

## TOEFL Reading Practice Test 31

Read the following passage and answer the question

Greek mythology is a vehicle that uses mythological characters and creatures to teach people about the dangers, beauties and possible outcomes of life. In many myths, characters face moral dilemmas involving honor and practicality. The protagonists of epics face creatures that represent values and challenges such as respect, temptation and redemption. How has Greek mythology inevitably evolved with time and new story tellers? Scholars that have interpreted Greek mythology seek to maintain the universal values conveyed in these stories, while ensuring the validity of adapting these stories to their own distinct cultures. It is up to each reader to seek their own truths and learn from epic Greek mythology as best they can.

1. According to the author's description, which of the following is most likely to be a message from Greek mythology?
  - A. Love is difficult, but it will last if the lovers are meant to be together.
  - B. Resisting temptation and immediate gratification will lead to ultimate success.
  - C. It is important to keep track of your personal history.
  - D. Passing down Greek mythology has taken on a new form since oral records faded.
  - E. It is not the fastest, but the longest lasting that wins the race.
2. Which word best describes the author's account of Greek mythology?
  - A. idealistic
  - B. pessimistic
  - C. dubious
  - D. critical
  - E. Mysterious

Read the following passage and answer the question

Disequilibrium at the interface of water and air is a factor on which the transfer of heat and water vapor from the ocean to the air depends. The air within about a

millimeter of the water is almost saturated with water vapor and the temperature of the air is close to that of the surface water. Irrespective of how small these differences might be, they are crucial, and the disequilibrium is maintained by air near the surface mixing with air higher up, which is typically appreciably cooler and lower in water vapor content. The turbulence, which takes its energy from the wind mixes the air. As the speed of wind increases, so does the turbulence, and consequently the rate of heat and moisture transfer. We can arrive at a detailed understanding of this phenomenon after further study. The transfer of momentum from wind to water, which occurs when waves are formed is an interacting-and complicated phenomenon. When waves are made by the wind, it transfers important amounts of energy-energy, which is consequently not available for the production of turbulence.

1. This passage principally intends to:

- A. resolve a controversy
- B. attempt a description of a phenomenon
- C. sketch a theory
- D. reinforce certain research findings
- E. tabulate various observations

2. The wind over the ocean usually does which of the following according to the given passage?

- I. Leads to cool, dry air coming in proximity with the ocean surface.
- II. Maintains a steady rate of heat and moisture transfer between the ocean and the air.
- III. Results in frequent changes in the ocean surface temperature.

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. I and II only
- D. II and III only
- E. I, II, and III

Read the following passage and answer the question

Swimming has developed from a primal mode of movement to an advanced hobby and competitive sport. Exercising nearly every muscle group, swimming is a rigorous sport and requires intense training. In competitions swimmers typically contend for the fastest time to complete a certain distance by performing a specific swimming stroke. Also, swimmers work to build endurance and an ability to swim over long distances. Because swimming has developed into a highly intricate competitive sport, where one wrong technique can disqualify a participant, it is interesting to ponder how the sport will evolve for people in the future, either advancing into a progressive purpose or regressing to a primal mode of movement.

1. The structure of this passage could be best described in what way?
  - A. An activity narrowed to a specific purpose and expanded to consider future implications.
  - B. An activity narrowed to a specific purpose and expanded to consider future deviations.
  - C. A hypothesis tested against certain conditions, developed into a larger thesis.
  - D. An activity and its purposes are explained.
  - E. A supposition regarding the prospect of an activity, analyzed for viability
  
2. Which of the following situations would fulfill the author's prophecy for swimming?
  - A. Humans settling on the moon use swimming techniques to move through space.
  - B. Swimming remains a competitive Olympic sport.
  - C. Animals, including amphibians, begin to swim instinctively upon birth, as a dominant genetic trait.
  - D. People swim in home and community pools to relax and exercise.
  - E. Fish begin swimming at unprecedented speeds and extend the average life span.

