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## GRE

### GRE General Test

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## Question: 1

As originally formulated, the selfish-herd theory of prey species aggregation assumed that predatory attacks were equally likely to be launched from any position within the environment. In some circumstances (e.g., avian predators attacking prey from above), such an approach is appropriate. However, as James et al. argue, in many predator-prey associations, attacks are unlikely to occur from positions within the group. For example, it is likely that an ambushing predator waiting in the path of a group would be detected before the group moves over its position. Hence, in many ecological situations, predatory attacks on grouped prey will occur exclusively from outside the group. In such circumstances, there is a strong premium to a group member in being in the interior of the group.

The passage suggests that compared to members of the prey groups in "some circumstances," certain members of the prey groups in "many ecological situations" are likely to be less

- A. skilled at detecting ambushing predators
- B. vulnerable to predator attacks
- C. able to reach escape routes to avoid predators

**Answer: A B**

## Question: 2

Harriet Monroe, who founded Poetry: A Magazine of Verse in 1912, argued that the more heterogeneous and sprawling the modern world became, the more poetry needed "an entrenched place, a voice of power." But this goal could only be realized if poets were valued in ways that encouraged them to participate in the world and made writing verse economically viable. Monroe argued that poets needed sites of institutional opportunity like those that had been developed for visual artists, architects, and musicians. She believed that the hand-wringing anticapitalism dominating genteel literary\* culture—particularly the idea that poetry ought to be removed from "sordid" pecuniary considerations—brought no economic and only illusory aesthetic benefits, instead severing poets from meaningful participation in the modern world. The author mentions "visual artists, architects, and musicians" primarily to

- A. note a challenge that Monroe faced when attempting to implement her ideas
- B. highlight what Monroe regarded as a contrast between the economic needs of poets and those of other artists
- C. explain Monroe's ideas about measures that would advance poetry
- D. acknowledge that anticapitalism had not had undesirable consequences for all art forms
- E. illustrate the point that some art forms are inherently more economically viable than others

**Answer: B**

### Question: 3

Adapting to its changing environment and building its own ecological niche in interactions with other disciplines, the scientific discipline of ecology can be seen as highly .

- A. anarchic
- B. cerebral
- C. opportunistic
- D. speculative
- E. competitive

**Answer: C**

### Question: 4

The physical act of drinking may seem to humans since we can fully close our mouths to create suction, but species that cannot do so. including most adult carnivores, must resort to some other mechanism.

- A. necessary
- B. imiocuous
- C. uncom
- D. plicated
- E. tediou:
- F. ordinary

**Answer: E**

### Question: 5

Carbon dating of charcoal gathered from a Nok iron smelter at Intime. Nigeria, suggests that iron technology was established there by 410 B.C. This may not be the oldest smelter in sub-Saharan Africa, however.

Archaeologists have located evidence of iron-smelting in the Termite Hills of Niger from as early as 1400 B.C.. but skeptics say the wood used for that dating could have already been centuries old when burned as fuel—a problem that dogs carbon dating, especially in arid places like Niger, where wood desiccates and lasts longer. Of course, the same problem could distort dates for the Intime furnace as well, but here there is an important piece of corroborating evidence: Nok pottery found inside the furnace alongside the charcoal.

The author implies which of the following about the "Nok pottery found inside the furnace"?

- A. It provides independent support for the results of the carbon dating of the charcoal.
- B. It was probably imported to Intini from a less arid climate.
- C. It predates the pottery found in the Termit Mills of Niger.
- D. It indicates that the furnace was used primarily for purposes other than smelting.
- E. It contains traces of iron smelted in the same furnace.

**Answer: A**

### Question: 6

There is a long-standing historical presumption that social custom during the early years of the United States forbade women from public speaking. In fact, though, the standard mode of education of the 1790s and early 1800s, which emphasized oral recitation and performance, taught girls that educated and well-spoken women had an important role to play in American society. By depicting skilled speech as a necessary talent for women in a civilized society, elocutionary education encouraged a certain degree of female ambition and even political involvement. Transmitted via standard, inexpensive schoolbooks, this message reached virtually all who read schoolbooks or attended schools. This environment did not last long, however: even by the 1810s, attitudes about women's education had changed considerably.

The passage suggests that women's education during the 1810s differed from women's education during the 1790s and early 1800s in that women's education during the 1810s

- A. placed less emphasis on public speaking
- B. emphasized the relationship between rhetorical skills and civic virtue
- C. assumed that women could become politically active
- D. was based on a more modern vision of what constituted civilized society
- E. suffered from the reduced availability of inexpensive textbooks

**Answer: A**

### Question: 7

Since it was committed to the idea of science as an international, politically neutral enterprise, the Royal Society of London refused to members from enemy nations during the world wars of the twentieth century.

- A. betray
- B. expel
- C. endorse
- D. oust
- E. sanction
- F. condemn

**Answer: B D**

### Question: 8

civilization as a whole did not collapse, although many zones did experience profound change. Because societies are not bounded, unitary entities. collapses are rarely total, and continuity is a normal pan of collapse At the end of the Classic period [200 900 C.E.]. the institution of divine kingship and many of the well-known markers of elite culture such as carved stelae [slabs erected for funerals or commemorative purposes] and hieroglyphic polychromes [multicolored artistic pottery] ended, but Maya civilization continued in modified form with many important features intact (e.g.. literacy, war. art. the production of fine ceramics). In some cases large buildings were constructed in the Postclassic period [900-1512 C.E.], but the transition to the Early Postclassic [900-1200 CXj era is distinctive for a decrease in elite goods and contexts. The variability in artifact changes during the Terminal Classic [800-900 C.E.] and into the Postclassic. even within artifact classes (e.g.. fine versus unslipped ceramics), suggests weaker centralized control than during the Classic period. Site abandonments in the Terminal Classic indicate the collapse of the functional ability of Maya states, but sites that survived show that Maya civilization continued albeit without divine kingship and much of the spectacle around it.

The passage suggests which of the following about Maya living after the Terminal Classic in "sites that survived"?

- A. Their customs were identical to those of their ancestors.
- B. Their pottery was totally utilitarian in nature.
- C. They no longer created caned stelae.
- D. They stopped erecting large buildings.
- E. They did not use written language.

**Answer: C**

### Question: 9

the true artists among silent-film actors could express emotional shadings that have no analogue in spoken

- A. language.
- B. implausible
- C. incredible
- D. conventional
- E. elemental
- F. rudimentary
- G. confusing

**Answer: D E**

### Question: 10

To help the reader understand the actions of and the decisions made by people of another time, the historian's narrative must be what they knew; the narrative should not refer to anything not known until later.

- A. hinted at by
- B. antithetical to
- C. at odds with
- D. circumscribed by
- E. limited to
- F. consistent with

**Answer: D F**

### Question: 11

Ultimately the ethical implications of neuroscience may be (i) than those of genetics. The transformations of behavior possible by manipulating neurons are both more predictable and more thorough than what can be achieved by altering genes. Even if the ethical and practical constraints on genetic experimentation suddenly (ii) - we'd have to wait decades to see the outcome of such experiments. Altering the brain's functioning, by contrast, can produce startlingly (iii) results.

- A. even more troubling
- B. more difficult to understand
- C. much less interesting
- D. solidified
- E. surfaced
- F. vanished
- G. unexpected
- H. rapid
- I. far-reaching

**Answer: C F H**

### Question: 12

Sunflower sea slugs help maintain certain kelp forest ecosystems by eating quickly reproducing prey species such as urchins, thus keeping populations low. Without the sea stars, the urchin population explodes, which is bad news for kelp forests and everything in them. Giant kelp can grow to 150 feet underwater at a speed of two feet a day. but their weaknesses are their holdfasts. which are akin to tree roots. The holdfasts are home to brittle stars, prawns, and snails, among other creatures. Urchins like to

eat the kelp holdfasts. Once the holdfasts are gone, the rest of the kelp drifts off\* in the tides. In this way, urchins can destroy the forests, which, higher up, are also home to fish, including several types of commercially important rockfish.

According to the passage, sea urchin populations

- A. often drift in the tide along with sea kelp
- B. are a favored prey of certain commercially important fish
- C. sometimes prey on commercially important fish species
- D. can damage the habitats where brittle stars live
- E. reproduce most rapidly in holdfasts of kelp forests

**Answer: D**

### Question: 13

The snow-covered surface of the lake presents a reassuring illusion of . but beneath the snow the ice is riven with treacherous cracks.

- A. uniformity
- B. isolation
- C. seclusion
- D. protection
- E. substantiality
- F. soundness

**Answer: D E**

### Question: 14

Poincare described explicitly a time when he experienced an insight after an incubation period, a period during which the unconscious mind was at work.

- A. intelligence
- B. preparation
- C. motivation assistance
- D. collaboration

**Answer: C**

### Question: 15

What accounts for the low-lying, flat surface of Mars's north? On Earth's surface, higher- and lower-lying areas have different types of crust: one, thin and dense, is pulled toward Earth's center more strongly by gravity, and the planet's water naturally comes to sit over it, creating oceans. The processes that generate this oceanic crust drive plate tectonics.

Is Mars's north similarly characterized by a sort of crust different from other areas of the planet? Some researchers do see signs of tectonic activity surrounding the northern basin that suggest that it was created through the formation of new crust, like ocean basins on Earth. However, McGill points to northern bedrock structures that predate the features said to mark the start of the tectonic process. McGill instead believes that through some novel mechanism the ancient surface sank to its current depth as a single unit. This would explain why features around the basin's edge, which would have formed as the surface dropped, seem to be younger than structures at its floor.

The third possibility is that the northern lowlands result from impacts. Some researchers suggest they formed as a series of big overlapping impact craters. Others, arguing that the odds against such a pattern of impacts are large, postulate a single event—the impact of an object bigger than any asteroid the solar system now contains.

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about geological features on Earth?

- A. The relative elevation of the lowest-lying regions of the crust arises in part from forces generated within the planet.
- B. The difference in elevation between the ocean basins and their surroundings is greater than the difference between Mars's northern basin and its surroundings.
- C. The formation of low-lying areas proceeds by a different process than the one that created Mars's northern basin.
- D. The weight of the oceans does not affect the depth of the ocean basins.
- E. The proportion of the crust that is oceanic crust is increasing.

<b>Answer: C</b>
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