

## C1 高级别学术阅读 15

## 高难阅读实战演练 1

## 阅读段落 1

- ❖ Meggers argued that agriculture depends on extracting nutrients from soils into edible crops, so premodern societies in Amazonia could never grow large because underlying soils are impoverished. In Meggers' view the population size that a culture could reach depended upon the agricultural potential of its environment.

Meggers accepted that fish and turtle resources of the Amazon made possible the long riverside villages the explorer Orellana described in 1542, but she dismissed as exaggerated Carvajal's estimates of tens of thousands of people in those settlements, and she was sure those settlements did not have inland counterparts. Supporting this point, the Omagua, a riverbank people and one of the greatest chiefdoms observed by Carvajal as a member of Orellana's expedition, regarded hinterland forests as unpopulated wilderness.

1. In the context of the passage the highlighted sentence serves to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. explain the broader rationale for a conclusion described in the preceding sentence
  - B. suggest some of the drawbacks of the riverbank location of the villages described in the following sentence
  - C. acknowledge information that appears to undermine a description attributed to Orellana
  - D. introduce a principle that appears to be contradicted by the agricultural development of premodern Amazonia
  - E. give a reason for an upward revision in earlier estimates for premodern Amazonia
2. From the passage it can be inferred that Omagua depended on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. overland transport to communicate between villages
  - B. foraging inland to obtain foodstuffs not available locally

- C. some form of fertilization to boost agricultural production
- D. fish and turtles for at least part of their diet
- E. trade with other peoples for some raw materials

## 阅读段落 2

- ❖ Human impacts on the natural environment during the later part of the Holocene (beginning about 4,000 years ago) complicate investigations into environmental change during that period because the signals produced by human- and climate-induced change are sometimes difficult to separate. For example, in the later Holocene, one indicator of increased aridity due to climate change is an increase in pollen from grasses, as forest vegetation gives way to grassland. Such a change in vegetation could alternatively be attributed to human impact in the form of agricultural development. Examples of such human impact from 4,000 years ago would be small-scale, however, since the broad ecosystem changes brought about by the widespread adoption of agricultural technologies occurred later.

1. Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted sentence in the context of the passage as a whole?
- A. It provides an example of the kind of problems that often complicate investigations into environmental change.
  - B. It call into question the reliability of the established dates for later Holocene agricultural development.
  - C. It describes the nature of localized agricultural developments during the later Holocene.
  - D. It outlines a hypothesis that draws on evidence discussed earlier in the passage.
  - E. It limits the scope of a particular complication mentioned earlier in the passage.
2. According to the passage, which of the following is true regarding environmental changes 4,000 years ago?

- A. No localized increases in grass pollen were caused by agricultural development.
- B. Increases in grass pollen were at least sometimes a reflection of an increase in aridity.
- C. Wholesale ecosystem changes probably resulted from agricultural development.
- D. Any small-scale changes occurring then would not be detectable now.
- E. Environmental change helped induce the adoption of agricultural technologies.

### 阅读段落 3

- ❖ Many theorists now doubt that heat loss from Earth's core and radioactive decay are sufficient by themselves to produce all the energy driving the tectonic plates whose movements have helped shaped Earth's surface. This leaves a loose end in current geological theory. Herbert Shaw argues that because scientists have underestimated the input of substantial amounts of energy from extraterrestrial impactors (asteroids and comets striking Earth), they have difficulty accounting for the difference between the quantity of energy produced from sources intrinsic to Earth and that involved in plate tectonics.
- ❖ Whereas most geologists have treated the addition of energy through the bombardment of Earth's surface by such impactors as a process separate and independent from the movement of Earth's tectonic plates, Shaw asserts that these processes are indivisible. Shaw's revolutionary "open-system" view recognizes a continuum between terrestrial and extraterrestrial dynamics, whereas modern plate tectonic theory, like the classical geology developed during the nineteenth century, is founded on the view that Earth's geological features have changed through gradual, regular processes intrinsic to Earth, without reference to unique catastrophic events. Classical geology borrowed a decisive, if unspoken, premise from Newton—the independence of Earth's processes from any astronomical context.

1. The author's primary purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. identify the influences informing a particular geological theory about the processes

- that have shaped Earth's surface
- B. identify differences between two views of the extraterrestrial impactors and argues that the phenomenon has influenced the development of plate tectonic theory
- C. argue that an explanation is based on a dubious evidence and propose an alternative explanation
- D. discuss an explanation and place that explanation under theoretical context
- E. suggest that apparent discrepancy poses a serious problem for a particular theory that many have believed
2. The author of the passage mentions the "continuum" in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. point out a relationship between plate tectonics and the nineteenth-century geology
- B. explain how a theory of Newton's could influence geology and plate tectonic theory.
- C. distinguish between two sources of energy that contributed to the development of Earth's surface.
- D. point out a similarity between the surface of impactors and the surface of Earth.
- E. identify a feature of Shaw's view that deviates from current scientific theories.
3. The passage suggests which of the following about tectonic theory?
- A. It has led scientists to overlook an important contribution to classical geologists from Newton.
- B. It has been more successful than was classical geology in accounting for heat loss from.
- C. It is based on premise about Earth's processes discerned in Newton's thought.
- D. It has correctly explained the effects of extraterrestrial impactors on Earth's surface.
- E. It corrects a fundamental flaw in classical geology.