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Passage 081

According to the traditional view of commerce in colonial Mexico, the substantial merchants of Mexico City, acting in concert with Spanish exporters, colluded to inflate prices. Price fixing would have required a significant degree of collaboration, since no single merchant came close to enjoying monopoly power. According to Hoberman, the number of wholesale merchants in Mexico varied from 252 in 1598 to 177 in 1689 to around 200 in the late eighteenth century. **Hoberman's figures may be conservative, however.** As Kicza notes, many prominent merchants did not use the formal titles---*mercader* or *almacenero*---that Hoberman looked for in compiling her data. Yet even if we accept Hoberman's numbers that still leaves far too many to have successfully cooperated to fix prices.

1. In the context of the overall argument, the highlighted sentence primarily functions to
 - A. imply that evidence against the view the author opposes could be understated
 - B. provide evidence to support a point that is made in the subsequent sentence
 - C. suggest that evidence that might appear relevant is invalidated by a hidden bias
 - D. indicate the need for further evidence to support the author's position
 - E. point to a weakness in evidence that has been used against the author's position

2. Hoberman's data are important to the author's argument primarily because they
 - A. show the dangers of generalizing about colonial commerce in Mexico
 - B. highlight the wide variation in the number of merchants in Mexico during the colonial period
 - C. provide the basis for a view about colonial commerce in Mexico that the author disputes
 - D. call into question a basic assumption of the established view of colonial commerce in Mexico
 - E. point to the highly competitive nature of colonial commerce in Mexico



Passage 082

Since the 1970s, there has been a movement in African literary studies toward the recognition of national literatures in newly independent African states, such as Cameroon, Senegal, and Benin. But while in some of these national literatures there has undoubtedly emerged a sense of corporate identity, often marked by clear **thematic and formal progressions** it remains an incontrovertible fact that the European languages in which these literatures are expressed have only an official acceptance: they are neither indigenous to the cultures on which they have been imposed, nor are they national in any real sense of the word. This must limit the claims of any of these literatures to national significance, however abundant the corpus or coherent the internal configurations.

1. The passage suggests that some scholars of African literary studies
 - A. celebrate African authors for their fluency in more than one language
 - B. believe that a literature can have national status even when it comprises a small number of works
 - C. view thematic unity as indispensable attribute of literatures that are justifiably defined as “national”
 - D. claim that African countries are too culturally diverse to have national literatures
 - E. define several African literatures as “national” even though the works are written in nonindigenous languages

2. The author of the passage mentions “thematic and formal progressions” primarily to
 - A. describe a structural feature unique to African national literatures
 - B. suggest that African national literatures are very similar to each other
 - C. cite a potential justification for a certain opinion on national literatures
 - D. explain why many African authors avoid writing in European languages
 - E. discuss conditions necessary for a country to possess a national literature



Passage 083

Some anthropologists propose theories of learning that draw upon the concept of social tradition. Their conception of social tradition as any regularity that arises from the pressure inherent in living within a tightly bounded social group is problematic, however. Social traditions also exist where, as among foragers, localized gatherings of people are fluid and fuzzy. Further, anthropologists not only talk as if the world were carved into tightly bounded cultures or societies but also treat these abstract entities as though they were concrete by attributing to them the ability to exert pressure on individuals in order to create regularity in individuals' behavior. The identifiable reality, however, is one in which individuals influence the behavior of others.

1. Which of the following best describes the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Traditions play a smaller role in leaning than some anthropologists maintain.
 - B. The idea that transmission of tradition depends on tightly bounded societies is faulty.
 - C. Some anthropologists regard traditions as abstract conceptions that do not correspond to reality.
 - D. Individuals are better able to resist the pressure exerted by social groups than some anthropologists claim
 - E. Many anthropologists have made a faulty assumption regarding the mobility of social groups.

2. The author criticizes the anthropologists' conception of social tradition for
 - A. relying on a definition of tradition that is too broad to be meaningful
 - B. ignoring kinds of leaning other than social learning
 - C. making abstractions out of social groups and traditions
 - D. denying that the behavior of individuals often violates societal regularities
 - E. failing to acknowledge the fact that traditions exist in loosely defined groups



Passage 084

Despite today's more efficient electrical generators, modern electric-only power plants waste more of their fuel sources' potential energy than did Thomas Edison's power plants of the late 1800s. Edison used cast-off steam from his generators to warm nearby homes and factories. But few modern power plants use this residual heat, instead venting it into the air. When newer, larger plants required more real estate, they were built further from customers. Moreover, because electricity travels easily plants were located wherever they could tap the energy of a river or where local coal was especially cheap. The heat generated during the production of electricity does not travel far, however, so when power plants moved out to the horizon the steam went to waste.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that, in general, locating modern power plants closer to population centers would have
 - A. compromised efforts to conserve energy in populated areas
 - B. decreased the demand for heating within those population centers
 - C. resulted in higher costs for the fuel used by those plants
 - D. required much larger plants than those currently operating
 - E. obliged power companies to find an alternative to coal as a fuel source
2. The author suggests that steam generated by modern power plants is not used for heating because
 - A. steam generally proves incompatible with most modern industrial needs
 - B. other means of heating have become more cost-effective
 - C. steam is no longer produced in sufficient quantities to be useful
 - D. insufficient demand for heating exists nearby
 - E. transporting steam long distances would prove to be prohibitively expensive



Passage 085

W.E.B Du Bois's exhibit of African American history and culture at the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle attracted the attention of a world of sociological scholarship whose values his work challenged. Du Bois believed that Spencerian sociologists failed in their attempts to gain greater understanding of human deeds because their work examined not deeds but theories and because they gathered data not to effect social progress but merely to theorize. In his exhibit, Du Bois sought to present cultural artifacts that would shift the focus of sociology from the construction of vast generalizations to the observation of particular, living individual elements of society and the working contributions of individual people to a vast functioning social structure.

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

1. It can be inferred from the passage that DuBois believed which of the following statements about the artifacts be included in his exhibit?
 - A. They tended to support an established view of African American history and culture.
 - B. They documented the contributions of particular African Americans to American social structure.
 - C. They were chosen to encourage Spencerian sociologists to form useful generalizations.
2. The passage implies that Du Bois attributed which of the following beliefs to Spencerian sociologists?
 - A. Theorizing is important to the understanding of human actions.
 - B. Vast generalizations have limited value.
 - C. Data gathering is a relatively unimportant part of sociological research.
 - D. Sociology should focus on the living elements of society rather than cultural artifacts



Passage 086

In 1995, after an absence of nearly 70 years, wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park. During the wolf-free era, heavy browsing of aspen trees by elk populations spelled doom not only for the trees themselves but for a host of other creatures dependent on them, such as beavers, whose population in Yellowstone crashed after wolves were removed. Without beavers to create ponds, wetland ecosystems-aquatic plants, amphibians, birds-were devastated. When wolves returned, grazers and browsers resumed normal patterns of behavior, preferring safer, open areas over the dense cover and streamsides where carnivores can lurk. Keeping elk wary and on the move, wolves gave aspen and other young trees the opportunity to grow and become reestablished.

1. The passage asserts which of the following about beaver populations in Yellowstone?
 - A. They have rebounded since the reintroduction of wolves.
 - B. They were adversely affected by the feeding habits of elk populations.
 - C. They increased during the period when wolves disappeared from the park.
 - D. They have historically had an adverse effect on the park's wetland ecosystems.
 - E. They are essential to the health of the park's aspen trees.

2. The author would be most likely to agree with which of the following claims about the reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone?
 - A. It indirectly harmed some of the park's amphibian habitats.
 - B. It reduced the number of elk feeding along streamsides.
 - C. It led to greater species diversity among the park's grazers and browsers.
 - D. It significantly increased competition for food among the park's carnivores.
 - E. It fostered the resurgence of tree species that once flourished in the park's open areas.



Passage 087

While buying and selling were the primary interests of people who gathered at flourishing medieval markets, these were not the only activities people engaged in there. Trips to the market were also social occasions, proving a good place to see and be seen, as indirectly **attested** by texts deriding those who adorned themselves more elegantly to visit a market than to visit a church. Markets also provided a good place to hear and be heard. As venues for royal proclamations, markets' chief advantage lay in their popularity with the peasantry. In theory, parish churches were equally suitable in this respect; but in practice, royal administrators found that markets better enabled them to integrate rural areas into institutional chains of communication.

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

1. Which of the following conclusions regarding royal proclamations can reasonably be drawn from the passage?
 - A. If made in parish churches, royal proclamations would be unlikely to be heard by peasants.
 - B. Royal administrators regarded it as important that the peasantry should know the content of at least some royal proclamations.
 - C. Markets were the most effective venue for communicating royal proclamations to rural populations.

2. In the context in which it appears, “attested” most nearly means
 - A. borne out
 - B. made sure of
 - C. proclaimed
 - D. decided
 - E. vindicated



Passage 088

The intense self-awareness in the soliloquies of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (1599) is a breakthrough that was given tremendous impetus by the playwrights' interest in a new literary form, the essay. Although Montaigne, the forms originator, published his first volumes of personal essays in France in 1580. English writers such as Shakespeare did not discover Montaigne until the late 1590s. **Shakespeare could easily have turned to the essay earlier in his career his French was good enough to read Montaigne in the original**---but he didn't. Only at the end of the century, a cultural moment marked by a deepening interest in how subjective experience could be expressed, did Montaigne begin to speak to Shakespeare and other English writers with great immediacy.

1. In the passage, the function played by the highlighted portion is to
 - A. support the contention that Montaigne influenced Shakespeare's early writings
 - B. emphasize the extent to which writers of Shakespeare's time borrowed ideas and plotlines from one another
 - C. argue that Shakespeare's interest in Montaigne was shaped by the prevailing cultural concerns of his time
 - D. introduce a discussion of the factors that discouraged most English writers from reading French works in the original language
 - E. point out that Shakespeare's education was superior to that of most other English playwrights of his time

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

2. According to the passage, interest in the essay in England was spurred during the late 1590s by
 - A. an increasing attention to and knowledge of French language and culture
 - B. a wider interest in experimenting with new literary forms
 - C. the culture's growing fascination with giving voice to the intricacies of personal experience



Passage 089

Simulations indicate, and observations confirm, that the particles constituting Saturn's rings are giving up angular momentum to moons of the planet. The simulations predict that over just a few hundred million years, the related **energy transfer** will cause the rings collapse. An analogous process occurs around young stars in the disks of matter from which planets emerge, and these protoplanetary disks do vanish that quickly, computer models show. Yet if Saturn's rings are so short-lived, a large comet or moon---the rings presumed source---must have broken apart in Saturn's vicinity within the past several hundred million years. That is quite unlikely. It would have been much more probable in the young solar system---4 billion years ago or more.

1. It can be inferred that the author of the passage mentions protoplanetary disks because
 - A. the computer modeling techniques used to study them were later applied to Saturn's rings
 - B. conclusions about them might reasonably be applied to Saturn's rings
 - C. the accepted understanding of them is challenged by observations of Saturn's rings
 - D. the material of which Saturn's rings are composed must at one time have been in a protoplanetary disk around the Sun
 - E. observations of Saturn's rings may serve as a substitute for observations of protoplanetary disks

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

2. The passage suggests which of the following about the "energy transfer"?
 - A. Its effects are obscured by the angular momentum of Saturn's moons.
 - B. It is part of a process that also imparts angular momentum to at least some of Saturn's moons.
 - C. It proceeds more slowly than does an analogous energy transfer that occurs in the vicinity of young stars.



Passage 090

Kacelnik proposed that birds sing more at dawn and dusk because low light levels make feeding relatively unprofitable. Colder temperatures also make prey less active and thus harder to find. So why do birds wake up before they can feed, and why don't they wake up much earlier to lengthen the dawn chorus? It may be that **other birds are unresponsive** until only shortly before foraging becomes possible. Birds could listen to mates or neighbors singing overnight, but much social behavior contingent on that signal might plausibly occur only when there is some light. **Such social interactions---like chasing intruders or mating---could be performed effectively at light levels at which foraging is still inefficient.**

1. The passage suggests that the “other birds are unresponsive” primarily as a result of the
 - A. danger of revealing themselves to potential predators
 - B. unprofitability of foraging behavior at colder temperatures
 - C. lack of sufficient light for certain social behaviors
 - D. fact that birds, like much of their prey, are less active at colder temperatures
 - E. need to conserve energy for foraging

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

2. The highlighted sentence performs which of the following functions?
 - A. It suggests an answer to a question that is raised earlier in the passage.
 - B. It notes an exception to a generalization stated in the preceding sentence
 - C. It augments the explanation proposed by Kacelnik.

