

Cognizant Verbal Placement Paper

Directions for Questions 1 to 5:

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow on the basis of the information provided in the passage.

For a period of more than two centuries paleontologists have been intrigued by the fossilized remains of pterosaurs, the first flying vertebrates. The issues, which puzzle them, are how these heavy creatures, having a wingspan of about 8-12 meters managed the various problems associated with powered flight and whether these creatures were reptiles or birds. Perhaps the least controversial assertion about the pterosaurs is that they were reptiles. Their skulls, pelvises, and hind feet are reptilian. The anatomy of their wings suggests that they did not evolve into the class of birds. In pterosaurs a greatly elongated fourth finger of each forelimb supported a wing like membrane.

The other fingers were short and reptilian, with sharp claws. In birds the second finger is the principal strut of the wing, which consists primarily of feathers. If the pterosaurs walked on all fours, the three short fingers may have been employed for grasping. When a pterosaurs walked or remained stationary, the fourth finger, and with it the wing, could only urn upward in an extended inverted V- shape along each side of the animals body. In resemblance they were extremely similar to both birds and bats, with regard to their overall body structure and proportion. This is hardly surprising as the design of any flying vertebrate is subject to aerodynamic constraints. Both the pterosaurs and the birds have hollow bones, a feature that represents a savings in weight.

There is a difference, which is that the bones of the birds are more massively reinforced by internal struts. Although scales typically cover reptiles, the pterosaurs probably had hairy coats. T.H. Huxley reasoned that flying vertebrates must have been warm-blooded because flying implies a high rate of metabolism, which in turn implies a high internal temperature. Huxley speculated that a coat of hair would insulate against loss of body heat and might streamline the body to reduce drag in flight. The recent discovery of a pterosaur specimen covered in long, dense, and relatively thick hair like fossil material was the first clear evidence that his reasoning was correct.

Some paleontologists are of the opinion that the pterosaurs jumped from s dropped from trees or perhaps rose into the light winds from the crests of waves in order to become airborne. Each theory has its associated difficulties. The first makes a wrong assumption that the pterosaurs hind feet resembled a bats and could serve as hooks by which the animal could hang in preparation for flight. The second hypothesis seems unlikely because large pterosaurs could not have landed in trees without damaging their wings. The third calls for high aces to channel updrafts. The pterosaurs would have been unable to control their flight once airborne as the wind from which such waves arose would have been too strong.

Q1. As seen in the above passage scientists generally agree that:

- A. the pterosaurs could fly over large distances because of their large wingspan.
- B. a close evolutionary relationship can be seen between the pterosaurs and bats, when the structure of their skeletons is studied.
- C. the study of the fossilized remains of the pterosaurs reveals how they solved the problem associated with powered flight
- D. the pterosaurs were reptiles
- E. Pterosaurs walked on all fours.

ANS: D

Q2. As inferred from the passage, the skeleton of a pterosaur is distinguishable from that of a bird by the

- A. length of its wingspan
- B. hollow spaces in its bones
- C. anatomic origin of its wing strut
- D. evidence of the hook like projections on its hind feet
- E. location of the shoulder joint joining the wing to its body.

ANS: C

Q3. From the viewpoint of T.H.Huxley, as given in the passage, which of the following statements is he most likely to agree with?

- A. An animal can master complex behaviors irrespective of the size of its brain.
- B. Environmental capabilities and physical capabilities often influence the appearance of an animal.
- C. Usually animals in a particular family group do not change their appearance dramatically over a period of time
- D. The origin of flight in vertebrates was an accidental development rather than the outcome of specialization or adaptation
- E. The pterosaurs should be classified as birds, not reptiles.

ANS: B

Q4. The organization of the last paragraph of the passage can best be described as:

- A. New data is introduced in order to support a traditional point of view
- B. Three explanations are put forth and each of them is disputed by means of specific information
- C. An outline of three hypotheses are given and evidence supporting each of them is given
- D. Description of three recent discoveries is presented, and their implications for future study are projected
- E. The material in the earlier paragraphs is summarized and certain conclusions are from it.

ANS: B

Q5. According to the passage, some scientists believe that pterosaurs

- A. Lived near large bodies of water
- B. Had sharp teeth for tearing food
- C. Were attacked and eaten by larger reptiles
- D. Had longer tails than many birds
- E. Consumed twice their weight daily to maintain their body temperature.

ANS: A

Directions for Questions 5 to 10:

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow on the basis of the information provided in the passage.

After his father's death, writer Laurence Yep returned to San Francisco to look for the apartment house where his family had lived, which also housed their grocery store. It had been replaced by a two-story parking garage for a nearby college. There were trees growing where the store door had been. I had to look at the street signs on the corner to make sure I was in the right spot. Behind the trees was a door of solid metal painted a battleship gray. Stretching to either side were concrete walls with metal grates bolted over the openings in the sides. The upper story of the garage was open to the air but through the grates I could look into the lower level. The gray, oil-stained concrete spread onward endlessly, having replaced the red cement floor of our store.

Lines marked parking places where my parents had laid wooden planks to ease the ache and chill on their feet. Where the old-fashioned glass store counter had been was a row of cars. I looked past the steel I-beams that formed the columns and ceiling of the garage, peering through the dimness in an attempt to locate where my father's garden had been; but there was only an endless stretch of cars within the painted stalls. We called it the garden though that was stretching the

definition of the word because it was only a small, narrow cement courtyard on the north side of our apartment house. There was only a brief time during the day when the sun could reach the tiny courtyard; but fuchsia bushes, which loved the shade, grew as tall as trees from the dirt plot there.

Next to it my father had fashioned shelves from old hundred-pound rice cans and planks; and on these makeshift shelves he had his miniature flower patches growing in old soda pop crates from which he had removed the wooden dividers. He would go out periodically to a wholesale nursery by the beach and load the car with boxes full of little flowers and seedlings which he would lovingly transplant in his shadowy garden. If you compared our crude little garden to your own backyards, you would probably laugh; and yet the cats in the neighborhood loved my fathers garden almost as much as he did--to his great dismay The cats loved to roll among the flowers, crushing what were just about the only green growing things in the area. Other times, they ate them--perhaps as a source of greens. Whatever the case, my father could have done without their destructive displays of appreciation.

I dont know where my father came by his love of growing things. He had come to San Francisco as a boy and, except for a brief time spent picking fruit, had lived most of his life among cement, brick, and asphalt. I hadnt thought of my fathers garden in years; and yet it was the surest symbol of my father. Somehow he could persuade flowers to grow within the old, yellow soda pop crates though the sun seldom touched them; and he could coax green shoots out of what seemed like lifeless sticks. His was the gift of renewal. However, though I stared and stared, I could not quite figure out where it had been. Everything looked the same; more concrete and more cars. Store, home and garden had all been torn down and replaced by something as cold, massive and impersonal as a prison.

Even if I could have gone through the gate, there was nothing for me inside there. If I wanted to return to that lost garden, I would have to go back into my own memories. Award-winning author Laurence Yep did return to his fathers garden in his memories. In 1991 he published *The Lost Garden* an autobiography in which he tells of growing up in San Francisco and of coming to use his writing to celebrate his family and his ethnic heritage.

Q6. The author is searching for something as he looks through the window of a parking garage. What is he searching for?

- A. A particular car
- B. The red cement floor of an old store
- C. Reminders of the past
- D. Evidence of his fathers financial success

ANS: C

Q7. What kind of work did the authors father do?

- A. He was a professional gardener
- B. He worked in a parking garage.
- C. He owned a restaurant.
- D. He owned a store.

ANS: D

Q8. What idea does the story suggest about the authors parents?

- A. They both worked hard to support their family
- B. They had encouraged their son to become a writer
- C. They had not wanted to see a parking garage replace their home.
- D. They had been farmers most of their lives.

ANS: C

Q9. What do you know about the fathers garden?

- A. It grew in spite of being neglected.
- B. The cats would eat all the plants before they grew
- C. It flourished in an unlikely spot.
- D. It didnt grow well because of lack of sun.

ANS: D

Q10. Why are details about the neighborhood cats included in this story?

- A. To show how much the garden meant to the family.
- B. To show how important this garden was to the authors father.
- C. To show how had the author worked at helping his father.
- D. To show that the authors father loved animals as well as plants.

Directions for Questions 11 to 12:

Read each sentence to find if there is any grammatical error in it. If there is any error, it will be only one part of the sentence.

Q11. I shall / ring him / tomorrow / in the afternoon.

A B C D

ANS: B

Q12. I enjoyed / during my / stay in / England.

A B C D

ANS: A

Directions for Questions 13 to 15:

One of the four sentences given in each question is grammatically wrong. Find the incorrect sentence.

Q13.

- A) the odds are against him.
- B) Let me thread the needle .
- C) A nurse is taking care of him.
- D) I dont know if snow is falling.

ANS: D

Q14.

- A) Let me put my sign here.
- B) These cattle are mine.
- C) He examined the book closely.
- D) He has no knowledge of and no interest in music.

ANS: A

Q15.

- A) He has no desire for fame.
- B) I intend going to Calcutta.
- C) He is too miserly to part with his money.

D) He has invited me for dinner.

ANS: C

Directions for Questions 16 to 20:

In each of the following questions, some sentence are given which are on the same theme. decide which sentence is the most preferable with respect to grammar; meaning and usage, suitable for formal writing in English. Find the correct sentence.

Q16.

- A. Our school had won the match if only we have concentrated .
- B. Our school would have won the match if only we would have concentrated.
- C. Our school would win the match if only we had concentrated.
- D. Our school had won the match if only we would have concentrated.
- E. Our school would have won the match if only we had concentrated.

ANS: E

Q17.

- A. He will not pay unless he is not compelled
- B. He will not pay unless he will be compelled
- C. He will not pay unless he is compelled
- D. he will not pay till he i s compelled

ANS: C

Q18.

- A. Since he lacked needed money, he never turned down anyone who needed help.
- B. He wasnt rich by any means, although he never turned down anyone who needed help.
- C. Being not rich by any means, but he never turned away anyone who needed help.
- D. He wasnt rich by any means, but he never turned away anyone who needed help.
- E. Since he wasnt rich by any means, he never turned away anyone who needed help.

ANS: D

Q19.

- A) I was asked to stop writing.
- B) She denied to go with me.
- C) My hairs stood on end.
- D) I am reading this novel for four days.

ANS: D

Q20.

- A. The teacher asked the student with a frown on his face, to leave the room.
- B. The teacher asked with a frown on his face the student to leave the room.
- C. With a frown on his face, the teacher asked the student to leave the room.
- D. The teacher asked the student to leave the room with a frown on his face.

ANS: C