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**QUESTION 1**

Current maps showing the North American regions where different types of garden plants will flourish are based on weather data gathered 60 years ago from a few hundred primitive weather stations. New maps are now being compiled using computerized data from several thousand modern weather stations and input from home gardeners across North America. These maps will be far more useful.

Each of the following, if true, helps to support the claim that the new maps will be more useful EXCEPT:

- A. Home gardeners can provide information on plant flourishing not available from weather stations.
- B. Some of the weather stations currently in use are more than 60 years old.
- C. Weather patterns can be described more accurately when more information is available.
- D. Weather conditions are the most important factor in determining where plants will grow.
- E. Weather patterns have changed in the past 60 years.

Correct Answer: B

Here's a "Strengthen EXCEPT" question, so we'll look to get as much as we can out of the stimulus and then evaluate the choices, eliminating the ones that help the argument while looking for the odd-man-out. The stem even provides the conclusion the new maps will be more useful. Here's the story: Current maps indicating where certain garden plants will grow in North America are based on old weather data gathered from a few hundred primitive weather stations. For the new maps, the data is computerized and gathered from thousands of "modern" stations as well as from home gardeners. Well, something about these new factors must make the new maps better, although the author never explicitly connects these things to the idea that the maps will be more useful. At least some of the strengtheners will undoubtedly cement this connection, while the right answer will be outside the scope or possibly even weaken the argument.

QUESTION 2

In the sixteenth century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service to the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain. A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. More than a year later, one of these ships was exploring the topography of South America in search of a water route across the continent. This ship sank, but the remaining four ships searched along the southern peninsula of South America. Finally, they found the passage they sought near a latitude of 50 degrees S. Magellan named this passage the Strait of All Saints, but today we know it as the Strait of Magellan. One ship deserted while in this passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian we now call the International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after ninety-eight days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease. Later Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and seventeen sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

Magellan lost the favor of the king of Portugal when he became involved in a political _____.

- A. entanglement



- B. discussion
- C. negotiation
- D. problems
- E. none of the above

Correct Answer: A

QUESTION 3

Scientists have long known that the soft surface of the bill of the platypus is perforated with openings that contain sensitive nerve endings. Only recently, however, have biologists concluded on the basis of new evidence that the animal uses its bill to locate its prey while underwater, a conclusion suggested by the fact that the animal's eyes, ears, and nostrils are sealed when it is submerged. The new evidence comes from neurophysiological studies, which have recently revealed that within the pores on the bill there are two kinds of sensory receptors: mechanoreceptors, which are tiny pushrods that respond to tactile pressure, and electroreceptors, which respond to weak electrical fields. Having discovered that tactile stimulation of the pushrods sends nerve impulses to the brain, where they evoke an electric potential over an area of the neocortex much larger than the one stimulated by input from the limbs, eyes, and ears, Bohringer concluded that the bill must be the primary sensory organ for the platypus. Her finding was supported by studies showing that the bill is extraordinarily sensitive to tactile stimulation: stimulation with a fine glass stylus sent a signal by way of the fifth cranial nerve to the neocortex and from there to the motor cortex. Presumably nerve impulses from the motor cortex then induced a snapping movement of the bill. But Bohringer's investigations did not explain how the animal locates its prey at a distance.

Scheich's neurophysiological studies contribute to solving this mystery. His initial work showed that when a platypus feeds, it swims along, steadily wagging its bill from side to side until prey is encountered. It thereupon switches to searching behavior, characterized by erratic movements of the bill over a small area at the bottom of a body of water, which is followed by homing in on the object and seizing it. In order to determine how the animal senses prey and then distinguishes it from other objects on the bottom, Scheich hypothesized that a sensory system based on electroreception similar to that found in sharks might exist in the platypus. In further experiments he found he could trigger the switch from patrolling to searching behavior in the platypus by creating a dipole electric field in the water with the aid of a small 1.5-volt battery. The platypus, sensitive to the weak electric current that was created, rapidly oriented toward the battery at a distance of 10 centimeters and sometimes as much as 30 centimeters. Once the battery was detected, the platypus would inevitably attack it as if it were food. Scheich then discovered that the tail flicks of freshwater shrimp, a common prey of the platypus, also produce weak electric fields and elicit an identical response. Scheich and his colleagues believe that it is reasonable to assume that all the invertebrates on which the platypus feed must produce electric fields.

The primary purpose of the passage is to

- A. explain how the platypus locates prey at a distance
- B. present some recent scientific research on the function of the platypus's bill
- C. assess the results of Bohringer's experimental work about the platypus
- D. present Scheich's contributions to scientific work about the platypus
- E. describe two different kinds of pores on the platypus's bill

Correct Answer: B

The passage lives up to the promise of 1st paragraph.

**QUESTION 4**

Many political economists believe that the soundest indicator of the economic health of a nation is the nation's gross-national product (GNP) per capita—a figure reached by dividing the total value of the goods produced yearly in a nation by its population and taken to be a measure of the welfare of the nation's residents. But there are many factors affecting residents' welfare that are not captured by per capita GNP; human indicators, while sometimes more difficult to calculate or document, provide sounder measures of a nation's progress than does the indicator championed by these economists. These human indicators include nutrition and life expectancy; birth weight and level of infant mortality; ratio of population level to availability of resources; employment opportunities; and the ability of governments to provide services such as education, clean water, medicine, public transportation, and mass communication for their residents.

The economists defend their use of per capita GNP as the sole measure of a nation's economic health by claiming that improvements in per capita GNP eventually stimulate improvements in human indicators. But, in actuality, this often fails to occur. Even in nations where economic stimulation has brought about substantial improvements in per capita GNP, economic health as measured by human indicators does not always reach a level commensurate with the per capita GNP. Nations that have achieved a relatively high per capita GNP, for example, sometimes experience levels of infant survival, literacy, nutrition, and life expectancy no greater than levels in nations where per capita GNP is relatively low. In addition, because per capita GNP is an averaged figure, it often presents a distorted picture of the wealth of a nation; for example, in a relatively sparsely populated nation where a small percentage of residents receives most of the economic benefits of production while the majority receives very little benefit, per capita GNP may nevertheless be high. The welfare of a nation's residents is a matter not merely of total economic benefit, but also of the distribution of economic benefits across the entire society. Measuring a nation's economic health only by total wealth frequently obscures a lack of distribution of wealth across the society as a whole.

In light of the potential for such imbalances in distribution of economic benefits, some nations have begun to realize that their domestic economic efforts are better directed away from attempting to raise per capita GNP and instead toward ensuring that the conditions measured by human indicators are salutary. They recognize that unless a shift in focus away from using material wealth as the sole indicator of economic success is effected, the well-being of the nation may be endangered, and that nations that do well according to human indicators may thrive even if their per capita GNP remains stable or lags behind that of other nations.

In the passage, the author's primary concern is to

- A. delineate a new method of directing domestic economic efforts
- B. point out the weaknesses in one standard for measuring a nation's welfare
- C. explain the fact that some nations have both a high per capita GNP and a low quality of life for its citizens
- D. demonstrate that unequal distribution of wealth is an inevitable result of a high per capita GNP
- E. argue that political economists alone should be responsible for economic policy decisions

Correct Answer: B

The entire thrust of the passage is to turn nations away from per capita GNP as a measurement of economic health and toward a more human set of factors.

QUESTION 5

In the decade from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, large corporations were rocked by mergers, reengineering, and downsizing. These events significantly undermined employees' job security. Surprisingly, however, employees'



perception of their own job security hardly changed over that period. Fifty-eight percent of employees surveyed in 1984 and 55 percent surveyed in 1994 stated that their own jobs were very secure.

Each of the following contributes to an explanation of the surprising survey results described above EXCEPT:

- A. A large number of the people in both surveys work in small companies that were not affected by mergers, reengineering, and downsizing.
- B. Employees who feel secure in their jobs tend to think that the jobs of others are secure.
- C. The corporate downsizing that took place during this period had been widely anticipated for several years before the mid-1980s.
- D. Most of the major downsizing during this period was completed within a year after the first survey.
- E. In the mid-1990s, people were generally more optimistic about their lives, even in the face of hardship, than they were a decade before.

Correct Answer: B

The question stem tells us that we're looking to explain surprising survey results. This just means that we have to resolve the paradox. So you should have first identified the paradox: even though massive downsizing occurred from the mid 1980s to the mid 1990s, which the author tells us undermined employees' job security, results from surveys taken in 1984 and 1994 asking employees about their job security were surprisingly similar. The reason this is surprising is that we would expect the workers in 1994 to feel much less secure, having experienced so many mergers, layoffs, etc. All of the incorrect answer choices will help to explain how the results could be similar. The one that doesn't is option [Employees who feel secure in their jobs...]. How the employees feel about the jobs of others is irrelevant. The argument concerns one's confidence in one's own job security.

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