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Passage 1

Source: National Geographic

Anthropogenic climate change poses a profound threat to coral reef ecosystems across the globe. These vibrant underwater structures, often referred to as the “rainforests of the sea,” are among the most biologically diverse and ecologically significant habitats on Earth. Yet, they are increasingly vulnerable to rising ocean temperatures, acidification, and extreme weather events—all consequences of a warming planet.

A team of researchers led by Dr. Kim Cobb has undertaken a project to study coral reefs on remote, uninhabited islands in the central tropical Pacific. These locations—Malden, Starbuck, and Filippo—are ideal for isolating the effects of climate change, as they are largely untouched by direct human activity. By extracting long coral cores and analyzing their chemical composition, the team aims to reconstruct a monthly climate record spanning the past 50 to 100 years. This data could illuminate patterns in temperature and rainfall that influence global phenomena such as the Indian monsoon, Atlantic hurricane activity, and droughts in the western United States.

Coral skeletons, much like tree rings, contain chemical signatures that reflect the environmental conditions in which they formed. Variations in isotopic ratios and trace elements can reveal fluctuations in sea surface temperatures and precipitation. These insights are critical for improving regional climate models and forecasting future climate behavior with greater precision.

However, the urgency of this research cannot be overstated. Coral reefs are degrading at an alarming rate. Bleaching events—caused by prolonged thermal stress—are becoming more frequent and severe. When corals expel the symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) that provide them with nutrients and color,

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they become pale and vulnerable. If stressful conditions persist, the corals die, leading to the collapse of entire reef ecosystems.

The expedition is not merely scientific; it is also a race against time. The large, healthy coral colonies required for this research may not exist in the near future. As climate change accelerates, the window for collecting meaningful data narrows. The findings from this study may not only enhance our understanding of past climate variability but also inform urgent conservation strategies for preserving what remains of these fragile marine environments.

1. **What is the function of the comparison between coral skeletons and tree rings in the third paragraph?**
 - A. To emphasize the aesthetic similarities between terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
 - B. To illustrate how coral cores can serve as chronological records of environmental change.
 - C. To suggest that coral reefs are more resilient than previously believed.
 - D. To argue that tree-ring analysis is more reliable than coral data for climate studies.
2. **Which of the following best summarizes the passage?**
 - A. Coral reefs are resilient ecosystems that can adapt to climate change if left undisturbed by humans.
 - B. A scientific expedition is studying remote coral reefs to reconstruct historical climate data and inform future conservation efforts.
 - C. Coral bleaching is a natural process that occurs periodically and has minimal long-term impact.
 - D. The primary goal of the research is to develop new coral species that are resistant to thermal stress.
3. **What does the word “anthropogenic” most likely mean in the context of the first sentence?**
 - A. Naturally occurring
 - B. Caused by human activity

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- C. Related to marine biology
- D. Unpredictable or random
4. **Which of the following details is explicitly stated in the passage?**
- A. Coral reefs near urban coastlines are more resilient than those in remote areas.
- B. The research team is using satellite data to monitor coral bleaching in real time.
- C. Coral bleaching occurs when corals expel algae due to prolonged heat stress.
- D. The expedition is funded by the United Nations Climate Panel.
5. **Which of the following best reflects the author's perspective on the urgency of the research?**
- A. The study is important but can be replicated in the future if necessary.
- B. The research is primarily academic and unlikely to influence policy.
- C. The expedition is time-sensitive due to the rapid degradation of coral reefs.
- D. The team's findings are speculative and not expected to yield actionable insights.

Passage 2

Source: The Giver by Lois Lowry

The community was so meticulously ordered, the choices so carefully made. Every aspect of life—from occupation to family unit—was determined by the Committee of Elders. Jonas had never questioned this structure until he was selected to be the Receiver of Memory. The role was mysterious, revered, and isolating. It required him to inherit the collective memories of the world before Sameness—before the community had eradicated pain, color, and choice.

As Jonas began receiving memories from the Giver, he experienced sensations that were foreign and overwhelming. He felt snow and sunshine, hunger and war. These memories, though painful, were also beautiful. They revealed a world rich in emotion and complexity, a world that had been sacrificed for the sake of stability and predictability.

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The more Jonas learned, the more he began to question the ethics of his society. Was it right to eliminate suffering if it also meant eliminating love? Could true happiness exist without the possibility of sorrow? The community's decision to suppress memory had created a population incapable of empathy, unable to understand the depth of human experience.

Jonas's transformation was not merely intellectual—it was existential. He began to see the world differently, to feel differently, to yearn for something beyond the sterile harmony of his surroundings. The burden of memory became a catalyst for rebellion, for the desire to restore what had been lost. In the end, Jonas understood that memory was not just a repository of the past—it was the foundation of identity, the source of meaning, and the key to freedom

1. **Which of the following statements would the author most likely agree with?**
 - A. Societal stability is best achieved through the suppression of emotional complexity and historical memory.
 - B. Painful memories should be avoided to ensure psychological well-being in structured communities.
 - C. The Receiver of Memory should be chosen based on emotional detachment and intellectual neutrality.
 - D. The preservation of memory is essential to understanding human identity and fostering empathy.
2. **Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?**
 - A. "The Ethics of Control: Jonas and the Elders"
 - B. "Sameness and Stability in Utopian Societies"
 - C. "The Receiver's Burden: Memory and Rebellion"
 - D. "The Giver's Legacy: A Study in Emotional Suppression"
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Detached and clinical, presenting a neutral account of societal structure.
 - B. Reflective and critical, exploring the emotional and ethical implications of memory

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suppression.

C. Celebratory and nostalgic, longing for a return to traditional values.

D. Cautiously optimistic, suggesting that Jonas's society may evolve toward greater freedom.

4. **Which of the following details is explicitly stated in the passage?**

A. Jonas's community eliminated color and choice to prevent conflict and inequality.

B. The Giver is a symbolic figure representing the dangers of historical knowledge.

C. Jonas's exposure to memories led him to question the morality of his society's structure.

D. The Committee of Elders was overthrown after Jonas shared the memories with the public.

5. **What is the primary purpose of the passage?**

A. To argue for the psychological benefits of emotional suppression in utopian societies.

B. To narrate Jonas's personal journey from conformity to awareness through the lens of memory.

C. To describe the technical process of memory transmission in dystopian fiction.

D. To compare Jonas's society with historical examples of authoritarian regimes.

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Answers:

Passage 1

1. B

a. incorrect - The comparison is functional, not aesthetic. It is used to explain a scientific method, not to comment on the beauty of ecosystems.

b. correct - This option accurately describes the function of the analogy. The passage states that coral skeletons, "much like tree rings, contain chemical signatures that reflect the environmental conditions in which they formed," making them chronological records.

c. incorrect - The analogy is used to explain a method of data collection, not to make a statement about the resilience of coral reefs. The passage elsewhere emphasizes their vulnerability.

d. incorrect - The passage does not argue for the superiority of one method over the other. It uses the familiar concept of tree rings to explain the less familiar concept of coral core analysis.

2. B

a. incorrect - This contradicts the main point of the passage, which is that coral reefs are "increasingly vulnerable" and "degrading at an alarming rate" due to climate change, even in remote locations.

b. correct - This provides an accurate and comprehensive summary of the passage, covering the who (a scientific expedition), the what (studying remote coral reefs), the how (to reconstruct historical climate data), and the why (to inform future conservation efforts).

c. incorrect - This is a direct contradiction. The passage states that bleaching events are becoming "more frequent and severe" and can lead to the "collapse of entire reef ecosystems," indicating a significant long-term impact.

d. incorrect - The passage states the research goal is to reconstruct climate history and inform conservation, not to develop new coral species.

3. B

a. incorrect - "Anthropogenic" is contrasted with the "remote, uninhabited islands... largely untouched by direct human activity," implying it is not naturally occurring.

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b. correct - The context of "anthropogenic climate change" and its "consequences of a warming planet" points to a human cause. This is the standard definition of the term in environmental science.

c. incorrect - While the passage is about marine biology, the word "anthropogenic" itself refers to the origin of the change, not the field of study.

d. incorrect - The passage presents climate change as a predictable consequence of a warming planet, not something random or unpredictable.

4. B

a. incorrect - The passage states the opposite: the research is being conducted on remote islands precisely because they are "largely untouched by direct human activity," making them ideal for isolating climate effects, which implies reefs near urban areas are less ideal, not more resilient.

b. incorrect - The passage mentions the team is extracting "long coral cores," not using satellite data.

c. correct - This detail is explicitly stated in the fourth paragraph: "Bleaching events—caused by prolonged thermal stress... When corals expel the symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae)... they become pale and vulnerable".

d. incorrect - The passage does not mention the funding source for the expedition.

5. C

a. incorrect - This contradicts the author's emphasis on urgency. The passage states the "window for collecting meaningful data narrows" and the necessary corals "may not exist in the near future," implying the study cannot be easily replicated.

b. incorrect - The author states the findings will "inform urgent conservation strategies," indicating a direct link to policy and action, not just academic interest.

c. correct - The author's perspective is best reflected by this statement. The passage repeatedly emphasizes the time-sensitive nature of the work, calling it a "race against time" because of the "alarming rate" of reef degradation.

d. incorrect - The passage presents the research as critical for improving climate models and informing conservation, suggesting the findings are expected to be highly actionable, not speculative.

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Passage 2

1. D

a. incorrect - This is the opposite of the author's viewpoint. The passage critiques the society for eliminating love and empathy along with suffering, suggesting this is not the best way to achieve stability.

b. incorrect - The passage argues that eliminating painful memories also eliminates love and true happiness, presenting this as a negative trade-off.

c. incorrect - The passage portrays Jonas's journey as an emotional and existential transformation, suggesting that emotional capacity, rather than detachment, is crucial to the role.

d. correct - This statement aligns perfectly with the passage's conclusion that memory is "the foundation of identity, the source of meaning, and the key to freedom," and that its suppression created a population "incapable of empathy

2. C

a. incorrect - While the passage discusses ethics and the Elders, this title is too narrow and does not capture the central role of memory and Jonas's rebellion.

b. incorrect - This title focuses on the societal structure but omits the central narrative of Jonas's personal journey and the theme of memory.

c. correct - This title effectively captures the core elements of the passage: Jonas's role as the Receiver, the "burden of memory" he carries, and how this burden becomes a "catalyst for rebellion".

d. incorrect - This title focuses on the Giver and emotional suppression but misses the key element of Jonas's rebellion and the role of memory as a foundation for identity.

3. B

a. incorrect - The tone is not detached or clinical. It is deeply engaged with the emotional and ethical weight of the story, using words like "overwhelming," "painful," "beautiful," and "existential".

b. correct - This option accurately describes the tone. The passage reflects on Jonas's transformation and is critical of his society's choices, consistently exploring the "emotional and ethical implications of memory suppression".

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c. incorrect - The tone is not celebratory or nostalgic. It is critical of the society's "sterile harmony" and does not long for a return to any traditional values mentioned in the text.

d. incorrect - The passage ends with Jonas understanding the need for rebellion, but it does not suggest that the society itself is likely to evolve. The tone is more critical than optimistic about the society's future.

4. C

a. incorrect - The passage states that the community eliminated "pain, color, and choice," but it does not explicitly state the reason was to prevent "conflict and inequality," though this can be inferred. However, option C is more explicitly stated.

b. incorrect - The Giver is portrayed as a figure of wisdom and guidance who helps Jonas understand the importance of memory, not as a symbol of its dangers.

c. correct - This detail is explicitly stated: "The more Jonas learned, the more he began to question the ethics of his society. Was it right to eliminate suffering if it also meant eliminating love?".

d. incorrect - The passage describes Jonas's realization and desire to rebel but does not state that he was successful in overthrowing the Committee or sharing the memories with the public.

5. B

a. incorrect - This is the opposite of the passage's purpose. It critiques, rather than argues for, the suppression of emotion.

b. correct - This option accurately describes the primary purpose. The passage is structured as a narrative that follows Jonas's personal development from an unquestioning member of his community to a rebellious individual, with this transformation being driven entirely by his reception of memory.

c. incorrect - The passage focuses on the thematic and emotional aspects of memory, not the "technical process" of its transmission.

d. incorrect - The passage is a literary summary and analysis of a specific fictional work, not a comparative political analysis.

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