

## Reading

### Practice Set 1

Directions: Read the passage. Give yourself 20 minutes to complete this practice set.

#### **The Rise of Teotihuacán**

1. The city of Teotihuacán, which lay about 50 kilometers northeast of modern-day Mexico City, began its growth by 200 –100 B.C. At its height, between about A.D. 150 and 700, it probably had a population of more than 125,000 people and covered at least 20 square kilometers. It had over 2,000 apartment complexes, a great market, a large number of industrial workshops, an administrative center, a number of massive religious edifices, and a regular grid pattern of streets and buildings. Clearly, much planning and central control were involved in the expansion and ordering of this great metropolis. Moreover, the city had economic and perhaps religious contacts with most parts of Mesoamerica (modern Central America and Mexico).
2. How did this tremendous development take place, and why did it happen in the Teotihuacán Valley? Among the main factors are Teotihuacán's geographic location on a natural trade route to the south and east of the Valley of Mexico, the obsidian<sup>1</sup> resources in the Teotihuacán Valley itself, and the valley's potential for extensive irrigation. The exact role of other factors is much more difficult to pinpoint—for instance, Teotihuacán's religious significance as a shrine, the historical situation in and around the Valley of Mexico toward the end of the first millennium B.C., the ingenuity and foresightedness of Teotihuacán's elite, and, finally, the impact of natural disasters, such as the volcanic eruptions of the late first millennium B.C.
3. This last factor is at least circumstantially implicated in Teotihuacán's rise. Prior to 200 B.C., a number of relatively small centers coexisted in and near the Valley of Mexico. Around this time, the largest of these centers, Cuicuilco, was seriously affected by a volcanic eruption, with much of its agricultural land covered by lava. With Cuicuilco eliminated as a potential rival, any one of a number of relatively modest towns might have emerged as a leading economic and political power in Central Mexico. The archaeological evidence clearly indicates, though, that Teotihuacán was the center that did arise as the predominant force in the area by the first century A.D.
4. It seems likely that Teotihuacán's natural resources—along with the city elite's ability to recognize their potential—gave the city a competitive edge over its neighbors. The valley, like many other places in Mexican and Guatemalan highlands, was rich in obsidian. The hard volcanic stone was a resource that had been in great demand for

many years, at least since the rise of the Olmecs (a people who flourished between 1200 and 400 B.C.), and it apparently had a secure market. Moreover, recent research on obsidian tools found at Olmec sites has shown that some of the obsidian obtained by the Olmecs originate near Teotihuacán. Teotihuacán obsidian must have been recognized as a valuable commodity for many centuries before the great city arose.

5. Long-distance trade in obsidian probably gave the elite residents of Teotihuacán access to a wide variety of exotic goods, as well as a relatively prosperous life. Such success may have attracted immigrants to Teotihuacán. In addition, Teotihuacán's elite may have consciously attempted to attract new inhabitants. It is also probable that as early as 200 B.C. Teotihuacán may have achieved some religious significance and its shrine (or shrines) may have served as an additional population magnet. Finally, the growing population was probably fed by increasing the number and size of irrigated fields.
6. The picture of Teotihuacán that emerges is a classic picture of positive feedback among obsidian mining and working, trade, population growth, irrigation, and religious tourism. The thriving obsidian operation, for example, would necessitate more miners, additional manufacturers of obsidian tools, and additional traders to carry the goods to new markets. All this led to increased wealth, which in turn would attract more immigrants to Teotihuacán. The growing power of the elite, who controlled the economy, would give them the means to physically coerce people to move to Teotihuacán and serve as additions to the labor force. More irrigation works would have to be built to feed the growing population, and this resulted in more power and wealth for the elite.

Note : obsidian- a type of volcanic glasslike rock used for manufacturing tools and ceremonial objects

**Directions:** Answer the questions.

1. In paragraph 1, each of the following is mentioned as a feature of the city of Teotihuacán between A.D. 150 and 700 EXCEPT:
  - A.regularly arranged streets
  - B.several administrative centers spread across the city
  - C.many manufacturing workshops
  - D.apartment complexes
2. The word "ingenuity" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to:
  - A.ambition
  - B.sincerity
  - C.faith
  - D.cleverness
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in paragraph 2 as a main factor in the development of Teotihuacán?
  - A.The presence of obsidian in the Teotihuacán Valley
  - B.The potential for extensive irrigation of Teotihuacán Valley lands
  - C.A long period of volcanic inactivity in the Teotihuacán Valley

- D. Teotihuacán's location on a natural trade route
4. What can be inferred from paragraph 3 about Cuicuilco prior to 200 B.C.?
- A. It was a fairly small city until that date.
  - B. It was located outside the Valley of Mexico.
  - C. It emerged rapidly as an economical and political center.
  - D. Its economy relied heavily on agriculture.
5. Which of the following allowed Teotihuacán to have "a competitive edge over its neighbors"?
- A. A well-exploited and readily available commodity
  - B. The presence of a highly stable elite class
  - C. Knowledge derived directly from the Olmecs about the art of toolmaking
  - D. Scarce natural resources in nearby areas such as those located in what are now the Guatemalan and Mexican highlands
6. According to paragraph 4, what has recent research on obsidian tools found at Olmec sites shown?
- A. Obsidian's value was understood only when Teotihuacán became an important city.
  - B. The residents of Teotihuacán were sophisticated toolmakers.
  - C. The residents of Teotihuacán traded obsidian with the Olmecs as early as 400 B.C.
  - D. Some of the obsidian used by the Olmecs came from the area around Teotihuacán.
7. Select the TWO answer choices that are mentioned in paragraph 5 as being features of Teotihuacán that may have attracted immigrants to the city. **To receive credit, you must select TWO answers.**
- A. The prosperity of the elite
  - B. Plenty of available housing
  - C. Opportunities for well-paid agricultural employment
  - D. The presence of one or more religious shrines
8. In paragraph 6, the author discusses "The thriving obsidian operation," in order to:
- A. explain why manufacturing was the main industry of Teotihuacán
  - B. give an example of an industry that took very little time to develop in Teotihuacán
  - C. illustrate how several factors influenced each other to make Teotihuacán a powerful and wealthy city
  - D. explain how a successful industry can be a source of wealth and a source of conflict at the same time

9. In paragraph 1 of the passage, there is a missing sentence. The paragraph is repeated below and shows four letters (A, B, C, and D) that indicate where the following sentence could be added.

In fact, artifacts and pottery from Teotihuacán have been discovered in sites as faraway as the Mayan lowlands, the Guatemalan highlands, northern Mexico, and the Gulf Coast of Mexico.

**Where would the sentence best fit?**

(A) The city of Teotihuacán, which lay about 50 kilometers northeast of modern-day Mexico City, began its growth by 200 –100 B.C. At its height, between about A.D. 150 and 700, it probably had a population of more than 125,000 people and covered at least 20 square kilometers.

(B) It had over 2,000 apartment complexes, a great market, a large number of industrial workshops, an administrative center, a number of massive religious edifices, and a regular grid pattern of streets and buildings.

(C) Clearly, much planning and central control were involved in the expansion and ordering of this great metropolis.

(D) Moreover, the city had economic and perhaps religious contacts with most parts of Mesoamerica (modern Central America and Mexico).

- A. Option A
- B. Option B
- C. Option C
- D. Option D

10. **Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by **selecting the THREE answer choices** that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. **This question is worth 2 points.**

A. The number and sophistication of the architectural, administrative, commercial, and religious features of Teotihuacán indicate the existence of centralized planning and control.

B. Teotihuacán may have developed its own specific local religion as a result of the cultural advances made possible by the city's great prosperity.

C. Several factors may account for Teotihuacán's extraordinary development, including its location, rich natural resources,

irrigation potential, intelligent elite, and the misfortune of rival communities.

D.As a result of its large number of religious shrines, by the first century A.D., Teotihuacán became the most influential religious center in all of Mesoamerica.

E.In many important areas, from the obsidian industry to religious tourism, Teotihuacán's success and prosperity typified the classic positive feedback cycle.

F.Although many immigrants settled in Teotihuacán between A.D. 150 and 700, the increasing threat of coerced labor discouraged further settlement and limited Teotihuacán's population growth.

## Practice Set 2

[1] In the southeastern Pacific Ocean, on the piece of land known as Easter Island (now a territory of Chile), stand several hundred massive stone monoliths. These carvings, called “moai,” are recognizable by their oversized heads, with their heavy brows, long noses, elongated ears, and protruding lips. While they average four meters in height and 12.5 tonnes, the largest is almost 10 meters tall and the heaviest weighs a full 86 tons. The upright sculptures are scattered around Easter Island, many installed on platforms called “ahu” along the coast, while others are more inland and several stand near the main volcanic quarry of Rano Raraku. The Rapa Nui people of the island built a total of 887 of these impressive statues between the 12th and 16th centuries. They were, it is said, symbols of religious and political authority, **embodiments** of powerful chiefs or ancestors which faced inland toward the island’s villages, perhaps watching over their creators, keeping them safe.

[2] **While the very creation of such monoliths – most out of volcanic ash with stone hand chisels – is an impressive feat, what is more remarkable (not to mention mysterious) is how they were transported to their resting places.** In the past, most researchers associated the building and transportation of the moai with widespread deforestation on the island and eventual collapse of the Rapa Nui civilization. This hypothesis is based, in part, on the fact that the pollen record suddenly disappears at the same time as the Rapa Nui people stopped constructing the moai and transporting them with the help of wooden logs. How exactly would logs facilitate the movement of the statues? Most proponents of this method believe that the people created “rollers” by arranging parallel logs on which the prone statues were pulled, or pushed. **They** would not have required an entire roadway of logs, since logs from the back could be placed at the front, creating a moving platform of sorts. To make it easier to roll, and keep in position, the statue would be placed on two logs arranged in a V shape.

[3] One proponent of this idea of rolling the statues in a prone position is Jo Anne Van Tilburg, of UCLA. Van Tilburg created sophisticated computer models that took into account available materials, routes, rock, and manpower, even factoring in how much the workers would have to have eaten. Her models supported the idea that rolling prone statues was the most efficient method. As further evidence, Van Tilburg oversaw the movement of a moai replica by the method she had proposed. They were successful, but evidence that it was possible is not necessarily evidence that it actually happened.

[4] Van Tilburg was not the only one to have experimented with rolling the statues. In the 1980s, archaeologist Charles Love experimented with rolling the moai in an upright position, rather than prone, on two wooden runners. Indeed, a team of just 25 men was able to move the statue a distance of 150 feet in a mere two minutes. However, the route from the stone quarries where the statues were built to the coast where they were installed was often uneven, and Love's experiments were **hampered** by the tendency of the statues to tip over. While Love's ideas were dismissed by many, the idea of the statues tipping over along the route was consistent with the many moai found on their sides or faces beside the island's ancient roads. And local legend held that the statues "walked" to their destinations, which would seem to support an upright mode of transportation. In fact, rolling was not the only possible way of transporting the moai in an upright position.

[5] In the 1980s, Pavel Pavel and Thor Heyerdahl had experimented with swiveling the statues forward. With one rope tied around the head and another around the base, they were able to move a five-ton moai with only eight people, and a nine-ton statue with 16. However, they abandoned their efforts when their technique proved too damaging; as they shuffled the statues forward, the bases were chipped away. This confounding factor led most to believe that an upright, rope-assisted walking method was incorrect.

[6] But many now believe that they were, in fact, transported upright. In 2012, Carl Lipo of California State University Long Beach and Terry Hunt of the University of Hawaii teamed up with archaeologist Sergio Rapu to refine the upright walking idea. They found that the statues that appeared to be **abandoned** in transit had bases with a curved front edge. This meant they would naturally topple forward and would need to be modified once they reached their destinations. But that curved edge also meant that they could easily be rocked forward using a small team of people and three ropes attached to the head. Indeed, their experiments demonstrated the feasibility of this method, and their theory has gained traction.

### **Question 1**

Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

While the very creation of such monoliths – most out of volcanic ash with stone hand chisels – is an impressive feat, what is more remarkable (not to mention mysterious) is how they were transported to their resting places.

The transportation of the moai is both remarkable and mysterious, but not as impressive as the actual creation of the statues.

The moai were carved with stone hand chisels, which is an impressive accomplishment, but it is still unknown whether the people actually transported them.

The creation of the moai is amazing, but not as amazing as how they were transported.

Options :

- The transportation of the moai is both remarkable and mysterious, but not as impressive as the actual creation of the statues.**
- The moai were carved with stone hand chisels, which is an impressive accomplishment, but it is still unknown whether the people actually transported them.**
- The creation of the moai is amazing, but not as amazing as how they were transported.**
- The transportation of the moai is remarkable, mysterious, and as impressive as their creation with simple hand tools.**

## Question 2

In paragraph 2, what does the author say about past theories of how the moai were transported from quarries to their resting places?

Options :

- The theories claimed that that use of natural resources for transporting moai had devastating effects on the land and society.
- The theories relied on evidence of log roadways that remained long after the Rapa Nui people had disappeared.
- The theories were supported by oral accounts of the use of wood by the Rapa Nui peoples at the time the moai were constructed and transported.
- The theories were based on inaccurate estimates of the amount of wood required to transport moai over long distances.

### Question 3

3. The word 'they' in paragraph 2 refers to:

- proponents.
- the people.
- rollers.
- statues.

### Question 4

Why does the author mention “sophisticated computer models” developed by Jo Anne Van Tilburg in paragraph 3?



- to emphasize the difficulty of theorizing about the activities of people in the remote past
- to demonstrate that Van Tilburg's hypothesis appeared to be supported by evidence
- to cast doubt on theories that relied more on experimentation than on effective digital modelling
- to show how archaeology can apply modern tools to ancient mysteries

### Question 5

Examine the four in the selection below and indicate at which block the following sentence could be inserted into the passage:

**Here data appeared to demonstrate that an average-sized moai could be moved approximately 10 kilometers in 4.7 days with a team of 70 people.**

[A] One proponent of this idea of rolling the statues in a prone position is Jo Anne Van Tilburg, of UCLA.

[B] Van Tilburg created sophisticated computer models that took into account available materials, routes, rock, and manpower, even factoring in how much the workers would have to have eaten. Her models supported the idea that rolling the statues was the most efficient method.

[C] As further evidence, Van Tilburg oversaw the movement of a moai replica by the method she had proposed.

[D] They were successful, but evidence that it was possible is not necessarily evidence that it actually happened.

Options :

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. D

### Question -6

In paragraph 3, what does the author NOT suggest about Jo Anne Van Tilburg's hypothesis concerning the method of transporting the moai?

- The use of computer modelling provides evidence that rolling statues on logs would have been a very efficient method of transportation.
- It was supported by successful attempts at replicating how the Rapa Nui people may have rolled the statues on logs.
- It provides conclusive evidence that the Rapa Nui people used log-rolling techniques to move the moai.
- With all the variables taken into account, there still wasn't enough to provide reasonable justification for the log-rolling method.

**Question -7**

7 What can be inferred from paragraph 6 about the statues found at their eventual resting places?

- They showed signs of having been tipped over on their sides at some point in transit.
- The people intended for them to be located elsewhere but were constrained by their transportation methods.
- Many were, in fact, created where they were installed rather than at the quarries that were originally assumed to be the place of creation.
- They did not have curved front edges.

**Question 8**

8. The word 'abandoned' in paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to:

- damaged
- tipped
- left
- altered

**Question 9**

Which of the following methods of transportation does the author say is supported by the most compelling evidence?

- The rolling of moai in an upright position on logs.
- The shuffling of moai with ropes tied to the head and base.
- The rolling of moai in a prone position.
- The rocking of moai with ropes tied to the head.

**Question 10**

**Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. **This question is worth 2 points.**

There are several competing theories that attempt to explain how the large moai statues of Easter Island were transported to various locations on the island.

## Speaking

### Independent Speaking Practice (Explain a Choice): Question

**Directions:** You will now be asked to give your opinion about a familiar topic. Give yourself 15 seconds to prepare your response. Then record yourself speaking for 45 seconds.

Preparation Time: 15 seconds

Response Time: 45 seconds

### Practice Set 1

**Some people enjoy taking risks and trying new things. Others are not adventurous; they are cautious and prefer to avoid danger. Which behavior do you think is better?**

**Explain why.**

### Practice Set 2

**Question:**

**Should schools engage in character education to instill morals and values in children?**

## Practice Set 3

Many people think that students study course materials more effectively by taking exams, while others think that students learn more effectively through doing other activities like completing projects, which one do you think is more effective?

## Writing

### Practice Set 1 (Integrated)

#### Passage, Lecture and Question

**Directions:** Give yourself 3 minutes to read the passage.

Reading Time: 3 minutes

In an effort to encourage ecologically sustainable forestry practices, an international organization started issuing certifications to wood companies that meet high ecological standards by conserving resources and recycling materials. Companies that receive this certification can attract customers by advertising their products as "eco certified." Around the world, many wood companies have adopted new, ecologically friendly practices in order to receive eco certification. However, it is unlikely that wood companies in the United States will do the same, for several reasons.

**First**, American consumers are exposed to so much advertising that they would not value or even pay attention to the eco certification label. Because so many mediocre products are labeled "new" or "improved," American consumers do not place much trust in advertising claims in general.

**Second**, eco certified wood will be more expensive than uncertified wood because in order to earn eco certification, a wood company must pay to have its business examined by a certification agency. This additional cost gets passed on to consumers. American consumers tend to be strongly motivated by price, and therefore they are likely to choose cheaper uncertified wood products. Accordingly, American wood companies will prefer to keep their prices low rather than obtain eco certification.

**Third**, although some people claim that it always makes good business sense for American companies to keep up with the developments in the rest of the world, this argument is not convincing. Pursuing certification would make sense for American wood companies only if they marketed most of their products abroad. But that is not the case—American wood businesses sell most of their products in the United States, catering to a very large customer base that is satisfied with the merchandise.

**Directions:** Read the transcript.

**Narrator:** Now listen to part of a lecture on the topic you just read about.

**Professor** Well, despite what many people say, there's good reason to think that many American wood companies will eventually seek eco certification for their wood products. **First** off, consumers in the United States don't treat all advertising the same. They distinguish between advertising claims that companies make about their own products and claims made by independent certification agencies. Americans have a lot of confidence in independent consumer agencies. Thus, ecologically minded Americans are likely to react very favorably to wood products ecologically certified by an independent organization with an international reputation for trustworthiness.

**Second** point—of course it's true that American consumers care a lot about price—who doesn't? But studies of how consumers make decisions show that price alone determines consumers' decisions only when the price of one competing product is much higher or lower than another. When the price difference between two products is small—say, less than five percent, as is the case with certified wood—Americans often choose on factors other than price. And Americans are becoming increasingly convinced of the value of preserving and protecting the environment.

And **third**, U.S. wood companies should definitely pay attention to what's going on in the wood business internationally, not because of foreign consumers, but because of foreign competition. As I just told you, there's a good chance that many American consumers will be interested in eco certified products. And guess what, if American companies are slow capturing those customers, you can be sure that foreign companies will soon start crowding into the American market, offering eco certified wood that domestic companies don't.

**Directions:** Give yourself 20 minutes to plan and write your response. Your response is judged on the quality of the writing and on how well it presents the points in the lecture and their relationship to the reading passage. Typically, an effective response will be 150 to 225 words. You may view the reading passage while you respond.

**Response time:** 20 minutes

**Question:** Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.

## Practice Set 2

Sea otters are a small mammal that lives in the waters along North America's west coast from California to Alaska. A few years ago some of the sea otter populations off of the Alaskan coast started to decline rapidly and raised several concerns because of their important role in the coastal ecosystem. Experts began investigating and came up with two possible explanations. One explanation was environmental pollution and the second was attacks by predators. At first it seemed as if the pollution was the most likely cause for the population decline. One reason pollution was more likely was because of the known pollution sources along the Alaskan

coast such as oil rigs. Also water samples taken in the area showed increased levels of chemicals that could decrease the otters' immune systems and indirectly result in their deaths. Another thing that pointed to pollution as the culprit was the decline of other sea mammals such as seals in the same areas. This indicated that whatever was affecting the otters was also affecting the other sea mammals. Environmental pollution usually affects an entire ecosystem instead of just one species. Only predators that occurred in a large area, such as orcas (a large predatory whale), could cause the same effect, but they usually hunt larger prey. Finally, scientists believed the pollution hypothesis would also explain the uneven pattern of otter decline. In some Alaskan locations the otter population declined greatly while other populations remained stable. Some experts suggested this could be explained by ocean currents, or other environmental factors, that might have created uneven concentrations of pollutants along the coast.

**Question:** Summarize the point made in the lecture and explain how the speaker cast doubt on specific points made in the reading passage.