2018 托福阅读提高篇之句、段逻辑分类系列（四）

（句段逻辑分类 C - 转折与对比)

一．句子简化题 01.Estimates indicate that the aquifer contains enough water to fill Lake Huron, but unfortunately, under the semiarid climatic conditions that presently exist in the region, rates of addition to the aquifer are minimal, amounting to about half a centimeter a year.

○Despite the current impressive size of the Ogallala aquifer, the region's climate keeps the rates of water addition very small.

○Although the aquifer has been adding water at the rate of only half a centimeter a year, it will eventually accumulate enough water of fill Lake Huron.

○Because of the region's present climatic conditions, water is being added each year to the aquifer.

○Even when the region experiences unfortunate climatic conditions, the rates of addition of water continue to increase.

02.Contrary to the arguments of some that much of the pacific was settled by Polynesians accidentally marooned after being lost and adrift, it seems reasonable that this feat was accomplished by deliberate colonization expeditions that set out fully stocked with food and domesticated plants and animals.

○ Some people have argued that the Pacific was settled by traders who became lost while transporting domesticated plants and animals.

○ The original Polynesian settlers were probably marooned on the islands, but they may have been joined later by carefully prepared colonization expeditions.

○ Although it seems reasonable to believe that colonization expeditions would set out fully stocked, this is contradicted by much of the evidence.

○ The settlement of the Pacific islands was probably intentional and well planned rather than accidental as some people have proposed.

03.Inequalities of gender have also existed in pastoralist societies, but they seem to have been softened by the absence of steep hierarchies of wealth in most communities, and also by the requirement that women acquire most of the skills of men, including, often, their military skills.

○Despite the fact that wealth is relatively evenly distributed in pastoral societies, gender inequality still exists because only men can acquire military skills and social status.

○Inequalities of gender existed in pastoralist societies until most communities began to require women to possess the same skills as men and take part in the military.

○Inequalities of gender in pastoralist societies were caused by steep hierarchies of wealth and differences in military training between men and women.

○In pastoral societies, gender inequality is comparatively mild because wealth is relatively evenly distributed and women have to learn most of the same skills that men do.

04.Although the failure of agriculture to keep up with the growing population did not become a crisis until the fourteenth century, clear signs of the problem had already emerged by the middle of the thirteenth century, when occasionally low yields due to bad weather or social disruption revealed how perilous the

balance between Europe's population and its food supply had become.

A. Maintaining the population of Europe with existing food supplies continued to be a problem after the middle of the thirteenth century

B. The delicate balance between population and food supply in Europe was apparent in years of poor harvest half a century before it became a crisis in the fourteenth century

C. Clear sighs of the emerging crisis in Europe appeared in the thirteenth century in the form of bad weather, social unrest, and insufficient food

D. In the thirteenth century, a problem emerged in Europe when the food sufficient to feed the population only

05.Biologists, who commonly study the distribution of plant and animal species in different environments —their biogeography— strive to develop interpretations or explanations of the patterns of species distribution, but these may be incorrect if the effects of human beings are not taken into consideration.

A. In biogeography it is common to consider and study the effects of plant and animal species as they are distributed within environments where humans live.
B. Biologists who study environments in which plants and animals are distributed have arrived at interpretations or explanations for how species succeed, but these may not be correct.
C. To understand plant and animal distribution patterns correctly, biologists must consider the role of human beings in the biogeography of species
D. It is common for biologists who try to understand the effects of humans on their environments to be incorrect in their explanations of certain distribution patterns of plants and animals.

06 Numerous seeming exceptions to this law have since been found, but they can usually be explained as cases in which the two species, even though competing for a major joint resource, did not really occupy exactly the same niche.

○ Apparent exceptions to this law usually involves cases in which two species compete for the same major resource but occupy slightly different niches.

○ Although it may appear that two species always have different niches, many exceptions show that species compete with each other.

○ Cases in which two species not only compete for a shared resource but also occupy similar niches are considered exceptions to this law.

○ Cases in which the two species do not occupy that same niche yet still compete for the same resource are believed to be exceptions to this law.

07.The tradition of religious sculpture extends over most historical periods but is less clearly delineated than that of stonewares or porcelains, for it embraces the old custom of earthenware burial ceramics with later religious images and architectural ornament.

○ While stonewares and porcelains are found throughout most historical periods, religious sculpture is limited to the ancient period.

○ Religious sculpture was created in most periods, but its history is less clear than that of stonewares or porcelains because some old forms continued to be used even when new ones were developed.

○ While stonewares and porcelains changed throughout history, religious sculpture remained uniform

in form and use.

○ The historical development of religious sculpture is relatively unclear because religious sculptures sometimes resemble earthenware architectural ornaments.

二.句子插入题 01.■Modern architectural forms generally have three separate components comparable to elements of the human body; a supporting skeleton or frame, an outer skin enclosing the interior spaces, and equipment, similar to the body's vital organs and systems. ■The equipment includes plumbing, electrical wiring, hot water, and air-conditioning. ■Of course in early architecture—such as igloos and adobe structures—there was no such equipment, and the skeleton and skin were often one. ■

However, some modern architectural designs, such as those using folded plates of concreter or air-inflated structures, are again unifying skeleton and skin.

02.Steam power and iron combined to revolutionize transport, which in turn had further implications. Improvements in road construction and sailing had occurred, but shipping heavy freight over land remained expensive, even with the use of rivers and canals wherever possible. Parallel rails had long been used in mining operations to move bigger loads, but horses were still the primary source of power. ■However, the arrival of the steam engine initiated a complete transformation in rail transportation, entrenching and expanding the Industrial Revolution. ■As transportation improved, distant and larger markets within the nation could be reached, thereby encouraging the development of larger factories to keep pace with increasing sales. ■Greater productivity and rising demands provided entrepreneurs with profits that could be reinvested to take advantage of new technologies to further expand capacity, or to seek alternative investment opportunities. ■Also, the availability of jobs in railway construction attracted many rural laborers accustomed to seasonal and temporary employment. When the work was completed, many moved to other construction jobs or to factory work in cities and towns, where they became part of an expanding working class.

The first steam-powered locomotives were slow but they rapidly improved in speed and carrying capacity.

03 .Freud believed that aggressive impulses are inevitable reactions to the frustrations of daily life. Children normally desire to vent aggressive impulses on their parents, because even the most attentive parents cannot gratify all of their demands . ■ Yet children, also fearing their parents' punishment and the loss of parental love, come to repress most aggressive impulses. ■ The Freudian perspective, in a sense, sees us as "steam engines." ■By holding in rather than venting "steam," we set the stage for future explosions. ■ Pent-up aggressive impulses demand outlets.

According to Freud, however, impulses that have been repressed continue to exist and demand expression.

04.Ir has not been common at Earth's since the very beginning of the planet's history. Because it usually exists in a metallic state, it was preferentially incorporated in Earth's core as the planet cooled and consolidated. Ir is found in high concentrations in some meteorites, in which the solar system's original chemical composition is preserved. Even today, microscopic meteorites continually bombard Earth, falling on both land and sea. By measuring how many of these meteorites fall to Earth over a given period of time, scientists can estimate how long it might have taken to deposit the

observed amount of Ir in the boundary clay. ■ These calculations suggest that a period of about one million years would have been required. ■However, other reliable evidence suggests that the deposition of the boundary clay could not have taken one million years. ■So the unusually high concentration of Ir seems to require a special explanation. ■

Consequently, the idea that the Ir in the boundary clay came from microscopic meteorites cannot be accepted.

05.The Akkadians conquered the Sumerians around the middle of the third millennium B.C.E, and they took over the various cuneiform signs used for writing Sumerian and gave them sound and word values that fit their own language. ■The Babylonians and Assyrians did the same, and so did peoples in Syria and Asia Minor. ■The literature of the Sumerians was treasured throughout the Near East, and long after Sumerian ceased to be spoken, the Babylonians and Assyrians and others kept it alive as a literary language, the way Europeans kept Latin alive after the fall of Rome. ■For the scribes of these non-Sumerian languages, training was doubly demanding since they had to know the values of the various cuneiform signs for Sumerian as well as for their own language. ■

However, the Sumerian language did not entirely disappear.

三、修辞目的及推断题

01.The term "fossil" often implies petrifaction, literally a transformation into stone. After the death of an organism, the soft tissue is ordinarily consumed by scavengers and bacteria. The empty shell of a snail or clam may be left behind, and if it is sufficiently durable and resistant to dissolution, it may remain basically unchanged for a long period of time. Indeed, unaltered shells of marine invertebrates are known from deposits over 100 million years old. In many marine creatures, however, the skeleton is composed of a mineral variety of calcium carbonate called aragonite. Although aragonite has the same composition as the more familiar mineral known as calcite, it has a different crystal form, is relatively unstable, and in time changes to the more stable calcite.

Why does the author mention "aragonite" in the passage?

O To emphasize that some fossils remain unaltered for millions of years
O To contrast fossil formation in organisms with soft tissue and in organisms with hard shells
O To explain that some marine organisms must undergo chemical changes in order to fossilize
O To explain why fossil shells are more likely to survive than are fossil skeletons

02.For the first time, the planting of colonies in distant lands became possible. The Phoenician settlements in the central and western Mediterranean, such as Carthage, and the slightly later establishment of Greek colonies are early examples, while the settlement of south Arabians in Eritrea around the middle of the last millennium marks the subsequent spread of this sort of commercial consequence to the Horn of Africa. In the third or second millennia B. C., a state such as Egypt might colonize areas outside its heartland, such as Nubia. But this colonization comprised military outposts and ethnic settlements that were planted to hold the contiguous territories of a land empire, not distant localities far separated from the home country.

02 .In paragraph 2, why does the author mention the colonization of Nubia by the Egyptians?

A.To prove that colonization was first carried out by the military

B.To indicate that Egypt was a major military power in the third and second millennia B. C.

C.To illustrate how large the geographic area of colonization had become over several millennia
D.To show that the purpose of colonization during the third and second millennia B. C. differed from that of the last millennium B. C.

03.It should be obvious that cetaceans—whales, porpoises, and dolphins—are mammals. They breathe through lungs, not through gills, and give birth to live young. Their streamlined bodies, the absence of hind legs, and the presence of a fluke and blowhole cannot disguise their affinities with land dwelling mammals. However, unlike the cases of sea otters and pinnipeds (seals, sea lions, and walruses, whose limbs are functional both on land and at sea), it is not easy to envision what the first whales looked like. Extinct but already fully marine cetaceans are known from the fossil record. How was the gap between a walking mammal and a swimming whale bridged? Missing until recently were fossils clearly intermediate, or transitional, between land mammals and cetaceans.

1. what does the author say about the presence of a blowhole in cetaceans?

○It clearly indicates that cetaceans are mammals.
○It is the main difference between cetaceans and land-dwelling mammals.
○It cannot yield clues about the origins of cetaceans.
○It cannot conceal the fact that cetaceans are mammals.

2. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 1 about early sea otters?

○It is not difficult to imagine what they looked like.
○There were great numbers of them.
○They lived in the sea only.
○They did not leave many fossil remains.

04. The earliest fossil evidence for eukaryotes complex organisms whose cells contain a distinct nucleus dates to only about 1.2 billion years ago. The fossil record suggests that animal evolution progressed slowly, with relatively little change seen between fossils from 1.2 billion years ago and those from a half-billion years later. But then something quite dramatic happened as can be judged by the many different animal groups that suddenly appear in the fossil record.

Paragraph 1 implies which of the following about evolutionary change

○Eukaryotes have a very slow rate of evolution.
○The fossil record of evolutionary change is incomplete for the first half-billion years of animal evolution.
○Evolution has not always proceeded at the same rate.
○Evolutionary rates of change in animals were slowing down considerably before a dramatic reversal happened 1.2 billion years ago.

05.Paleontologists have argued for a long time that the demise of the dinosaurs was caused by climatic alterations associated with slow changes in the positions of continents and seas resulting from plate tectonics. If true, though, why did cold-blooded animals such as snakes, lizards, turtles, and crocodiles survive the freezing winters and torrid summers? These animals are at the mercy of the climate to maintain a livable body temperature. It's hard to understand why they would not be affected, whereas dinosaurs were left too crippled to cope, especially if, as some scientists believe, dinosaurs were warm-blooded. Critics also point out that the shallow seaways had retreated from and advanced on the continents numerous times during the Mesozoic, so why did the dinosaurs survive

the climatic changes associated with the earlier fluctuations but not with this one? Although initially appealing, the hypothesis of a simple climatic change related to sea levels is insufficient to explain all the data.

Why does the author mention the survival of "snakes, lizards, turtles, and crocodiles" ?

○To argue that dinosaurs may have become extinct because they were not cold-blooded animals
○To question the adequacy of the hypothesis that climatic change related to sea levels caused the extinction of the dinosaurs
○To present examples of animals that could maintain a livable body temperature more easily than dinosaurs
○To support a hypothesis that these animals were not as sensitive to climate changes in the Cretaceous period as they are today

06. It would appear that the instability of the climatic conditions led populations that had originally been nomadic to settle down and develop a sedentary style of life, which led in turn to population growth and to the need to increase the amount of food available. Farming originated in these conditions. Later on, it became very difficult to change because of the significant expansion of these populations. It could be argued, however, that these conditions are not sufficient to explain the origins of agriculture. Earth had experienced previous periods of climatic change, and yet agriculture had not been developed.

Why does the author state that "Earth had experienced previous periods of climatic change, and yet agriculture had not been developed"?

OTo suggest that climate change had occurred long before the development of agriculture
OTo argue that climate change does not properly explain why agriculture developed
OTo challenge the assumption that agriculture developed only in some parts of the world
OTo question the claim that climate change occurred at the time when agriculture developed

07.For years historians have sought to identify crucial elements in the eighteenth-century rise in industry, technology, and economic power known as the Industrial Revolution, and many give prominence to the problem of energy. Until the eighteenth century, people relied on energy derived from plants as well as animal and human muscle to provide power. Increased efficiency in the use of water and wind helped with such tasks as pumping, milling, or sailing. However, by the eighteenth century, Great Britain in particular was experiencing an energy shortage. Wood, the primary source of heat for homes and industries and also used in the iron industry as processed charcoal, was diminishing in supply. Great Britain had large amounts of coal; however, there were not yet efficient means by which to produce mechanical energy or to power machinery. This was to occur with progress in the development of the steam engine.

Why does the author provide the information that "Great Britain had large amounts of coal"?

○ To reject the claim that Britain was facing an energy shortage in the eighteenth century
○ To explain why coal rather than other energy resources became the primary source of heat for homes and industries in eighteenth-century Britain
○To indicate that Britain's energy shortage was not the result of a lack of fuel

○ To explain why coal mining became an important industry in nineteenth-century

08.Another flaw of the tiredness theory is that yawning does not raise alertness or physiological activity, as the theory would predict. When researchers measured the heart rate, muscle tension and skin conductance of people before, during and after yawning, they did detect some changes in skin conductance following yawning, indicating a slight increase in physiological activity. However, similar changes occurred when the subjects were asked simply to open their mouths or to breathe deeply. Yawning did nothing special to their state of physiological activity. Experiments have also cast serious doubt on the belief that yawning is triggered by a drop in blood oxygen or a rise in blood carbon dioxide. Volunteers were told to think about yawning while they breathed either normal air, pure oxygen, or an air mixture with an above-normal level of carbon dioxide. If the theory was correct, breathing air with extra carbon dioxide should have triggered yawning, while breathing pure oxygen should have suppressed yawning.

Why does the author note that there were physiological changes when subjects opened their mouths or breathed deeply?

○ To present an argument in support of the tiredness theory
○ To cast doubt on the reliability of the tests that measured heart rate, muscle tension and skin conductance
○ To argue against the hypothesis that yawning provides a special way to improve alertness or raise physiological activity
○ To support the idea that opening the mouth or breathing deeply can affect blood oxygen levels

09.The arts of the Islamic book, such as calligraphy and decorative drawing, developed during A.D. 900 to 1500, and luxury books are some of the most characteristic examples of Islamic art produced in this period. This came about from two major developments: paper became common, replacing parchment as the major medium for writing, and rounded scripts were regularized and perfected so that they replaced the angular scripts of the previous period, which because of their angularity were uneven in height. Books became major vehicles for artistic expression, and the artists who produced them, notably calligraphers and painters, enjoyed high status, and their workshops were often sponsored by princes and their courts. Before A.D. 900, manuscripts of the Koran (the book containing the teachings of the Islamic religion) seem to have been the most common type of book produced and decorated, but after that date a wide range of books were produced for a broad spectrum of patrons.

According to paragraph 1, before A.D. 900, books in the Islamic world

○ included a wide range of subjects
○ did not contain any calligraphy or decoration
○ used rounded scripts
○ were usually written on parchment

10.The commercial revolution constructed the economic basis as well for a new kind of town or city, an urban center that above all serviced trade and was home to the crafts and occupational specializations that went along with commercial development. The urban locations of earlier times commonly drew trade simply because their populations had included a privileged elite of potential consumers. Such towns had arisen in the first place as political and religious centers of the society,

they attracted population because power and influence resides there and access to position and wealth could be gained through service to the royal or priestly leadership.

According to paragraph 3, before the emergence of the commercial revolution, trade

A.enabled craftspeople and occupational specialists to gain power and influence in society
B.centered on the ruling elite and those groups closely associated with them
C.was primarily conducted by people serving the royal and religious leadership
D.was a major reason why urban centers were established

10.1.Basic to any understanding of Canada in the 20 years after the Second World War is the country's impressive population growth….

…It appeared that Canada was once more falling in step with the trend toward smaller families that had occurred all through the Western world since the time of the Industrial Revolution.

It can be inferred from the passage that before the Industrial Revolution

(A)families were larger.
(B)population statistics were unreliable.
(C)the population grew steadily.
(D)economic conditions were bad.

10.2.Accustomed though we are to speaking of the films made before 1927 as "silent", the film has never been, in the full sense of the word, silent. From the very beginning, music was regarded as an indispensable accompaniment;

What can be inferred from the passage about the majority of films made after 1927?

(A) They were truly "silent."
(B) They were accompanied by symphonic orchestras.
(C) They incorporated the sound of the actors' voices.
(D) They corresponded to specific musical compositions.

10.3."…The nineteenth century brought with it a burst of new discoveries and inventions that revolutionized the candle industry and made lighting available to all. In the early-to-mid-nineteenth century, a process was developed to refine tallow (fat from animals)with alkali and sulfuric acid. The result was a product called stearin. Stearin is harder and burns longer than unrefined tallow. This breakthrough meant that it was possible to make tallow candles that would not produce the usual smoke and rancid odor. Stearins were also derived from palm oils, so vegetable waxes as well as animal fats could be used to make candles …"

Which of the following can be inferred about candles before the nineteenth century?

○They did not smoke when they were burned.
○They produced a pleasant odor as they burned.
○They were not available to all.
○They contained sulfuric acid.

10.4.Rainfall is not completely absent in desert areas, but it is highly variable. An annual rainfall of four inches is often used to define the limits of a desert.

Which of the following statements about annual rainfall can be inferred ?

○Flat desert areas receive more annual rainfall than desert areas with mountains.
○Areas that receive more than four inches of rain per year are not considered deserts.
○Many areas receive less than four inches of annual rainfall, but only a few are deserts.
○Annual rainfall has no impact on the groundwater resources of desert areas.

10.5.The ephemeral plants evade drought. Given a year of favorable precipitation, such plants will develop vigorously and produce large numbers of flowers and fruit. This replenishes the seed content of the desert soil. The seeds then lie dormant until the next wet year, when the desert blooms again.

The paragraph suggests that during a dry year ephemerals

○ produce even more seeds than in a wet year
○ do not sprout from their seeds
○ bloom much later than in a wet year
○ are more plentiful than perennials

10.6.This was before the steam locomotive, and canal building was at its height.

Which of the following can be inferred about canal building?

○ Canals were built primarily in the south of England rather than in other regions.
○ Canal building decreased after the steam locomotive was invented.
○ Canal building made it difficult to study rock strata which often became damaged in the process.
○ Canal builders hired surveyors like Smith to examine exposed rock strata.

10.7 The water table is the underground boundary below which all the cracks and pores are filled with water. In some cases, the water table reaches Earth's surface, where it is expressed as rivers, lakes and marshes. Typically, though, the water table may be tens or hundreds of meters below the surface. The water table is not flat but usually follows the contours of the topography. Above the water table is the vadose zone, through which rainwater percolates. Water in the vadose zone drains down to the water table, leaving behind a thin coating of water on mineral grains. The vadose zone supplies plant roots near the surface with water.

The paragraph implies which of the following about the roots of plants?

○ They prevent water from reaching the vadose zone.
○ They mark the boundary between the vadose zone and the water table
○ They do not typically get their water from the water table.
○ They help keep the water table from dropping farther.

11.As these experiments show, begging apparently provides a signal of need that parents use to make judgments about which offspring can benefit most from a feeding. But the question arises, why don't nestlings beg loudly when they aren't all that hungry? By doing so, they could possibly secure more food, which should result in more rapid growth or larger size, either of which is advantageous. The answer lies apparently not in the increased energy costs of exaggerated begging—such energy costs are small relative to the potential gain in calories—but rather in the damage that any successful cheater would do to its siblings, which share genes with one another. An individual's success in propagating his or her genes can be affected by more than just his or her own personal reproductive success. Because close relatives have many of the same genes, animals that harm their close relatives

may in effect be destroying some of their own genes. Therefore, a begging nestling that secures food at the expense of its siblings might actually leave behind fewer copies of its genes overall than it might otherwise.

In the paragraph, the author compares the energy costs of vigorous begging with the potential gain in calories from such begging in order to

○ explain why begging for food vigorously can lead to faster growth and increased size
○ explain how begging vigorously can increase an individual's chance of propagating its own genes
○ point out a weakness in a possible explanation for why nestlings do not always beg vigorously
○ argue that the benefits of vigorous begging outweigh any possible disadvantages

12. In the 1970s when the study of Australian archaeology was in an exciting phase of development, with the great antiquity of rock art becoming clear. Lesley Maynard, the archaeologist who coined the phrase "Panaramitee style," suggested that a sequence could be determined for Australian rock art, in which a geometric style gave way to a simple figurative style (outlines of figures and animals), followed by a range of complex figurative styles that, unlike the pan-Australian geometric tradition tended to much greater regional diversity. While accepting that this sequence fits the archaeological profile of those sites, which were occupied continuously over many thousands of years, a number of writers have warned that the underlying assumption of such a sequence-a development from the simple and the geometric to the complex and naturalistic-obscures the cultural continuities in Aboriginal Australia, in which geometric symbolism remains fundamentally important. In this context the simplicity of a geometric motif may be more apparent than real. Motifs of seeming simplicity can encode complex meanings in Aboriginal Australia. And has not twentieth-century art shown that naturalism does not necessarily follow abstraction in some kind of predetermine sequence?

In the paragraph , the author indicates that twentieth century art has shown that naturalism does not necessarily follow abstraction in some kind of predetermined sequence in order to

○ emphasize that it may not be possible to determine what the figures in ancient rock art represent
○ suggest a reply to those who have questioned Maynard's interpretation of the sequence of Australian rock art
○ provide a counterexample to Maynard's interpretation of the sequence of Australian rock art
○ indicate that twentieth century art is more advanced than ancient rock art

13.The political institutions of the four countries posed no significant barriers to industrialization or economic growth. The nineteenth century passed relatively peacefully for these countries, with progressive democratization taking place in all of them. They were reasonably well governed, without notable corruption or grandiose state projects, although in all of them the government gave some aid to railways, and in Sweden the state built the main lines. As small countries dependent on foreign markets, they followed a liberal trade policy in the main, though a protectionist movement developed in Sweden.

The author includes the information that "a protectionist movement developed in Sweden" in order to

○ support the claim that the political institutions of the four countries posed no significant barriers to industrialization or economic growth
○ identify an exception to the general trend favoring liberal trade policy
○ explain why Sweden industrialized less quickly than the other Scandinavian countries and Netherlands
○ provide evidence that agricultural reforms take place more quickly in countries that have a liberal trade policy than in those that do not

14.In spring the Siberian air mass warms and loses density, enabling atmosphere currents over the Pacific to steer warmer air into northeast Asia. This warm, moisture-laden air covers most of southern Japan during June and July. The resulting late spring rains then give way to a drier summer that is sufficiently hot and muggy, despite the island chain's northerly latitude, to allow widespread rice cultivation.

Why does the author include the phrase "despite the island chain's northerly latitude" in the paragraph?
A.To indicate that one would not expect such hot, muggy weather at Japan's latitude
B.To compare Japan's climate to the climate of more northerly latitudes
C.To give a reason for the hot,muggy weather experienced in Japan during the summer
D.To explain why Japan's climate is only suitable for rice cultivation

15.The benefits of play must outweigh costs, or play would not have evolved, according to Darwin' s theory. Some of the potential benefits relate directly to the healthy development of the brain and nervous system. In one research study, two groups of young rats were raised under different conditions. One group developed in an "enriched" environment, which allowed the rats to interact with other rats, play with toys, and receive maze training. The other group lived in an "impoverished" environment in individual cages in a dimly lit room with little stimulation. At the end of the experiments, the results showed that the actual weight of the brains of the impoverished rats was less than that of those raised in the enriched environment (though they were fed the same diets). Other studies have shown that greater stimulation not only affects the size of the brain but also increase the number of connections between the nerve cells. Thus, active play may provide necessary stimulation to the growth of synaptic connections in the brain, especially the cerebellum, which is responsible for motor functioning and movements.

Why does the author include the comment "though they were fed the same diets"?
O To show why rats living in impoverished environments need less food than those living in enriched environments
O To eliminate the possibility that differences in diet were responsibly for observed differences in brain weight
O To emphasize the point that rats were fed only the amount of food needed to keep them alive
O To suggest that rats fed the same diet have smaller brains than those fed a varied food

16.The Egyptians were not far behind in developing writing, but we cannot follow the history of their writing in detail because they used a perishable writing material. In ancient times the banks of the

Nile were lined with papyrus plants, and from the papyrus reeds the Egyptians made a form of paper, it was excellent in quality but, like any paper, fragile. Mesopotamia's rivers boasted no such useful reeds, but its land did provide good clay, and as a consequence the clay tablet became the standard material. Though clumsy and bulky it has a virtue dear to archaeologists, it is durable.

1.In paragraph 2, why does the author discuss the Egyptian use of papyrus as a writing material?

A.To describe the superiority of papyrus over leather and wood as a writing material

B.To explain why writing in Egypt did not develop as quickly as it did Mesopotamia

C.To explain why archaeologists' knowledge of the early history of writing relies mainly on Sumerian cuneiform

D.To explain why the Sumerians preferred clay tablets for writing over papyrus

17. Several theories have been proposed by many scientists to explain the diversity of gliding(滑翔) animals in Southeast Asia. One theory, known as broken-forest hypothesis, speculates that animals in Southeast Asia must risk descending to the ground or glide to move between trees because the top layer of the forest--the tree canopy---has fewer woody vines connecting tree crowns in Southeast Asian forests than in New World and African forests. It also presumes that the tree canopy in Asian forests is more uneven in height, due to the existence of tall dipterocarp trees with lower trees between them, and this imbalance is favored by gliding animals. But it is observed by ecologist working in different regions of world that, depending on the site conditions of soil, climate, slope elevation, and local disturbance, there is a tremendous local variation in tree height, canopy structure, and abundance of vines. Indeed, we can find many locations with abundant woody vines and numerous connections between trees in Southeast Asia and similarly many Amazonian forests with few woody vines.

17.1.The paragraph suggests which of the following ideas about forests in which there are abundant woody vines connecting tree crowns?

(A)There are likely fewer predators on the ground in such forests than in other forests.

(B)In such forest, the tree canopy is more even than that in other forests.

(C)In such forest, there is a wider diversity of animals than other forests.

(D)Animals in such forests can move between trees by traveling on vines.

17.2 The paragraph supports the idea that one problem with the broken-forest hypothesis is that

(A)in broken forests with an uneven canopy structure, gliding is difficult, and it is easy in forests where the trees are all about the same height

(B)ecologists in different region have found that gliding animals are as abundant and varied in some forests of Africa and the New World as they are in Southeast Asian forests

(C)ecologists have found gliding animals in areas of Southeast Asia where trees are connected by vines and not found them in Amazonian forests where trees are not connected by vines

(D)with the fewest woody vines connecting the tops of trees, the forest in Southeast Asia turn out to have the most gliding animals