

Passage 1

The importance of the relatively docile eland (antelope) in the diet of Middle Stone Age (MSA) people contrasted with the increased importance of aggressive wild pigs to Late Stone Age hunters, a contrast that indicates that the MSA hunters were less proficient than LSA hunters. This has been used to support the view that neurological changes dramatically increased the behavioral sophistication of anatomically modern humans. However, alternative hypotheses have not been sufficiently examined to warrant this interpretation. The possibility that economic motives drove prey selection must first be excluded. Since eland are very storable, it would be a favored prey animal whether or not hunting strategies were sophisticated enough to tackle more aggressive prey.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - A. resolve a debate about the advantages and disadvantages of certain Stone Age prey.
 - B. question a position on apparent changes in Stone Age hunting patterns.
 - C. critique the work of various researchers of Stone Age hunters.
 - D. suggest a reason that Late Stone Age hunters were more proficient than their predecessors.
 - E. provide evidence of increased behavioral complexity in Stone Age hunters over time.
2. Select the sentence in which the author explains an alternative to greater hunting proficiency as an explanation for prey selection.

Passage 2

Eighteenth-century women played a significant part in British political life. Up and down the social scale they performed a variety of political acts, everything from purchasing political artifacts such as plates, handkerchiefs, and fans to penning political pamphlets, starving in civic processions, sponsoring boycotts, arguing over public issues in their own debating societies, rioting, and uttering seditious words. Whereas historians used to see female political involvement in this century as isolated or aberrant, they now stress the continuity and normalcy of such activity, especially for aristocratic women. Given the familial nature of aristocratic politics, noble women were actually expected to act as political advisors and agents for their husbands, to canvass in elections, to serve as political hostesses, to seek and dispense political patronage. They did so routinely long before the eighteenth and deep into the nineteenth century. Patrician women had such far reaching political influence, it has been argued recently, that they actually stood to lose by expansion of the electorate to include women. Fruitful as this new historiography has been, however, it has also been criticized for its focus on the machinations of high politics and its inattention to ideology. Given the widespread hostility to “public” women in the eighteenth century, was female political activity quite so unproblematic as these new studies tend to assume? **Anna Clark has pointed out that celebration of elite politicizing neglects both the condition of ordinary women and the nitpicking contemporary attacks on just this sort of upper-class influence peddling.**

1. The author would most likely agree with which of the following statements about political acts performed by eighteenth-century women?
 - A. They had little influence on the outcome of elections.
 - B. They were aimed largely at the expansion of the electorate.
 - C. They probably were discouraged by men with political aspirations.

- D. They represented a new development in British society.
 - E. They were sometimes perceived as being negative.
2. The author suggested which of the following about the “expansion of the electorate to include women” in the eighteenth-century Britain?
- A. It might have reduced women’s incentives to engage in such political activities as boycotts and riots.
 - B. It might have reduced the political power of some people who had exerted great influence.
 - C. It would have been unlikely to overturn the aristocracy’s political control of the country.
 - D. It would likely have extended the vote only to aristocratic women.
 - E. It was not an issue addressed by men who were engaged in politics.
3. Which of the following statements best describes the function of the highlighted sentence?
- A. It reinterprets an explanation originated by historians who contributed to the “new historiography”.
 - B. It questions the accuracy of evidence presented in the service of the “new historiography”.
 - C. It identifies issues that have been overlooked by the “new historiography”.
 - D. It highlights claims of the “new historiography” that have been neglected.
 - E. It defends the “new historiography” against an unwarranted criticism.

Passage 3

In 1948, James Baldwin, like many African American writers before him, left the United States to live and write in Paris. Around this time, Baldwin had been reading the work of the earlier White American novelist Henry James, who had also left his homeland to write from Europe. Baldwin may have been attracted to James’s thematic focus on “the eternal outsider” as an alternative to the protest tradition of fiction, with its explicit social and political didacticism—a tradition that Baldwin found to be confining. Baldwin aspired to achieve in his fiction the kind of universalism that mainstream critics and readers did not usually associate with the work of Black writers; he was determined, he said, to prevent himself from becoming “merely a Negro writer.” While Baldwin’s first novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953), is set in the African American community of Harlem and features characters closely modeled on Baldwin’s own family, his second novel, *Giovanni’s Room* (1956), moved far beyond this social setting: its narrator is a White American living in Paris, and all the other characters are White as well. Indeed, critic Leslie Fiedler found it odd that not a single African American appeared in the Paris of the novel, despite their well-known presence in that city.

Though Baldwin’s use of an all-White cast seemed brave when the novel was first published, there were notable precedents. For African American writers at the turn of the twentieth century, such as Charles Chesnutt and Paul Laurence Dunbar, the so-called raceless novel featuring White characters and plots devoid of racial and social themes was a commercial venture, usually a love story. Late, in the 1930s and 1940s, William Attaway, Chester Himes, and Willard Motley, influenced by the naturalist movement, which had brought the ethnic working class into American literature, all wrote novels about White characters struggling with social and economic obstacles. However, these novels’ explicit acknowledgment of their characters’ social and ethnic backgrounds meant that they were not considered “raceless” in the old-fashioned sense. The “raceless” novel

returned with Richard Wright's *Savage Holiday* (1954). Wright's portrait of a White New York insurance executive suffering a breakdown was greeted in some quarters with the argument that in dealing exclusively with White characters, Wright had denied himself the subject matter that had given his other work its ferocious animation. But either the novel with White ethnic main characters or the "raceless" novel appears, at least as an experiment, in the careers of the best-known expatriate African American writers. In the 1950s, African American writers had few chances to demonstrate that they had any knowledge of life that did not have something to do with Black. **Those who wrote about White characters were, in effect, questioning the definitions of the Black writer, if not of African American literature itself.**

1. The author of the passage suggests that Baldwin shared which of the following with the African American writers discussed in the last sentence of the passage?
 - A. An interest in presenting American characters in European settings.
 - B. A desire to challenge some readers' and critics' assumptions about Black writers.
 - C. A skepticism about the effectiveness of didacticism in fiction.
 - D. A preoccupation with the theme of "the eternal outsider".
 - E. A dissatisfaction with earlier Black writers' "raceless" novels.
2. It can be inferred that the author of the passage mentions an observation by Leslie Fiedler primary in order to
 - A. emphasize the deliberateness of Baldwin's exclusion of African American characters from *Giovanni's Room*.
 - B. contrast Baldwin's depiction of certain themes in *Giovanni's Room* with his treatment of those themes in *Go Tell It on the Mountain*.
 - C. suggest that *Giovanni's Room* did not win Baldwin the kind of response he had hoped for from mainstream critics.
 - D. explain why Baldwin chose to set *Giovanni's Room* in a European rather than American city
 - E. challenge one view about why Baldwin chose to write a novel in which the narrator and all the other characters are White.
3. The passage suggests that which of the following was one possible reason for Baldwin's interest in the work of Henry James?
 - A. Similarities between James's and Baldwin's ideas about literary style.
 - B. Similarities between James's and Baldwin's reasons for leaving the United States to write in Europe.
 - C. James's use of social and political themes for didactic purpose.
 - D. James's reputation among mainstream critics and readers for addressing universal themes.
 - E. James's treatment of a theme that Baldwin found to be less confining than themes of protest fiction.
4. The author of the passage mentions William Attaway, Chester Himes and Willard Motley primarily in order to
 - A. suggest that critics may have been more accepting of protest fiction by African American writers when that fiction did not directly address African Americans' experience

- B. illustrate a point about African American novelists' success in presenting subject matter not usually associated with African American literature.
- C. distinguish a view about African American literature held by certain African American writers of the 1930s and 1940s from a view held by many earlier writers.
- D. challenge some critics' view that African American novelists sacrificed an important source of power in their work when they chose to focus on White characters
- E. support the point that Baldwin's exclusive focus on White characters in *Giovanni's Room* was not an unprecedented choice for an African American novelist.

Passage 4

In 1998 the United States Department of Transportation received nearly 10,000 consumer complaints about airlines; in 1999 it received over 20,000. Moreover, the number of complaints per 100,000 passengers also more than doubled. In both years the vast majority of complaints concerned flight delays, cancellations, mishandled baggage, and customer service. Clearly, therefore, despite the United States airline industry's serious efforts to improve performance in these areas, passenger dissatisfaction with airline service increased significantly in 1999.

Which of the following, if true, most seriously weakens the argument?

- A. Although the percentage of flights that arrived on time dropped slightly overall, from 77 percent in 1998 to 76 percent in 1999, some United States airlines' 1999 on-time rate was actually better than their 1998 on-time rate.
- B. The number of passengers flying on United States airlines was significantly higher in 1999 than in 1998.
- C. Fewer bags per 1,000 passengers flying on United States airlines were lost or delayed in 1999 than in 1998.
- D. The appearance in 1999 of many new Internet sites that relay complaints directly to the Department of Transportation has made filing a complaint about airlines much easier for consumers than ever before.
- E. Although the number of consumer complaints increased for every major United States airline in 1999, for some airlines the extent of the increase was substantial, whereas for others it was extremely small.

Answers

Passage 1: B Since...prey

Passage 2: E B C

Passage 3: B A E E

Passage 4: D