

TOEFL Integrated Writing Practice Test 13

Question 1

Several of the rocks which make up Stonehenge, one of England's most famous historical sites, have been found to come from a nearby quarry in Salisbury, around 25 miles away from the site. These could have been transported by men using sleds or other rudimentary tools. Others, however, have been traced to another location in Wales, almost 200 miles away.

So, how did those rocks, called bluestones, make the long and arduous journey? It is unlikely that the prevailing theory is true; namely, that these bluestones were transported from one location to the other. The technology of the time would have made this back-breaking work, and it is unlikely that they would have gone to so much trouble, when they could simply have used rocks of a different type found closer to the site.

A new and exciting theory is called glacial erratics. This theory states that the rocks were, in fact, transported to the area far earlier by glacial movements during an icier interval in the Earth's climate, and not instead by a phantom brigade of men.

Such erratics are widely known; we tend to think of the Earth's climate as calm and tranquil, but on a historical basis, there have been several hundred thousand years where half of the planet was covered in glaciers. These tend to be slow but violent in nature; calmly and methodically carving their way through rock and earth.

Over many thousand years, it's entirely possible that these glacial erratics transported the requisite materials to the site, thus solving the conundrum of how they came to be used in a field near Salisbury. It might also explain the unfinished-looking nature of Stonehenge itself; the interior part of it looks as though it's missing a few pieces. Perhaps there were no more bluestones to use.

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

Question 2

Supply side economics is an economic theory which states that the best way to run an economy is by lowering taxes and cutting regulations, thereby removing barriers to business

and stimulating growth by putting more money into the hands of both businesses and consumers.

While the theory has its detractors, they cannot deny the benefits of this approach. During the 1980s, both Great Britain and the United States pursued this approach with great success. The economies of both countries grew exponentially during this period, and unemployment fell to near record levels.

In the United States, taxes were cut from a high of 50% in the early eighties to nearly 30% in the late eighties, something which caused the GDP of the country to shoot up, and also created the conditions for the economic boom in the nineties. In the UK, too, the cut in taxes stimulated the British economy a great deal. Indeed, in the seventies, the British economy was known as the 'sick man of Europe', due to anemic growth rates and high unemployment.

Many at the time theorized that the United Kingdom was in permanent and possibly terminal decline. With the reduction in taxes, the removal of burdensome regulations on businesses and the corresponding growth caused by these actions, it is fair to say that the country recovered its erstwhile reputation as a good place to do business.

Question: Summarize the main points in the lecture. Be sure to talk about how they cast doubt on the points raised in the text.

Question 3

In response to rising concerns over the global obesity epidemic, an international health body is lobbying for additional taxation on unhealthy food. Under such a policy, the producers of these junk foods, which typically are nutritionally-low with high fat and sugar content, would have to pay extra in order to sell them in supermarkets or serve them in restaurants. However, opponents believe it will not succeed in making the population healthier for a number of reasons.

Firstly, people should be allowed to eat whatever they like without being punished for their decisions. When people choose to eat unhealthy things, they are aware that these foods are unhealthy but feel that the enjoyment they get from eating it outweighs the long-term health costs. Additional taxation would therefore only prevent people from eating what they enjoy.

Secondly, taxation would increase the price of certain types of food, but this increase would not be enough to affect purchasing behaviour. If a meal or an item at the supermarket were

only one or two percent higher in price, it would be unlikely that consumers would even notice the tax. Ultimately it would simply mean these consumers would have less disposable income to spend on a more varied diet.

Lastly, it is not entirely evident that taxing junk food would result in people eating more healthy food. In this view, the problem is not the low price of less healthy food but the high price of healthier options. These would remain the same as before and these are what generally prevent consumers from purchasing them regularly. As a result, this policy does nothing to promote healthier food or cultivate more wholesome eating habits among the population.

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

Question 4

Reading: The sailor died of lead poisoning, which some people believe was the cause of canned food.

main points:

- Point 1: Although the canned food contains metallic lead, the dosage is controlled during production, and the storage time of the food in the can is short, so the canned food should not cause it.
- Point 2: Other crew members would also eat this canned food at that time. It will not be the only poisoning case if it is really because of canned food.
- Point 3: They have a water purification system, all water is clean, so food cannot be caused.

Listening to lecture (oppose specific points:)

- Point 1: Although the storage time is short, the food is inside cans.
- Point 2: The sailor has not undergone physical testing, and light poisoning is difficult to identify.
- Point 3: The seawater passing through the purifier cannot be used for drinking and cooking. Seawater is not suitable for human health, so the purifier is useless.

Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they oppose specific points made in the reading passage.

Question 5

Reading: Is the re-migration of rhinos useful?

Main points:

- Point 1: The process of re-migration is difficult and dangerous. There will be losses during the migration, which will affect the reproduction of rhinos;
- Point 2: If some older male rhinos are selected away, it will affect fertility; if the female rhinos and their children are separated, it will also have a negative impact;
- Point 3: The re-migration of rhinos does not affect poaching because they will still be caught by poachers no matter where they are because their horns are precious.

Listening to lecture (oppose specific points:)

- Point 1: Compared with the short-term danger during transportation, poaching in South Africa is more dangerous, and the death rate is not so high;
- Point 2: The executor of the plan will select rhinos very carefully so that the fertility of rhinos will not be affected, and there will be no hidden dangers;
- Point 3: The army will protect this plan. There is a large area that poachers will not easily find.

Summarize the points made in the lecture, being sure to explain how they oppose specific points made in the reading passage.