

W1

Reading Part:

Starting in the 1960s and continuing until the 1980s, sailors in Russian submarines patrolling the North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean would occasionally hear strange sounds. These underwater noises reminded the submarine crews of frog croaks, so they called the sounds 'quackers' (from the Russian word for frog sounds). The sources of the sound seemed to be moving with great speed and agility; however, the submarines' sonar (a method of detecting objects underwater) was unable to detect any solid moving objects in the area. ~~There are several~~ theories about what might

have caused the odd sounds.

The first theory suggests that ~~the strange noises~~ were actually the calls of male and female orca whales during a courtship ritual. Orca whales are known to inhabit the areas where the submarines were picking up the bizarre noises. Orcas have been studied extensively, and the sounds they make when trying to attract a male are similar to those that the submarines were detecting.

A second idea is that the sounds were caused by giant squid. Giant squids are giant marine invertebrates that live deep in the ocean and prey on large fish. They are difficult to detect by sonar because they have soft bodies with no skeleton. Not much is known about giant squid behavior, but their complex brains suggest they are intelligent animals. It is possible they have the ability to emit sound, and perhaps they approached the submarines out of curiosity.

A third theory suggests the Russian submarines were picking up stray sounds from some military technology, like another country's submarines that were secretly patrolling the area. Perhaps the foreign submarines did not register on sonar because they were using a kind of technology specifically designed to make them undetectable by sonar. The strange

froglike sounds may have been emitted by the foreign submarines unintentionally.

Listening Part

Now listen to part of a lecture on the topic you just read about.

(female professor) Quackers are certainly a very strange phenomenon.

Experts still debate what the source of the sound was. No one can be sure exactly what caused them. But these experts cite certain problems with all

of the theories that you just read about. Here are a few of the arguments that they made.

First, the idea that the sounds were caused by Orca whales seems plausible at first but is ultimately highly unlikely. It's that there are Orca populations in the general areas that the Russian submarines were patrolling. But Orca whales mostly live near the surface of the water. The submarines typically remain deep in the ocean and should not have been able to hear the whale sounds from near the surface. Also the Orca whales would have been detected by the Russian sonar if they were nearby.

Giant squid may be a better candidate but one critical fact speaks against this squid theory as well. ~~Russian submarines~~ first detected quacker

sound in the 1960s and ~~reports of them decades~~. But the sounds disappeared entirely by the ~~1980s~~. ~~However, as far as we know, squid have always lived in the ocean where the submarines were patrolling and continue to live there today. If these were squid sound, there would be no reason to suddenly start hearing them in one decade and then suddenly stop hearing them twenty years later.~~

Third, the idea that the quackers were caused by a secret submarine from another country does not hold up. The sources of the sound appear to move around and change direction very quickly. Submarines cannot move or change direction that quickly. Also all submarines make some engine noise. But no such noise accompanied the quackers. Even today, we don't have the technology to build submarines that are that fast and have engines that are that silent.

W2

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Because the world is changing so quickly, people now are less happy or less satisfied with their lives than people were in the past.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

TPO 32 Integrated Writing

The reading passage concentrates on several theories about the cause of the odd sounds. However, in the lecture, the professor respectively points out the problems in all his assertions.

First, even though the reading passage suggests that the noises were caused by orcas during courtship ritual, the professor argues that orcas live in the surface of the water whereas the submarines dived to the deep ocean and thus cannot hear the sounds. Besides, the nearby whales could have been found by the sonar.

Second, despite the statement in the reading passage that the sounds were emitted by giant squid that approached the submarines with

curiosity, the professor contends that squids have always lived in the ocean and therefore it's unlikely that their-sounds were first detected in 1960s but disappeared by 1980.

Third, the author asserts that the quackers were caused by a foreign submarine while the professor proves that this claim is indefensible by

pointing out that submarines cannot move or change direction so quickly with no engine noise because even today we are technologically impossible to build that kind of submarines.

TPO 32 Independent Writing

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Because the world is changing so quickly, people now are less happy or less satisfied with their lives than people were in the past.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

The pursuit of happiness is never a simple matter for human beings and it is in fact that more and more people are deprived of happiness and satisfaction by the progress of society.

First of all, the inevitable problem that comes with the dramatic social transformation is the mounting pressure that tortures people

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virtually. There is no denying that demands set by the society for more working skills and greater adaptability to the changing living environment are on the rise all the way. The fact is, for our social generation, with one content finished, another mission soon pops out. Consequently, for the majority of people, happiness seems a long distance thing since hardly can

they really liberate themselves from the growing social requirements and shrug off the anxiety in the fast-paced society.

In addition, pollutions brought about by the fast industrialization and the advance of modern technology have rippled through the society. An apparent symptom is that the sky we are under is no longer sapphire and pure, and even the air we respire everyday becomes dirty. Take the capital city of China, Beijing, for example. Its notorious smog has not only caused serious traffic accidents but also put its citizens into fear and depression. For these concerns, we should like to ask: how can people feel happy and satisfied living in this contaminated environment?

Lastly, from the aspect of humanity itself, a sad fact is that the increasingly abundant material life has made people more and more rapacious. From a glimpse of the flourishing luxury industry, we can safely feel people's inflating greed. The pursuit of cars, jewels, mansions, etc. has become the emblem of material life. Even if have to pay a heavy cost of youth and innocence, people would not like to stop to think back that lust is the root of all unhappiness and satisfaction.

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In sum, taking into aceount of the persistent social press, the worsening environmental pollution and the undying human desires, there leaves no room for doubt that people are destined to be less happy and less satisfied compared with the past.