

Easy Section

Passage 31

① The relevance of the literary personality—a writer’s distinctive attitudes, concerns, and artistic choices—to the analysis of a literary work is being scrutinized by various schools of contemporary criticism. ② Deconstructionists view the literary personality, like the writer’s biographical personality, as irrelevant. ③ The proper focus of literary analysis, they argue, is a work’s intertextuality (interrelationship with other texts), subtexts (unspoken, concealed, or repressed discourses), and metatexts (self-referential aspects), not a perception of a writer’s verbal and aesthetic “fingerprints.” ④ New historicists also devalue the literary personality, since, in their emphasis on a work’s historical contexts, they credit a writer with only those insights and ideas that were generally available when the writer lived. ⑤ However, to readers interested in literary detective work—say scholars of classical (Greek and Roman) literature who wish to reconstruct damaged texts or deduce a work’s authorship—the literary personality sometimes provide vital clues.

1. The passage is primarily concerned with
 - A. discussing attitudes toward a particular focus for literary analysis.
 - B. describing the limitations of two contemporary approaches to literary analysis
 - C. pointing out the similarities among seemingly contrasting approaches to literary analysis
 - D. defending the resurgence of a particular focus for literary analysis
 - E. defining a set of related terms employed in literary criticism
2. It can be inferred from the passage that on the issue of how to analyze a literary work, the new historicists would most likely agree with the deconstructionists that
 - A. the writer’s insights and ideas should be understood in terms of the writer’s historical context.
 - B. the writer’s literary personality has little or no relevance
 - C. the critic should primarily focus on intertextuality, subtexts, and metatexts.



Passage 32

① Many cultural anthropologists have come to reject the scientific framework of empiricism that dominated the field until the 1970s and now regard all scientific knowledge as socially constructed. ② They argue that information about cultures during the empiricist era typically came from anthropologists who brought with them a prepackaged set of conscious and unconscious biases. ③ Cultural anthropology, according to the post-1970s critique, is unavoidably subjective, and the anthropologist should be explicit in acknowledging that fact. ④ Anthropology should stop striving to build a better database about cultural behavior and should turn to developing a more humanistic interpretation of cultures. ⑤ The new framework holds that it may be more enlightening to investigate the biases of earlier texts than to continue with empirical methodologies.

1. The author implies which of the following about most cultural anthropologists working prior to the 1970s?
 - A. They argued that scientific knowledge was socially constructed.
 - B. They were explicit in acknowledging the biases inherent in scientific investigation.
 - C. They regarded scientific knowledge as consisting of empirical truths.
 - D. They shared the same conscious and unconscious biases.
 - E. They acknowledged the need for a new scientific framework.
2. According to the passage, “many cultural anthropologists” today would agree that anthropologists should
 - A. build a better, less subjective database about cultural behavior
 - B. strive to improve the empirical methodologies used until the 1970s
 - C. reject the notion that scientific knowledge is socially constructed
 - D. turn to examining older anthropological texts for unacknowledged biases
 - E. integrate humanistic interpretations with empirical methodologies



Passage 33

❶ Arctic sea ice comes in two varieties. ❷ Seasonal ice forms in winter and then melts in summer, while perennial ice persists year-round. ❸ To the untrained eye, all sea ice looks similar, but by licking it, one can estimate how long a particular piece has been floating round. ❹ When ice begins to form in seawater, it forces out salt, which has no place in the crystal structure. ❺ As the ice gets thicker, the rejected salt collects in tiny pockets of brine too highly concentrated to freeze. ❻ A piece of first-year ice will taste salty. ❼ Eventually, if the ice survives, these pockets of brine drain out through fine, veinlike channels, and the ice becomes fresher; multiyear ice can even be melted and drunk.

1. The passage mentions which of the following as being a characteristic of seasonal ice?
 - A. It is similar in appearance to perennial ice.
 - B. It is typically filled with fine, veinlike channels.
 - C. It tastes saltier than perennial ice.

2. In the context in which it appears, “fine” most nearly means
 - A. acceptable
 - B. elegant
 - C. precise
 - D. pure
 - E. small

Passage 34

① From 1910 to 1913, women suffragists in the United States organized annual parades— activity traditionally conducted by men to proclaim solidarity in some cause—not only as a public expression of suffragist solidarity but also a conscious transgression of the rules of social order: women’s very presence in the streets challenged traditional notions of femininity and restrictions on women’s conduct. ② While recognizing the parade’s rhetorical force as a vehicle for social change, scholars have recently begun to examine its drawbacks as a form of protest. ③ Lumsden characterizes the American suffrage parade as a “double-edged sword”, arguing that women’s efforts to proclaim their solidarity left them open to patronizing commentary from press and public and to organized opposition from antisuffragists.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that men’s and women’s parades were similar in that both
 - A. were employed as rhetorical vehicles for social change
 - B. were regarded as violating contemporary standards of public decorum
 - C. made participants vulnerable to organized opposition
 - D. were largely ineffective as forms of protest
 - E. were intended by their participants as public declarations of solidarity
2. The passage suggests which of the following about proponents of the “rules of social order?”
 - A. They frowned upon public displays such as parades.
 - B. They had ulterior motives for objecting to women’s participation in suffrage parades.
 - C. They formed the core of the organized opposition to women suffrage.
 - D. They believed that it was unfeminine for women to march in suffrage parades.
 - E. They supported women’s rights to vote but disapprove some of the methods that suffragists employed to gain that right.

Passage 35

① 1800 Thomas Dilworth's *New Guide to the English Dialogue* was being widely used to teach reading in the United States. ② Dilworth's **primer**, unlike earlier ones, stressed the importance of children's understanding what they read. ③ While it is in fact unlikely that children would have recognized all the vocabulary Dilworth used, that was at least his stated goal. ④ Dilworth recognized that primers should enable children to decode words from print with the form of language they already knew: speech. ⑤ In contrast, many **earlier authors** assumed that, just as introductory Latin texts taught children an unknown language, introductory English texts should teach English as if it, too, were an unknown language--such as their **esoteric** choice of vocabulary, it in effect became unknown.

1. According to the passage, the “**earlier authors**” adopted a model for English instruction that
 - A. mirrored the practice used in Latin instruction
 - B. was originally formulated by Dilworth
 - C. was **less esoteric** than that adopted by Dilworth
 - D. stressed familiarity with the **peculiarities** of English spelling
 - E. emphasized the importance of **fluent and articulate speech**

2. The author of the passage would probably agree with which of the following criticisms of English primers predating Dilworth's?
 - A. Their Latinate grammatical terms poorly described the structures of English.
 - B. They failed to make effective use of the knowledge of language a child already possessed.
 - C. Their texts typically focused on subject matter that **held** little intrinsic interest for their readers.
 - D. They neglected to teach the language in a sufficiently systematic way.
 - E. They required a **pedagogical method** that few American teachers of the era possessed.

Passage 36

① Madagascar's Mahafale cattle raisers have incorporated the prickly pear cactus into their pastoral economy, which depends on assisting their cattle through the dry season, when grass and water are scarce. ② Rather than relying on nomadism in the pursuit of water and pasture for their livestock, they have turned to cactus to keep stock alive. ③ This has influenced the cattle raisers' way of life, particularly in terms of diet and mobility. ④ Women harvest cactus for their families to eat. ⑤ Male herders work cactus as a vegetable crop for cattle. ⑥ For these benefits, pastoralists sow, prune, and shape prickly pear into living fences around their corrals. ⑦ In doing so, these herders have become cactus cultivators, which has reduced their mobility.

1. Select the sentence in the passage that tells how the prickly pear has affected the Mahafale diet.
2. Which of the following is mentioned in the passage as an affect of cactus cultivation on the Mahafale's pastoralist way of life?
 - A. The Mahafale no longer need to help their cattle survive during the dry season.
 - B. The Mahafale have abandoned their pastoralist way of life.
 - C. The mobility of the Mahafale has been diminished.

Passage 37

① The disappearance of Steller's sea cow from the Bering and Copper islands by 1768 has long been blamed on intensive hunting. ② But its disappearance took only 28 years from the time Steller first described the species, a remarkably short time for hunting alone to depopulate the islands, especially given the large populations initially reported. ③ However, by 1750, hunters had also targeted nearby sea otter populations. ④ Fewer otters would have allowed sea urchin populations on which the otters preyed to expand and the urchins' grazing pressure on kelp forests to increase. ⑤ Sea cows were totally dependent on kelp for food, and within a decade of the onset of otter hunting, Steller noted that the islands' sea cows appeared malnourished.

1. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about kelp forests in the Bering and Copper islands between 1750 and 1768?
 - A. They were reduced significantly.
 - B. They disappeared entirely from the region.
 - C. They were the primary food source for sea otters.
 - D. They were harvested in record numbers by humans
 - E. They increased pressure on sea urchin populations.

2. According to the passage, it is likely that during the mid-1700s, sea urchin populations near the Bering and Copper islands
 - A. were diminished by sea cow predation
 - B. experienced substantial increases
 - C. migrated to waters with more plentiful food supplies
 - D. were reduced by the pressures of hunting
 - E. appeared to be malnourished

Passage 38

① Astronomers studying a certain kind of **supernova (exploding star)** were surprised to find the supernovas were **fainter** than expected. ② Seeking explanations, they **discounted the possibility that** cosmic dust might be screening out some of the light, because it would filter out blue light more than red, causing the supernovas to appear redder than they really are. ③ Also, unless spread very smoothly throughout space, the dust would introduce large variations in the **measurements**. ④ Another possibility is gravitational lensing, the bending of light rays as they skirt galaxies *en route*. ⑤ Such lensing occasionally causes brightening, but most often it contributes to the **dimness** of distant supernovas. ⑥ Calculations show, however, that this effect becomes important only for sources more distant than the supernovas studied.

1. According to the passage, the astronomers rejected gravitational lensing as an explanation for their findings because
 - A. gravitational lensing can cause supernovas to appear brighter than they really are
 - B. their calculations showed a negligible effect of gravitational lensing for light rays from distant sources.
 - C. light rays traveling from the supernovas studied did not have to skirt galaxies.
 - D. the effect of gravitational lensing on the appearance of supernovas is unpredictable.
 - E. the supernovas studied were too near for gravitational lensing to have the observed dimming effect.**
2. The passage implies which of the following about the **measurements** made by the astronomers?
 - A. There were small calculation errors in their measurements.
 - B. There were no large variations in their measurements.
 - C. Their measurements were skewed by unevenly spread cosmic dust
 - D. Their measurements were incomplete because cosmos dust screened out some of the light.
 - E. It was possible to take more measurements of red light than of blue light.

Passage 39

① Recent studies of ancient Maya water management have found that the urban architecture of some cities was used to divert rainfall runoff into gravity-fed systems of interconnected reservoirs. ② In the central and southern May Lowlands, this kind of water control was necessary to support large populations throughout the year due to the scarcity of perennial surface water and the seasonal availability of rainfall. ③ Some scholars argue that the concentration of water within the urban core of these sites provided a centralized source of political authority for Maya elites based largely on controlled water access. ④ Such an argument is plausible; however, it is less useful for understanding the sociopolitical implications of water use and control in other, water-rich parts of the Maya region.

1. The author of the passage implies which of the following about the political importance of the type of urban water management system described in the passage?
 - A. Because the system was centralized, it allowed political control over a widely scattered population.
 - B. The knowledge required to design and maintain the system became the pretext for Maya elites' political authority.
 - C. By selectively limiting access to water, Maya elites used the system to curb challenges to their authority.
 - D. The system is not sufficient to explain the sources of centralized political power in all parts of the Maya region.
 - E. The system's continued maintenance required political authorities to exert control over an increasing proportion of economic resources.
2. According to the passage, which of the following is true of the water management systems in the central and southern Maya Lowlands?

Consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply.

- A. They were implemented in part because of the prevailing pattern of rainfall.
- B. They were an integral part of lowland cities' architecture.
- C. They were needed because of insufficient resources such as ponds, rivers and lakes in the lowlands.

Passage 40

① African American painter Malvin Gray Johnson (1896-1934) grew up in urban environments, including New York City, but in 1934 visited and painted scenes from the small town of Brightwood, Virginia. ② Some critics have celebrated the Brightwood paintings, which depict a vibrant natural landscape and close-knit Black community, as Johnson's discovery of an "authentic" African American life in the rural South. ③ This view, which reflects a common tendency to regard African American artists' imagery as unmediated documentation of direct experience, overlooks Johnson's interpretive thinking. ④ In truth, Johnson's conceptualization of the South was largely formed before he left New York, where he had studied the French expressionist Paul Cézanne. ⑤ Johnson's Brightwood paintings reflect Cézanne's stylistic influence and tendency to present rural life as an idyllic alternative to modern industrialism.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. contest a particular interpretation of Johnson's Brightwood paintings
- B. compare Johnson's Brightwood paintings to French Expressionist art
- C. use information about Johnson's historical context to illuminate the social significance of his Brightwood paintings
- D. explain why the work of African American painters is sometimes misunderstood
- E. call attention to an aspect of Johnson's technique that has been largely overlooked

2. The highlighted sentence has which of the following functions in the passage?

- A. It expands upon a point made in the previous sentence.
- B. It helps explain a common tendency described earlier in the passage
- C. It identifies a way in which Johnson sought to differentiate his work from that of other artists.