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Passage 021

Favorable environments do not necessarily lead to the occurrence of plant cultivation. South China is warmer and moister than North China and the Yangtze Basin, with wild rice and highly abundant natural resources. Yet archaeological data indicate that cereal cultivation did not occur in this region until approximately 7,000 to 6,500 years ago. This cultivation was likely a result of cultural contact with and expansion from the Yangtze Basin. Clearly environmental factors were important for the occurrence of cultivation in China but were not the absolute determining factors. While cereal cultivation might occur in areas of relatively abundant resources, it may not occur in areas of very abundant resources, such as South China, where foraging might be a more efficient way of life.

1. The author implies which of the following about cereal cultivation in South China?
 - A. It had an important influence on the development of agriculture in other parts of China
 - B. It was developed in isolation by local foragers.
 - C. It occurred in spite of the lack of diversity of wild plants in the region.
 - D. Environmental factors played a role in its development.
 - E. Researchers disagree about when it actually began.

2. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about plant cultivation in the Yangtze Basin?
 - A. It occurred in spite of an unfavorable climate.
 - B. It occurred prior to 6,500 years ago.
 - C. It occurred somewhat later than it occurred in North China.
 - D. It occurred largely because of the abundance of wild rice in the region.
 - E. It occurred as a result of cultural contact with South China.

3. The author implies which of the following about natural resources in South China prior to 6,500 years ago?
 - A. Their abundance may have actually served to discourage the development of plant cultivation.
 - B. They were not as abundant as most archaeologists have maintained.
 - C. They led indirectly to cultural contact with peoples from the Yangtze basin.



- D. Their importance has been downplayed by scholars studying the beginnings of plant cultivation in South China.
- E. They had little influence on the types of plants that were eventually cultivated in South China.



Passage 022

In his splendid new biography of Flaubert, Frederick Brown deftly dismantles the most durable myth concerning the novelist—that Flaubert was miraculously transformed into a committed realist with the writing of *Madame Bovary*. Robert Baldick offers one version of the myth: “In his early works...Flaubert tended to give free rein to his flamboyant imagination, but on the advice of his friends he later disciplined his romantic exuberance in an attempt to achieve total objectivity and a harmonious prose style.” The only problem with this account is that it doesn’t stand up to scrutiny. **Flaubert followed the realism of *Madame Bovary* with the fantastical *Salammbô*, and paired “A Simple Heart” with his hothouse fantasy, “*Hérodiade*.”**

1. The primary function of the highlighted sentence is to
 - A. suggest the range of Flaubert’s accomplishment as a novelist
 - B. identify certain of Flaubert’s works that are often overlooked by readers
 - C. show that *Madame Bovary* was a turning point in Flaubert’s stylistic development
 - D. provide evidence undermining a conventional view regarding Flaubert
 - E. suggest that critics have tended to overrate *Madame Bovary*

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

2. In the context of the passage, the reference to Baldick’s “version” serves to
 - A. flesh out a conventional view regarding Flaubert
 - B. present a framework for further research into Flaubert
 - C. offer a useful corrective to Brown’s approach to Flaubert



Passage 023

Many herbivorous insects utilize plant resources during small windows of development or during short periods when plants are of table quality. Such temporal associations have been documented in numerous systems where temporal constraints limit insect abundance and affect insect feeding strategy. **Classic studies of winter moths**, for example, suggest that the synchrony of larvae with leaf emergence is a primary determinant of larval success. Because many insect-plant associations have a temporal component they may be negatively affected by environmental changes; some scientists fear, for example, that global warming may decouple insect-plant synchrony **Hellman, however, notes that the timing of insect-plant synchrony is affected by many factors, including insects behavioral and physiological ability to adapt to changing host plant quality and the availability of alternative host resources.**

1. The author discusses Hellman in the last sentence of the passage primarily in order to
 - A. suggest that the negative effects of environmental changes on insect-plant synchrony may be mitigated by certain variables
 - B. provide support for scientists' concern that global warming may play a role in disturbing insect-plant synchrony
 - C. cast doubt on the hypothesis that there is a temporal component in many insect-plant associations
 - D. highlight the importance of timing in the relationship between many insects and the plants upon which they rely for food
 - E. undermine the conclusions about insect-plant associations that have been drawn by scientists in classic studies of winter moths

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

2. The "classic studies of winter moths" provide direct support for which of the following propositions?
 - A. Most herbivorous insects utilize plant resources only during limited time periods.
 - B. Insect feeding strategies and survival are affected by seasonal growth patterns of plants.
 - C. Insect-plant synchrony may be preserved in many instances by insects' ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions.



Passage 024

The graphic elements of Mesoamerican codex writing appear as figural representations, icons, and symbols that signify thought, ideas, and imagery rather than visible speech. Although ancient Mexicans designated some symbols to voice specific words, their larger graphic system did not correspond directly with spoken language. Because the symbols did not replicate any single linguistic system, speakers of various languages could translate the pictographs into their own respective tongues. Readers evaluated a combination of naturalistic images, pictorial conventions, and abstract symbol recorded within an organized structure. By knowing the basic conventions and meanings of the symbols and recognizing their general arrangement, readers interpreted the pictographic messages. **Precise reading orders are not always set, however; thus, different readings and interpretations remain possible.**

1. Which statement best describes the function of the highlighted sentence in the context of the passage as a whole?
 - A. It questions the validity of a system described earlier in the passage.
 - B. It explains the basis of a misunderstanding described in the preceding sentence.
 - C. It presents a potential impediment to a process discussed in the preceding sentence.
 - D. It rebuts a possible objection to an interpretation presented in the preceding sentence.
 - E. It points out contradiction in an argument presented in the second sentence of the passage.
2. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage regarding the reading order of Mesoamerican codex symbols?
 - A. It was harder to establish when the content of the symbols was abstract
 - B. It remained the same regardless of the language of the reader.
 - C. It was governed by the pictorial conventions of the graphic system.
 - D. It helped to determine interpretation of the symbols.
 - E. It corresponded with the order of spoken language
3. According to the passage, which of the following is true regarding the symbols of the Mesoamerican codex graphic system?
 - A. Some of the symbols represent multiple concepts.
 - B. Some of the symbols correspond with particular words
 - C. Most of the symbols originate from a single spoken language
 - D. The symbols were primarily made up of abstract images.



E. The individual symbols were hard to translate because their arrangement varied

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

4. It can be inferred from the passage that the nature of the Mesoamerican codex graphic system enabled which of the following?
- A. The sharing of the system among speakers of different languages
 - B. The visible representation of different language systems
 - C. The changing of the system's conventions by speakers of different languages



Passage 025

Historical demographers have generally agreed on two interrelated features of the urban populations in early. Modern Germany. First, in accordance with the law of natural decrease, extremely high mortality rates in cities (urban areas with more than 10,000 inhabitants) meant that their populations could not be sustained by reproduction alone. Population density, inadequate sanitary conditions, and poor housing made cities too vulnerable to disease and death. Second, when city populations did increase, it was a result of in-migration sufficient to overcome the population losses caused by the high mortality. But because the parish registers of urban communities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants show that the annual number of births usually equaled or exceeded that of deaths, historical demographers assume that the law of natural decrease did not apply to small towns.

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

1. According to the passage, which of the following factors had a depressing effect on population levels in early-modern German cities?
 - A. Migration patterns
 - B. Population density
 - C. Inadequate sanitary conditions
2. The author suggests that according to historical demographers, the birth rate in early-modern German cities
 - A. was affected by sanitary conditions
 - B. increase as a result of in-migration
 - C. was lower than the annual death rate
 - D. decreased as population density increased
 - E. was lower than the rate in communities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants

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

3. It can be inferred that historical demographers generally believe which of the following about communities of fewer than 10,000 people in early-modern Germany?
 - A. Mortality rates were lower than those in cities of over 10,000 inhabitants.
 - B. In-migrations were not a significant factor in population trends.



C. Population levels remained quite stable for extended periods.



Passage 026

The hypothesis that paranormal phenomena are real but lie outside the limits of science is supported by considerable evidence. The Society for Psychical Research has collected stories of ordinary people apparently demonstrating paranormal abilities. Entirely anecdotal, this evidence has nothing to do with science since it cannot be reproduced under controlled conditions. But the society took great trouble to interview first-hand witnesses and to document the stories carefully. One fact that emerges clearly from the stories is that paranormal events occur, if they occur at all, only when people are experiencing strong emotion. This would immediately explain why paranormal phenomena are not observable under the conditions of a well-controlled scientific experiment. **Strong emotion is inherently incompatible with controlled scientific procedures.**

1. Which of the following best describes the role played in the passage by the highlighted sentence?
 - A. It states the main conclusion of the author's argument.
 - B. It provides a basis for a recommended course of action.
 - C. It articulates a principle that supports the claim made in the preceding sentence.
 - D. It is intended to undermine the credibility of apparent evidence that the author has mentioned earlier in the passage.
 - E. It serves to emphasize a limitation of the evidence collected by the Society for Psychical Research.

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

2. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following descriptions of the evidence collected by the Society for Psychical Research?
 - A. Carefully recorded
 - B. Unscientific
 - C. Credible



3. Which of the following best describes the role played in the passage by the highlighted sentence?
- A. It states the main conclusion of the author's argument.
 - B. It provides a basis for a recommended course of action.
 - C. It articulates a principle that supports the claim made in the preceding sentence.
 - D. It is intended to undermine the credibility of apparent evidence that the author has mentioned earlier in the passage.
 - E. It serves to emphasize a limitation of the evidence collected by the Society for Psychical Research.
4. Regarding the evidence collected by the Society for Psychical Research, which of the following can properly be concluded from the passage?
- A. The society's attempts to confirm paranormal phenomena using controlled scientific methodology have all been frustrated.
 - B. The society collected stories of paranormal phenomena with the intent of demonstrating the limitations of scientific methodology.
 - C. The society has not documented cases of people apparently able to produce paranormal effects dispassionately and under any given conditions.
 - D. Because the society scrupulously examines and documents the stories it reports, few charlatans attempt to convince the society's members with fraudulent phenomena.
 - E. When investigation discredits what was claimed to be a paranormal phenomenon, the society does not publicly document the fact.



Passage 027

For good reasons, economists prefer to study people's revealed preferences; that is, to look at individuals' actual choices and decisions rather than their (sometimes deceptive) stated intentions or their subjective reports of likes and dislikes. Yet people's choices often bear a mixed relationship to their own happiness. Studies from behavioral economics and psychology find that people depart from the standard model of the rational economic agent in various ways: they **make inconsistent choices**, fail to learn from experience, and base their own satisfaction on how their situation compares with that of others. If people display bounded rationality when it comes to maximizing utility then their choices do not necessarily reflect their “true” preferences, and an exclusive reliance on choices to infer what people desire loses some appeal.

1. Why does the author note that people “make inconsistent choices”?
 - A. To account for why people's state intentions and their actual behavior often do not coincide
 - B. To explain why most economists no longer adhere to the standard model of the rational economic agent
 - C. To identify a prevailing theory among economists about people's behavior
 - D. To cast doubt on a particular assumption about people's revealed preferences
 - E. To suggest that economists should draw more heavily from behavioral economics and psychology
2. In the context in which it appears, “mixed” most nearly means
 - A. ambiguous
 - B. combined
 - C. associated
 - D. convoluted
 - E. adulterated



Passage 028

More appropriate water pricing would promote the treatment and reuse of urban wastewater for agricultural irrigation and also encourage improvements in irrigation efficiency. Treatment and reuse is more expensive than most irrigation-related conservation and efficiency measures but often less expensive than developing new water sources. Wastewater contains nitrogen and phosphorus, which can be pollutants when released to lakes and rivers but are nutrients when applied to farmland. Moreover, unlike many other water sources, treated wastewater will be both an expanding and fairly reliable supply, since urban water use will likely double by 2025. Many large cities located along coastlines currently dump their wastewater, treated or untreated, into the ocean rendering it unavailable for any other purpose and harming coastal marine life.

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

1. Which of the following does the author suggest as an incentive to the development of more efficient irrigation?
 - A. Treatment and reuse of urban wastewater
 - B. Revised pricing of water
 - C. Reduced costs for urban wastewater treatment
 - D. Development of new water sources
 - E. Reduced urban water use
2. Which of the following does the author present as generally the most cost-effective way of meeting demand for water for irrigation?
 - A. Reducing the amount of water consumed by large cities
 - B. Treating wastewater that is currently being dumped
 - C. Increasing the efficiency of current irrigation systems
 - D. Having new wells drilled
 - E. Increasing the efficiency of current wastewater treatment projects



Passage 029

Because they accumulate in an ordered manner that records changes within a lake and its drainage, lake sediments are particularly valuable for reconstructing ancient climate conditions. Natural materials such as pollen grains, minerals, diatoms, and animal microfossils preserved in sediments can be used to infer past conditions as these materials are affected by environmental variables. Pollen grains composed of sporopollenin, for example, can be used to infer past vegetation shifts. Because both natural climate change and human agricultural practices can lead to changes in vegetation, however, differentiation of these effects using pollen alone is difficult. In many areas of **Mesoamerica**, for instance, changes in the relative abundance of pollen types after 1000 B.C. were highly influenced by human-induced land clearance.

1. The author refers to “Mesoamerica” in the passage primarily in order to
- A. describe an instance in which scientists were unable to determine the cause of a past vegetation shift
 - B. question the claim that both natural climate change and human agricultural practices may be responsible for past vegetation shifts.
 - C. provide an example to support the contention that pollen grains are highly resistant to decay
 - D. support the contention that pollen changes captured in sediments do not reliably indicate natural climate change
 - E. identify a possible weakness in the theory that natural materials can be useful in inferring past climatic conditions

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

2. Which of the following does the passage present as a reason that lake sediments are of particular value in the reconstruction of ancient climate conditions?
- A. They allow scientists to distinguish between naturally occurring and human-induced vegetation changes.
 - B. They contain natural materials that are relatively unaffected by environmental variables during accumulation.
 - C. They collect over time in an ordered fashion

3. The author mentions “sporopollenin” primarily in order to



- A. suggest that the conclusion set forth in the preceding sentence is overly general
- B. support, by means of an illustration, an assertion made in the preceding sentence
- C. introduce a concept for which a more specific example is given in the following sentence
- D. identify a possible reason for the problem that is described in the following sentence
- E. give an example that appears to contradict a principle set forth in the preceding sentence



Passage 030

Exotic insect pests can produce both short-and long-term effects on forest ecosystems, Short-term effects include the disturbances directly associated with the action of the pest, which may cause the defoliation, loss of vigor, or death of trees. Long-term effects are primarily mediated by changes in tree species composition and the consequent alternations of forest structure, productivity, and nutrient uptake. Exotic pests are **more efficient** than most abiotic disturbances (e.g., fire or wind) at producing long-term changes in species composition. Pests often target specific tree species and, if they become established, they usually remain as permanent components of the ecosystem. Shifts in forest species composition ramify through the ecosystem in many ways because tree species have different, often **unique properties**.

1.The passage suggests that a reason for the greater efficiency referred to in the highlighted portion of the passage is that abiotic disturbances are

- A. factors to which a mature ecosystem would have adapted
- B. likely to affect trees of many species
- C. not directly associated with alterations of forest productivity
- D. unlikely to cause loss of vigor in trees
- E. apt to influence a forest's susceptibility to exotic pests

2.The author of the passage mentions the “unique properties” of tree species primarily in order to help explain

- A. why pests tend to target specific tree species
- B. why pests can have long-term effects on entire ecosystems
- C. how pests contribute to shifts in forest species composition
- D. how pests are able to become established in an ecosystem
- E. how some tree species are able to withstand the effects of pests

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

3.The passage mentions which of the following as effects of exotic pests on forest ecosystem?

- A. Decreases vitality in trees
- B. Defoliation of trees
- C. Changes in forest structure

