

Reading After
Jul 26, 2023

Two Passages
in
35 mins

17.5 min / passage

Academic Topics

Animals and plants 20%

Natural science 30%

Social science 40%

Humanity 10%



Group9120

Reading

Two Passages
in
35 mins

17.5 min / passage

Word Count / Passage

700 on Passage

550 on Questions

70 / min



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Questions

10 per passage

Q1 to Q9 – 1 Pt

Q10 – 2 Pts

11 Points on each passage

33 Points on reading in total



Group9120

Keep asking yourself – what is this passage / paragraph talking about.

1. **Prediction:** use title and paragraph one as guidance
2. **Skimming:** capture the flow and main idea
3. **Reading:** follow the flow in each paragraph (use questions as tips)
4. **Problem solving:** go through each answer choice





Reading Sessions

Sentence

Flow of idea

Paragraph Structure

Prob solving

Mock Analysis

Types of passages

1. Question & answers
2. Comparison
3. Effect & causes
4. Classification

TPO1 - The origins of theater
TPO12 - Which Hand did they use?
TPO18 - The mystery of yawning

Questions

Answer 1 Description, pros & cons

Answer 2 Description, pros & cons

Answer 3 Description, pros & cons

...

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Thales and the Milesians

While many other observers and thinkers had laid the groundwork for science, Thales (circa 624 B.C.E.-ca 547 B.C.E.), the best known of the earliest Greek philosophers, made the first steps toward a new, more objective approach to finding out about the world. He posed a very basic question: "What is the world made of? " Many others had asked the same question before him, but Thales based his answer strictly on what he had observed and what he could reason out-not on imaginative stories about the gods or the supernatural. He proposed water as the single substance from which everything in the world was made and developed a model of the universe with Earth as a flat disk floating in water.

Like most of the great Greek philosophers, Thales had an influence on others around him. His two best-known followers, though there were undoubtedly others who attained less renown, were Anaximander and Anaximenes. Both were also from Miletus (located on the southern coast of present-day Turkey) and so, like Thales, were members of the Milesian School. Much more is known about Anaximander than about Anaximenes, probably because Anaximander, who was born sometime around 610 B.C.E, ambitiously attempted to write a comprehensive history of the universe. As would later happen between another teacher-student pair of philosophers, Plato and Aristotle, Anaximander disagreed with his teacher despite his respect for him. He doubted that the world and all its contents could be made of water and proposed instead a formless and unobservable substance he called "apeiron" that was the source of all matter.

Anaximander's most important contributions, though, were in other areas. Although he did not accept that water was the prime element, he did believe that all life originated in the sea, and he was thus one of the first to conceive of this important idea. Anaximander is credited with drawing up the first world map of the Greeks and also with recognizing that Earth's surface was curved. He believed, though, that the shape of Earth was that of a cylinder rather than the sphere that later Greek philosophers would conjecture. Anaximander, observing the motions of the heavens around the polestar, was probably the first of the Greek philosophers to picture the sky as sphere completely surrounding Earth-an idea that, elaborated upon later, would prevail until the advent of the Scientific Revolution in the seventeenth century.

Unfortunately, most of Anaximander's written history of the universe was lost, and only a few fragments survive today. Little is known about his other ideas. Unfortunately, too, most of the written work for Anaximenes, who may have been Anaximander's pupil, has also been lost. All we can say for certain about Anaximenes, who was probably born around 560 BCE, is that following in the tradition of Anaximander, he also disagreed with his mentor. The world, according to Anaximenes, was not composed of either water or apeiron, but air itself was the fundamental element of the universe. Compressed, it became water and earth, and when rarefied or thinned out, it heated up to become fire. Anaximenes may have also been the first to study rainbows and speculate upon their natural rather than supernatural cause.

With the door opened by Thales and the other early philosophers of Milestus, Greek thinkers began to speculate about the nature of the universe. This exciting burst of intellectual activity was for the most part purely creative. The Greeks, from Thales to Plato and Aristotle, were philosophers and not scientists in today's sense. It is possible for anyone to create "ideas" about the nature and structure of the universe, for instance, and many times these ideas can be so consistent and elaborately structured, or just so apparently obvious, that they can be persuasive to many people. A scientific theory about the universe, however, demands much more than the various observations and analogies that were woven together to form systems of reasoning, carefully constructed as they were, that would eventually culminate in Aristotle's model of the world and the universe. Without experimentation and objective, critical testing of their theories, the best these thinkers could hope to achieve was some internally consistent speculation that covered all the bases and satisfied the demands of reason.

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Thales different objective approach → what is the world made of

objectively, everything was made from water

Thales and the Milesians

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main idea:

unlike others, Thales objectively observed that the world came from water

TPO 37-1 – Thales and the Milesians

Paragraph 1

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Like most of the great Greek philosophers, Thales had an influence on others around him. His two best-known followers, though there were undoubtedly others who attained less renown, were Anaximander and Anaximenes. Both were also from Miletus (located on the southern coast of present-day Turkey) and so, like Thales, were members of the Milesian School. Much more is known about Anaximander than about Anaximenes, probably because Anaximander, who was born sometime around 610 B.C.E, ambitiously attempted to write a comprehensive history of the universe. As would later happen between another teacher-student pair of philosophers, Plato and Aristotle, Anaximander disagreed with his teacher despite his respect for him. He doubted that the world and all its contents could be made of water and proposed instead a formless and unobservable substance he called "apeiron" that was the source of all matter.

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**Thales two best-known followers:
Anaximander and Anaximenes**

**Anaximander tried to write about the
history of the universe**

**Anaximander disagreed with Thales
about water as the origin
he proposed "apeiron" instead**

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main idea:

Anaximander disagreed with Thales and thought apeiron was the source

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Anaximander's most important contributions, though, were in other areas. Although he did not accept that water was the prime element, he did believe that all life originated in the sea, and he was thus one of the first to conceive of this important idea. Anaximander is credited with drawing up the first world map of the Greeks and also with recognizing that Earth's surface was curved. He believed, though, that the shape of Earth was that of a cylinder rather than the sphere that later Greek philosophers would conjecture. Anaximander, observing the motions of the heavens around the polestar, was probably the first of the Greek philosophers to picture the sky as sphere completely surrounding Earth—an idea that, elaborated upon later, would prevail until the advent of the Scientific Revolution in the seventeenth century.

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Anaximander's most important contributions:

1. life originated in the sea
2. drew first world map
3. recognized Earth's surface was curved

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but it's certain Anaximenes disagreed with Anaximander

Anaximenes thought air was the source of the world

Anaximenes was first to study rainbow's natural cause

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With the door opened by Thales and the other early philosophers of Milestus, Greek thinkers began to speculate about the nature of the universe. This exciting burst of intellectual activity was for the most part purely creative. The Greeks, from Thales to Plato and Aristotle, were philosophers and not scientists in today's sense. It is possible for anyone to create "ideas" about the nature and structure of the universe, for instance, and many times these ideas can be so consistent and elaborately structured, or just so apparently obvious, that they can be persuasive to many people. A scientific theory about the universe, however, demands much more than the various observations and analogies that were woven together to form systems of reasoning, carefully constructed as they were, that would eventually culminate in Aristotle's model of the world and the universe. Without experimentation and objective, critical testing of their theories, the best these thinkers could hope to achieve was some internally consistent speculation that covered all the bases and satisfied the demands of reason.

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P5
Greeks thought about nature of the universe

even though persuasive, ideas about the nature of the universe were was purely creative, as the Greeks were not scientists

a scientific theory need more than just philosophy; the Greeks' ideas were just good speculation

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Paragraph 5

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P1

While many other observers and thinkers had laid the groundwork for science, Thales (circa 624 B.C.E–ca 547 B.C.E.), the best known of the earliest Greek philosophers, made the first steps toward a new, more objective approach to finding out about the world. He posed a very basic question: "What is the world made of?" Many others had asked the same question before him, but Thales based his answer strictly on what he had observed and what he could reason out—not on imaginative stories about the gods or the supernatural. He proposed water as the single substance from which everything in the world was made and developed a model of the universe with Earth as a flat disk floating in water.

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the Greek's ideas about the nature of the universe were just good speculation

Thales and other Milesians started to base conclusions on observation and reasoning instead of on imaginative stories; they influenced other Greeks, and they opened the door to discussions of the nature of the universe; under this new kind of objective approach, the Greeks came up with good speculations, but still not scientific theory³⁶

Why does the author discuss the question “**What is the world made of??**” posed by Thales?

- ☐ To help explain how Thales differed from earlier Greek thinkers
- ☐ To trace the origin of the question through ancient history
- ☐ To emphasize that the answer to the question proposed by Thales was the first correct solution
- ☐ To suggest why the question remained unanswered for so long

Paragraph 2 implies which of the following about Thales?

- ☐ His students tended to closely follow his views.
- ☐ He was born sometime around 600 BCE.
- ☐ Little is known about most of his followers.
- ☐ His influence was largely limited to the town of Miletus.

According to paragraph 3, some Greek philosophers who came after Anaximander did not share his belief that

- ☐ the world was made of something other than water
- ☐ all life originated in the sea
- ☐ the sky was a sphere surrounding Earth
- ☐ Earth was cylindrical in shape

Why does the author refer to “**the Scientific Revolution in the seventeenth century**”?

- ☐ To identify the time when Anaximander’s theory was first considered seriously
- ☐ To introduce the evidence that helped to develop Anaximander’s ideas
- ☐ To indicate how long one of Anaximander’s ideas remained influential
- ☐ To give an example of the many unsuccessful attempts to discredit Anaximander’s ideas

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.

- ☐ Like Anaximander, Anaximenes disagreed with his mentor.
- ☐ Traditionally, philosophers born after Anaximenes tended to disagree with their own mentors.
- ☐ Historians have been able to determine that Anaximenes was born in 560 B.C.E. and that he followed in the tradition of Anaximander.
- ☐ Even though Anaximenes was Anaximander's follower, he disagreed with his mentor.

► Unfortunately, most of Anaximander's written history of the universe was lost, and only a few fragments survive today. Little is known about his other ideas. Unfortunately, too, most of the written work of Anaximenes, who may have been Anaximander's pupil, has also been lost. **All we can say for certain about Anaximenes, who was probably born around 560 BCE, is that following in the tradition of Anaximander, he also disagreed with his mentor.** The world, according to Anaximenes, was not composed of either water or apeiron, but air itself was the fundamental element of the universe. Compressed, it became water and earth, and when rarefied or thinned out, it heated up to become fire. Anaximenes may have also been the first to study rainbows and speculate upon their natural rather than supernatural cause.

According to paragraph 4, Anaximenes believed that

- ☐ when water was heated up, it became apeiron
- ☐ Earth was made of compressed air
- ☐ the heat from a fire caused the air to become thinner
- ☐ rainbows had both natural and supernatural causes

Paragraph 5 suggests that, in speculating about the nature of the universe, Milesian thinkers

- ☐ made careful use of reasoning
- ☐ studied the universe scientifically
- ☐ tested their theories critically
- ☐ kept their theories simple

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Look at the four squares[■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage

Where would the sentence best fit?

In this respect it more closely resembled the thinking of artists and novelists than the thinking of scientists constrained by fact.

Click on a square [■] to add the sentence to the passage. To select a different location, click on a different square.

The early Greek philosopher Thales and his followers tried to achieve a rational understanding of the nature of the universe.

-
-
-

Answer Choices

A. In the Milesian School established by Thales, teachers taught what they knew to their followers, who were then strongly encouraged to correct any errors in reasoning.

C. Much of the written work of Anaximander and of Anaximenes has been lost, including a major work on the history of the universe by Anaximenes.

E. The ideas about astronomy held by members of the Milesian School continued to be widely accepted by scientists even after the Scientific Revolution in the seventeenth century.

B. Among early Greek philosophers, there was sharp disagreement even between teachers and students about the essential substance from which the world was made.

D. Anaximander's work covered a broad range of issues that influenced later Greek thinkers, including the origin of life, the history of the universe, and the shape of both Earth and the sky.

F. While Greek philosophers' theories about the world did not rely on appeals to supernatural forces, they also were not scientific, since they were not tested with experiments.