

I Read the following paragraphs to answer the next two questions (1 and 2)

There is a place forty kilometers north-east of Portland, Victoria, which makes for an unusual visit. It is Lake Condah. Here are to be found remains of aboriginal settlements: the circular stone bases of several hundred huts, rock-lined water channels, and stone tools chipped from rock not normally found in the area. One of the attractions of Lake Condah long ago was its fish and the most startling evidence of aboriginal technology and engineering to be found there are the systems built to trap fish.

Water courses had been constructed by redirecting streams, building stone sides and even scraping out new channels. At strategic spots, they piled rocks across the water courses to create weirs and build funnels to channel eels and fish into conical baskets. This is an eel-fishing technique which has hardly changed to the present day. Beside some of the larger traps, there are the outlines of rectangular, stone-lined ponds, probably to hold fish and keep them fresh.

On the bluffs overlooking the lake, stone circles are all that remain of ancient dwellings. Not all of the stones were quarried locally. The huts vary in size, but all have gaps for doorways located on the lee side, away from the prevailing wind. One theory is that the stone walls were only waist to shoulder high, with the top roofed by branches and possibly packed with mud.

The site presents a picture of a semi-settled people quite different from the stereotype of nomadic hunter-gatherers of the desert.

1. The word 'stereotype' as used in the above passage means:

- A: distant culture. B: opposite picture. C: electronic print version.
D: standard view. E: None of these.

2. Lake Condah is seen as unusual, mainly because:

- A: it is so close to a main town.
B: there are remains of buildings still to be seen.
C: it reveals a society that was at least partly settled and had building and engineering skills.
D: there is evidence that some of the building stone was imported.
E: it shows the lake dwellers were totally reliant on fish for a food source.

II Read the following paragraphs to answer the next four questions: (3 to 6)

Between us there was, as I have already said somewhere, the bond of the sea. Besides holding our hearts together through long periods of separation, it had the effect of making us tolerant of each other's yarns-and even convictions. The Lawyer-the best of old fellows-had, because of his many years and many virtues, the only cushion on deck, and was lying on the only rug. The Accountant had brought out already a box of dominoes, and was toying architecturally with the bones. Marlow sat cross-legged right aft, leaning against the mizzen-mast. He had sunken cheeks, a yellow complexion, a straight back, an ascetic aspect, and, with his arms dropped, the palms of hands outwards, resembled an idol. The Director, satisfied the anchor had good hold, made his way aft and sat down amongst us.

We exchanged a few words lazily. Afterwards there was silence on board the yacht. For some reason or other we did not begin that game of dominoes. We felt meditative, and fit for nothing but placid staring. The day was ending in a serenity of still and exquisite brilliance. The water shone pacifically; the sky, without a speck, was a benign immensity of unstained light; the very mist on the Essex marshes was like a gauzy and radiant fabric, hung from the wooded rises inland, and draping the low shores in diaphanous folds. Only the gloom to the west, brooding over the upper reaches, became more sombre every minute, as if angered by the approach of the sun. And at last, in its curved and imperceptible fall, the sun sank low, and from glowing white

changed to a dull red without rays and without heat, as if about to go out suddenly, stricken to death by the touch of that gloom brooding over a crowd of men.

From *The Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad.

3. The narrator of this passage is telling his story from:
A: a wharf. B: the deck of a yacht. C: a high vantage point.
D: the edge of the Essex marshes. E: None of the above.
4. The mood of the men in this passage is best described as:
A: surly. B: resigned. C: contemplative. D: restless. E: ecstatic.
5. From the passage, it is clear that the men:
A: do not get along. B: show a quiet understanding.
C: cannot be bothered with one another. D: have just had a quarrel. E: are worn out.
6. The word 'diaphanous', used to describe the mist, means:
A: almost transparent. B: fragile. C: suffocating. D: silent E: none of the above

III. Read the following paragraphs to answer the next four questions (7 to 10)

Among predatory dinosaurs, few flesh-eaters were bigger, faster and nastier than the "tyrant lizard" of popular imagination, the Tyrannosaurus Rex. At least, that is what we have been led to believe. Now research suggests that, far from being the Ferrari of dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus Rex, whose ferocious reputation has fascinated generations of schoolchildren, was in fact a cumbersome creature with a usual running speed of twenty-five kilometers an hour. This is a mere snail's pace compared with modern animals such as the cheetah. Unlike some of the predators of today's African savannah, which can change direction almost immediately, the dinosaur would have had to turn slowly or risk tumbling over. And while a human can spin forty-five degrees in a twentieth of a second, a Tyrannosaurus would have taken as much as two seconds, as it would have been hampered by its long tail. Thankfully, however, all its prey, such as triceratops, would have been afflicted with the same lack of speed and agility.

The findings were reached after researchers used computer modelling and biomechanical calculations to work out the dinosaur's speed, agility and weight. They based their calculations on measurements taken from a fossil dinosaur representative of an average Tyrannosaurus and concluded the creatures probably weighed between six and eight tonnes.

Calculations of the leg muscles suggest that the animal would have had a top speed of forty kilometers an hour, which is nothing compared to a cheetah's one hundred kilometers an hour. It is sobering to reflect, though, that an Olympic sprinter runs at about thirty-five kilometers an hour, not sufficient to outrun a Tyrannosaurus, should Man have been around at that time!

7. Being known as the 'Ferrari of dinosaurs' means Tyrannosaurus Rex:
A: wore shoes. B: was a quick and agile creature. C: was a hunting machine.
D: was the most ferocious of dinosaurs. E: None of these.
8. In turning, a Tyrannosaurus would have been hampered by:
A: its weight. B: its bulky leg muscles. C: its overall size. D: its tail length.
E: All of the above.
9. In calculating the size, speed and agility of Tyrannosaurus Rex, scientists used:
A: examination of fossils. B: biomechanical calculations and computer models.
C: comparisons with modern animals. D: A and B together. E: B and C together.
10. The overall theme of the passage is:
A: Because it was cumbersome, Tyrannosaurus Rex was lucky to survive.

- B: Tyrannosaurus Rex's speed and agility were still superior to those of other dinosaurs.
- C: Tyrannosaurus Rex's fierce reputation is now laid to rest.
- D: Compared to modern predatory animals, Tyrannosaurus Rex was slow and cumbersome.
- E: None of these.