right-handed," or clockwise) twist or a sinistral ("left-handed," or counterclockwise) twist is one of the most intriguing puzzles in the science of form. Most spiral-shaped snail species are predominantly dextral. But at one time, handedness (twist direction of the shell) was equally distributed within some snail species that have become predominantly dextral or, in a few species, predominantly sinistral. What mechanisms control handedness and keep left-handedness rare?

It would seem unlikely that evolution should discriminate against sinistral snails if sinistral and dextral snails are exact mirror images, for any disadvantage that a sinistral twist in itself could confer on its possessor is almost inconceivable. But left- and right-handed snails are not actually true mirror images of one another. Their shapes are noticeably different. Sinistral rarity might, then, be a consequence of possible disadvantages conferred by these other concomitant structural features. In addition, perhaps left- and right-handed snails cannot mate with each other, having incompatible twist directions. Presumably an individual of the rarer form would have relative difficulty in finding a mate of the same hand, thus keeping the rare form rare or creating geographically separated right- and left-handed populations.

But this evolutionary mechanism combining dissymmetry, anatomy, and chance does not provide an adequate explanation of why right-handedness should have become predominant. It does not explain, for example, why the infrequent unions between snails of opposing hands produce fewer offspring of the rarer than the commoner form in species where each parent contributes equally to handedness. Nor does it explain why, in a species where one parent determines handedness, a brood is not exclusively right- or left-handed when the offspring would have the same

genetic predisposition. In the European pond snail *Lymnaea peregra*, a predominantly dextral species whose handedness is maternally determined, a brood might be expected to be exclusively right- or left-handed—and this often occurs. However, some broods possess a few snails of the opposing hand, and in predominantly sinistral broods, the incidence of dextrality is surprisingly high.

Here, the evolutionary theory must defer to a theory based on an explicit developmental mechanism that can favor either right- or left-handedness. In the case of *Lymnaea peregra*, studies indicate that a dextral gene is expressed during egg formation; i.e., before egg fertilization, the gene produces a protein, found in the cytoplasm of the egg, that controls the pattern of cell division and thus handedness. In experiments, an injection of cytoplasm from dextral eggs changes the pattern of sinistral eggs, but an injection from sinistral eggs does not influence dextral eggs. One explanation for the differing effects is that all *Lymnaea peregra* eggs begin left-handed but most switch to being right-handed. Thus, the path to a solution to the puzzle of handedness in all snails appears to be as twisted as the helix itself.

(472 words)

4. The second paragraph of the passage is primarily concerned with offering possible reasons why
- (A) it is unlikely that evolutionary mechanisms could discriminate against sinistral snails
 - (B) sinistrality is relatively uncommon among snail species
 - (C) dextral and sinistral populations of a snail species tend to intermingle
 - (D) a theory based on a developmental mechanism inadequately accounts for the predominance of dextrality across snail species
 - (E) dextral snails breed more readily than sinistral snails, even within predominantly sinistral populations
5. In describing the "evolutionary mechanism" (the first sentence of the third paragraph), the author mentions which of the following?
- (A) The favorable conditions for nurturing new offspring
 - (B) The variable environmental conditions that affect survival of adult snails
 - (C) The availability of potential mates for breeding
 - (D) The structural identity of offspring to parents of the same hand
 - (E) The frequency of unions between snails of different species
6. According to the passage, which of the following is true of *Lymnaea peregra*?
- (A) Handedness within the species was at one time equally distributed between left and right.
 - (B) Under laboratory conditions, dextral eggs from *Lymnaea peregra* can be artificially induced to develop into sinistral snails.
 - (C) Broods of *Lymnaea peregra* are, without variation, exclusively sinistral or dextral.
 - (D) Handedness in *Lymnaea peregra* offspring is determined by two parents together.
 - (E) fewer sinistral offspring in dextral broods than dextral offspring in sinistral broods
7. Which of the following accurately describes the relationship between the evolutionary and developmental theories discussed in the passage?
- (A) Although the two theories reach the same conclusion, each is based on different assumptions.
 - (B) They present contradictory explanations of the same phenomenon.
 - (C) The second theory accounts for certain phenomena that the first cannot explain.
 - (D) The second theory demonstrates why the first is valid only for very unusual, special cases.
 - (E) They are identical and interchangeable in that the second theory merely restates the first in less technical terms.

Martin Luther King's role in the movement protesting the war in Vietnam appears to require little explanation, since he was the foremost advocate of nonviolence of his time. But King's stance on the Vietnam War cannot be explained in terms of pacifism alone. After all, he was something of a latecomer to the antiwar movement, even though by 1965 he was convinced that the role of the United States in the war was indefensible. Why then the two years that passed before he translated his private misgivings into public dissent? Perhaps he believed that he could not criticize American foreign policy without endangering the support for civil rights that he had won from the federal government. (116 words)

8. According to the passage, the delay referred to in the passage is perhaps attributable to which of the following?
- (A) King's ambivalence concerning the role of the United States in the war in Vietnam
 - (B) King's attempts to consolidate support for his leadership within the civil rights movement
 - (C) King's desire to keep the leadership of the civil rights movement distinct from that of the antiwar movement
 - (D) King's desire to draw support for the civil rights movement from the leadership of the antiwar movement
 - (E) King's reluctance to jeopardize federal support for the civil rights movement



An economist concluded that Kregg Company deliberately discriminated against people with a history of union affiliation in hiring workers for its new plant. The economist's evidence is that, of the 1,500 people hired to work at the new plant, only 100 had ever belonged to a labor union, whereas in Kregg Company's older plants, a much higher proportion of workers have a history of union affiliation.

9. Which of the following is an assumption on which the economist's argument depends?

- (A) None of the people with a history of union affiliation who were hired to work at the new plant were union organizers.
- (B) Applicants for jobs at the new plant were not asked by Kregg's recruiters whether they had ever belonged to a labor union.
- (C) In the plants of some of Kregg's competitors, the workforce consists predominantly of union members.
- (D) The company believes that the cost of running the new plant will be lower if labor unions are not represented in the workforce.
- (E) The pool of potential candidates for jobs at the new plant included some people, in addition to those Kregg hired, with a history of union affiliation.



Quantum mechanics is a highly successful theory: it supplies methods for accurately calculating the results of diverse experiments, especially with minute particles. The predictions of quantum mechanics, however, give only the probability of an event, not a deterministic statement of whether or not the event will occur. Because of this probabilism, Einstein remained strongly dissatisfied with the theory throughout his life, though he did not maintain that quantum mechanics is wrong. Rather, he held that it is incomplete: in quantum mechanics the motion of a particle must be described in terms of probabilities, he argued, only because some parameters that determine the motion have not been specified. Einstein's ideas have been tested by experiments performed since his death, and as most of these experiments support traditional quantum mechanics, Einstein's approach is almost certainly erroneous.

(134 words)

10. It can be inferred from the passage that the author's conclusion that Einstein's approach is "erroneous" might have to be modified because

- (A) it is theoretically possible to generate plausible theories with hidden parameters within them
- (B) some experimental tests of Einstein's theory do not disconfirm the hidden-parameter theory of quantum mechanics
- (C) it is possible for a theory to have hidden parameters and yet be probabilistic
- (D) traditional quantum mechanics has not yet been used to analyze all of the phenomena to which it could be applied
- (E) there are too many possible hidden parameters to develop meaningful tests of hidden-parameter theories



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