**修辞目的题**

**Rhetorical Purpose question**

Rhetoric is the art of speaking or writing effectively. In Factual Information questions you are asked what information an author has presented. In Rhetorical Purpose questions you are asked why the author has presented a particular piece of information in a particular place or manner. Rhetorical Purpose questions ask you to show that you understand **the rhetorical function of a statement or paragraph** as it relates to the rest of the passage.

**题目**

The author discusses X in paragraph 2 in order to . . .

Why does the author mention X?

The author uses X as an example of . . .

**考点**

**逻辑关系**

1. Know the deﬁnitions of these words or phrases, which are often used to describe different kinds of rhetorical purposes: **“deﬁnition,” “example,” “to illustrate,” “to explain,” “to contrast,” “to refute,” “to note,” “to criticize,” “function of.”**

2. Rhetorical Purpose questions usually do not ask about the overall organization of the reading passage. Instead, they typically focus on the logical links between sentences and paragraphs.

句内逻辑关系

Most lightning takes place at cloud when the charge separation within the cloud collapses. However, as the storm cloud develops, the ground beneath the cloud becomes positively charged and lightning can take place in the form of an electrical discharge between the negative charge of the cloud and the positively charged ground. Lightning that strikes the ground is the most likely to be destructive, so even though it represents only 20 percent of all lightning, it has received a lot of scientific attention.

The author remarks that “Lightning that strikes the ground is the most likely to be destructive” in order to explain why

A. this form of lightning has been investigated so much

B. this form of lightning is not as common as lightning within a cloud

C. scientific understanding of this form of lightning is important

D. the buildup of positive charge on the ground beneath a storm cloud can have serious consequences

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. In Denmark and Sweden agricultural reforms took place gradually from the late eighteenth century through the first half of the nineteenth, resulting in a new class of peasant landowners with a definite market orientation.

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

A. support the claim that the political institutions of the four countries posed no significant barriers to industrialization or economic growth

B. identify an exception to the general trend favoring liberal trade policy

C. explain why Sweden industrialized less quickly than the other Scandinavian countries and Netherlands

D. provide evidence that agricultural reforms take place more quickly in countries that have a liberal trade policy than in those that do not

【Paragraph 3】Another suggested reason is the change in nutrient level over the year, with differing concentrations favoring different phytoplanklon species. While this factor may also contribute, observations suggest that phytoplankton populations rise and fall much more quickly than nutrient concentrations change.

Why does the author provide the information that “phytoplankton populations rise and fall much more quickly than nutrient concentrations change”?

A. To argue that the nutrient level not determine phytoplankton succession.

B. To argue that the succession of phytoplankton is actually the cause of changes in the nutrient level. C. To indicate that phytoplankton populations are very sensitive to changes in the nutrient level.

D. To imply that changes in the nutrient level explain the succession of phytoplankton.

【Paragraph 3】What caused these changes? For many years scientists assumed that a cooling of the climate was responsible, with dinosaurs being particularly vulnerable because, like modern reptiles, they were ectothermic (dependent on environmental heat, or cold-blooded). It is now widely believed that at least some species of dinosaurs had a metabolic rate high enough for them to be endotherms (animals that maintain a relatively consistent body temperature by generating heat internally). Nevertheless, climatic explanations for the K-T extinction are not really challenged by the ideas that dinosaurs may have been endothermic, because even endotherms can be affected by a significant change in the climate.

Why does the author note that “even endotherms can be affected by a significant change in the climate”?

A. To argue that there was a significant climate at the time that endothermic dinosaurs became extinct B. To argue that climate change caused some dinosaurs to evolve as endotherms

C. To support the view that at least some of the dinosaurs that became extinct were endotherms

D. To defend climate change as possible explanation for the extinction of dinosaurs

句间逻辑关系

Most of the world’s potable water---freshwater suitable for drinking----is accounted for by groundwater, which is stored in the pores and fractures in rocks. There is more than 50 times as much freshwater stored underground than in all the freshwater rivers and lakes at the surface. Nearly 50 percent of all groundwater is stored in the upper 1,000 meters of Earth. At greater depths within Earth, the pressure of the overlying rock causes pores and cracks to close, reducing the space that pore water can occupy, and almost complete closure occurs at a depth of about 10 kilometers. The greatest water storage, therefore, lies near the surface

In paragraph 1, why does the author mention “the pressure of the overlying rock”?

A. To show how water can be forced deep under Earth’s surface

B. To show why groundwater is more plentiful than surface freshwater

C. To correct a commonly made error about the location of groundwater

D. To explain why most groundwater lies near Earth’s surface

This process of settling in as a community over several generations, combined with local recruitment, presumably accounts for the apparent stability of the British northern frontier in the later Roman period. It also explains why some of the forts continued in occupation long after Rome ceased to have any formal authority in Britain, at the beginning of the fifth century A.D. The circumstances that had allowed natives to become Romanized also led the self-sustaining military community of the frontier area to become effectively British.

Why does the author mention that “some of the forts continued in occupation long after Rome ceased to have any formal authority in Britain”?

A. To emphasize the degree to which the stability of the British northern frontier depended on firm military control

B. To suggest that the Romans continued to occupy Britain even after they had formally given up the right to do so

C. To support the claim that forts continued to serve an import economic function even after they ceased to be of any military use

D. To describe one of the things that resulted from frontier garrisons’ becoming part of the local community over a long period

【Paragraph 2】Archaeologist Donald Henry suggests that the combination of a rich habitat and sedentism (permanent, year-round settlement) led to a dramatic increase in human population. In his view, nomadic, simple foragers have relatively low levels of fertility. Their high-protein, low-carbohydrate diets result in low body-fat levels, which are commonly associated with low fertility in women. High levels of physical activity and long periods of nursing, which are common among modern simple foragers, probably also contributed to low levels of female fertility if they were likewise common among ancient foragers.

Why does the author mention “modern simple foragers”?

A. To contrast the diets of modern simple foragers with those of ancient simple foragers

B. To illustrate the effects of low levels of female fertility on foraging populations

C. To help support the claim that ancient foragers may have had low levels of fertility

D. To argue for a link between nursing practices and fertility levels

【Paragraph 1】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. These continued to include, of course, manuscripts of the Koran, which every Muslim wanted to read, but scientific works, histories, romances, and epic and lyric poetry were also copied in fine handwriting and decorated with beautiful illustrations. Most were made for sale on the open market, and cities boasted special souks (markets) where books were bought and sold. The mosque of Marrakech in Morocco is known as the Kutubiyya, or Booksellers’ Mosque, after the adjacent market. Some of the most luxurious books were specific commissions made at the order of a particular prince and signed by the calligrapher and decorator.

In paragraph 1, why does the author mention the fact that the mosque in Marrakech, Morocco, is known as the Booksellers’ Mosque

A. To cast doubt on the importance of souks in making books available to common people

B. To provide an example of a place where books were made at the order of a particular prince

C. To emphasize how influential and well known the book markets were

D. To demonstrate the need for religious texts in Islamic lands

【Paragraph 3】Railroads also propelled the growth of small towns along their routes. The Illinois Central Railroad, which had more track than any other railroad in 1855f made money not only from its traffic but also from real estate speculation. Purchasing land for stations along its path, the Illinois Central then laid out towns around the stations. The selection of Manteno, Illinois, as a stop of the Illinois Central, for example, transformed the site from a crossroads without a single house in 1854 into a bustling town of nearly a thousand in I860, replete with hotels, lumberyards, grain elevators, and gristmills. By the Civil War (1861-1865), few thought of the railroad-linked Midwest as a frontier region or viewed its inhabitants as pioneers.

The author mentions “Manteno, Illinois” in order to

A. give an example of how railroads decided which small towns would be selected for stations

B. illustrate the power of railroads to determine where towns would come into existence

C. explain how some railroads were able to make more money from real estate speculation than from railroad traffic

D. show how people‘s view of the Midwest as a frontier region had changed by the Civil War

【paragraph 4】What ecological pressures might have caused fishes to gradually abandon their watery habitat and become increasingly land-dwelling creatures? Changes in climate during the Devonian may have had something to do with this if freshwater areas became progressively more restricted. Another impetus may have been new sources of food. The edges of ponds and streams surely had scattered dead fish and other water-dwelling creatures. In addition, plants had emerged into terrestrial habitats in areas near streams and ponds, and crabs and other arthropods were also members of this earliest terrestrial community. Thus, by the Devonian the land habitat marginal to freshwater was probably a rich source of protein that could be exploited by an animal that could easily climb out of water. Evidence from teeth suggests that these earliest tetrapods did not utilize land plants as food; they were presumably carnivorous and had not developed the ability to feed on plants.

In paragraph 4, why does the author point out that crabs and other arthropods were already living on land when the ancestors of the first tetrapods began living there?

A. To account for the presence of dead fish along the edges of ponds and streams during the Devonian.

B. To support the claim that climate change caused freshwater habitats to become more restricted during the Devonian.

C. To identify a consequence of the emergence of plants into terrestrial habitats near ponds and streams.

D. To identify a possible reason for why certain fish gradually became terrestrial organisms.