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QUESTION 1

What is the relationship between suicide rates and social change according to the sociologist Emile Durkheim?

- A. A higher suicide rate leads to more social change.
- B. A higher suicide rate leads to less social change.
- C. Social change leads to suicide rates going up.
- D. Social change leads to suicide rates going down.

Correct Answer: C

C is correct. In association with his observational study, Durkheim developed a typology of suicide that ascribed this behavior to the unsettling effects of social change. That is, for him, social change caused suicide. The greater social change was; the higher suicide rates were. A. This is incorrect. According to Durkheim, a change in suicide rates has no effect on social change. B. This is incorrect. According to Durkheim, suicide has no effect on social change. D. This is incorrect. According to Durkheim, social change leads to suicide rates going up, rather than going down.

QUESTION 2

Muzak, the intentionally unobtrusive music that most people associate with elevators and dentists\\' waiting rooms, represents the paradoxical success story of a product designed to be ignored. Although few people admit to enjoying its blandly melodic sounds, Muzak reaches over 100 million listeners in 14 countries and has played in the White House, the Apollo lunar spacecraft, and countless supermarkets, offices, and factories. This odd combination of criticism and widespread acceptance is not surprising, however, when one considers that Muzak is not created for the enjoyment of its listeners: rather, its purpose is to modify physiological and psychological aspects of an environment.

In the workplace, Muzak is credited with increasing both productivity and profitability. Research into the relationship between music and productivity can be traced to the earliest days of the Muzak Corporation. Developed by a military officer in 1922 as a way of transmitting music through electrical wires, Muzak blossomed in the 1930\\'s following a study which reported that people work harder when they listen to certain kinds of music. Impressed by these findings, the BBC began to broadcast music in English munitions factories during World War II in an effort to combat fatigue. When workers assembling weapons increased their output by 6 percent, the U.S. War Production Board contracted the Muzak Corporation to provide uplifting music to American factories. Today, the corporation broadcasts its "Environmental Music" to countless businesses and institutions throughout the world. And while most people claim to dislike Muzak\\'s discreet cadences, it seems to positively influence both productivity and job satisfaction.

Researchers speculate that listening to Muzak and other soft music improves morale and reduces stress by modifying our physiology. Physiological changes such as lowered heart rate and decreased blood pressure have been documented in hospital studies testing the effect of calming music on cardiac patients. In addition, certain kinds of music seem to effect one\\'s sense of emotional, as well as physical, well being. It is just this sort of satisfaction which is thought to result in increased performance in the workplace. In a study of people performing repetitive clerical tasks, those who listened to music performed more accurately and quickly than those who worked in silence; those who listened to Muzak did better still. Moreover, while Muzak was conceived as a tool for productivity, it also seems to influence a business\\' profitability. In an experiment in which supermarket shoppers shopped to the mellow sounds of Muzak, sales were increased by as much as 12 percent. What makes Muzak unique is a formula by which familiar tunes are modified and programmed. Careful instrumentation adds to an overall sound that is neither monotonous nor rousing. But it is the precisely timed programming that separates Muzak from other "easy listening" formats. At the core of the programming is the concept of the "Stimulus Progression." Muzak programs are divided into quarter-hour groupings of songs, and are specifically planned for the time of day at which they will be heard. Each composition is assigned a mood rating between 1 and 6 called a stimulus value; a song with a rating of 2, for example, is slower and less



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invigorating than one with a value of 5. Approximately six compositions with ascending stimulus values play during any given quarter hour; each 15 minute segment ends in silence. Each segment of a 24-hour program is carefully planned. Segments that are considered more stimulating air at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. (the times when workers typically tire), while more soothing segments play just after lunchtime and towards the end of the day, when workers are likely to be restless.

From the point of view of management, then, Muzak is a useful tool in the effort to maximize both productivity and profits. However, some people object to its presence, labeling it as a type of unregulated air pollution. Still others see it as an Orwellian nightmare, a manipulation of the subconscious. But Muzak\\'s effectiveness seems to lie in the fact that most people never really listen to it. While it may be true that no one actually likes this carefully crafted aural atmosphere, many simply ignore it, allowing its forgettable sounds to soften the contours of the day.

According to the passage, a 15-minute segment of Muzak with an average stimulus value of 5 would most likely be broadcast at:

- A. there is no known way to isolate the DNA responsible for hemoglobin.
- B. naked hemoglobin tends to break down in the bloodstream.
- C. non-globulating PFCs have significantly abbreviated oxygen-carrying capacities.
- D. the use of PFCs may lead to blood clotting.

Correct Answer: C

This is a detail question. The fourth paragraph discusses Muzak\\'s programming and the concept of the "Stimulus Progression". A segment with an average stimulus value of 5 would be rather lively, since segments are rated from 1-6. Since such invigorating segments are aired at the times of day when workers are likely to tire, and the last sentence of the fourth paragraph mentions 3 p.m. as such a time, (C) is the correct answer. The last sentence of the fourth paragraph also mentions the periods of time just after lunch and towards the end of the day as times when more soothing segments play, so (A) and (D) are wrong. The passage does not say anything about what level of stimulus might be programmed in the early morning hours. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that invigorating music of a value of 5 would be played at the time indicated in choice (B).

QUESTION 3

At a recent meeting of the American Public Transit Association, the Environmental Protection Agency unveiled stringent new standards for pollution control. The transit authorities were particularly concerned about the implementation of a proposed "Clean Air Act." They believed the provisions of the Clean Air Act could severely affect basic services to their local communities. Many transit agencies were concerned that it would be difficult to comply with the pollution and emissions control standards while continuing to operate within realistic budgets. The aim of the Clean Air Act is to assure that by the year 2000, there will be a reduction of at least 10 million tons of sulfur dioxide from 1980 levels. The bill also calls for a reduction in pollutants that contribute to the depletion of ozone. Strict regulations of toxic air emissions would have to be established and enforced. Additionally, the Clean Air Act would establish specific acid-rain reduction quotas and enforce severe penalties for transgressors of any of the new clean air regulations. There is little doubt that mass-transit suppliers will be considerably affected by this new legislation, just as the chemical and petroleum industries have already been affected by similar legislation. Transit authorities are challenged to strike a difficult balance between complying with the government\\'s new standards and developing an official concern for the environment, while continuing to fulfill the transportation needs of the general population. Among the areas addressed by the Clean Air Act, the topic of mobile resources is of particular interest to mass transit authorities. Provisions contained in the Act under this title are aimed at encouraging the development and practical use of alternative fuel sources, like solar energy and methane fuel. The goal of this section of the Act is to eradicate toxic fuel emissions in order to provide cleaner air and a more favorable environment. The Act even goes so far as to declare that in cities like New York, Los Angeles and Houston -- where air quality is particularly noxious and toxins exceed the limits of federal regulations -- forms of mass transit should run on so-called "clean-burning fuels" by the year 2000. Such fuels include

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reformulated gasoline, propane, electricity, natural gas, ethanol, methanol, or any similar type of low-emission fuel. In addition, the Act proposes that, by 1994, all new urban buses in cities with populations exceeding one million must operate solely on clean-burning fuels. The topics of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles represent, by far, the most controversial issue in the Clean Air Act. President Bush has called alternative fuels "bold and innovative" means to control pollution, but according to many transportation experts, the Act\\'s proposals on alternative fuel usage are unrealistic. The transit authorities recognize that concern for the environment and health hazards like pollution are global issues. However, most transit officials concur that inventing and developing new ways to fuel mass transit will take at least 50 years to realize. They point out that the Act does not mention the political and social ramifications of usurping the role of the petroleum industries. The Act does not mention if or how the thousands of people employed by the oil industry will get retrained to produce and implement the use of "clean" fuel. No one disputes the fact that people need some form of transportation to get from place to place. Preserving the environment should be a priority, yet we need to remember that even if toxic emissions are completely eliminated sometime in the future, the challenge of moving mass numbers of people where they want to go will still exist and must remain a priority. Transit authorities contend that unless the Clean Air Act also acknowledges this, and develops a way to encourage mass transit over personal transportation, the problems of pollution might not be significantly altered. They suggest that there are many areas in this country that have little or no mass transit and that, if the Clean Air Act\\'s goal is to reduce pollution, perhaps the most practical and realistic means to achieve that goal is to encourage the development and maintenance of mass transit systems.

According to the passage, the main goal of the Clear Air Act was to:

- A. make sure that pollution was completely eradicated by the year 2000.
- B. reduce the amount of sulfur dioxide levels in the air by at least 10 million tons from 1980s levels.
- C. eliminate all pollution.
- D. enforce harsh penalties for transgressors of any of the new clean air regulations.

Correct Answer: B

The answer to this Detail question can be found in the first sentence of Paragraph 2: the aim of the Clean Air Act is to reduce the level of sulfur dioxide by at least 10 million tons (Choice B). Choices A and B are incorrect because they\\re too extreme; the second paragraph doesn\\'t say anything about "completely eradicating" pollution or "eliminating" toxic air emissions (the latter will just be "strictly regulated"). Finally, although penalties for transgressors of the regulations would be enforced by the Act, the main goal of the Act is not to punish people for polluting but to reduce the level of pollution, so Choice D is wrong.

QUESTION 4

The rich analyses of Fernand Braudel and his fellow Annales historians have made significant contributions to historical theory and research. In a departure from traditional historical approaches, the Annales historians, assume (as do Marxists) that history cannot be limited to a simple recounting of conscious human actions, but must be understood in the context of forces and material conditions that underlie human behavior. Braudel was the first Annales historian to gain widespread support of the idea that history should synthesize data from various social sciences, especially economics, in order to provide a broader view of human societies over time (although Febvre and Bloch, founders of the Annales school, had originated this approach). Braudel conceived of history as the dynamic interaction of three temporalities. The first of these, the evenementielle, involved short-lived dramatic "events," such as battles, revolutions and the actions of great men, which had preoccupied traditional historians like Carlyle. Conjonctures was Braudel\\'s term for larger cyclical processes that might last up to half a century. The longue duree, a historical wave of great length, was for Braudel the most fascinating of the three temporalities. Here he focused on those aspects of everyday life that might remain relatively unchanged for centuries. What people ate, what they wore, their means and routes of travel -- for Braudel these things create "structures" which define the limits of potential social change for hundreds of years at a time. Braudel\\'s concept of the longue duree extended the perspective of historical space as well as time. Until the Annales school, historians had taken the juridical political unit the nation-state, duchy, or whatever as their



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starting point. Yet, when such enormous timespans are considered, geographical features may well have more significance for human populations than national borders. In his doctoral thesis, a seminal work on the Mediterranean during the reign of Philip II, Braudel treated the geohistory of the entire region as a "structure" that had exerted myriad influences on human lifeways since the first settlements on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. And so the reader is given such arcane information as the list of products that came to Spanish shores from North Africa, the seasonal routes followed by Mediterranean sheep and their shepherds, and the cities where the best ship timber could be bought. Braudel has been faulted for the imprecision of his approach. With his Rabelaisian delight in concrete detail, Braudel vastly extended the realm of relevant phenomena; but this very achievement made it difficult to delimit the boundaries of observation, a task necessary to beginning any social investigation. Further, Braudel and other Annales historians minimize the differences among the social sciences. Nevertheless, the many similarly-designed studies aimed at both professional and popular audiences indicate that Braudel asked significant questions which traditional historians had overlooked.

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- A. Braudel\\'s fascination with obscure facts.
- B. Braudel\\'s depiction of the role of geography in human history.
- C. the geography of the Mediterranean region.
- D. the irrelevance of national borders.

Correct Answer: B

This is a paragraph question, so the right answer has to cover the entire paragraph. You should beware of choices that are just details from the paragraph in question (in this case the third paragraph), like Choice C. The author only mentions the geography of the Mediterranean in the context of discussing his real subject: Braudel\\'s depiction of the role of geography in human history (Choice B) when a long view of history is taken. Choice A should be eliminated because Braudel\\'s use of obscure facts does not mean that he was "fascinated" with them. D is out because the author never says that national borders are irrelevant; they were just less significant to Braudel than geographical boundaries.

QUESTION 5

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A. fats.

B. proteins.

C. amino acids.

D. carbohydrates.

Correct Answer: B

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