MOON ENGLISH HOME- READING PRACTICE- MAIN IDEA

PRACTICE 1

Various types of fog are essentially clouds that form at the earth's surface, produced by temperature differences and moisture in the air. As warm, moisture-laden air cools, its relative humidity (the amount of moisture that air can contain, which depends on the temperature) increases. Warm air can hold more water vapor than cold air. So if the air is cooled sufficiently, it will reach saturation, or the dew point, at which point the moisture begins to condense out of the air and form water droplets, creating fog.

Question 1. What is the author's main purpose in this passage?

A. To describe various types of fog

B. To explain how fog is formed

C. To define relative humidity

D. To compare the effects of warm air and cold air

PRACTICE 2

One theory that integrates unique findings on hunger, eating, and weight argues that body weight is governed by a set-point, a homeostatic mechanism that keeps people at roughly the weight they are genetically designed to be. Set-point theorists claim that everyone has a genetically programmed basal metabolism rate, the rate at which the body burns calories for energy, and a fixed number of fat cells, which are cells that store fat for energy. These cells may change in size (the amount of fat they contain), but never in number. After weight loss, they just lurk around the body, waiting for the chance to puff up again. According to set-point theory, there is no single area in the brain that keeps track of weight. Rather, an interaction of metabolism, fat cells, and hormones keeps people at the weight their bodies are designed to be. When a heavy person diets, the body slows down to conserve energy (and its fat reserves). When a thin person overeats, the body speeds up to burn energy.

Question 2. What is most likely the topic of the paragraph following this one?

A. A different theory on body weight

C. The relation between activity and weight

B. The importance of a proper diet

D. How to keep fat cells from enlarging

PRACTICE 3

Traditionally, mental tests have been divided into two types. Achievement tests are designed to measure acquired skills and knowledge, particularly those that have been explicitly taught. The proficiency exams required by some states for high school graduation are achievement tests. Aptitude tests are designed to measure a person's ability to acquire new skills or knowledge. For example, vocational aptitude tests can help you decide whether you would do better as a mechanic or musician. However, all mental tests are in some sense achievement tests because they assume some sort of past learning or experience with certain objects, words, or situations. The difference between achievement and aptitude tests is one of degree and intended use.

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Question 1. The author's main purpose in this passage is to_____.

A. show the importance of testing

B. relate a story about aptitude and achievement tests

C. compare and contrast achievements and aptitude tests

D. criticize the use of testing to measure a person's ability

Practice 4:

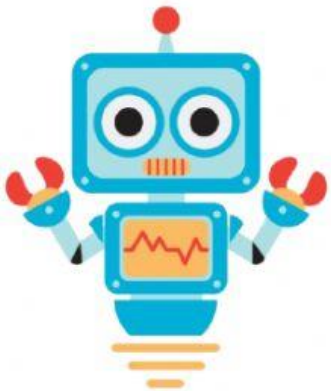
Long ago prehistoric man began to domesticate a number of wild plants and animals for his own use. This not only provided more abundant food but also allowed more people to live on a smaller plot of ground. We tend to forget that all of our present-day pets, livestock, and food plants were taken from the wild and developed into the forms we know today.

As centuries passed and human cultures evolved and blossomed, humans began to organize their knowledge of nature into the broad field of natural history. One aspect of early natural history concerned the use of plants for drugs and medicine. The early herbalists sometimes overworked their imaginations in this respect. For example, it was widely believed that a plant or part of a plant that resembles an internal organ would cure ailments of that organ. Thus, an extract made from a heart shaped leaf might be prescribed for a person suffering from heart problems. Nevertheless, the overall contributions of these early observers provided the rudiments of our present knowledge of drugs and their uses.

Question 4: What does this passage mainly discuss?

A. Prehistoric man.
B. The beginning of natural history.
C. Cures from plants.
D. Early plants and animals.

Practice 5:



One step beyond automated machines is the industrial robot, the heart and brain of which is the microcomputer. Unlike most automated machines, industrial robots can be programmed to do a variety of tasks that are usually accomplished by human factory workers. Like their human counterparts, industrial robots can be switched from one job to another and can be programmed to handle new tasks. Thus far, robots have found their greatest use in assembling mechanical components. However, they are swiftly branching from basic assembly operations to construction and mining, and their most glamorous use of all, the exploration of oceans and outer space.

Question 5: The author's main purpose in writing this passage is to_____

A. describe the industrial robot and its uses

B. narrate a story about the industrial robot

C. compare the industrial robot to human factory workers

D. argue the advantages of the industrial robot

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