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Passage 101

At first glance, the nineteenth-century Atlantic halibut fishery fit the typical pattern of fisheries collapse. It followed predictable boom-and-bust cycles of commercial potential, enthusiastic fishing, resource strain, declining productivity and ultimately, collapse. Yet, unlike many other species, halibut was long disdained by fishers and consumers despite its abundance. Lack of commercial value did not entirely protect halibut, since fishers frequently caught halibut along with their target fish, cod, though they discarded halibut as worthless. **Between 1840 and 1880, however, consumer demand shifted, elevating halibut to a desirable commodity.** The threat to halibut stocks was compounded because fish dealers imposed a selection process based on grading the catch, a system that encouraged fishers to jettison all but the highest-graded, most valuable among the fish they caught.

1. The passage implies that a similarity of the time before 1840 and the time after that date was that in both periods
 - A. practices that fish dealers chose to follow had a major impact on the fishing of halibut
 - B. fishers' practices were completely uninfluenced by size of the populations of their target fish
 - C. many halibut were caught by fishers without ever being brought to market
 - D. cod populations were more seriously affected by fishing than halibut populations were
 - E. most fishers preferred to catch cod, when it was accessible, rather than halibut

2. In the context of the passage, the highlighted sentence serves primarily to
 - A. rule out a possible explanation for the timing of a particular historical event
 - B. identify a historical circumstance that disrupted an otherwise common cycle
 - C. provide a clue that might help to explain an unexpected outcome
 - D. suggest that a pattern that has widely been considered typical is actually somewhat unusual
 - E. identify what triggered a chain of events that has come to seem predictable



Passage 102

Robert Philip argues that the advent of recorded music has directed performance style into a search for greater precision and perfection, with a consequent loss of spontaneity and warmth. Various expressive **devices** once common in classical music have been almost outlawed, including portamento (sliding from one note to another on a stringed instrument), playing the piano with the hands not quite synchronized, and flexibility of tempo. Philip fully documents these changes. However, other forces independent of recording were also at work. For example, the freedom of tempo so valued by Philip was, in its time, both a necessary expedient and disastrously abused. Recording alone did not cause the reaction against it, although hearing a particularly unintelligent use of it on disc may have reinforced the prejudice.

1. A criticism of Philip implied by the passage is that he
 - A. exaggerates the extent of a change in performance style
 - B. attributes a change in performance style to a single cause
 - C. ignores unintelligent uses of certain performance techniques
 - D. values performance techniques that have lost their effectiveness
 - E. limits his discussion of performance style to classical music

2. The author would most likely agree with which of the following statements about the “devices”?
 - A. Increases in the technical proficiency of performers have made their use superfluous.
 - B. They are not useful tools for musical expressivity.
 - C. The advent of recorded music had little or no effect on their popularity.
 - D. Their use cannot usually be detected in a recording, even when they were used in the recorded performance.
 - E. At least some of them have been used inappropriately in the past.



Passage 103

Mark Twain relished the huge cutthroat trout fished from Lake Tahoe but reported them uncommonly difficult to catch. Tahoe's extraordinary clarity may be one reason: Twain thought it an advantage that he could see the trout but did not realize that they could see him. Light bends when it enters water, rendering floating objects outside a given circle invisible from underwater. The radius of such a circle, known as Snell's Window, expands with the relative depth of the viewer's position. The Tahoe cutthroats lived very deep and could have seen Twain's boat long before it came to rest overhead. **Moreover, the eyes of trout continue to grow along with their overall body size, and larger eyes, having more cones, provide sharper vision.**

1. Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted sentence?
 - A. It qualifies an assertion made earlier in the passage
 - B. It helps explain why Twain made a particular assumption.
 - C. It presents a fact that helps to explain the functioning of Snell's Window
 - D. It introduces a fact that complicates an explanation presented in the previous sentence
 - E. It provides information that helps to explain a phenomenon mentioned in the first sentence

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

2. The passage suggests which of the following about Snell's Window?
 - A. It is smaller for viewers in shallow water.
 - B. Its radius is affected by the amount of light entering the water.
 - C. Its size is not correlated with the size of a viewer's eyes.



Passage 104

About 40 percent of the native plant species found in the Canary Islands are unique to that island chain, with the remainder also found in neighboring parts of Africa or the Mediterranean. Because the majority of Canarian flora is shared with adjacent continents, it was believed until recently that many of the Canaries unique species were surviving relics of populations that once also existed in Africa or the Mediterranean but that became extinct in those regions at the time the climate there became drier. Indeed, the laurel forests on some Canary Islands contain trees resembling fossils from the Mediterranean. **However, recent research has regularly found that the plant groups containing the largest numbers of unique Canary Island species evolved and diversified within the island chain itself.**

1. The passage implies which of the following about the climate in the Canary Islands?
 - A. It is wetter than it was during the time when certain plant extinctions occurred on nearby landmasses.
 - B. It is more arid now than it was in previous millennia.
 - C. It is wetter than parts of the Mediterranean were when certain plant extinctions occurred.
 - D. It is uniquely suited to the growth of certain species of laurel plants.
 - E. It is generally cooler than adjacent locales in the Mediterranean on Africa.
2. Which of the following statements best describes the function of the highlighted sentence?
 - A. It amends an estimation referred to in the first sentence of the passage.
 - B. It presents evidence that invalidates the resemblance mentioned in the previous sentence.
 - C. It provides the basis for a widely held belief referred to earlier in the passage.
 - D. It limits the applicability of a generalization mentioned earlier in the passage.
 - E. It suggests an explanation for the extinction referred to earlier in the passage.



Passage 105

Normally, business leaders would welcome such a huge market as that which exists in the area of environmental improvement—it is worth more than 500 billion dollars worldwide. But the terminology and rhetoric of the environmental improvement field have so confused and polarized thinking that the implications of such a valuable market are generally overlooked. **Despite the huge economic gains shown by virtually every careful study, environmental improvement is generally referred to as a “cost” by most business executives, political figures, and policy makers.** Yet, like other industries, environmental improvement responds to a valid demand, and it creates jobs, profits, and positive benefits for citizens. Environmental improvement, according to management expert James Quinn, should be viewed as a market rather than as a cost.

1. Which of the following best describes the function of the highlighted sentence in the context of the passage as a whole?
 - A. It undermines an idea introduced in the first sentence.
 - B. It suggests a direction for research that is described later in the passage.
 - C. It elaborates a point introduced in the preceding sentence
 - D. It proposes an alternative to the confusing terminology mentioned in the preceding sentence
 - E. It describes why the market mentioned in the first sentence should be considered a special case
2. In the context in which it appears, “Normally” most nearly means
 - A. Naturally
 - B. As a rule
 - C. Without hesitation
 - D. Left unchecked
 - E. Understandably



Passage 106

Communications in Europe and America were radically transformed in the 1600s and 1700s, but not because of any technological revolution. A printer from the 1500s magically catapulted into a print shop of the late 1700s would have found hand-operated wooden presses little altered from his own time. Viewed from the standpoint of social practices, politics, and institutions, however, the change in communications was enormous. Regular, publicly available postal service was introduced. The first newspapers, scientific journals, and other periodicals appeared and with them emerged journalism in its earliest forms. The market for print expanded, and the law of intellectual property began to take its modern shape. Most important from these developments a new sphere of public information, public debate, and public opinion emerged.

1. The main idea of the passage is that in Europe and America
 - A. developments in the 1600s and 1700s laid the foundation for modern intellectual property law
 - B. factors other than communications technology brought about a profound change in communications in the 1600s and 1700s
 - C. public discourse through print produced changes in social practices, politics, and institutions in the 1600s and 1700s
 - D. at least since the 1600s and 1700s, public discourse has been shaped by the technology of communications media
 - E. communications changes in the 1600s and 1700s anticipated later technological advances that would influence public discourse

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

2. It can be inferred that the author would agree with which of the following statements concerning the first newspapers in Europe and America?
 - A. Their appearance encouraged the introduction of scientific journals and other periodicals.
 - B. They were produced on hand-operated wooden printing presses.
 - C. They did not appear until well after the technology that made them possible was in place.



Passage 107

In his history of algebra, John Derbyshire asserts that when Descartes chose the letter x to represent the principal unknown, he did so for the printer's convenience, because x is used less often in French than y or z . In fact, according to cryptography texts, x is used more often than y in French. Derbyshire's source for his assertion is *Classic Math*, whose author, Art Johnson, gives no footnote for the claim but who may have misunderstood a conjecture made in 1905—**almost 300 years after Descartes**—by Gustav Enestrom and mentioned in a book included in Johnson's bibliography. Enestrom supposed that x was chosen because it occurs more often than y and z , and printers therefore would have had more x 's available.

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

1. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following statements about the relationship between Enestrom's conjecture and Derbyshire?
 - A. Derbyshire's assertion derives ultimately from a misunderstanding of Enestrom's conjecture.
 - B. Derbyshire's bibliography suggests that he was familiar with Enestrom's conjecture.
 - C. Derbyshire wrote his work almost 300 years after Enestrom's conjecture was published.
2. The highlighted text serves primarily to
 - A. establish that Enestrom published his conjecture before Derbyshire authored his history
 - B. allude to the speculative nature of Enestrom's explanation
 - C. account for the absence of any plausible explanation for Descartes's choice of x for centuries after his work was published.
 - D. point out the continuity of mathematical notation over extended periods of time
 - E. suggest that the frequency with which letters are used might have changed since Descartes's time.



Passage 108

Where Carlos Bulosan aimed through fiction and personal testimony to advance both Filipino civil rights in the United States and the social transformation of the Philippines, Yen Le Espiritu has set herself the task of recovering life histories of Filipino Americans. Her work brings Filipino Americans of the generation following the 1934-1965 immigration hiatus graphically to life. A special strength is the representation of Filipino American women, who were scarce among immigrants before the 1934 American curb on Filipino immigration but composed more than half of the immigrants to America since liberalization in 1965. Espiritu's subjects document their changing sense of Filipino identity in the United States, much as Bulosan did as a member of the first substantial wave of immigrants.

1. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage regarding the period in which Bulosan immigrated to the United States?
 - A. Legal restrictions on Filipinos who wished to immigrate to the United States were tighter then than they have been since 1965.
 - B. Filipinos generally had different reasons for immigrating to the United States then than they have had since 1965.
 - C. Relatively few of the Filipinos who immigrated to the United States then were women.
 - D. No one was then working to factually document the lives of Filipino immigrants in the United States.
 - E. During that period, the movement to advance civil rights for Filipino Americans attempted to ease legal restrictions on immigration.

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

2. Regarding Espiritu's work, the passage implies which of the following?
 - A. Her work attempts to give expression to the experiences of a number of Filipino Americans.
 - B. Her work documents how some people's lives were affected by the 1965 liberalization of immigration.
 - C. Her work represents the experiences of Filipino women in the United States more than does Bulosan's.



Passage 109

The widespread abandonment of Classic Mayan settlements began in the southern and central Yucatan, with the northern lowlands undergoing their own decline a century later. Some Mayanists think that extended drought caused these abandonments, while others object that the pattern does not match modern patterns of rainfall, which diminishes markedly from south to north. However, access to underground water sources should also be considered. In the north, the Maya could reach groundwater via sinkholes or wells. Further south, the landscape rises in elevation, and the depth to the water table increases, making direct access to groundwater unfeasible via Mayan technology. Thus, the more southern settlements, totally dependent on rainfall and reservoirs for water, were more likely to be susceptible to the effects of prolonged drought.

1. Select the sentence that points to a conflict that is resolved in the passage.
 - A. The widespread abandonment of Classic Mayan settlements began in the southern and central Yucatan, with the northern lowlands undergoing their own decline a century later.
 - B. Some Mayanists think that extended drought caused these abandonments, while others object that the pattern does not match modern patterns of rainfall, which diminishes markedly from south to north.
 - C. However, access to underground water sources should also be considered.
 - D. In the north, the Maya could reach groundwater via sinkholes or wells.
 - E. Further south, the landscape rises in elevation, and the depth to the water table increases, making direct access to groundwater unfeasible via Mayan technology.

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

2. The passage identifies which of the following as a possible reason for the chronology described in the first sentence?
 - A. The lower elevation of the Mayan settlements in the north
 - B. Variations in the time of onset of drought between the north and the south
 - C. The higher level of technical expertise reached by the Mayan settlements in the north



Passage 110

The fact that certain musical qualities were shared by African American and White jazz musicians in the mid- 1950s was sometimes explained by claiming that jazz was “color-blind.” Yet a look at how the discourse of color blindness was deployed in 1950s jazz periodicals helps explain why many African American jazz musicians began to emphasize differences, rather than similarities, between the aesthetic styles of Black and White musicians. The discourse of “color blindness” tended to exaggerate the permeability of racial boundaries by failing to address the **power relationships** involved in a social climate where evasiveness about race was often used to silence African American perspectives on the meaning of jazz. While the expression of color-blind sentiments was not necessarily disingenuous, structural racial stratification remained powerful beyond the bandstand.

1. The passage suggests that some authors writing in 1950s jazz periodicals
 - A. promoted a view of jazz that would remain influential well beyond the 1950s
 - B. failed to grasp the full extent of the similarities between Black and White jazz musicians
 - C. were sincere in their belief that race played no role in shaping the aesthetic aspects of jazz
 - D. criticized the general public's obliviousness to the reality of racial boundaries within jazz
 - E. claimed that the differences between Black and White musicians had been underestimated

2. The author mentions “power relationships” primarily to
 - A. help summarize an argument that the author wishes to refute
 - B. account for the inadequacy of a particular idea about jazz
 - C. demonstrate a link between social and aesthetic factors affecting Jazz musicians
 - D. emphasize the commitment of some jazz musicians to a particular view of jazz
 - E. cite evidence to support a claim about stylistic developments within jazz in the 1950s

