

The size of the American family has gradually grown smaller. One major reason for diminished size may have been growth in urbanization ; whereas a large family may be practical on the farm, since it means more hands to help in the work, child-labor laws and relatively high living expenses make more than a few children prohibitive in the city. Evidence to support this is seen in the fact that the proportion of childless couples has actually declined; shrinkage in the average size of families has come mainly from the dramatic decrease in the percentage of families having more than four children.

1. Which of the following best expresses the point of the passage?

- (A) The size of the American family has diminished due to the growth of cities.
- (B) The nature of farm work favors a large family.
- (C) The size of families in poor countries has decreased.
- (D) The percentage of families with more than four children was once higher than it is now.
- (E) The cost of living in the city is troubling large families.

1 A certain strain of bacteria called *lyngbya majuscula*, an ancient ancestor of modern-day algae, is making a comeback in ocean waters just off the world's most industrialized coastal regions. This primitive bacteria has survived for nearly three billion years due to a variety of survival mechanisms. It can produce its own fertilizer by pulling nitrogen out of the air; it relies on a different spectrum of light than algae do, allowing it to thrive even in deep, murky waters; and when it dies and decays, it releases its own nitrogen and phosphorous, on which the next generation of *lyngbya* feeds. *Lyngbya* emits more than one hundred different toxins harmful to other ocean life as well as to humans.

Commercial fishermen and divers who come in contact with the bacteria frequently complain of skin rashes and respiratory problems, which can keep these workers off the job for months at a time. The bacteria further disrupts local economies by blocking sunlight to sea grasses that attract fish and other sea life. Scientists attribute the modern-day reappearance of *lyngbya*, and the resulting problems, chiefly to nitrogen- and phosphorous-rich sewage partially processed at wastewater treatment plants and pumped into rivers that feed coastal ocean waters.

The passage as a whole can appropriately be viewed as an examination of which of the following?

- (A) The causes and consequences of the re-emergence of lyngbya
- (B) The possible means of halting and reversing the spread of lyngbya
- (C) The economic impact of lyngbya on certain coastal communities
- (D) The survival mechanisms and life cycle of lyngbya
- (E) The ecological fallout resulting from coastal sewage runoff

If the airspace around centrally located airports were restricted to commercial airliners and only those private planes equipped with radar, most of the private-plane traffic would be forced to use outlying airfields. Such a reduction in the amount of private-plane traffic would reduce the risk of midair collision around the centrally located airports.

The conclusion drawn in the first sentence depends on which of the following assumptions?

- (A) Outlying airfields would be as convenient as centrally located airports for most pilots of private planes.
- (B) Most outlying airfields are not equipped to handle commercial-airline traffic.
- (C) Most private planes that use centrally located airports are not equipped with radar.
- (D) Commercial airliners are at greater risk of becoming involved in midair collisions than are private planes.
- (E) A reduction in the risk of midair collision would eventually lead to increases in commercial-airline traffic.