

GRE阅读理解

第十三节课 题目理解: 题型2: 宏观类1

M A K E I T E A S Y

题型——宏观类

主题: primary purpose of the passage

结构: organization

态度: attitude

观点: The author/Sb. holds

段意: primary purpose of the paragraph

题型——宏观类

一、主题

The primary purpose of the passage is to

The passage is primarily concerned with doing which of the following?

Passage 1

According to Hill and Spicer, the term “nation-state” is a misnomer, since the ideal model of a monolingual, culturally homogeneous state has never existed, not even among Europeans, who invented the nation-state concept and introduced it to the rest of the world. Modern European states, they argue, emerged after the Renaissance through the rise of nations (i.e., specific ethnic groups) to positions of political and economic dominance over a number of other ethnic groups within the bounded political territories. The term “nation-state”, Hill and Spicer argue, obscures the internal cultural and linguistic diversity of states that could more accurately be called “conquest states.” The resurgence of multiple ethnic groups within a single state, Hill says, is not “potentially threatening to the sovereign jurisdiction of the state,” as Urban and Sherzer suggest; rather, the assertion of cultural differences threatens to reveal ethnocentric beliefs and practices upon which conquest states were historically founded and thus to open up the possibility for a “nations-state” in which conquered ethnic groups enjoy equal rights with the conquering ethnic group but do not face the threat of persecution or cultural assimilation into the dominant ethnic group.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. discuss issues relating to a form of political organization by raising doubts about the terminology used to refer to it.
- B. trace changes in a form of political organization by examining the evolution of the terminology used to refer to.
- C. justify the continued use of an established term for an evolving form of political organization.
- D. question the accuracy of a new term for a form of political organization.
- E. compare two terms for a form of political organization.

Passage 2

Constant variations in the amount of sunlight available on Earth at any given location make energy storage a necessary design feature of terrestrial solar-energy systems. For systems transforming solar to thermal energy, the thermal energy may be stored in matter as either latent heat or sensible heat. Latent heat is absorbed or released whenever matter changes phase, as when matter changes from liquid to gas, for example, or from gas to liquid. Large heat capacities are associated with certain materials, like salts, but in any substance this storage is available only at the unique fixed temperature at which the particular phase transition occurs in that substance. Moreover, materials that have transitions at the temperatures that terrestrial solar-energy systems are likely to encounter are usually destructively corrosive at those temperatures. The storage of sensible heat, on the other hand, allows flexibility as to temperature; in addition, safe substances like water and most rocks have large sensible heat capacities.

The primary purpose of the passage is to discuss which of the following?

- A. Reasons for the necessity for developing solar-energy systems.
- B. Different ways of storing solar energy as heat.
- C. New designs for devices that collect solar energy.
- D. Procedures for transferring thermal energy between materials.
- E. Differences between capacities of solids and liquids to store sensible heat.

Passage 3

MacArthur and Wilson suggested that the biodiversity of an island will vary in direct proportion to a function of the island's size (i.e., larger islands can support a greater number of species) and in inverse proportion to a function of its distance from the mainland (i.e., many remote islands will tend to support fewer species). Reduced biodiversity in an island context is likely to require significant adaptation on the part of colonizing human populations. Evans argues that this limitation makes islands ideal laboratories for the study of human adaptations to the natural environment, whilst Renfrew and Wagstaff, in the introduction to their study of Melos, focus on this limitation in biodiversity as a "significant characteristic of the island ecosystem." For human communities, however, this limitation may potentially be offset by other factors. The reduced biodiversity of an island ecosystem applies only to terrestrial resources: the resources of the sea will be as rich as on any other coastal area, and may be equally important to human communities. A small island such as Malta or Melos allows all communities direct access to the sea, providing an important nutritional "safety net," as well as an element of dietary diversity, which may actually give island communities an advantage over their landlocked counterparts. Islands may also have specific nonbiological resources (such as obsidian on Melos), which may be used in exchange with communities on other islands and adjacent mainlands.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. evaluate two contrasting approaches to island biodiversity.
- B. discuss the relevance of certain data pertaining to island biodiversity.
- C. call into question a particular understanding of island biodiversity.
- D. consider various reasons for reduced biodiversity on islands.
- E. contrast large and small islands in terms of overall biodiversity.

Passage 4

Some archaeologists speculate that the Americas might have been initially colonized between 40,000 and 25,000 years ago. However, to support this theory it is necessary to explain the absence of generally accepted habitation sites for that time interval in what is now the United States. Australia, which has a smaller land area than the United States, has many such sites, supporting the generally accepted claim that the continent was colonized by humans at least 40,000 years ago. Australia is less densely populated (resulting in lower chances of discovering sites) and with its overall greater aridity would have presented conditions less favorable for hunter-gatherer occupation. Proportionally, at least as much land area has been lost from the coastal regions of Australia because of postglacial sea-level rise as in the United States, so any coastal archaeological record in Australia should have been depleted about as much as a coastal record in the United States. Since there are so many resource-rich rivers leading inland from the United States coastlines, it seems implausible that a growing population of humans would have confined itself to coasts for thousands of years. If inhabitants were present 25,000 years ago, the chances of their appearing in the archaeological record would seem to be greater than for Australia.

The passage is primarily concerned with doing which of the following?

- A. Presenting an objection to a claim
- B. Accounting for an apparent anomaly
- C. Outlining an alternative interpretation
- D. Correcting a particular misconception
- E. Questioning the validity of a comparison

题型——宏观类

选项词汇

- 客观: show, demonstrate, illustrate, present, provide
reason (explain), effect
different, contrast, conflict, controversy
change, origin, development, evolution (trace)
- 主观:
 - 支持: defend, advocate, support
 - 反对: criticize, call into question, refute, challenge, undermine
 - 都可以: evaluate, assess

题型——宏观类

二、结构

Which of the following best characterizes the organization of the passage as a whole?

Passage 5

Many researchers attribute the large number of physiological and behavioral similarities between birds and mammals, which have separate evolutionary histories, to endothermy (a thermoregulatory strategy whereby warm body temperature is maintained through internal heat sources). However, Farmer argues that parental care rather than endothermy is the key to understanding the similarities between mammals and birds. According to Farmer, while endothermy provides an explanation for a few similarities, such as the presence of body insulation, endothermy is just one characteristic among many related to parental care. The two purported advantages of endothermy that have been most frequently cited by researchers are an expanded range of inhabitable environments and the ability to sustain vigorous exercise. But metabolism has to increase substantially (at great energy cost) therefore conferring any significant thermoregulatory advantage in terms of the former, and there is no causal biological linkage to explain why endothermy would be essential to sustain exercise. Farmer argues instead that endothermy evolved as a means to control incubation temperature and that the ability to sustain exercise evolved separately, as a means to improve a parent's ability to forage and provision its young.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - A. present a scientific theory that challenges a widely held theory.
 - B. summarize the basis for a large body of scientific research.
 - C. defend an established scientific theory in light of recent criticism.
 - D. express skepticism about the results obtained by a particular researcher.
 - E. compare the results of two particular scientific studies.

2. Which of the following best characterizes the organization of the passage as a whole?

- A. A position is noted, an alternative to that position is introduced, and then several points in support of the alternative are discussed.
- B. A theory is discussed, an inconsistency within that theory is illustrated, and then a recommendation is made for further inquiry.
- C. Certain research results are described, the significance of those results is explained, and then a novel interpretation of those results is summarized.
- D. A question is posed, a possible answer to that question is suggested, and then evidence is provided to corroborate that answer.
- E. A debate is outlined, contrasting viewpoints within the debate are discussed, and then one viewpoint is demonstrated to be correct.

Passage 6

Unlike herbivores and omnivores, predators have traditionally been thought not to balance nutrient intake because of the assumption that animal tissue as a food source varies little and is nutritionally balanced. But chemical analysis of invertebrate prey reveals remarkable variation in nutrient composition among species; even within species, nutrient composition may vary considerably. Greenstone suggested that predators may select food items according to their nutrient contents. Jensen *et al* (2011) have shown experimentally that even sit-and-wait invertebrate predators with limited mobility can work to address nutrient deficiencies. The wolf spider, for instance, has been shown to regulate nutrient intake by extracting more dry mass from a prey item if it contains a higher proportion of a nutrient that was deficient in the previous prey.

Which of the following best describes the organization of the passage as a whole?

- A. A phenomenon is described, and an interpretation is offered.
- B. A claim is made, and the corroborating evidence is evaluated.
- C. A hypothesis is presented and undermined by recent findings.
- D. A contrast is noted and shown to be specious based on recent findings.
- E. A series of assumptions is presented and shown to be based on sound reasoning.

Passage 7

The recently announced discovery of the first known planet orbiting a pulsar (the ultradense, pulsating remnant off the supernova explosion of a star) turned out to be based on faulty data. Had this discovery been confirmed, theorists would have had difficulty accounting for the existence of such a planet. The supernova would certainly have destroyed any preexisting planets. This particular pulsar is relatively young, allowing little time for a new planet to have coalesced, and it rotates relatively slowly, implying that it has not interacted with any nearby star since the supernova.

But newer evidence of a different pulsar with planets is more promising. This is a rapidly spurring “millisecond pulsar” thought to be a much older object that has pulled gaseous material from a stellar neighbor, causing its rotational speed to increase. Leftover, unconsumed gas around such a pulsar could, in theory, coalesce into planets. Or the pulsar’s radiation might have vaporized a companion star, providing new material for planetary formation.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - A. provide an example of the dangers of a recent discovery based on faulty data.
 - B. illustrate the difficulty of explanation concerning a recent discovery.
 - C. assess the credibility of recent findings concerning the as yet unverified existence of a class of objects.
 - D. argue that a certain hypothesis fails to account for a seemingly contradictory phenomenon.
 - E. demonstrate how difficult it might be to find out the reality of a phenomenon.

2. Which of the following best describe the organization of the passage?
- A. Two sets of research findings relating to similar phenomenon are mentioned, and the theoretical implication of each are discussed.
 - B. A theoretical explanation of a phenomenon is presented and rejected, and a more attractive alternative is offered.
 - C. Two independent and divergent interpretations of a set of observational data are compared and one is favored over the other.
 - D. An example of careless scientific research is introduced and contrasted with a more rigorous analysis of the same material.
 - E. The state of knowledge of an unexplainable phenomenon is outlined and an approach to further investigation is recommended.

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