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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Reading

Two Passages

in

35 mins

17.5 min / passage

Questions

10 per passage

Q1 to Q9 – 1 Pt

Q10 – 2 Pts

11 Points on each passage

33 Points on reading in total

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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

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Reading Sessions

Sentence

Flow of idea

Paragraph Structure

Prob solving

Mock Analysis

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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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Which Hand Did They Use?

We all know that many more people today are right-handed than left-handed. Can one trace this same pattern far back in prehistory? Much of the evidence about right-hand versus left-hand dominance comes from stencils and prints found in rock shelters in Australia and elsewhere, and in many Ice Age caves in France, Spain, and Tasmania. When a left hand has been stenciled, this implies that the artist was right-handed, and vice versa. Even though the paint was often sprayed on by mouth, one can assume that the dominant hand assisted in the operation. One also has to make the assumption that hands were stenciled palm downward—a left hand stenciled palm upward might of course look as if it were a right hand. Of 158 stencils in the French cave of Gargas, 136 have been identified as left, and only 22 as right; right-handedness was therefore heavily predominant.

Cave art furnishes other types of evidence of this phenomenon. Most engravings, for example, are best lit from the left, as befits the work of right-handed artists, who generally prefer to have the light source on the left so that the shadow of their hand does not fall on the tip of the engraving tool or brush. In the few cases where an Ice Age figure is depicted holding something, it is mostly, though not always, in the right hand.

Clues to right-handedness can also be found by other methods. Right-handers tend to have longer, stronger, and more muscular bones on the right side, and Marcellin Boule as long ago as 1911 noted the La Chapelle-aux-Saints Neanderthal skeleton had a right upper arm bone that was noticeably stronger than the left. Similar observations have been made on other Neanderthal skeletons such as La Ferrassie I and Neanderthal itself.

Fractures and other cut marks are another source of evidence. Right-handed soldiers tend to be wounded on the left. The skeleton of a 40- or 50-year-old Nabatean warrior, buried 2,000 years ago in the Negev Desert, Israel, had multiple healed fractures to the skull, the left arm, and the ribs.

Tools themselves can be revealing. Long-handed Neolithic spoons of yew wood preserved in Alpine villages dating to 3000 B.C. have survived; the signs of rubbing on their left side indicate that their users were right-handed. The late Ice Age rope found in the French cave of Lascaux consists of fibers spiraling to the right, and was therefore tressed by a right-hander.

Occasionally one can determine whether stone tools were used in the right hand or the left, and it is even possible to assess how far back this feature can be traced. In stone tool making experiments, Nick Toth, a right-hander, held the core (the stone that would become the tool) in his left hand and the hammer stone in his right. As the tool was made, the core was rotated clockwise, and the flakes, removed in sequence, had a little crescent of cortex (the core’ s outer surface) on the side. Toth’ s knapping produced 56 percent flakes with the cortex on the right, and 44 percent left-oriented flakes. A left-handed toolmaker would produce the opposite pattern. Toth has applied these criteria to the similarly made pebble tools from a number of early sites (before 1.5 million years) at Koobi Fora, Kenya, probably made by Homo habilis. At seven sites he found that 57 percent of the flakes were right-oriented, and 43 percent left, a pattern almost identical to that produced today.

About 90 percent of modern humans are right-handed: we are the only mammal with a preferential use of one hand. The part of the brain responsible for fine control and movement is located in the left cerebral hemisphere, and the findings above suggest that the human brain was already asymmetrical in its structure and function not long after 2 million years ago.

Among Neanderthalers of 70,000 - 35,000 years ago, Marcellin Boule noted that the La Chapelle-aux-Saints individual had a left hemisphere slightly bigger than the right, and the same was found for brains of specimens from Neanderthal, Gibraltar, and La Quina.

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Question — Which hand? Right hand. How do we know?

Answer 1

Answer 2

Answer 3

...

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question:
were prehistoric people right-handed too?

stencils are evidence:
when left hand is stenciled, that means the right hand was used to do the work

answer:
yes, they were

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TPO 12-1 – Which Hand Did They Use?

Paragraph 1

prehistoric people were right-handed; stencils are proof

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It can be inferred from paragraph 1 that even when paint was sprayed by mouth to make a hand stencil

- ◯ there was no way to tell which hand was stenciled
- ◯ the stenciled hand was the weaker hand
- ◯ the stenciled hand was the dominant hand
- ◯ artists stenciled more images of the dominant hand than they did of the weak

Group9120

Which Hand Did They Use?

Cave art furnishes other types of evidence of this phenomenon. Most engravings, for example, are best lit from the left, as befits the work of right-handed artists, who generally prefer to have the light source on the left so that the shadow of their hand does not fall on the tip of the engraving tool or brush. In the few cases where an Ice Age figure is depicted holding something, it is mostly, though not always, in the right hand.

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Most engravings are best lit from the left,

which suits the work of right-handed artists.

Right-handed artists prefer to have the light source on the left;

this way, they can see better when they draw.

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Which Hand Did They Use?

Cave art furnishes other types of evidence of this phenomenon.

other evidence

Most engravings, for example, are best lit from the left, as befits the work of right-handed artists, who generally prefer to have the light source on the left so that the shadow of their hand does not fall on the tip of the engraving tool or brush.

evidence:
most engravings are best lit from the left
= light source on left

In the few cases where an Ice Age figure is depicted holding something, it is mostly, though not always, in the right hand.

evidence:
Ice Age figure holding things in right hand

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TPO 12-1 – Which Hand Did They Use?

Paragraph 1

prehistoric people were right-handed; stencils are proof

Paragraph 2

other proof include: light source on the left & Ice Age figures holding things in right hand

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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.

- Right-handed artists could more easily have avoided casting shadows on their work, because engravings in prehistoric caves were lit from the left.
- The tips of engraving tools and brushes indicate that these instruments were used by right handed artists whose work was lit from the left.
- The best lighting for most engravings suggests that they were made by right-handed people trying to avoid the shadow of their hands interfering with their work.
- Right-handed artists try to avoid having the brush they are using interfere with the light source.

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TPO 12-1 – Which Hand Did They Use?

Paragraph 1

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other proof include: light source on the left & Ice Age figures holding things in right hand

All of the following are mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 as evidence of right-handedness in art and artists EXCEPT

- the ideal source of lighting for most engravings
- the fact that a left hand stenciled palm upward might look like a right hand
- the prevalence of outlines of left hands
- figures in prehistoric art holding objects with the right hand

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more proof

proof:
longer, stronger, more muscular bones on the right side

2 skeleton examples

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TPO 12-1 – Which Hand Did They Use?

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According to paragraph 3, the La Chapelle-aux-Saints Neanderthal skeleton can be identified as right-handed because

- other Neanderthal skeletons found nearby are also right-handed
- the right arm bone is stronger than the left
- it is similar to skeletons of La Ferrassie I and Neanderthal
- the right side of the skeleton shows less evidence of fractures

Which Hand Did They Use?

Fractures and other cut marks are another source of evidence. Right-handed soldiers tend to be wounded on the left. The skeleton of a 40- or 50-year-old Nabatean warrior, buried 2,000 years ago in the Negev Desert, Israel, had multiple healed fractures to the skull, the left arm, and the ribs.

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more proof:
right-handed soldiers were wounded on their left side

2 skeleton examples

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TPO 12-1 – Which Hand Did They Use?

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Which of the following statements about fractures and cut marks can be inferred from paragraph 4?

- Fractures and cut marks caused by right-handed soldiers tend to occur on the right side of the injured party's body.
- The right arm sustains more injuries because, as the dominant arm, it is used more actively.
- In most people, the left side of the body is more vulnerable to injury since it is not defended effectively by the dominant arm.
- Fractures and cut marks on fossil humans probably occurred after death.

Which Hand Did They Use?

Tools themselves can be revealing. Long-handed Neolithic spoons of yew wood preserved in Alpine villages dating to 3000 B.C. have survived; the signs of rubbing on their left side indicate that their users were right-handed. The late Ice Age rope found in the French cave of Lascaux consists of fibers spiraling to the right, and was therefore tressed by a right-hander.

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more proof: tools

tool 1: spoons
rubbing on the left side

tool 2: rope
fibers spiral to the right

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Paragraph 5

more proof: spoons rubbed on the left and rope with fibers spiraling to the right

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According to paragraph 5, what characteristic of a Neolithic spoon would imply that the spoon's owner was right-handed?

- ◯ The direction of the fibers
- ◯ Its long handle
- ◯ The yew wood it is carved from
- ◯ Wear on its left side

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In paragraph 5, why does the author mention the Ice Age rope found in the French cave of Lascaux?

- As an example of an item on which the marks of wear imply that it was used by a right handed person
- Because tressing is an activity that is easier for a right-handed person than for a left-handed person
- Because the cave of Lascaux is the site where researchers have found several prehistoric tools made for right-handed people
- As an example of an item whose construction shows that it was made by a right-handed person

Which Hand Did They Use?

Occasionally one can determine whether stone tools were used in the right hand or the left, and it is even possible to assess how far back this feature can be traced. In stone tool making experiments, Nick Toth, a right-hander, held the core (the stone that would become the tool) in his left hand and the hammer stone in his right. As the tool was made, the core was rotated clockwise, and the flakes, removed in sequence, had a little crescent of cortex (the core’ s outer surface) on the side. Toth’ s knapping produced 56 percent flakes with the cortex on the right, and 44 percent left-oriented flakes. A left-handed toolmaker would produce the opposite pattern. Toth has applied these criteria to the similarly made pebble tools from a number of early sites (before 1.5 million years) at Koobi Fora, Kenya, probably made by Homo habilis. At seven sites he found that 57 percent of the flakes were right-oriented, and 43 percent left, a pattern almost identical to that produced today.

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experiment process
hold core in left, hammer in right
core rotated clockwise
flakes had crescent of cortex
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opposite for left-handed person

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more proof:
which hand held stone tools

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pebble tools had same pattern

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TPO 12-1 – Which Hand Did They Use?

Paragraph 1

prehistoric people were right-handed; stencils are proof

Paragraph 2

other proof include: light source on the left & Ice Age figures holding things in right hand

Paragraph 3

more proof: bones on right side more muscular

Paragraph 4

more proof: right-handed soldiers were wounded on their left side

Paragraph 5

more proof: spoons rubbed on the left and rope with fibers spiraling to the right

Paragraph 6

more proof: which hand held stone tools

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What was the purpose of Toth's toolmaking experiment described in paragraph 6?

- ◯ To shape tools that could be used by either hand
- ◯ To produce replicas of early tools for display in museums
- ◯ To imitate the production of pebble tools from early sites
- ◯ To determine which hand made the early tools

Which Hand Did They Use?

About 90 percent of modern humans are right-handed: we are the only mammal with a preferential use of one hand. The part of the brain responsible for fine control and movement is located in the left cerebral hemisphere, and the findings above suggest that the human brain was already asymmetrical in its structure and function not long after 2 million years ago. Among Neanderthalers of 70,000 - 35,000 years ago, Marcellin Boule noted that the La Chapelle-aux-Saints individual had a left hemisphere slightly bigger than the right, and the same was found for brains of specimens from Neanderthal, Gibraltar, and La Quina.

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most modern humans are right-handed

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brain asymmetrical 2 million years ago

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examples of two Neanderthals

TPO 12-1 – Which Hand Did They Use?

Paragraph 1

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Paragraph 2

other proof include: light source on the left & Ice Age figures holding things in right hand

Paragraph 3

more proof: bones on right side more muscular

Paragraph 4

more proof: right-handed soldiers were wounded on their left side

Paragraph 5

more proof: spoons rubbed on the left and rope with fibers spiraling to the right

Paragraph 6

more proof: which hand held stone tools

Paragraph 7

humans have been predominantly right-handed since prehistoric times

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What is the author's primary purpose in paragraph 7?

- To illustrate the importance of studying the brain
- To demonstrate that human beings are the only mammal to desire fine control of movement
- To contrast the functions of the two hemispheres of the brain
- To demonstrate that right-hand preference has existed for a long time

Which Hand Did They Use?

We all know that many more people today are right-handed than left-handed. Can one trace this same pattern far back in prehistory? ■ Much of the evidence about right-hand versus left-hand dominance comes from stencils and prints found in rock shelters in Australia and elsewhere, and in many Ice Age caves in France, Spain, and Tasmania. ■ When a left hand has been stenciled, this implies that the artist was right-handed, and vice versa. ■ Even though the paint was often sprayed on by mouth, one can assume that the dominant hand assisted in the operation. One also has to make the assumption that hands were stenciled palm downward—a left hand stenciled palm upward might of course look as if it were a right hand. ■ Of 158 stencils in the French cave of Gargas, 136 have been identified as left, and only 22 as right; right-handedness was therefore heavily predominant.

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

Where would the sentence best fit?

The stencils of hands found in these shelters and caves allow us to draw conclusions about which hand was dominant.

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

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TPO 12-1 – Which Hand Did They Use?

Paragraph 1

prehistoric people were right-handed; stencils are proof

Paragraph 2

other proof include: light source on the left & Ice Age figures holding things in right hand

Paragraph 3

more proof: bones on right side more muscular

Paragraph 4

more proof: right-handed soldiers were wounded on their left side

Paragraph 5

more proof: spoons rubbed on the left and rope with fibers spiraling to the right

Paragraph 6

more proof: which hand held stone tools

Paragraph 7

humans have been predominantly right-handed since prehistoric times

Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage.

Drag your answer choices to the spaces where they belong. To remove an answer choice, click on it.To review the passage, click **VIEW TEXT**

Several categories of evidence indicate that people have always been predominantly right-handed.

-
-
-

Answer Choices

A.Stencils of right-handed figures are characteristic of cave art in France, Spain, and Tasmania.

B.Signs on the skeletal remains of prehistoric figures, including arm-bone size and injury marks, imply that these are the remains of right-handed people.

C.Instruments such as spoons, ropes, and pebble tools show signs that indicate they were used or constructed by right-handed people.

D.The amount of prehistoric art created by right-handed artists indicates that left-handed people were in the minority.

E.Neanderthal skeletons often have longer finger bones in the right hand, which is evidence that the right hand was stronger.

F.Nick Toth, a modern right-handed toolmaker, has shown that prehistoric tools were knapped to fit the right hand.

More Practice

TPO41-3

Trade and Early State Formation

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Trade and Early State Formation – Paragraph 1

Bartering was a basic trade mechanism for many thousands of years; often sporadic and usually based on notions of reciprocity, it involved the mutual exchange of commodities or objects between individuals or groups. Redistribution of these goods through society lay in the hands of chiefs, religious leaders, or kin groups. Such redistribution was a basic element in chiefdoms. The change from redistribution to formal trade—often based on regulated commerce that perhaps involved fixed prices and even currency—was closely tied to growing political and social complexity and hence to the development of the state in the ancient world.

TPO 43-1 – Trade and Early State Formation

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 5

Paragraph 6

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Trade and Early State Formation – Paragraph 2

In the 1970s, a number of archaeologists gave trade a primary role in the rise of ancient states. British archaeologist Colin Renfrew attributed the dramatic flowering of the Minoan civilization on Crete and through the Aegean to intensified trading contacts and to the impact of olive and vine cultivation on local communities. As agricultural economies became more diversified and local food supplies could be purchased both locally and over longer distances, a far-reaching economic interdependence resulted. Eventually, this led to redistribution systems for luxuries and basic commodities, systems that were organized and controlled by Minoan rulers from their palaces. As time went on, the self-sufficiency of communities was replaced by mutual dependence. Interest in long-distance trade brought about some cultural homogeneity from trade and gift exchange, and perhaps even led to piracy. Thus, intensified trade and interaction, and the flowering of specialist crafts, in a complex process of positive feedback, led to much more complex societies based on palaces, which were the economic hubs of a new Minoan civilization.

Trade and Early State Formation – Paragraph 3

Renfrew’ s model made some assumptions that are now discounted. For example, he argued that the introduction of domesticated vines and olives allowed a substantial expansion of land under cultivation and helped to power the emergence of complex society. Many archaeologists and paleobotanists now question this view, pointing out that the available evidence for cultivated vines and olives suggests that they were present only in the later Bronze Age. Trade, nevertheless, was probably one of many variables that led to the emergence of palace economies in Minoan Crete.

Trade and Early State Formation – Paragraph 4

American archaeologist William Rathje developed a hypothesis that considered an explosion in long-distance exchange a fundamental cause of Mayan civilization in Mesoamerica. He suggested that the lowland Mayan environment was deficient in many vital resources, among them obsidian, salt, stone for grinding maize, and many luxury materials. All these could be obtained from the nearby highlands, from the Valley of Mexico, and from other regions, if the necessary trading networks came into being. Such connections, and the trading expeditions to maintain them, could not be organized by individual villages. The Maya lived in a relatively uniform environment, where every community suffered from the same resource deficiencies. Thus, argued Rathje, long-distance trade networks were organized through local ceremonial centers and their leaders. In time, this organization became a state, and knowledge of its functioning was exportable, as were pottery, tropical bird feathers, specialized stone materials, and other local commodities.

Trade and Early State Formation – Paragraph 5

Rathje’ s hypothesis probably explains part of the complex process of Mayan state formation, but it suffers from the objection that suitable alternative raw materials can be found in the lowlands. It could be, too, that warfare became a competitive response to population growth and to the increasing scarcity of prime agricultural land, and that it played an important role in the emergence of the Mayan states.

Trade and Early State Formation – Paragraph 5

Now that we know much more about ancient exchange and commerce, we know that, because no one aspect of trade was an overriding cause of cultural change or evolution in commercial practices, trade can never be looked on as a unifying factor or as a primary agent of ancient civilization. Many ever-changing variables affected ancient trade, among them the demand for goods. There were also the logistics of transportation, the extent of the trading network, and the social and political environment. Intricate market networks channeled supplies along well-defined routes. Authorities at both ends might regulate the profits fed back to the source, providing the incentive for further transactions. There may or may not have been a market organization. Extensive long-distance trade was a consequence rather than a cause of complex societies.