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Đề thi thật 1: Pacific navigation and voyaging

How people migrated to the Pacific islands

The many tiny islands of the Pacific Ocean had no human population until ancestors of today's islanders sailed from Southeast Asia in ocean-going canoes approximately 2,000 years ago. At the present time, the debate continues about exactly how they migrated such vast distances across the ocean, without any of the modern technologies we take for granted.

Although the romantic vision of some early twentieth-century writers of fleets of heroic navigators simultaneously setting sail had come to be considered by later investigators to be exaggerated, no considered assessment of Pacific voyaging was forthcoming until 1956 when the American historian Andrew Sharp published his research. Sharp challenged the 'heroic vision' by asserting that the expertise of the navigators was limited, and that the settlement of the islands was not systematic, being more dependent on good fortune by drifting canoes. Sharp's theory was widely challenged, and deservedly so. If nothing else, however, it did spark renewed interest in the topic and precipitated valuable new research.

Since the 1960s a wealth of investigations has been conducted, and most of them, thankfully, have been of the 'non-armchair' variety. While it would be wrong to denigrate all 'armchair' research - that based on an examination of available published materials - it has turned out that so little progress had been made in the area of Pacific voyaging because most writers relied on the same old sources - travelers' journals or missionary narratives compiled by unskilled observers. After Sharp, this began to change, and researchers conducted most of their investigations not in libraries, but in the field.

In 1965, David Lewis, a physician and experienced yachtsman, set to work using his own unique philosophy: he took the yacht he had owned for many years and navigated through the islands in order to contact those men who still find their way at sea using traditional methods. He then accompanied these men, in their traditional canoes, on test voyages from which all modern instruments were banished from sight, though Lewis secretly used them to confirm the navigator's calculations. His most famous such voyage was a return trip of around 1,000 nautical miles between two islands in mid-ocean. Far from drifting, as proposed by Sharp, Lewis found that ancient navigators would have known which course to steer by memorizing which stars rose and set in certain positions along the horizon and this gave them fixed directions by which to steer their boats.

Question 1-5

Do the following statements agree with the claims of the writer in Reading Passage?

In boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet, write

YES if the statement agrees with the claims of the writer

NO if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer

NOT GIVEN if is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

1 The Pacific islands were uninhabited when migrants arrived by sea from Southeast Asia

2 Andrew Sharp was the first person to write about the migrants to islanders

3 Andrew Sharp believed migratory voyages were based on more on luck than skill

4 Despite being controversial, Andrew Sharp's research had positive results

5 Edwin Doran disagreed with the findings of Lewis's research

The geographer Edwin Doran followed a quite different approach. He was interested in obtaining exact data on canoe sailing performance, and to that end employed the latest electronic instrumentation. Doran traveled on board traditional sailing canoes in some of the most remote parts of the Pacific, all the while using his instruments to record canoe speeds in different wind strengths - from gales to calms - the angle canoes could sail relative to the wind. In the process, he provided the first really precise attributes of traditional sailing canoes.

A further contribution was made by Steven Horvath. As a physiologist, Horvath's interest was not in navigation techniques or in canoes, but in the physical capabilities of the men themselves. By adapting standard physiological techniques, Horvath was able to calculate the energy expenditure required to paddle canoes of this sort at times when there was no wind to fill the sails, or when the wind was contrary. He concluded that paddles, or perhaps long oars, could indeed have propelled for long distances what were primarily sailing vessels.

Finally, a team led by p Wall Garrard conducted important research, in this case by making investigations while remaining safely in the laboratory. Wall Garrard's unusual method was to use the findings of linguists who had studied the languages of the Pacific islands, many of which are remarkably similar although the islands where they are spoken are sometimes thousands of kilometres apart. Clever adaptation of computer simulation techniques pioneered in other disciplines allowed him to produce convincing models suggesting the migrations were indeed systematic, but not simultaneous. Wall Garrard proposed the migrations should be seen not as a single journey made by a massed fleet of canoes, but as a series of ever more ambitious voyages, each pushing further into the unknown ocean.

What do we learn about Pacific navigation and voyaging from this research? Quite correctly, none of the researchers tried to use their findings to prove one theory or another; experiments such as these cannot categorically confirm or negate a hypothesis. The strength of this research lay in the range of methodologies employed. When we splice together these findings we can propose that traditional navigators used a variety of canoe types, sources of water and navigation techniques, and it was this adaptability which was their greatest accomplishment. These navigators observed the conditions prevailing at sea at the time a voyage was made and altered their techniques accordingly. Furthermore, the canoes of the navigators were not drifting helplessly at sea but were most likely part of a systematic migration; as such, the Pacific peoples were able to view the ocean as an avenue, not a barrier, to communication before any other race on Earth. Finally, one unexpected but most welcome consequence of this research has been a renaissance in the practice of traditional voyaging. In some groups of islands in the Pacific today young people are resurrecting the skills of their ancestors, when a few decades ago it seemed they would be lost forever.

Questions 6-10

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

Write the correct letter in boxes 6-10 on your answer sheet.

6. David Lewis's research was different because

- *A he observed traditional navigators at work*
- *B he conducted test voyages using his own yacht*
- *C he carried no modern instruments on test voyages*
- *D he spoke the same language as the islanders he sailed with*

7. What did David Lewis's research discover about traditional navigators?

- *A They used the sun and moon to find their position*
- *B They could not sail further than about 1,000 nautical miles*
- *C They knew which direction they were sailing in*
- *D They were able to drift for long distances*

8. What are we told about Edwin Doran's research?

- *A Data were collected after the canoes had returned to land*
- *B Canoe characteristics were recorded using modern instruments*
- *C Research was conducted in the most densely populated regions*
- *D Navigators were not allowed to see the instruments Doran used*

9. Which of the following did Steven Horvath discover during his research?

- *A Canoe design was less important than human strength*
- *B New research methods had to be developed for use in canoes*
- *C Navigators became very tired on the longest voyages*
- *D Human energy may have been used to assist sailing canoes*

10. What is the writer's opinion of Wall Garrard's research?

- *A He is disappointed it was conducted in the laboratory*
- *B He is impressed by the originality of the techniques used*
- *C He is surprised it was used to help linguists with their research*
- *D He is concerned that the islands studied are long distances apart*

Questions 11-14

Complete each sentence with the correct ending, A-F, below.

Write the correct letter, A-F, in boxes 11-14 on your answer sheet.

11 One limitation in the information produced by all of this research is that it

12 The best thing about this type of research

13 The most important achievement of traditional navigators

14 The migration of people from Asia to the Pacific

A was the variety of experimental techniques used

B was not of interest to young islanders today

C was not conclusive evidence in support of a single theory

D was being able to change their practices when necessary

E was the first time humans intentionally crossed an ocean

F was the speed with which it was conducted

Đề thi thật 2: Research using twins

To biomedical researchers all over the world, twins offer a precious opportunity to untangle the influence of genes and the environment - of nature and nurture. Because identical twins come from a single fertilized egg that splits into two, they share virtually the same genetic code. Any differences between them - one twin having younger looking skin, for example - must be due to environmental factors such as less time spent in the sun.

Alternatively, by comparing the experiences of identical twins with those of fraternal twins, who come from separate eggs and share on average half their DNA, researchers can quantify the extent to which our genes affect our lives. If identical twins are more similar to each other with respect to an ailment than fraternal twins are, then vulnerability to the disease must be rooted at least in part in heredity.

These two lines of research - studying the differences between identical twins to pinpoint the influence of environment, and comparing identical twins with fraternal ones to measure the role of inheritance - have been crucial to understanding the interplay of nature and nurture in determining our personalities, behavior, and vulnerability to disease.

The idea of using twins to measure the influence of heredity dates back to 1875, when the English scientist Francis Galton first suggested the approach (and coined the phrase 'nature and nurture'). But twin studies took a surprising twist in the 1980s, with the arrival of studies into identical twins who had been separated at birth and reunited as adults. Over two decades 137 sets of twins eventually visited Thomas Bouchard's lab in what became known as the Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart. Numerous tests were carried out on the twins, and they were each asked more than 15,000 questions.

Bouchard and his colleagues used this mountain of data to identify how far twins were affected by their genetic makeup. The key to their approach was a statistical concept called heritability. in broad terms, the heritability of a trait measures the extent to which differences among members of a population can be explained by differences in their genetics. And wherever Bouchard and other scientists looked, it seemed, they found the invisible hand of genetic influence helping to shape our lives.

Lately, however, twin studies have helped lead scientists to a radical new conclusion: that nature and nurture are not the only elemental forces at work. According to a recent field called epigenetics, there is a third factor also in play, one that in some cases serves as a bridge between the environment and our genes, and in others operates on its own to shape who we are.

Questions 1-4

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage?

In boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN if there is no information on this

1. There may be genetic causes for the differences in how young the skin of identical twins looks.

2. Twins are at greater risk of developing certain illnesses than non-twins.

3. Bouchard advertised in newspapers for twins who had been separated at birth.

4. Epigenetic processes are different from both genetic and environmental processes.

Questions 5-9

Look at the following statements (Questions 5-9) and the list of researchers below.

Match each statement with the correct researcher, A, B or C.

Write the correct letter, A, B or C, in boxes 5-9 on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

List of Researchers

A. Francis Galton

B. Thomas Bouchard

C. Danielie Reed

5. invented a term used to distinguish two factors affecting human characteristics.....

6. expressed the view that the study of epigenetics will increase our knowledge.....

7. developed a mathematical method of measuring genetic influences.....

8. pioneered research into genetics using twins.....

9. carried out research into twins who had lived apart.....

Epigenetic processes are chemical reactions tied to neither nature nor nurture but representing what researchers have called a 'third component'. These reactions influence how our genetic code is expressed: how each gene is strengthened or weakened, even turned on or off, to build our bones, brains and all the other parts of our bodies.

If you think of our DNA as an immense piano keyboard and our genes as the keys - each key symbolizing a segment of DNA responsible for a particular note, or trait, and all the keys combining to make us who we are - then epigenetic processes determine when and how each key can be struck, changing the tune being played.

One way the study of epigenetics is revolutionizing our understanding of biology is by revealing a mechanism by which the environment directly impacts on genes. Studies of animals, for example, have shown that when a rat experiences stress during pregnancy, it can cause epigenetic changes in a fetus that lead to behavioral problems as the rodent grows up. Other epigenetic processes appear to occur randomly, while others are normal, such as those that guide embryonic cells as they become heart, brain, or liver cells, for example.

Geneticist Danielle Reed has worked with many twins over the years and thought deeply about what twin studies have taught us. 'It's very clear when you look at twins that much of what they share is hardwired,' she says. 'Many things about them are absolutely the same and unalterable. But it's also clear, when you get to know them, that other things about them are different. Epigenetics is the origin of a lot of those differences, in my view.'

Reed credits Thomas Bouchard's work for today's surge in twin studies. 'He was the trailblazer,' she says. 'We forget that 50 years ago things like heart disease were thought to be caused entirely by lifestyle. Schizophrenia was thought to be due to poor mothering. Twin studies have allowed us to be more reflective about what people are actually born with and what's caused by experience.'

Having said that, Reed adds, the latest work in epigenetics promises to take our understanding even further. 'What I like to say is that nature writes some things in pencil and some things in pen,' she says. 'Things written in pen you can't change. That's DNA. But things written in pencil you can. That's epigenetics. Now that we're actually able to look at the DNA and see where the pencil writings are, it's sort of a whole new world.'

Questions 10-13

Complete the summary using the list of words, A-F, below.

Write the correct letter, A-F, in boxes 10-13 on your answer sheet.

A. nurture

B. organs

C. code

D. chemicals

E. environment

F. behaviour

In epigenetic processes, 10..... influence the activity of our genes, for example in creating our internal 11..... .The study of epigenetic processes is uncovering a way in which our genes can be affected by our 12..... . One example is that if a pregnant rat suffers stress, the new-born rat may later show problems in its 13.....

Đề thi thật 3: The Role of Mothers in the Origins of Music

A leading researcher has proposed that the key to understanding the origin of music is in the playful language used between mother and child.

A. In a recent lecture Richard Parncutt, a professor of systematic musicology at the University of Graz, Austria, discussed the idea that music originated from 'motherese' - the playful voices mothers adopt when speaking to infants and toddlers. According to the theory, evolutionary growth in human brain size between one and two million years ago led to earlier births, more fragile infants, and a vital need for stronger bonds between mothers and their newborns. According to Parncutt, 'motherese' arose as a way to strengthen this maternal bond and to help infants survive. 'If babies were born earlier, it is clear they would need better care in order to survive... this would involve the baby communicating its state and needs more clearly to the mother,' he says. Parncutt adds that this makes it very likely that motherese developed as an evolutionary adaptation, and that there is a large body of contemporary empirical evidence supporting the musical characteristics of motherese.

B. Although it might appear amusing - or even nonsensical - at first glance, 'motherese' is actually a complex and refined form of communication. It contains structural musical elements such as rhythm and melody, and codes that babies and mothers understand. It also contains cross-cultural similarities with regard to the physical gestures and movements it incorporates - an important consideration when examining the origin of music. 'The sonic-gestural vocabulary conveys to both mother and infant information about the present physical and emotional condition of each, along with the current nature of interaction between them,' states Parncutt. 'Here, emotions such as surprise and disappointment are learned for the first time in a social and musical context. It is about survival in that it motivates the mother to care for the infant and gives her information about the infant's needs.' For example, mothers can understand when their babies are tired or hungry. Motherese also helps infants to acquire language.

Questions 14-19

Reading Passage 2 has six paragraphs, A-E.

Choose the correct heading for each paragraph from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number, i-ix, in boxes 14-19 on your answer sheet.

List of Headings

i. A universal explanation for music's nature

ii. The first sounds a baby hears

iii. A biological change that created a need

iv. Comparing the motherese theory to other ideas

v. A sophisticated form of musical communication

vi. A system for evaluating different theories

vii. The role of fathers in infant development

viii. The initial proposal of a maternal source for music

ix. Music as a tool for social cooperation

1. *Paragraph A*
2. *Paragraph B*
3. *Paragraph C*
4. *Paragraph D*
5. *Paragraph E*

C. Parncutt explains that a fetus begins hearing nearly four months before birth, as it regularly hears its mother's voice, heartbeat, and digestive sounds - all of which provide information about its mother's emotional state. After birth, the baby recognises these sound patterns and its mother's correlating mood. Gary McPherson, head of the University of Melbourne's School of Music, reiterates the importance of this prenatal association, saying that music is the very first form of intelligence to reveal itself - even before birth.

D. However, there are several competing theories about the origins of music. Parncutt developed a grading system to assess these theories, the objective being to measure their validity against a set of criteria which he called 'universal aspects of music'. Some theories suggest music originated as a form of sexual selection, similar to a peacock's tail, used to attract mates. Others propose it evolved to enhance social cohesion and cooperation within larger groups, or that it was a byproduct of other evolutionary adaptations with no specific survival purpose of its own. Parncutt's system graded each theory based on its ability to explain music's emotional power, its presence in all known cultures, and its apparent lack of a direct survival function compared to language.

E. When evaluated against these criteria, Parncutt argues that the motherese theory provides the most comprehensive explanation. It accounts for the deep emotional connection inherent in music by linking it to the primal bond between mother and child. Furthermore, because caregiving for infants is a human universal, the theory naturally explains why music is found in all cultures around the world. The playful, non-utilitarian nature of motherese also mirrors the aesthetic and seemingly non-functional aspects of music itself, addressing the question of why music exists beyond strict survival needs.

Questions 20-22

Complete the sentences below.

Choose NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 20-22 on your answer sheet.

20. *Parncutt suggests that the growth of the human brain resulted in babies being born .....*
21. *Motherese is considered a type of evolutionary .....*
22. *According to Gary McPherson, musical intelligence is present even .....*

Questions 23-26

Complete the summary using the list of words, A-H, below.

Write the correct letter, A-H, in boxes 23-26 on your answer sheet.

Parncutt's Evaluation of Competing Theories

Parncutt created a grading system to assess different theories of music's origin based on universal aspects of music. Some competing theories propose that music functioned as a mechanism for 23....., or that it was useful for building 24..... within communities. Parncutt's own theory, centred on motherese, received a high grade because it explains music's 25..... connection and its presence across all cultures. It also aligns with music's 26..... quality, which resembles the playful interaction between a mother and her infant.

A. emotionalB. social cohesionC. sexual selectionD. survival function

E. aesthetic

F. universal

G. prenatal

H. rhythmic