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QUESTION NO: 1

In strongly territorial birds such as the indigo bunting, song is the main mechanism for securing g, defining, and defending an adequate breeding are. When population density is high, only the strongest males can retain a suitable are. The weakest males do not breed or are forced to nest on poor or marginal territories.

During the breeding season, the male indigo bunting sings in his territory; each song lasts two or three seconds with a very short pause between songs, Melodic and rhythmic characteristics are produced by rapid changes in sound frequency and some regularity of silent periods between sounds. These modulated sounds form recognizable units, called figures, each of which is reproduced again and again with remarkable consistency. Despite the large frequency range of these sounds and the rapid frequency changes that the birds makes, the n umber of figures is very limited. Further, although we found some unique figures in different geographical populations, more than 90 percent of all Indigo bunting figures are extremely stable on the geographic basis. In our studies of isolated buntings we found that male indigo buntings are capable of singing many more types of figures than they usually do. Thus, it would seem that they copy their figures from other buntings they hear signing.

Realizing that the ability to distinguish the songs of one species from those of another could be an important factor in the volition of the figures, we tested species recognition of a song. When we played a tape recording of a lazuli bunting or a painted bunting, male indigo bunting did not respond; Even when a dummy of male indigo bunting was placed near the tape recorder. Playing an indigo bunting song, however, usually brought an immediate response, making it clear that a male indigo bunting can readily distinguished songs of its own species from those of other species.

The role of the songs figures in interspecies recognition was then examined. We created experimental songs composed of new figures by playing a normal song backwards, which changed the detailed forms of the figures without altering frequency ranges or gross temporal features. Since the male indigos gave almost a full response to the backward song, we concluded that a wide range of figures shapes can evoke positive responses. It seems likely, therefore, that a specific configuration is not essential for interspecies recognition, but it is clear that song figures must confirm to a particular frequency range, must be within narrow limits of duration, and must be spaced at particular intervals.

There is evident that new figures may arise within a population through a slow process of change and selection. This variety is probably a valuable adaptation for survival: if every bird sang only a few types of figures, in dense woods or underbrush a female might have difficulty recognizing her mate's song and a male might not be able to distinguished a neighbor from a stranger. Our studies led us to conclude that there must be a balance between song stability and conservatism, which lead to clear-cut species recognition, and song variation, which leads to individual recognition.

According to the passage, the authors played a normal indigo bunting song backwards in order to determine which of the following?

A. What are the limits of the frequency range that will provide recognition by the indigo bunting.

B. What is the time duration necessary for recognition by the indigo bunting?

C. How specific must a figure shape be for it to be recognized by the indigo bunting?

D. How does variation in the pacing of song figures?

E. is the indigo bunting responding to cues other than those in the song figures?

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

How specific must a figure shape be for it to be recognized by the indigo bunting? is correct because the backward-song experiment deliberately changed the detailed shapes of the song figures while preserving the frequency range and the broad timing features of the original song. This design allowed the researchers to isolate the importance of figure shape in the birds' recognition response. The male indigo buntings responded almost as fully to the reversed song as they did to a normal indigo bunting song. From that result, the authors infer that recognition does not depend on one exact, fixed configuration of a figure; instead, many different detailed figure shapes can produce a positive response when essential overall acoustic constraints remain intact. The experiment therefore tested the degree of specificity required in a figure's shape, rather than attempting to establish the precise acceptable frequency limits or duration limits. This is a standard TOEFL Reading "purpose" question: the answer must match both the experimental manipulation—reversing the song to alter detailed figure forms—and the conclusion drawn from the birds' response. ETS describes TOEFL Reading questions as assessing how well a reader understands information and inferences in academic passages: ETS TOEFL iBT Reading. General natural-history information about the species is available from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Indigo Bunting guide.

QUESTION NO: 2

In the dry valleys of the central Andes, farmers constructed extensive systems of agricultural terraces long before the expansion of the Inca state. A terrace consists of a relatively level cultivated platform supported by a retaining wall, usually made of stone. The walls slowed the downhill movement of soil, while the flat surfaces made cultivation possible on slopes that would otherwise have been difficult to use. Terraces also altered the movement of water. Rainwater could soak into the soil of a terrace rather than rapidly running down the mountainside.

For many years, archaeologists assumed that terraces were built mainly to increase the amount of land available for cultivation. That explanation is partly correct, but it is incomplete. Studies of abandoned terrace systems show that their builders selected locations with considerable care. In some regions, terraces were placed where springs or seasonal streams could be diverted into small canals. In others, they were built on slopes where deep soils had accumulated naturally. Thus, terrace construction involved not simply the creation of new fields but also the management of water, soil, and local differences in elevation.

Terrace walls required continual maintenance. Stones displaced by frost, heavy rain, or small landslides had to be reset before the wall failed. If a wall collapsed, soil from the platform above could be washed away, damaging lower terraces as well. This interdependence helps explain why terrace agriculture often required coordinated labor. A household might cultivate a particular plot, but the irrigation channels and retaining walls connecting many plots could be maintained effectively only through cooperation among neighboring households.

The abandonment of terraces does not necessarily indicate that their agricultural potential was exhausted. In some valleys, terraces were left uncultivated after populations declined or political arrangements changed. Elsewhere, farmers shifted to crops requiring less irrigation or moved toward more accessible land. When terraces are no longer repaired, however, erosion can quickly obscure their original form. Consequently, archaeologists combine visible remains with pollen records, soil studies, and documents from later periods to determine when terraces were used and why they were abandoned.

It can be inferred from the passage that a collapse in an upper terrace wall could affect lower terraces because

A. eroded soil and water could move downhill onto them

B. lower terraces depended on upper terraces for sunlight

C. the same household necessarily cultivated every terrace

D. canals on lower terraces were built from upper-wall stones

E. crop roots on lower terraces caused the upper walls to weaken

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The passage states that when a wall collapsed, soil from the platform above could be washed away and damage lower terraces. Since terrace systems occur on slopes, material eroded from an upper platform can move downhill onto the terraces below.

This inference follows directly from the passage's description of the terraces as physically connected and environmentally interdependent.

QUESTION NO: 3

Recent years have brought minority-owned businesses in the United States unprecedented opportunities-as well as new and significant risks. Civil rights activists have long argued that one of the principal reasons why Blacks, Hispanics and the other minority groups have difficulty establishing themselves in business is that they lack access to the sizable orders and subcontracts that are generated by large companies. Now congress, in apparent agreement, has required by law that businesses awarded federal contracts of more than $500,000 do their best to find minority subcontractors and record their efforts to do so on forms field with the government. Indeed, some federal and local agencies have gone so far as to set specific percentage goals for apportioning parts of public works contracts to minority enterprises.

Corporate response appears to have been substantial. According to figures collected in 1977, the total of corporate contracts with minority business rose from $77 to $1. 1 billion in 1977. The projected total of corporate contracts with minority business for the early 1980’s is estimated to be over $3 billion per year with no letup anticipated in the next decade. Promising as it is

for minority businesses, this increased patronage poses dangers for them, too. First, minority firms risk expanding too fast and overextending themselves financially, since most are small concerns and, unlike large businesses they often need to make substantial investments in new plants, staff, equipment, and the like in order to perform work subcontracted to them. If, thereafter, their subcontracts are for some reason reduced, such firms can face potentially crippling fixed expenses. The world of corporate purchasing can be frustrating for small entrepreneurs who get requests for elaborate formal estimates and bids. Both consume valuable time and resources and a small company's efforts must soon result in orders, or both the morale and the financial health of the business will suffer.

A second risk is that White-owned companies may-seek to cash inon the increasing apportionments through formation of joint ventures with minority-owned concerns, of course, in many instances there are legitimate reasons for joint ventures; clearly, white and minority enterprises can team up to acquire business that neither could Third, a minority enterprise that secures the business of one large corporate customer often runs the danger of becoming – and remaining dependent. Even in the best of circumstances, fierce competition from larger, more established companies makes it difficult for small concerns to broaden their customer bases; when such firms have nearly guaranteed orders from a single corporate benefactor, they may truly have to struggle against complacency arising from their current success.

Which of the following if true, would most weaken the author's assertion that, in 1970's, corporate response to federal requirements (lines 18-19) was substantial?

A. Corporate contracts with minority owned business totaled about $2 billion in 1979

B. Between 1970 and 1972, corporate contracts with minority owned businesses declined by 25 percent

C. The figures collected 1977 underrepresented the extent of corporate contracts with minority owned businesses.

D. The estimate of corporate spending with minority owned businesses in 1980 is approximately $10 million too high

E. The $1.1 billion represented the same percentage of total corporate spending in 1977 as did $77 million in 1972.

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

The $1.1 billion represented the same percentage of total corporate spending in 1977 as did $77 million in 1972. This fact most directly challenges the inference that corporations responded substantially to the federal requirements. The passage treats the sharp increase in the dollar value of contracts with minority-owned businesses as evidence of a major corporate response. However, raw dollar totals alone do not show whether minority businesses received a larger share of companies' purchasing activity. If the proportion of total corporate spending devoted to minority-owned businesses remained unchanged between 1972 and 1977, the higher dollar amount could simply reflect growth in total corporate spending, inflation, or expansion of business generally. It would therefore provide little support for the idea that corporations had meaningfully increased their commitment to minority subcontractors because of the new requirements. This is a classic Reading Comprehension weakening relationship: the statement supplies context that reduces the significance of the evidence used to support the author's conclusion, rather than merely disputing an incidental detail. ETS describes TOEFL Reading questions as requiring test takers to understand arguments, relationships, and the meaning of information within an academic passage; see the ETS TOEFL iBT Reading overview and ETS TOEFL preparation resources.

QUESTION NO: 4

In the dry valleys of the central Andes, farmers constructed extensive systems of agricultural terraces long before the expansion of the Inca state. A terrace consists of a relatively level cultivated platform supported by a retaining wall, usually made of stone. The walls slowed the downhill movement of soil, while the flat surfaces made cultivation possible on slopes that would otherwise have been difficult to use. Terraces also altered the movement of water. Rainwater could soak into the soil of a terrace rather than rapidly running down the mountainside.

For many years, archaeologists assumed that terraces were built mainly to increase the amount of land available for cultivation. That explanation is partly correct, but it is incomplete. Studies of abandoned terrace systems show that their builders selected locations with considerable care. In some regions, terraces were placed where springs or seasonal streams could be diverted into small canals. In others, they were built on slopes where deep soils had accumulated naturally. Thus, terrace construction involved not simply the creation of new fields but also the management of water, soil, and local differences in elevation.

Terrace walls required continual maintenance. Stones displaced by frost, heavy rain, or small landslides had to be reset before the wall failed. If a wall collapsed, soil from the platform above could be washed away, damaging lower terraces as

well. This interdependence helps explain why terrace agriculture often required coordinated labor. A household might cultivate a particular plot, but the irrigation channels and retaining walls connecting many plots could be maintained effectively only through cooperation among neighboring households.

The abandonment of terraces does not necessarily indicate that their agricultural potential was exhausted. In some valleys, terraces were left uncultivated after populations declined or political arrangements changed. Elsewhere, farmers shifted to crops requiring less irrigation or moved toward more accessible land. When terraces are no longer repaired, however, erosion can quickly obscure their original form. Consequently, archaeologists combine visible remains with pollen records, soil studies, and documents from later periods to determine when terraces were used and why they were abandoned.

The author mentions springs and seasonal streams primarily in order to

A. illustrate one reason terrace builders selected particular locations

B. explain why terrace walls were built of stone rather than earth

C. show that all Andean farmers depended on irrigation canals

D. identify the chief cause of terrace abandonment

E. demonstrate that rainfall was insufficient for any crop production

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Springs and seasonal streams are mentioned as evidence that terrace builders selected sites strategically. In those locations, water could be diverted into canals, allowing farmers to manage water supplies as part of terrace agriculture.

The examples therefore support the claim that terrace construction was not merely a way to enlarge the cultivated area. They do not indicate that all terraces depended on streams or that streams caused terrace walls to collapse.

QUESTION NO: 5

Woodraw Wilson was referring to the liberal idea of the economic market when he said that the free enterprise system is the most efficient economic system. Maximum freedom means maximum productiveness; our “openness” is to be the measure of our stability. Fascination with this ideal has made Americans defy the “Old World” categories of settled possessiveness versus unsettling deprivation., the cupidity of retention versus the cupidity of seizure, a “status quo” defended of attacked. The United States, it was believed, had no status quo ante. Our only “station” was the turning of a stationary wheel, spinning faster and faster. We did not base our system on property but opportunity-which meant we based it not on stability but on mobility. The more things changed, that is, the more rapidly the wheel turned, the steadier we would be. The conventional picture of class politics is composed of the Haves, who want a stability to keep what they have, and HaveNots, who want a touch of instability and change in which to scramble for the things they have not. But Americans imagined a condition in which speculators, self-makers, runners are always using the new opportunities given by our land. These economic leaders (front-runners) would thus be mainly agents of Change. The nonstarters were considered the ones who wanted stability, a strong referee to give them some position in the race, a regulative hand to calm manic speculation; an authority that can call things to a half begin things again from compensatorily staggered “starting lines”.:Reform” in America has been sterile because it can imagine no change except through the extension of this metaphor of the race, wider inclusion of competitors, “a piece of the action.” As it were, of the disenfranchised. There is no attempt to call off the race. Since our only stability is change. America seems not to honor the quite work that achieves social interdependence and stability. There is, in our legends, no heroism of the office clerk, no stable industrial work force of the people who actually make the system work. There is no pride in being an employee (Wilson asked for a return to the time when everyone was an employer). There has been no boasting about our social workers-they are need; empty boasts from the past make us ashamed of our present achievements, make us try to forget or deny the, move away from them. There is no honor but in the wonderland race we must all run, all trying to win, none winning in the end (for there is no end).

According to the passage, "Old World" values were based on

A. ability

B. property

C. family connections

D. guild hierarchies

E. education

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

property is correct because the passage characterizes the “Old World” through categories of settled possession, retention, and a defended status quo. These descriptions present a social order organized around what people already own and their desire to preserve it. The author then makes the contrast explicit: Americans supposedly “did not base our system on property but opportunity.” That sentence directly identifies property as the basis from which the American ideal of mobility, competition, and continual change departs. Therefore, when the question asks what “Old World” values were based on, property is the passage’s stated and supported answer. This is a detail question: the answer comes from matching the question’s phrase “Old World values” to the passage’s contrast between settled possessiveness and the American emphasis on opportunity. In TOEFL Reading, detail questions are answered by locating the relevant statement in the passage and selecting the choice that most precisely restates that information, as described in ETS’s TOEFL iBT Reading overview and its TOEFL iBT Test Prep Planner.

QUESTION NO: 6

The fossil remain of the first flying vertebrates, the pterosaurs, have intrigued paleontologists for more than two centuries. How such large creatures, which weighed in some cases as much as a piloted hangglider and had wingspans from 8 to 12 meters, solved the problems of powered flight, and exactly what these creatures were-reptiles or birds- are among the questions scientist have puzzled over.

Perhaps the least controversial assertion about the pterosaurs is that they were reptiles. Their skulls, pelvises, and hind feet are reptilian. The anatomy of their wings suggests that they did not evolve into the class of birds. In pterosaurs a greatly elongated fourth finger of each forelimb supported a wing like membrane. The other fingers were short and reptilian, with sharp claws, In birds the second finger is the principle strut of the wing, which consists primarily of features. If the pterosaur walked or remained stationary, the fourth finger, and with it the wing, could only turn upward in an extended inverted V-shape along side of the animal’s body.

The pterosaurs resembled both birds and bats in their overall structure and proportions. This is not surprising because the design of any flying vertebrate is subject to aerodynamic constraints. Both the pterosaurs and the birds have hollow bones, a feature that represents a saving in weight. In the birds, however, these bones are reinforced more massively by internal struts.

Although scales typically cover reptiles, the pterosaurs probably had hairy coats. T.H. Huxley reasoned that flying vertebrates must have been warm – blooded because flying implies a high internal temperature. Huxley speculated that a coat of hair would insulate against loss of body heat and might streamline the body to reduce drag in flight. The recent discovery of a pterosaur specimen covered in long, dense, and relatively thick hair like fossil material was the first clear evidenced that his reasoning was correct.

The ides attributed to T.H. Huxley in the passage suggest that he would most likely agree with which of the following statements?

A. An animal's brain size has little bearing on its ability to master complex behaviors.

B. An animal's appearance dramatically over a period of time.

C. Animals within a given family group are unlikely to change their appearance

D. The origin of flight in vertebrates was an accidental development rather than the outcome

E. The pterosaurs should be classifieds as birds, not reptiles.

F. Flying vertebrates must have been warm-blooded, and a coat of hair helped pterosaurs retain heat during flight.

ANSWER: F

Explanation:

“Flying vertebrates must have been warm-blooded, and a coat of hair helped pterosaurs retain heat during flight” is correct because it directly restates the reasoning attributed to T. H. Huxley in the passage. Huxley begins with the functional demand of powered flight: sustained flight requires a high internal body temperature. From that premise, he infers that pterosaurs were warm-blooded. He then connects their probable hairy covering to a practical biological benefit, explaining that hair would reduce loss of body heat. The passage additionally notes that hair might have streamlined the body and reduced drag, but thermal insulation is the central support for his inference about warm-bloodedness. The later fossil discovery of long, dense, hairlike material is presented as evidence confirming that this prediction was well founded. This conclusion concerns physiological adaptation for flight, rather than classification of pterosaurs as birds or a general claim about evolutionary change. Background on pterosaurs as flying reptiles is available from the Encyclopaedia Britannica pterosaur overview, and the fossil evidence for hairlike coverings is discussed by the Nature study on pterosaur integument.

QUESTION NO: 7

In the dry valleys of the central Andes, farmers constructed extensive systems of agricultural terraces long before the expansion of the Inca state. A terrace consists of a relatively level cultivated platform supported by a retaining wall, usually made of stone. The walls slowed the downhill movement of soil, while the flat surfaces made cultivation possible on slopes that would otherwise have been difficult to use. Terraces also altered the movement of water. Rainwater could soak into the soil of a terrace rather than rapidly running down the mountainside.

For many years, archaeologists assumed that terraces were built mainly to increase the amount of land available for cultivation. That explanation is partly correct, but it is incomplete. Studies of abandoned terrace systems show that their builders selected locations with considerable care. In some regions, terraces were placed where springs or seasonal streams could be diverted into small canals. In others, they were built on slopes where deep soils had accumulated naturally. Thus, terrace construction involved not simply the creation of new fields but also the management of water, soil, and local differences in elevation.

Terrace walls required continual maintenance. Stones displaced by frost, heavy rain, or small landslides had to be reset before the wall failed. If a wall collapsed, soil from the platform above could be washed away, damaging lower terraces as well. This interdependence helps explain why terrace agriculture often required coordinated labor. A household might cultivate a particular plot, but the irrigation channels and retaining walls connecting many plots could be maintained effectively only through cooperation among neighboring households.

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According to the passage, one function of terrace walls was to

A. reduce the loss of soil from cultivated slopes

B. store water for use during dry seasons

C. protect crops from sudden changes in temperature

D. divide each household's land from that of its neighbors

E. direct spring water into underground channels

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The passage states that retaining walls slowed the downhill movement of soil. This prevented soil from being carried away from the cultivated platforms and helped make farming on slopes possible.

The walls are not described as devices for storing water, preventing frost, or marking ownership. Their stated function is to retain soil on the slope.

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According to the passage, archaeologists use pollen records, soil studies, and later documents because

A. visible terrace remains alone may not reveal their full history of use and abandonment

B. pollen records show the precise location of every retaining wall

C. later documents explain how to reconstruct collapsed terrace walls

D. soil studies can determine the political status of farming households

E. erosion prevents archaeologists from studying abandoned landscapes

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The passage explains that erosion can obscure the original form of terraces once maintenance stops. Visible remains alone may therefore provide incomplete evidence about when terraces were used and why they were abandoned.

By combining several kinds of evidence, archaeologists can make better-supported conclusions about the history of a terrace system. The passage does not say that these sources identify the builders' names or replace the need to examine visible remains.

QUESTION NO: 9

Despite their many differences of temperament and of literary perspective, Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, Melville, and Whitman share certain beliefs. Common to all these writers is their humanistic perspective. Its basic premises are that humans are the spiritual center of the universe and that in them alone is the clue of the nature, history and ultimately the cosmos itself. Without denying outright the existenced either of a deity or of brute matter, this perspective nevertheless rejects them as exclusive principles of interpretation and prefers to explain humans and the world in terms of humanity itself. This preference is expressed most clearly in the Transcendentalist principle that the structure of the universe literally duplicates the structure of the individual self: therefore, all knowledge begins with self-knowledge.

This common perspective is almost always universalized. Its emphasis is not upon the individual as a particular European or American, but upon the human as universal, freed from the accidents of time, space, birth and talent. Thus, for Emerson, the “American Scholar” turns out to be simply “Main Tinking”; while, for Whitman, the “Song of Myself” merges imperceptibly into a song of all the “children of Adam:,” where “every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.” Also common to all five writers is the belief that individual virtue and happiness depends upon the selfrealization, which, in turn, depend upon the

harmonious reconciliation of two universal psychological tendencies: first, the self-asserting impulse of the individual to withdraw; to remain unique and separate, and to be responsible only to himself or herself, and second, the selftranscending impulse of the individual to embrace the whole world in the experience of a single moment and to know and become one with that world. These conflicting impulses can be seen in the democratic ethic. Democracy advocates individualism, he preservation of the individual's freedom and self-expression. But the democratic self is torn between the duty to self, which is implied by the concept of liberty, and the duty to society, which is implied by the concept of equality and fraternity.

A third assumption common to the five writers is that intuition and imagination offer a surer road to truth than does abstract logic or scientific method. It is illustrated by their emphasis upon the introspection-their belief that the clue to external nature is to be found in the inner world of individual psychology and by their interpretation of experience as, in essence, symbolic. Both these stresses presume an organic relationship between the self and the cosmos of which only intuition and imagination can properly take account. These writers' faith in the imagination and in themselves as practitioners of imagination led them conceive of the writer as a seer and enabled them to achieve supreme confidence in their own moral and metaphysical insights.

It can be inferred that intuition is important to the five writers primarily because it provides them with

A. information useful for understanding abstract logic and scientific method

B. the discipline needed in the search for truth

C. conspiration for their best writing

D. clues to the interpretation of symbolic experience

E. the means of resolving conflicts between the self and the world

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

clues to the interpretation of symbolic experience is correct because the passage directly connects intuition and imagination with the writers' way of finding truth in experience. The final paragraph states that these writers regard intuition and imagination as more reliable paths to truth than abstract logic or scientific method. It then specifies that they interpret experience as fundamentally symbolic and that intuition and imagination are uniquely able to account for the organic relationship between the individual self and the cosmos. Therefore, intuition supplies the insight needed to recognize and interpret the symbolic meaning within experience, including the way outer nature may reflect an individual's inner world. This conclusion is an inference firmly grounded in the passage's explicit claims, rather than a general statement about intuition. In TOEFL Reading inference questions, the correct response must be supported by the text's ideas even when its wording does not appear verbatim. ETS describes the Reading section as assessing how well test takers understand and analyze academic passages: ETS TOEFL iBT Reading. The passage's treatment of intuition also reflects a central feature commonly associated with Transcendentalist thought: trust in inner insight as a means of perceiving truth, as summarized by Encyclopaedia Britannica's overview of Transcendentalism.