

E. INFERENCE QUESTIONS

PRACTICE

Exercise 1

Read the passages and choose the best answer to each question.

Question 1

In classical and medieval times, the study of music shared many features with the discipline of mathematics, such as an interest in proportions, special ratios, and recurring patterns. In the twentieth century, the introduction of twelve-tone music and the widespread use of computers inspired further study into the relationship between musical and mathematical abilities. Musical performances require sensitivity to ratios that are often complex, and to appreciate the operation of rhythms, a performer must have some basic numerical competence.

1. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 - A. The disciplines of music and mathematics originated in classical times.
 - B. People have long been aware of links between music and mathematics.
 - C. Both music and mathematics require an understanding of computers.
 - D. Professional musicians must study mathematics at the university level.

Question 2

Corvids are sociable and tend to form social groups. This is particularly true of rooks, which stay in their flocks all year round. The raven, largest of the corvids, joins a social group as a juvenile, pairing off at around the age of three and mating for life. Courtship can involve such games as pair snow sliding and the synchronized flight test. Corvids can be found all over the world. The adaptability and intelligence of this family have made them extremely successful. For centuries, the raven and the crow have held a special place in the mythology of various cultures.

2. It can be inferred from the passage that corvids are

- A. a family of birds
- B. games for children
- C. members of a sports club
- D. imaginary beings

Question 3

The input of solar energy supplies 99 percent of the energy needed to heat the earth and all buildings on it. How is this possible? Most people think of solar energy in terms of direct heat from the sun. However, broadly defined, solar energy includes direct energy from the sun as well as a number of indirect forms of energy produced by this direct input. Major indirect forms of solar energy include wind hydropower, and biomass - solar energy converted to chemical energy in trees, plants, and other organic matter.

3. It can be inferred from the passage that the author most likely believes which of the following about solar energy?

- A. Solar energy is not used as much as it could be used.
- B. It is not possible to develop direct forms of solar energy
- C. Trees, plants, and organic matter can store solar energy.
- D. The definition of solar energy will continue to change.

Question 4

The reasons for the migration from rural to urban life were exploitation and lack of economic opportunity. The family members who would not inherit a share in the property were exploited by the laws of inheritance. The system was particularly hard on women, who usually did not share in the ownership of the farm and who rarely were paid for their labor. The workday for women was even more demanding than it was for men. Women were responsible for the kitchen, garden and the small livestock as well as the care of the family. Unmarried women increasingly left the farm in search of economic opportunity in the factories that processed fish or farm products.

4. It can be inferred from the passage that women under this system

- A. moved from farm to farm in search of work
- B. were paid less than men for the same work
- C. did not acquire property through inheritance
- D. had to get married in order to stay on the farm

Questions 5-6

One of the most significant elements of age stratification in all cultures is the pattern of experiences connected to marriage and parenting - a pattern that sociologists call the family life cycle. In North America, about 90 percent of adults marry, and the great majority of them have children and thus a family life cycle related to family experiences. When the family's first child is born, the parents **embark on** a sequence of experiences linked to the child's

development - from infancy and toddlerhood, through school age and adolescence, and eventually, to departure from the nest. Each of these periods in the child's life makes a different set of demands on the parents.

5. The phrase **embark on** in the passage is closest in meaning to
 - A. attempt
 - B. begin
 - C. discuss
 - D. avoid
6. It can be inferred from the passage that the family life cycle
 - A. takes place whether or not people have children
 - B. does not occur in cultures outside of North America
 - C. must be redefined from one generation to the next
 - D. shapes several in the lives of most adults

Questions 7-8

Some people believe that odors and fragrances affect the body and mind and are capable of healing anxiety, stress, and other sources of disease. Interest in aromatherapy - and the use of aromatherapy products such as lotions and inhalants - continues to boom. Some popular essential oils and their uses in aromatherapy include lavender and chamomile, which are reputed to ease stress and promote sleep. The scent of jasmine will uplift the mood and reduce depression. Orange eases anxiety and depression and promotes creativity. Peppermint has antibacterial and analgesic qualities, eases mental fatigue, and relieves headaches.

However, aromatherapy is not for everyone. For people who suffer from fragrance sensitivity, asthma, or allergies, aromas like perfumes can prompt disabling health problems, including headaches, dizziness, nausea and vomiting, fatigue, difficulty breathing, difficulty concentrating, flu-like symptoms, and anaphylaxis.

7. It can be inferred that aromatherapy is
 - A. the main use of essential oils from plants
 - B. the use of certain scents to promote health
 - C. not recommended for treating headaches
 - D. not an effective method of curing disease
8. All of the following fragrances are believed to reduce stress EXCEPT
 - A. lavender
 - B. jasmine
 - C. chamomile
 - D. orange

Questions 9-10

Animal behaviorists believe the orangutan is a cultured ape, able to learn new living habits and to pass them along to the next generation. Some orangutan parents teach their young to use leaves as napkins, while others demonstrate the technique of getting water from a hole by dipping a branch in and then licking the leaves. Orangutans have been observed saying goodnight with the gift of a juicy raspberry. Such social interactions lead researchers to conclude that if orangutans have culture, then the capacity to learn culture is very ancient.

In the evolutionary timeline, orangutans separated from the ancestors of humans many millions of years ago, and they may have had culture before they separated. The discovery of orangutan culture suggests that early primates - including ancestors of humans - might have developed the ability to invent new behaviors, such as tool use, as early as 14 million years ago, approximately 6 million years earlier than once believed.

9. What can be inferred from paragraph 1 about social interactions related to teaching and learning?
 - A. They are behaviors that only orangutans have displayed.
 - B. They are misunderstood by animal behaviorists.
 - C. They indicate similarities between orangutans and other apes.

D. They provide evidence that orangutans have culture.

10. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 2?

- A. The ancestors of humans learned culture from orangutans.
- B. Orangutans were more advanced than most other early primates.
- C. Primate culture may be older than scientists used to believe.
- D. Scientists have found orangutan tools that are 6 million years old.