TPO35 Reading Keys

Passage 1

**Speciation in Geographically Isolated Populations**

Paragraph 1

The city of Memphis, located on the Nile near the modern city of Cairo, was founded around 3100 B.C. as the first capital of a recently united Egypt. The choice of Memphis by Egypt’s first kings reflects the site’s strategic importance. First, and most obvious, the apex of the Nile River delta was a politically opportune location for the state’s administrative center, standing between the united lands of Upper and Lower Egypt and offering ready access to both parts of the country. The older predynastic (pre-3100BC) centers of power. This and Hierakonpolis, were too remote from the vast expanse of the delta, which had been incorporated into the unified state. Only a city within easy reach of both the Nile valley to the south and the more spread out, difficult terrain to the north could provide the necessary political control that the rulers of early dynastic Egypt (roughly 3000¬2600 B.C.) required.

Q1 The word vast in the passage is closest in meaning to

1. fertile
2. huge
3. unique
4. irregular

正确答案: B

解析：vast，有“巨大的，浩瀚的”之意；建议考生在考前把这个单词背下来；fertile, “贫瘠的”；unique“奇特的”；irregular,“不规则的”。

Paragraph 2

The region of Memphis must have also served as an important node for transport and communications, even before the unification of Egypt. The region probably acted as a conduit for much, if not all, of the river-based trade between northern and southern Egypt. Moreover, commodities (such as wine, precious oils, and metals) imported from the Near East by the royal courts of predynastic Upper Egypt would have been channeled through the Memphis region on their way south. In short, therefore, the site of Memphis offered the rulers of the Early Dynastic Period an ideal location for controlling internal trade within their realm, an essential requirement for a state-directed economy that depended on the movement of goods.

Paragraph 3

Equally important for the national administration was the ability to control communications within Egypt. The Nile provided the easiest and quickest artery of communication, and the national capital was, again, ideally located in this respect. Recent geological surveys of the Memphis region have revealed much about its topography in ancient times. It appears that the location of Memphis may have been even more advantageous for controlling trade, transport, and communications than was previously appreciated. Surveys and drill cores have shown that the level of the Nile floodplain has steadily risen over the last five millenniums. When the floodplain was much lower, as it would have been in predynastic and early dynastic times, the outwash fans (fan-shaped deposits of sediments) of various wadis (stream-beds or channels that carry water only during rainy periods) would have been much more prominent features on the east bank. The fan associated with the Wadi Hof extended a significant way into the Nile floodplain, forming a constriction in the vicinity of Memphis. The valley may have narrowed at this point to a mere three kilometers, making it the ideal place for controlling river traffic.

Q2 The word appreciated in the passage is closest in meaning to

1. proposed
2. understood
3. approved
4. expected

正确答案：B

解析：根据上下文 “It appears that the location of Memphis may have been even more advantageous for controlling trade, transport, and communications than was previously appreciated”, “孟菲斯的地理位置在贸易控制、交通、交流方面也许比之前大家所\_\_\_\_的更具优势”，根据上下文意思B最为合适；propose“提议、建议”； understand“理解”；approve，“赞成，同意”；expect“期望”；appreciate除了“理解”的意思，还有“欣赏”之意。建议考生在考前把这些单词的意思都掌握。

Q3 The word vicinity in the passage is closest in meaning to

A．center

B．fields

C．city

D．surrounding area

正确答案：D

解析：vicinity，“相邻，附近，邻近”。根据上下文的意思， “The fan associated with the Wadi Hof extended a significant way into the Nile floodplain, forming a constriction in the vicinity of Memphis” ; “与瓦迪霍夫河相关联的风扇区以一种显著的方式拓展进入尼罗河漫滩，形成了在孟菲斯\_\_\_\_\_\_的收缩区域”；孟菲斯是一个重要的贸易城市，而4个选项只有将D选项代入最符合上下文的意思；排除法也可以选出D。

Paragraph 1

→The city of Memphis, located on the Nile near the modern city of Cairo, was founded around 3100 B.C. as the first capital of a recently united Egypt. The choice of Memphis by Egypt’s first kings reflects the site’s strategic importance. First, and most obvious, the apex of the Nile River delta was a politically opportune location for the state’s administrative center, standing between the united lands of Upper and Lower Egypt and offering ready access to both parts of the country. The older predynastic (pre-3100BC) centers of power. This and Hierakonpolis, were too remote from the vast expanse of the delta, which had been incorporated into the unified state. Only a city within easy reach of both the Nile valley to the south and the more spread out, difficult terrain to the north could provide the necessary political control that the rulers of early dynastic Egypt (roughly 3000¬2600 B.C.) required.

Q4 According to paragraph 1, why was Memphis a better choice for the capital of a united Egypt than either This or Hierakonpolis

A．Memphis was in a better location for maintaining administrative control.

B．Memphis had long been a regional administrative center by the time Egypt was united.

C．This and Hierakonpolis had never actually been incorporated into the unified state.

D. Egyptian rulers had failed to keep political control over This and Hierakonpolis in predynastic times.

Paragraph 1 is marked with an arrow [→].

正确答案：A

解析：定位到This and Hierakonpolis, were too remote from the vast expanse of the delta, which had been incorporated into the unified state，也就是说这两个地方地理位置都不如Memphis理想。

Q5 Which of the following best describes how paragraph 1 is organized?

A．Two simultaneous developments are described, as well as the reasons why neither one would have occurred without the other.

B．A hypothesis is presented, and then points in favor of that hypothesis as well as points against it are discussed.

C．A major event is described, and then the most obvious effects of that event are presented.

D．A decision is described, and then one likely motivation for that decision is presented.

Paragraph 1 is marked with an arrow [→].

正确答案：D

解析：因为第一段首先提及Memphis被选择建成为埃及第一个首都，并且是帝王做的选择，帝王做的选择就是decision; 接下来解释推动这个决定背后的原因，即motivation。所以D最符合。

Paragraph 2

→The region of Memphis must have also served as an important node for transport and communications, even before the unification of Egypt. The region probably acted as a conduit for much, if not all, of the river-based trade between northern and southern Egypt. Moreover, commodities (such as wine, precious oils, and metals) imported from the Near East by the royal courts of predynastic Upper Egypt would have been channeled through the Memphis region on their way south. In short, therefore, the site of Memphis offered the rulers of the Early Dynastic Period an ideal location for controlling internal trade within their realm, an essential requirement for a state-directed economy that depended on the movement of goods.

Q6 According to paragraph 2, when did Egypt import goods from the Near East?

A．Once internal trade was fully controlled from Memphis

B．Not until early dynastic Egypt established its state-directed economy

C．As early as predynastic times

D．Only when local supplies of those goods had been completely used up

Paragraph 2 is marked with an arrow [→].

正确答案：C

解析：此题需要定位到commodities (such as wine, precious oils, and metals) imported from the Near East by the royal courts of predynastic Upper Egypt would …关键词是imported，“进口”，和 predynastic, “(尤指公元前3100年古埃及的)王朝统治以前的”。

Q7 Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage. Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

1. Thus in Memphis, the rulers of the Early Dynastic Period were ideally placed to control internal trade, which they had to do in order to run their economy.
2. Therefore the rulers of the Early Dynastic Period thought Memphis was the ideal location for trade with nearby countries.
3. In short, a state-directed economy like that of the Early Dynastic Period requires choosing a single location to which goods can be moved just as Memphis, in this case.
4. In sum, then, a state-directed economy first developed during Egypt's Early Dynastic Period because Memphis was an ideal location for controlling trade.

正确答案：A

解析：被highlight（重点标记）出来的句子说孟菲斯的地理条件为统一王朝的早期统治者们提供了绝佳位置，以便对内贸进行管控，对于一个以易货贸易为主导经济的国家来说，这点十分关键。B的错误在于，trade with nearby countries，C错在a single location，D错在因果顺序颠倒。

Paragraph 3

→Equally important for the national administration was the ability to control communications within Egypt. The Nile provided the easiest and quickest artery of communication, and the national capital was, again, ideally located in this respect. Recent geological surveys of the Memphis region have revealed much about its topography in ancient times. It appears that the location of Memphis may have been even more advantageous for controlling trade, transport, and communications than was previously appreciated. Surveys and drill cores have shown that the level of the Nile floodplain has steadily risen over the last five millenniums. When the floodplain was much lower, as it would have been in predynastic and early dynastic times, the outwash fans (fan-shaped deposits of sediments) of various wadis (stream-beds or channels that carry water only during rainy periods) would have been much more prominent features on the east bank. The fan associated with the Wadi Hof extended a significant way into the Nile floodplain, forming a constriction in the vicinity of Memphis. The valley may have narrowed at this point to a mere three kilometers, making it the ideal place for controlling river traffic.

Q8 According to paragraph 3, recent research into the topography of the Memphis region in ancient times suggests which of the following.

1. The level of the Nile floodplains was much higher in pre-dynastic and dynastic times than in later times.
2. The sediment deposits of wadis were not as noticeable in pre-dynastic and dynastic times than in later times.
3. The Nile valley at the point of Memphis was narrower in pre-dynastic and dynastic times than it was in later times.
4. Frequent rainy periods may have caused a significant reduction of trade traffic during the pre-dynastic and dynastic times.

Paragraph 3 is marked with an arrow [→].

正确答案：C

解析： C选项是阅读原文中The valley may have narrowed at this point to a mere three kilometers, making it the ideal place for controlling river traffic这句话的同义转述。A错在higher，B错在wadis在predynastic时期更显著，D错在wadis说明是雨水量少。

Paragraph 4

→Furthermore, the Memphis region seems to have been favorably located for the control not only of river-based trade but also of desert trade routes. The two outwash fans in the area gave access to the extensive wadi systems of the eastern desert. In predynastic times, the Wadi Digla may have served as a trade route between the Memphis region and the Near East, to judge from the unusual concentration of foreign artifacts found in the predynastic settlement of Maadi. Access to, and control of, trade routes between Egypt and the Near East seems to have been a preoccupation of Egypt’s rulers during the period of state formation. The desire to monopolize foreign trade may have been one of the primary factors behind the political unification of Egypt. The foundation of the national capital at the junction of an important trade route with the Nile valley is not likely to have been accidental. Moreover, the Wadis Hof and Digla provided the Memphis region with accessible desert pasturage. As was the case with the cities of Hierakonpolis and Elkab, the combination within the same area of both desert pasturage and alluvial arable land (land suitable for growing crops) was a particularly attractive one for early settlement; Equally important for the national administration was the ability to control communications within Egypt. The Nile provided the easiest and quickest artery of communication, and the national capital was, again, ideally located in this respect. Recent geological surveys of the Memphis region have revealed much about its topography in ancient times.

Q9 According to paragraph 4, which of the following is NOT a reason Memphis was chosen as the capital of a united Egypt

1. It was at the junction of a major trade route with the Nile valley.
2. It was near land that could be used for animal grazing and for growing crops.
3. The nearby outwash fans led into wadis that could be used as desert trade routes.
4. Since foreign traders had settled in nearby Maadi, trade between the two cities could be established.

Paragraph 4 is marked with an arrow [→].

正确答案：D

解析：文中提到Maadi用来说明Memphis早前就有对外贸易。

Q10 The phrase to have been accidental in the passage is closest in meaning to

1. to have gone wrong
2. to have been helpful
3. to have occurred by chance
4. to have made a difference

正确答案：C

解析：回到上下文The desire to monopolize foreign trade may have been one of the primary factors behind the political unification of Egypt. The foundation of the …… with the Nile valley is not likely to have been accidental. Moreover…...这三句之间是有递进关系的，先说垄断贸易是为了统一埃及的一个重要的原因，（与统一贸易有关的）尼罗河谷的建立不是\_\_\_\_\_\_的。而且还怎样怎样。所以C选项 “to have occurred by chance” “偶然而为之的”放进原文是最符合上下文的逻辑关系的，“尼罗河的建立不是随机的”。accidental，“意外的”。

Paragraph 1

→The city of Memphis, located on the Nile near the modern city of Cairo, was founded around 3100 B.C. as the first capital of a recently united Egypt. The choice of Memphis by Egypt’s first kings reflects the site’s strategic importance. First, and most obvious, the apex of the Nile River delta was a politically opportune location for the state’s administrative center, standing between the united lands of Upper and Lower Egypt and offering ready access to both parts of the country. The older predynastic (pre-3100BC) centers of power. This and Hierakonpolis, were too remote from the vast expanse of the delta, which had been incorporated into the unified state. Only a city within easy reach of both the Nile valley to the south and the more spread out, difficult terrain to the north could provide the necessary political control that the rulers of early dynastic Egypt (roughly 3000¬2600 B.C.) required.

Q11 It can be inferred from paragraph 1 that one consequence of the unification of Egypt was

1. the reduction of the strategic importance of older centers of power
2. the opportunity for the recently united Egypt to become economically self-sufficient
3. the increase in political tensions between the rulers of Upper and Lower Egypt
4. the reduction of Egypt's dependence upon the Nile for trade and communications

Paragraph 1 is marked with an arrow [→].

正确答案：A

解析：第一段提到This and Hierakonpolis，说距离delta（三角洲）区域很远，所以其political power（政治权力）不及Memphis。

Paragraph 4

→Furthermore, the Memphis region seems to have been favorably located for the control not only of river-based trade but also of desert trade routes. The two outwash fans in the area gave access to the extensive wadi systems of the eastern desert. In predynastic times, the Wadi Digla may have served as a trade route between the Memphis region and the Near East, to judge from the unusual concentration of foreign artifacts found in the predynastic settlement of Maadi. Access to, and control of, trade routes between Egypt and the Near East seems to have been a preoccupation of Egypt’s rulers during the period of state formation. The desire to monopolize foreign trade may have been one of the primary factors behind the political unification of Egypt. The foundation of the national capital at the junction of an important trade route with the Nile valley is not likely to have been accidental. Moreover, the Wadis Hof and Digla provided the Memphis region with accessible desert pasturage. As was the case with the cities of Hierakonpolis and Elkab, the combination within the same area of both desert pasturage and alluvial arable land (land suitable for growing crops) was a particularly attractive one for early settlement; Equally important for the national administration was the ability to control communications within Egypt. The Nile provided the easiest and quickest artery of communication, and the national capital was, again, ideally located in this respect. Recent geological surveys of the Memphis region have revealed much about its topography in ancient times.

Q12 In paragraph 4, why does the author mention the cities of Hierakonpolis and Elkab?

1. To give an indication of the level of prosperity that Memphis is thought to have enjoyed from its earliest days.
2. To compare the Memphis region to them in terms of their similar combinations of characteristics providing advantages for early settlement.
3. To identify the models that the founders of Memphis followed in laying out the national capital.
4. To suggest that the combination of desert pasturage and alluvial arable land in the same area was very common.

Paragraph 4 is marked with an arrow [→].

正确答案：B

解析：Hierakonpolis和Elkab是沙漠草场和冲积平原的汇聚地，Memphis与这二者的特点相似。

Q13 Look at the four squares that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

**While considerations of political power and ease of administration were decisive in choosing the location of the new capital, the site clearly had other advantages.**

Where would the sentence best fit? Click on a square [■]to add the sentence to the passage.

The city of Memphis, located on the Nile near the modern city of Cairo, was founded around 3100 B.C. as the first capital of a recently united Egypt. The choice of Memphis by Egypt’s first kings reflects the site’s strategic importance. 1■ First, and most obvious, the apex of the Nile River delta was a politically opportune location for the state’s administrative center, standing between the united lands of Upper and Lower Egypt and offering ready access to both parts of the country. The older predynastic (pre-3100BC) centers of power, This and Hierakonpolis, were too remote from the vast expanse of the delta, which had been incorporated into the unified state. 2■Only a city within easy reach of both the Nile valley to the south and the more spread out, difficult terrain to the north could provide the necessary political control that the rulers of early dynastic Egypt (roughly 3000¬2600 B.C.) required.3 ■

The region of Memphis must have also served as an important node for transport and communications, even before the unification of Egypt. The region probably acted as a conduit for much, if not all, of the river-based trade between northern and southern Egypt. 4■Moreover, commodities (such as wine, precious oils, and metals) imported from the Near East by the royal courts of predynastic Upper Egypt would have been channeled through the Memphis region on their way south. In short, therefore, the site of Memphis offered the rulers of the Early Dynastic Period an ideal location for controlling internal trade within their realm, an essential requirement for a state-directed economy that depended on the movement of goods.

正确答案：3

解析：这句句子承上启下，先总结political power（政治权力）和ease of administration（易于统治管理），前两个句子已经解释，后启other advantages，下文提到transport和communication。

Q14 **Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they egress ideas mat are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. **This question is worth 2 points**.

1. River-based trade from northern Egypt and imported goods going south all passed through the Memphis region, making Memphis an ideal location for controlling trade.
2. After Memphis became the capital city, river-based trade along the Nile gained in importance, while land-based desert trade declined in importance.
3. Recent geological surveys suggest that the topographical features of the Memphis region made it particularly well-suited for controlling communications and trade.
4. The Nile, despite a constriction of its valley near Memphis, was the most advantageous route for communication and travel once the floodplain had begun to rise.
5. The rulers of unified Egypt enjoyed a monopoly over foreign trade because all such trade was required to go through the Wadi Digla, to which the rulers controlled all access.
6. While the location of Memphis was agriculturally favorable, it was particularly attractive because it enabled Egypt's rulers to control trade moving through the desert from the Near East.

正确答案：1, 3, 6

解析：第1句主要概括了第一段的大意“以（尼罗）河为基础的贸易，从埃及北部和进口的货物都经过孟菲斯地区，于是使孟菲斯成为控制贸易的理想地点”；第3句主要概括了第二、三段的大意，主要讲的就是“最近的地质调查表明，孟菲斯地区的地形特征，特别适合于控制通信和贸易”；第6句主要概括了第四段的大意，“不但孟菲斯的地理位置对于农业发展很有利，而且它对于埃及的统治者也特别的有吸引力，因其能帮助统治者能控制从沙漠向近东地区的贸易活动。”