

### Passage 1

Livestock-grazing programs in arid zones that are based on the equilibrium view of rangelands—that grazing-induced land degradation will occur if livestock numbers exceed the availability of food—have failed. Contrary to the equilibrium view, traditional pastoral systems of land use are more appropriate. Such systems involve a high degree of opportunism to cope with unpredictable rainfall and fluctuating food distribution. Livestock mobility relieves areas of concentration and allows herds to exploit unevenly distributed resources. A strategy of managing multiple livestock species allows optimal use of these variable grazing resources. These approaches to land use are similar to those recommended by nonequilibrium models, which assume that plant dynamics in arid zones are influenced more by rainfall than by grazing.

1. According to the passage, the equilibrium view of rangelands is defined in terms of the relationship between
  - A. distribution of rainfall and patterns of grazing.
  - B. predictability of rainfall and fluctuations in food distribution.
  - C. mobility of livestock and extent of land degradation.
  - D. livestock numbers and availability of food.
  - E. number of livestock species and variability of grazing resources.

Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply

2. The passage suggests that proponents of “non-equilibrium models” would agree with which of the following statements about grazing induced land degradation in arid zones?
  - A. Traditional pastoral systems of land use have caused land degradation.
  - B. Land degradation will occur if livestock numbers exceed the availability of food.
  - C. The employment of opportunistic methods of land use can help avoid land degradation.

### Passage 2

Favorable environments do not necessarily lead to the occurrence of plant cultivation. South China is warmer and moister than North China and the Yangtze Basin, with wild rice and highly abundant natural resources. Yet archaeological data indicate that cereal cultivation did not occur in this region until approximately 7,000 to 6,500 years ago. This cultivation was likely a result of cultural contact with and expansion from the Yangtze Basin. Clearly, environmental factors were important for the occurrence of cultivation in China, but were not the absolute determining factors. While incipient cultivation might occur in areas of relatively abundant resources, it may not occur in areas of very abundant resources, such as South China, where foraging might be a more efficient way of life.

1. The author implies which of the following about natural resources in South China prior to 6,500 years ago?
  - A. Their abundance may have actually served to discourage the development of plant cultivation.
  - B. They were not as abundant as most archaeologists have maintained.
  - C. They led indirectly to cultural contact with peoples from the Yangtze Basin.
  - D. Their importance has been downplayed by scholars studying the beginnings of plant cultivation

in South China.

E. They had little influence on the types of plants that were eventually cultivated in South China.

2. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about plant cultivation in the Yangtze Basin?

- A. It occurred in spite of an unfavorable climate.
- B. It occurred prior to 6,500 years ago.
- C. It occurred somewhat later than it occurred in North China.
- D. It occurred largely because of the abundance of wild rice in the region.
- E. It occurred as a result of cultural contact with South China.

### Passage 3

Many Anglo writers of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries portrayed the area that eventually became New Mexico as virgin territory without traditions and roots. But for Fabiola Cabeza de Baca, this landscape meant a long tradition of Hispanic families not only tied to the land but nourished by it.

Cabeza de Baca's *We Fed Them Cactus* recounts the changes endured by her family because of their dependence on the land. Cabeza de Baca contrasts Anglo writers' perception of the "plains" with Hispanic families' perception of the land as "fields" of herbs and cactus, domesticated and accessible. Her family's relationship to land, weather, and landscape is all important. She writes, "Rain for us made history .... The droughts were as impressed on our souls as the rains. When we spoke of the Armistice of World War I, we always said, 'The drought of 1918 when the Armistice was signed.'"

1. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

- A. depicting a way of life.
- B. presenting a Hispanic writer's point of view.
- C. summarizing the plot of a literary work.
- D. appraising the work of a Hispanic writer.
- E. comparing dissimilar styles of writing.

2. The author of the passage mentions "plains" and "fields" primarily in order to

- A. provide a contrast between fictionalized and historical events.
- B. illustrate the eccentricities of Cabeza de Baca's writing style.
- C. contrast the land owned by Anglo settlers with that owned by Cabeza de Baca's family.
- D. portray the differences between the attitudes of Anglo and of Hispanic writers toward the landscape.
- E. emphasize the changes that occurred to the landscape during Cabeza de Baca's lifetime.

### Passage 4

Zora Neale Hurston's 1942 autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road*, has received some of the most negative criticism of any of Hurston's books. Among critics' complaints—some from Hurston's warmest admirers—is the work's fragmentary nature, a nature which, while present in other Hurston texts, including the universally acclaimed novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, is

particularly conspicuous in *Dust Tracks*. The complaints about *Dust Tracks* are valid if one insists on the cardinal conventions of autobiography: traditional autobiographical structure and formal organization, and a focused projection of the autobiographical persona. But *Dust Tracks* portrays a persona that resists reduction to a coherent unity—a person of many moods who is in tension with the world in which she moves. In order to correspond better to this persona, *Dust Tracks* focuses on the fragmented life of Hurston’s imagination: the psychological dynamics of her family, community stories, and characters of friends.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is
  - A. explain why *Dust Tracks* has been less well received than other similarly structured works by Hurston.
  - B. argue that a supposed deficiency in *Dust Tracks* actually contributes to the work’s presentation of its subject.
  - C. compare the critical reaction to *Dust Tracks* with the critical reaction to *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.
  - D. point out specific similarities between the structure of *Dust Tracks* and the structure of Hurston’s other works.
  - E. suggest that some critics’ evaluations of *Dust Tracks* is influenced by their rejection of certain conventions of autobiography.
2. The author of the passage suggests that critics’ complaints about the structure of *Dust Tracks* are
  - A. not valid, because *Dust Tracks* should not be judged by the standards of conventional autobiography.
  - B. unjustified, because they have not been directed at other Hurston texts that are similarly structured.
  - C. justified, given the extent to which *Dust Tracks* is autobiographical.
  - D. inexplicable, given the critical response to *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.
  - E. compelling, because Hurston’s warmest admirers have complained the most strenuously.
3. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
  - A. A situation is presented and an explanation of how that situation developed is offered.
  - B. Two opposing points of view are contrasted and their relative merits are evaluated.
  - C. An orthodox view is discussed, a challenge to it is analyzed, and the original view is affirmed.
  - D. A point of view is described and an analysis challenging that point of view follows.
  - E. A dispute is analyzed and several points of agreement between the two sides are identified.

### Passage 5

Irish traditional music has benefited from state-sponsored performance competition. Competitions promote music instruction, motivate young musicians to practice, and encourage informal gatherings where musicians learn from one another. Winning an All-Ireland championship carries great national and international prestige and can help launch a professional music career. However, some musicians express concern about competitions’ **long-range effects**. Irish traditional music is based on diverse, individual interpretations of melodies, while objective judgment relies on constant, clearly defined standards. Competitions may have a homogenizing effect because

competitors are required to perform certain nationally recognized types of tunes, such as jigs and reels, and are not allowed to play certain more obscure regional musical forms. Some also feel that competitions encourage performers to gravitate toward a flashy, performance-oriented style that is authentic only to certain regions.

1. It can be inferred that the “long-range effects” that some musicians see as cause for concern include which of the following?

- A. The dilution of Ireland’s musician’s tradition through the introduction of modern musical influences.
- B. The encouragement of idiosyncratic interpretations of tradition melodies.
- C. A weakening of the standards by which performances of traditional music are judged.
- D. A loss of interest in traditional music among young people.
- E. A decline in the diversity of Irish music.

2. The passage suggests that some critics of state-sponsored competitions would probably endorse which of the following changes in the way competitions are conducted?

- A. Amateur and professional musician would be allowed to compete for the same awards.
- B. Judging standards would not favor a flamboyant performance of a particular tune if that style did not reflect the performance traditions of the tune’s region of origin.
- C. All competitors would be required to play the same set of tunes so that judges would not be influenced by individual’s choice of pieces.
- D. Competition judges would be required to have proficiency in the playing of several different traditional Irish instruments.
- E. Competitors would be evaluated less on their technical ability than on the expressiveness of their performance.

# Answers

Passage 1: D	C	
Passage 2: A	B	
Passage 3: B	D	
Passage 4: B	A	D
Passage 5: E	B	