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Passage 091

The writings of seventeenth-century philosopher and poet Margaret Cavendish are filled with tensions. She often seems torn between conflicting endorsements. For example, in some places she argues that it is not a woman's place to rule, but empowered female characters in other texts are competent leaders. Her corpus is also filled with forensic tensions [tensions in which fictional characters engage in debates within a single text] presenting arguments for both sides of ethical issues. Cavendish herself, however, rarely intrudes to decide the issue. **Some commentators** claim this demonstrates that she did not intend her literary works to serve serious philosophical purposes. But perhaps the use of tensions was deliberate and helps explain her choice of fictional genres to explore ethical issues.

1. Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage?

A. It makes an observation and provides two possible interpretations of it.
B. It introduces a historical phenomenon and provides a narrative for it.
C. It cites an empirical observation as an explanation for a hypothesis
D. It presents a deductive argument in the form of premises and a conclusion.
E. It discusses the significance of a particular episode in its subject's career.

2. It can be inferred that "some commentators" assume a text can serve serious philosophical purposes only if its author

A. avoids using fictional characters to explore ethical issues
B. uses fictional characters to convey forensic tensions
C. takes an unambiguous position on philosophical issues
D. carefully considers the audience's perspective
E. impartially presents arguments for both sides of ethical issues

Passage 092

The most common type of fishing gear found in Chumash archaeological sites in present-day coastal California is the single-piece curved fishhook made from bone or shell. The best archaeological evidence that the Chumash also used nets are grooved and notched stones. Such stones could have weighted nets and have been found at a number of late period sites, although ethnographic sources suggest that these **apparent** sinkers may have been attached to a line for a fishhook. At one Chumash site, the 7,655 identified otoliths (ear bones) from white croaker fish were close to the same size. Archaeologists have proposed that the uniformity of the otoliths indicates that the croakers were captured with gill nets, which would trap fish within a narrow size range.

1. From the passage, it can be inferred that items found at Chumash archaeological sites did NOT include

A. multipiece fishhooks
B. gill nets
C. fish remains other than otoliths
D. remains of boats
E. weights for fishing lines

2. In the context in which it appears, “apparent” most nearly means

A. car
B. illusory
C. ostensible
D. visible
E. specious

Passage 093

Academics have been reconsidering the meaning of "wilderness" and its usefulness to conservation strategies. The idea of pristine wilderness is historically inaccurate, argue scholars of Native American history, who have demonstrated that Native Americans shaped their environments with their agricultural practices and residential patterns. **Other scholars argue that wilderness is simply a cultural construct created in opposition to modern society, not a real place untouched by humans.** Scientists in turn, have argued that the goal of wilderness preservation is based on a model in which ecosystems progress toward a stable equilibrium state, a model replaced in the 1970s with one **stressing constant change**. These insights complicate wilderness management which critics charge aims to preserve a supposedly stable environment that existed prior to human disturbance.

1. Which of the following statements best describes the function of the highlighted sentence?

A. It undermines a claim made in the previous sentence.
B. It introduces a perspective that the author disputes.
C. It elaborates on a claim made earlier in the passage.
D. It introduces a traditional point of view.
E. It describes a recent scholarly controversy.

2. The author suggests that the model "stressing constant change" is significant because it

A. points to a way in which wilderness management can be conducted in modern society
B. undermines an assumption underlying wilderness management
C. helps to explain why wilderness management efforts have been unsuccessful
D. calls into question the idea that wilderness is a cultural construct
E. suggests that wilderness areas are more threatened than was previously thought

Passage 094

In the late 1970s, bird populations were found to be declining in India's Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary in Rajasthan. Grazing cattle and buffalo were the suspected culprits: they were entering the preserve in sufficient numbers to disrupt what was believed to be an otherwise balanced ecosystem. Accordingly, grazing was banned in Bharatpur. Yet by the mid-1980s, studies found that bird diversity within the preserve had declined further since the ban, and it continued to plummet. The absence of grazing animals, it turns out, had disturbed the park's ecology. **Weed species** were taking over wetlands and choking canals, thereby reducing the fish populations that had once attracted so many birds, and avian species then went elsewhere in search of more suitable nesting places.

1. The passage suggests which of the following about the "fish populations"?

A. They were more diverse in the late 1970s than observers recognized at the time.
B. They were more adversely affected by the growth of vegetation after the ban on grazing than by avian predation.
C. They required a habitat that could not be sustained without measures to limit animal grazing.
D. They proliferated following changes to Bharatpur's ecosystem introduced by the ban on grazing.
E. They migrated to habitats that were inhospitable to grazing cattle and buffalo.

2. Which of the following statements, if true, would best explain the changes in "weed species"?

A. The species were not native to Bharatpur but spread rapidly once they were introduced.
B. The species had been kept in check by the large avian populations that once nested in Bharatpur.
C. The species were among the preferred forage plants grazed on by cattle and buffalo.
D. The species were necessary for maintaining suitable habitats for fish populations in Bharatpur's wetlands.
E. The species were unable to tolerate changing water conditions the canals of Bharatpur.

Passage 095

Among the scientific anachronisms in the United States Endangered Species Act is the absence of specific reference to interactions among species, which can greatly affect ecological and species diversity. It is now understood that the disappearance of a strongly interactive species can cause profound changes in ecosystem composition and structure. For instance, decimation of great whales by industrial whaling affected other species that, like the whales, consume krill (small, shrimplike crustaceans), and the dynamics of coastal marine ecosystems worldwide have been greatly altered by overfishing of certain species.Decreased numbers and reduced geographic range may render a species **functionally extinct** in terms of its interactions well before the species itself has completely disappeared. Nevertheless, most conservation laws emphasize short-term, single-species demographic viability in only a few circumscribed areas.

1. It can be inferred that the author of the passage would agree with which of the following statements about the United States Endangered Species Act?

A. It has become outdated as a result of critical scientific advances.
B. It suffered as a result of a lack of input from scientists.
C. It was overly influenced by the interests of industry.
D. It should have focused more on short-term, single-species demographic viability.
E. Its primary goal is the preservation of strongly interactive species.

2. The author alludes to functional extinction primarily in order to imply that

A. functional extinction is a more common form of extinction than is the death of a species
B. the extinction of a species serves an important ecological function
C. population level and geographic range are not the only predictors of species extinction
D. in order to maintain species interactions, more is required than that interactive species do not die out
E. in order to avoid extinction, species must interact with other species

Passage 096

Because densely populated urban centers concentrate human activity, we think of them as pollution crisis zones. Ecology-minded discussions often focus on ways to make cites seem somewhat less oppressively man-made, such as increasing the area devoted to parks or easing the intensity of development. But most such changes would actually undermine cities' extraordinary energy efficiency. Per unit of area, cities in the United States generate more greenhouse gases, use more energy, and produce more solid waste than most other American regions of comparable size. On a map depicting negative environmental impacts in relation to surface area, therefore, cities would look like intense hot spots. If you plotted the same negative impacts by resident or household, however, the reverse would hold.

1. Which of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?

A. Increasing the space devoted to parks in urban areas would not necessarily make cities seem less man- made.
B. Because they are densely populated, cities tend to have a disproportionately negative impact on the environment.
C. Although densely populated cities are relatively energy efficient, they are still the largest contributors to environmental pollution.
D. Decreasing the density of urban populations might in some respects worsen their environmental impact.
E. The extraordinary energy efficiency of cities suggests that concerns about the environment in urban areas may be unwarranted.

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

2. The passage implies that in the United States relatively sparsely populated areas exceed cities in per capita rate of

A. solid-waste production
B. intensity of development
C. greenhouse-gas emissions

Passage 097

Important historical differences between Europe and North America may explain why many European migratory songbirds, in contrast to North American migratory songbirds, thrive in forest habitats fragmented by human activity. First, the Pleistocene glaciations may have been more severe in Europe than in North America. **Virtually all Europe's forests were erased during the most recent Ice Age.** Any European songbirds dependent upon large, intact blocks of forest were unlikely to survive. In the southern part of North America, however, some forests managed to persist through the coldest times, to the advantage of some forest-dwelling songbirds. Second. European forests were being abused by humans for thousands of years before the North American forests were. Consequently. European birds have had more time to adapt to a human-dominated landscape.

1. According to the passage, which of the following is true about today's European migratory songbirds?

A. They generally are not dependent on large, intact blocks of forest.
B. They generally are less sensitive to cold temperatures than are North American songbirds.
C. They tend to be unevenly distributed across Europe because of differences in habitat.
D. Most would be unlikely to survive additional fragmentation of their preferred habitat.
E. Most represent species that evolved after the Pleistocene glaciations.

2. In the author's argument, the observation made in the highlighted portion of the passage primarily serves to

A. identify a factor that helps explain why Europe's songbird population is significantly smaller than North America's
B. help explain a distinctive characteristic of European songbirds
C. shed light on why there is less habitat available for songbirds in Europe than for songbirds in North America
D. point to a reason why European songbirds have had more time to adapt to a human-dominated landscape than have North American birds
E. emphasize the long duration of the Pleistocene glaciations in North America relative to the Pleistocene glaciations in Europe

Passage 098

While avant-garde twentieth-century visual art is widely associated with artists revolutionary political aspirations, recent Anglo American musicologists accounts of avant-garde music tend to emphasize its **disavowal of such concerns**. Avant-garde composers' subversion of musical conventions does not obviously challenge social hierarchy. Their pursuit of rarefied musical experimentation has effectively confined the music's appeal to an initiated elite. Yet the intense social involvement of many avant-garde musicians should not be obscured. For instance, composers associated with the 1950s' Darmstadt school, sometimes seen as epitomizing the avant-garde's narrow preoccupation with compositional technique devised musical responses to anti-Imperialist struggles in Latin America and to the United States Civil Rights movement. **And in some countries, totalitarian regimes efforts to suppress avant-garde techniques have made avant-garde music a symbol of resistance.**

1. The highlighted sentence could best be used to support which of the following claims

A. Efforts to suppress art that is considered disruptive can never fully succeed.
B. Avant-garde techniques reveal little about a composer's political inclinations.
C. The significance of a work of art may derive partly from the way in which it is received.
D. A work of art created in one country can be completely misunderstood in another country.
E. Art is inevitably threatening to totalitarian regimes because it emanates from the imagination.

2. The author would be most likely to agree with which of the following claims about avant-garde music's "disavowal of such concerns"?

A. It has often been overemphasized by Anglo-American musicologists.
B. It is difficult to reconcile with avant-garde music's appeal to an initiated elite.
C. It was most clearly exhibited in the 1950s by composers associated with the Darmstadt school.
D. It was part of what underlay some twentieth-century avant-garde composers' experiments with musical form.
E. It could be seen as undermining some musicologists' tendency to contrast avant-garde music with avant-garde visual art.

Passage 099

One surprising claim about the ancient terra-cotta warrior statues unearthed from pits in northwest China is that a supposedly twentieth-century innovation chemical chrome-plating, was used by the makers of the bronze swords carried by the figures. These swords' blades are free of rust, a state attributed to a coating of about 10 to 15 microns of chromium salt oxide. Yet there is some dispute about whether this was a deliberate process. **Modern metallurgists** carried out experiments in which they were able to replicate the coatings by using relatively simple methods to process chrome ore with mature vinegar and **saltpeter**. More skeptical experts theorize that chrome molecules in the soil of the pits permeated the blades' surfaces, thereby forming the chromic salt oxidation coatings.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that the experiments performed by the "modern metallurgists" support which of the following theories?

A. The swords' chromium salt oxide coatings prevented the formation of rust.
B. Concentrations of chromic molecules in the soil from which the statues were unearthed have changed since ancient times.
C. The thin coating of chromium salt oxide found on the swords was applied before the swords were placed into the pits.
D. The swords were originally used for other purposes before they were buried with the terra-cotta warrior statues.
E. The thickness of the chromium salt oxide coatings on the swords has likely remained unchanged since ancient times.

2. The use of "saltpeter" in the modem metallurgists' experiments is relevant to the argument discussed in the passage given which of the following assumptions?

A. Ancient Chinese sword makers might have had access to saltpeter.
B. Saltpeter was used by weapon makers in ancient China to remove rust.
C. Modem chrome-plating technologies no longer use saltpeter.
D. Saltpeter naturally occurs in conjunction with chromic molecules in soils.
E. Saltpeter was a component of the glaze applied to ancient terra-cotta warrior statues.

Passage 100

Robert Bakker suggested that plant-eating dinosaurs "invented" flowering plants. He concluded that while Late Jurassic browsers fed on foliage in the **canopy and subcanopy layers**, the later Cretaceous dinosaurs were predominately grazers that indiscriminately clipped flora to near-ground levels. And because angiosperms (flowering plants) grow and reproduce quickly, early angiosperms would have recovered from this clear-cutting faster than non-flowering gymnosperms, giving them a **competitive advantage** that eventually led to their dominance. Some argue, however that most Cretaceous dinosaurs probably did not graze vegetation to the ground and that both angiosperm and gymnosperm things would have survived. They also object to Bakker's comparison of widespread dinosaur herbivory to mammalian grazing on grasslands, given the absence of evidence that such habitats occurred during the Cretaceous.

1. The author mentions "canopy and subcanopy layers" primarily in order to

A. identify a factor that prevented certain kinds of prehistoric plants from becoming dominant during the Late Jurassic epoch
B. account for the ability of some plants to thrive in areas populated by plant-eating dinosaurs
C. characterize certain ecological features of the habitats of Late Jurassic plant-eating dinosaurs
D. Introduce a critical distinction that may help to explain the evolution of angiosperms
E. help to explain how the development of prehistoric flowering plants may have affected gymnosperms

2. The passage suggests which of the following about the "competitive advantage"?

A. It would have been less likely to arise if Cretaceous dinosaurs had selectively grazed on angiosperms.
B. It is likely to have benefited only a subset of angiosperms rather than all of them.
C. It may have been one factor contributing to the dominance of certain types of plant-eating dinosaurs during the Cretaceous epoch.
D. It is more likely to have benefited Late Jurassic gymnosperms than Cretaceous angiosperms.
E. It probably depended on the survival of both angiosperm and gymnosperm seedlings in areas grazed by plant-eating dinosaurs.