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Passage 071

Championing individual expression and recognizing shifting artistic trends Martha Graham and Doris Humphrey forged a new path for women in modern dance in the 1930s. The period's modernist art prioritized interiority and individuality, which for dancers were grounded in the body. Indeed, many modern dancers believed their art superior to other genres because its **source material**---bodies---was prelinguistic, thus closer to **the raw essence of being** that modernists sought to expose. Modern dancers made no distinctions between men and women in the process of artistic creation, and **women dancers did not claim that being female gave them a unique connection to the body**. But in espousing the belief that bodily movement revealed powerful natural instincts, the placed female bodily expression in a new light.

1. The passage suggests that “the raw essence of being”
 - A. was a particular subject of inquiry for modernists working in a variety of artistic genres in the 1930s.
 - B. was understood by modern dancers as a universal concept that supersedes differences among individuals
 - C. was a theme that distinguished the work of Martha Graham and Doris Humphrey from that of many male modern dancers
 - D. cannot be successfully explored by any art form that relies on linguistic representation
 - E. is arguably a subject particularly suited to exploration by female artists
2. The phrase “women dancers did not claim that being female gave them a unique connection to the body” serves primarily to
 - A. acknowledge an ambiguity inherent in certain modernist ideas
 - B. differentiate natural instincts from artistic expressiveness
 - C. clarify a claim about individuality made by some modernists
 - D. forestall a possible misconception about certain artists views
 - E. emphasize the value that modern dancers attributed to nonlinguistic expressiveness
3. The author suggests which of the following about “modernist art”?
 - A. It was initially somewhat inhospitable to the kinds of innovations favored by Martha Graham and Doris Humphrey.



- B. It was seen by some in the 1930s as promulgating ideas that were likely to help broaden the appeal of dance as a serious art form.
 - C. Some of its defining concerns were particularly relevant for artists who used movement as a medium
 - D. Its ascendance in the 1930s owed a significant debt to female artists working in various artistic genres.
 - E. It promulgated an understanding of the artistic process in which an artist's creativity was understood to be strongly influenced by gender.
4. The author mentions “source material” primarily in order to
- A. distinguish between two important factors that influenced modern dance
 - B. identify a concern that was particular to modernist artists in the 1930s
 - C. explain how certain women modern dancers understood the creative process
 - D. illustrate how Martha Graham and Doris Humphrey forged a new artistic path for women
 - E. elaborate on an aspect of dance that some modern dancers regarded as an inherent strength



Passage 072

The brain's fusiform face area (FFA) responds to images of faces, leading some neuroscientists to theorize that the region is hardwired for facial recognition. Others support the expertise hypothesis, which holds that humans use those same brain circuits to distinguish between all objects with which they have developed considerable familiarity. According to them, humans excel at recognizing faces because most have been doing so all their lives, not because of any specialized brain structures. This theory explains why the FFA for a birdwatcher, for example, will activate for both faces and birds. And **while FFA responses for other objects are considerably weaker than those for faces**, even dedicated birdwatchers have probably spent considerably less time studying birds than looking at faces.

1. In the passage as a whole, the highlighted portion primarily serves to
 - A. emphasize evidence that supports the expertise hypothesis
 - B. introduce a third theory to explain the function of the brain's FFA
 - C. suggests that the evidence for the theories mentioned is inconclusive
 - D. present a possible objection to the expertise hypothesis
 - E. suggest a conclusion that can be drawn from the expertise hypothesis
2. The two groups of neuroscientists mentioned in the passage would likely agree on which of the following statements regarding the brain's FFA?
 - A. It generally becomes active when people look at faces.
 - B. it shows different levels of activity when responding to different types of objects.
 - C. It is adapted to respond to any object with which the person in question is extensively familiar



Passage 073

The musical taxonomy we take for granted today arose in the early 1900s. Musical genres were invented as a means of marketing records. Before the recording era, working musicians were expected to play a range of music that would surprise **modern listeners**, who generally expect classical musicians to play classical country musicians to play country, and so on. With respect to blues, there were probably few musicians working in the 1920s or 1930s who played only that style. If recordings imply that certain artists could play only the most basic twelve-bar blues pattern, the reason lies with recording companies' preferences, not musicians' capabilities. Performers whose entire recorded repertoire consists of blues might have been earning a living playing in jazz groups or **country bands**.

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

1. The author mentions “country bands” primarily order to
 - A. cast doubt on a particular assumption often made about working musicians before the recording era
 - B. emphasize how unrepresentative a musician's blues recordings might be of that musician's range
 - C. compare the demands of playing blues music to the demands of playing in other musical styles
 - D. identify a significant source of income for some musicians who recorded blues music in the 1920s and 1930s
 - E. note an important influence on some musicians whose only recorded music consisted of blues songs
2. The passage suggests which of the following about “modern listeners”?
 - A. They tend to make certain assumptions about musicians that have been influenced by recording companies' ways of categorizing musical styles.
 - B. They generally have broader musical tastes than did listeners before the recording era.
 - C. They tend to expect more virtuosity from musicians who play only one style of music than they expect from musicians who play many different styles.



Passage 074

Some studies have shown that red-backed salamanders (RBS) are scarce in areas with acidic soils and that those present in such conditions have smaller-than average bodies. Explanations have included the possibility that young RBS are adversely affected by acidic soil, that adult RBS can sense and may avoid acidic soil conditions, or that loss of RBS prey populations due to acidic soil could result in reduced RBS populations. Yet researchers found fairly high densities of large-bodied RBS at Lake Claire Watershed, where soil conditions are acidic. One hypothesis is that intraspecific geographical variation in acidity tolerance (i.e., local adaptation to an acidic environment) could exist for RBS. Previous studies showed potential local adaptation of some salamander species to acidity.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - A. cite evidence that appears to contradict a widely held assumption
 - B. present contrasting interpretations of particular research finding
 - C. explain how particular environmental change can produce diverse outcomes
 - D. note an unexpected finding and summarize one possible explanation for it
 - E. identified a correlation and explain why one hypothesis about it is more persuasive than others
2. Which of the following can be inferred about the studies mentioned in the highlighted portion of the passage?
 - A. They may have under counted RBS in their study areas due to faulty methodology
 - B. They focused less on adult RBS than on RBS in the early stages of their development
 - C. They found evidence that acidic conditions adversely affect the prey on which RBS depend
 - D. They drew unsubstantiated conclusions about the possible adverse effects of acidic conditions on RBS.
 - E. They were conducted in areas where the soil conditions were similar to those at Lake Claire Watershed.



Passage 075

During the early nineteenth century, the demand for ever-louder sound led to ever-increasing tension on piano strings, making evident the need of stronger framing. Sooner or later, someone would think of making metal frames. Although pianos were crafted by artisans long after factories had taken over the manufacture of other commodities, the Industrial Revolution nevertheless shaped the attitudes of those who decided whether to accept this innovation. To build pianos with steam-powered tools was one thing; to put a cast-iron frame at the center of the instrument, making the product itself a modern factory of sound rather than a fully handcrafted artwork in wood, was quite another. The resulting debate was vigorous, with many feeling certain that iron in the piano would ruin the **tone**.

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

1. Which of the following statements about the development of the piano can be inferred from the passage?
 - A. Pianos continued to be made by artisans well into the nineteenth century.
 - B. The use of steam-powered tools in piano making led to a decline in tone quality.
 - C. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, the framing in pianos was made entirely of wood.

2. In the context in which it appears, “tone” most nearly means
 - A. interval
 - B. mood
 - C. timbre
 - D. pitch
 - E. shade



Passage 076

Most twentieth-century critics read Melville's *Pierre* as a parody of the sentimental novel. They point to its overblown prose and hyperbolic rendering of domestic manners to argue that *Pierre* is a barbed critique of bourgeois politesse. **A variation of this reading stresses Melville's strategic sentimentalism, positing that *Pierre's* romantic-familial plot was meant to engage superficial readers, while the book's deeper elements were aimed at his true audience.** Both readings emphasize Melville's aloofness and authorial control, imagining the writer **by turns mocking and hoodwinking a feckless readership.** Such a strategy, however, implies a cool detachment of the artist from his creation, when in fact Melville is never more personally involved or more in earnest than he is in *Pierre*.

1. According to the passage, twentieth-century critics cite which of the following in support of the idea that in *Pierre*, Melville is “by turns mocking and hoodwinking a feckless readership”?
 - A. Melville's personal involvement in his creation
 - B. Melville's use of an extravagant writing style
 - C. Melville's exaggerated depiction of bourgeois society
2. Select the sentence that presents a reason for questioning twentieth-century readings of *Pierre*.



Passage 077

Scientists have long debated the exact timing of the lunar cataclysm, a period approximately 4 billion years ago when Earth and the Moon were pummeled with asteroids. A clue to this puzzle may come from spherules, millimeter-sized droplets of molten rock formed after an asteroid collides explosively with a planet. Upon impact, the asteroid vaporizes both itself and the target rock, producing a vapor plume that condenses into spherules. These form a layer preserved in rock, whose age can be estimated using radiometric dating. **Scientists know of fourteen of these spherule layers scattered across Earth, but none dates to the theorized lunar cataclysm time period.** Four layers, however, are from between 3.47 and 3.24 billion years ago, indicating perhaps a slow decline in collisions.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. challenge a basic assumption underlying a theory
- B. analyze a flaw in a novel approach to a problem
- C. describe different processes that could have produced the same phenomenon
- D. explain how a class of data might be useful for answering a question
- E. outline a theory that may reconcile conflicting interpretations of a phenomenon

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

2. Which of the following might plausibly account for the findings in the highlighted sentence?

- A. Spherule layers older than 3.47 billion years exist but they have not been discovered yet.
- B. Spherule layers older than 3.47 billion years once existed, but they have since been destroyed
- C. Fewer asteroids collided with Earth than with the Moon during the lunar cataclysm.



Passage 078

The Wall Street millionaire Alfred Loomis was an amateur physicist who made significant contributions to scientific research. In 1928 he purchased three identical clocks, the most accurate available at that time. Loomis set up the clocks in a triangular orientation to one another, to break the gravitationally induced synchronic action among their pendulums, and by analyzing their minute variations, verified a theoretically predicted tidal effect of the Moon on clocks. These results later contributed to the development of LORAN (Long-Range Navigation), which triangulates the positions of ships and aircraft by comparing the difference in arrival times of signals coming from multiple radio beacons at various ground based locations, a calculation that depends on accurate timekeeping.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that the development of LORAN was made possible in part by
 - A. Loomis' refutation of previously accepted theoretical predictions about the tidal effect of the Moon
 - B. Loomis' ability to finance multiple major research efforts with his own money
 - C. the ability to direct multiple radio beacons from an aircraft or ship to various locations on land
 - D. the ability to measure discrepancies between timekeeping instruments caused by the Moon
 - E. the ability to synchronize a clock on board an aircraft with one on board a ship
2. According to the passage, Loomis' clock experiment accomplished which of the following?
 - A. It enabled Loomis to achieve his goal of using highly accurate timekeeping to make scientific advances in navigation.
 - B. It provided confirmatory evidence for an effect for which a scientific explanation had already been proposed.
 - C. It enabled Loomis to refine his theory about the tidal effect of the Moon on clocks.
 - D. It spurred the development of clocks that are not affected by gravity
 - E. It brought Loomis work to the attention of professional physicists.



Passage 079

Even the most complex models used in fishery management are cartoons of reality. They reduce hundreds of links in food webs to a handful and inadequately represent processes operating over space. Many of their assumptions are as flawed today as those of the simplest **models of the past**. Fish stocks, for one are still assumed to be populations of a species that are isolated from one another. Yet **many populations mix at their edges** and some even migrate through areas occupied by other populations. Furthermore, the more complex models suffer from a “crisis of complexity”—more is really less. Adding layers of detail each carrying its own set of assumptions, produces instability. The model's behavior becomes erratic, and conclusions drawn from it can be downright misleading.

1. In the context of the passage, the highlighted portion serves to

- A. confirm a prediction
- B. demonstrate an oversimplification
- C. recommend a reformulation
- D. anticipate an objection
- E. question a finding

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

2. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about “models of the past”?

- A. They depended on more assumptions than do most of today's models.
- B. They often behaved less predictably than do today's more complex models.
- C. At least some of the assumptions they made are still used in models today



Passage 080

Blood and Wolfe's relative resources theory has been cited as an explanation for the well-documented finding that women have typically performed and continue to perform far more domestic labor in their households than men do. This theory holds that power in a family accrues to the spouse contributing the most resources to the household. Such power can be used to withdraw from monotonous housework, where husbands specialize in income generation, while wives work part-time or are unpaid homemakers, the theory might explain the domestic division of labor. Yet Atkins and Boles found that wives who earn more than their husbands often do most of the domestic labor in their households and Brayfield found that women whose husbands are unemployed also do most of the housework.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that the relative resources theory would predict which of the following?
 - A. Wives who engage in part-time paid employment would do about the same amount of domestic labor as wives who are employed full-time.
 - B. Wives who are full-time homemakers would do more of their household's domestic labor than husbands who are not employed outside the home.
 - C. Husbands who are economically dependent on their wives would perform most of their household's domestic labor.
 - D. Husbands whose wives engage in part-time paid employment would perform about the same amount of domestic labor as husbands of full-time homemakers.
 - E. Husbands whose wives engage in part-time paid employment would earn less than husbands whose wives are full-time homemakers.

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

2. The author of the passage mentions Brayfield primarily in order to
 - A. call into question the findings of Atkins and Boles
 - B. resolve an apparent contradiction in the relative resources theory
 - C. provide evidence to support a view put forward by Atkins and Boles
 - D. cite a finding that appears to contradict the relative resources theory
 - E. suggest that Atkins and Boles findings are not incompatible with the relative resources theory

