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The term “folk song” has been current for over a hundred years, but there is still a good deal of disagreement as to what it actually means. The definition provided by the International Folk Music Council states that folk music is the music of ordinary people, which is passed on from person to person by being listened to rather than learned from the printed page. Other factors that help shape a folk song include: continuity (many performances over a number of years); variation (changes in words and melodies either through artistic interpretation or failure of memory); and selection (the acceptance of a song by the community in which it evolves).

When songs have been **subjected** to these processes their origin is usually impossible to trace. For instance, if a farm laborer were to make up a song and sing it to a couple of friends who like it and memorize it, possibly when the friends come to sing it themselves one of them might forget some of the words and make up new ones to fill the gap, while the other, perhaps more artistic, might add a few decorative touches to the tune and improve a couple of lines of text. If this happened a few times there would be many different versions, the song's original composer would be forgotten, and the song would become common property. This constant **reshaping** and re-creation is the **essence** of folk music. Consequently, modern popular songs and other published music, even though widely sung by people who are not professional musicians, are not considered folk music.

The music and words have been set by a printed or recorded source, limiting scope for further artistic creation. These songs' origins cannot be disguised and therefore they belong primarily to the composer and not to a community.

The ideal situation for the creation of folk music is an isolated rural community. In such a setting folk songs and dances have a special purpose at every stage in a person's life, from childhood to death. Epic tales of heroic deeds, seasonal songs relating to calendar events, and occupational songs are also likely to be sung.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
 - A. Themes commonly found in folk music
 - B. Elements that define folk music
 - C. Influences of folk music on popular music
 - D. The standards of the International Folk Music Council
2. Which of the following statements about the term "folk song" is supported by the passage?
 - A. It has been used for several centuries.
 - B. The International Folk Music Council invented it
 - C. It is considered to be out-of-date.
 - D. There is disagreement about its meaning.
3. The word "**it**" in line 10 (end of paragraph 1) refers to _____.
 - A. community
 - B. song
 - C. acceptance
 - D. memory
4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a characteristic of the typical folk song?
 - A. It is constantly changing over time.
 - B. it is passed on to other people by being performed.
 - C. It contains complex musical structures.
 - D. It appeals to many people.

5. The word “**subjected**” in line 11 is closest in meaning to _____
A. reduced B. modified C. exposed D. imitated

6. The author mentions the farm laborer and his friends (lines 12-16) in order to do which of the following?
A. Explain how a folk song evolves over time
B. Illustrate the importance of music to rural workers
C. Show how subject matter is selected for a folk song
D. Demonstrate how a community chooses a folk song

7. According to the passage, why would the original composers of folk songs be forgotten?
A. Audiences prefer songs composed by professional musicians.
B. Singers dislike the decorative touches in folk song tunes.
C. Numerous variations of folk songs come to exist at the same time.
D. Folk songs are not considered an important form of music.

8. The word “essence” in line 16 is closest in meaning to _____
A. basic nature B. growing importance
C. full extent D. first phase

9. The author mentions that published music is not considered to be folk music because _____
A. the original composer can be easily identified
B. the songs attract only the young people in a community
C. the songs are generally performed by professional singers
D. the composers write the music in rural communities

It is estimated that over 99 percent of all species that ever existed have become extinct. What causes extinction? When a species is no longer adapted to a changed environment, **it** may perish. The exact causes of a species' death vary from situation to situation. Rapid ecological change may render an environment hostile to a species. For example, temperatures may change and a species may not be able to adapt. Food resources may be affected by environmental changes, which will then cause problems for a species requiring these resources. Other species may become better adapted to an environment, resulting in competition and, **ultimately**, in the death of a species.

The fossil record reveals that extinction has occurred throughout the history of Earth. Recent analyses have also revealed that on some occasions many species became extinct at the same time – a mass extinction. One of the best-known examples of mass extinction occurred 65 million years ago with the **demise** of dinosaurs and many other forms of life. Perhaps the largest mass extinction was the one that occurred 225 million years ago, when approximately 95 percent of all species died, mass extinctions can be caused by a relatively rapid change in the environment and can be worsened by the close interrelationship of many species. If, for example, something were to happen to destroy much of the **plankton** in the oceans, then the oxygen content of Earth would drop, affecting even organisms not living in the oceans. Such a change would probably lead to a mass extinction.

One interesting, and controversial, **finding** is that extinctions during the past 250 million years have tended to be more intense every 26 million years. This periodic extinction might be due to intersection of the Earth's orbit with a cloud of comets, but this theory is purely speculative. Some researchers have also speculated that extinction may often be random. That is, certain species may be eliminated and others may survive for no particular reason. A species' survival may have nothing to do with its ability or inability to adapt. If so, some of evolutionary history may reflect a sequence of essentially random events.

1. The word "**it**" in line 3 refers to _____
 - A. environment
 - B. species
 - C. extinction
 - D. 99 percent

2. The word "**ultimately**" in line 10 is closest in meaning to _____
 - A. exceptionally
 - B. dramatically
 - C. eventually
 - D. unfortunately

3. What does the author say in paragraph 1 regarding most species in Earth's history _____

- They have remained basically unchanged from their original forms.
- They have been able to adapt to ecological changes.
- They have caused rapid change in the environment.
- They are no longer in existence.

4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraph 1 as resulting from rapid ecological change?

- Temperature changes
- Availability of food resources
- Introduction of new species
- Competition among species

5. The word "**demise**" in line 5 of paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to _____

- change
- recovery
- help
- death

6. Why is "**plankton**" mentioned in line 11 of paragraph 2?

- To demonstrate the interdependence of different species
- To emphasize the importance of food resources in preventing mass extinction.
- To illustrate a comparison between organisms that live on the land and those that live in the ocean
- To point out that certain species could never become extinct.

7. According to paragraph 2, evidence from fossils suggests that _____

- extinction of species has occurred from time to time throughout Earth's history.
- Extinctions on Earth have generally been massive.
- there has been only one mass extinction in Earth's history.
- dinosaurs became extinct much earlier than scientists originally believed.

8. The word "**finding**" in the first line of the last paragraph is closest in meaning to _____

- published information
- research method
- ongoing experiment
- scientific discovery

9. Which of the following can be inferred from the last paragraph _____?

- Many scientists could be expected to disagree with it.
- Evidence to support the theory has recently been found.
- The theory is no longer seriously considered.
- Most scientists believe the theory to be accurate.

10. In paragraph 3, the author makes which of the following statements about a species' survival?

- A. It reflects the interrelationship of many species.
- B. It may depend on chance events.
- C. It does not vary greatly from species to species
- D. It is associated with astronomical conditions.

11. According to the passage, it is believed that the largest extinction of a species occurred

- A. 26 million years ago
- B. 65 million years ago
- C. 225 million years ago
- D. 250 million years ago



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In many ways, the increasingly rapid **pace** of climate change is a direct result of the growth of the human population. In the last 100 years, the world population has more than tripled, from just under 2 billion at the beginning of the century to nearly 7 billion today. Obviously, this has meant that the world has needed to produce three times as much food, energy, and other natural resources.

In addition, the average person uses more energy and natural resources than the average person one hundred years ago, meaning that the rates of **consumption** are actually much higher than just the increase in population would imply. For example, it took the world 125 years to use the first one trillion barrels of oil. The next trillion barrels will be used in less than 30 years, which is almost 5 times as fast, not three.

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All of these activities: food production, energy usage, and the use of natural resources, contribute to climate change in some way. The greater amounts of oil and other fuels burned to create energy release chemicals which add to global warming. In order to produce more food, farmers cut down trees to gain more land for their fields. In addition, we cut down trees to build the houses needed for a larger population. Those trees are an essential part of controlling global warming. These are just two examples of the impacts that the growing population has on global warming; **others** are too numerous to mention.

In addition to a growing population, the world also has a population that desires a higher standard of living than in the past, and a higher standard of living requires the use of even more natural resources. A look at one country will provide a clear example of this fact. China is the world's most populous nation, with 1.3 billion people. Currently, the standard of living for most of those people is far below that of people in first world nations. Therefore, the average Chinese citizen uses far fewer natural resources and less energy than the average citizen of the US or Japan. But China is growing in power, and more of its citizens are beginning to expect a first world lifestyle. **If every Chinese person attains a first world lifestyle, the amount of energy and natural resources needed in the world will double, even if the standard of living in every other nation on Earth remains the same as it is today.**

1. The word "pace" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A. growth B. speed C. problem D. pollution
2. The word "consumption" in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
A. development B. usage C. population D. increase
3. According to the passage, how does food production contribute to global warming?
A. Producing more food leads to growth in the world population.
B. Food production uses many chemicals which add to global warming.
C. Food production requires that the forests be cleared to create farmland.
D. Food production decreases the ability of the air to release heat.
4. Why does the author mention the rate at which oil is being used in paragraph 1?
A. To illustrate that we are using resources faster than the speed at which the population is growing.

B. To suggest that most of the problems of global warming are associated with our rapid use of oil.

C. To suggest that our oil is likely to run out sometime in the next thirty years.

D. To contrast the differences in lifestyle between people giving 100 years ago and people living today.

5. The word others in the passage refers to _____.
A. problems of global warming in the modern world
B. examples of the environmental consequences of population growth
C. ways in which our usage of oil will effect the world climate
D. the reasons why trees are essential in controlling global warming

6. According to the passage, how does the standard of living affect global warming?
A. Higher standards of living are better for the environment.
B. First world nations create less population than developing nations.
C. The use of natural resources is directly related to the standard of living.
D. High standards of living lead to increases in world population.

7. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence (**in bold**) in the passage?
Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
A. If China becomes a first world nation and all other nations keep their current standard of living, the usage of energy and natural resources will double.
B. If China doubles its usage of natural resources, its will attain a better standard of living, but other nations will have to remain as they are today.
C. Even if the standard of living in every other nation on Earth remains as its is today, China will still try to attain a first world standard of living.
D. When China attains a first world lifestyle, the amount of energy and natural resources used by other nations to keep their current standard of living will double.

8. Why does the author discuss China, Japan, and the United States?
A. To compare the standards of their citizens
B. To explain why China will not be able to become a first world nation
C. To better illustrate the effects of an increase in standards of living
D. To explain why the world's use of energy will need to double soon