

SAT 机经最新出炉

内含 16 套北美真题的正确答案 (参考英文+中文解析+中文翻译)
针对 2015 年 06 月 06 日考试

Passage (阅读文章)

(1) 2015.01

1. Mars (火星) 文章题目及参考答案	
1. 主旨题	To ridicule/emphasize the absurdity of a task
2. What is the author's attitude when he said ruin...?	Cautionary (有学生选择“劝诫的”)
3. Did any of you guys put "analyze and critique of the proposal" or "expressing concern regarding to a common practice"	多名学生选择"analyze and critique of the proposal" (分析并批判了这个提议)
4. Did the author said something about rabbit to do what? To support previous statement or to clarify a previous ambiguity	多名学生选择"to support previous statement" (支持前一观点)
5. About "36 million tons"? Absurdity or exaggerate scope	有学生选择"absurdity" (荒谬言行)
6. For the reading question about rabbits taking over Australia, was the answer "worst case scenario" or "clarifying an ambiguity"?	It was worst case scenario. (最糟糕的案例) Because he was like rabbits could overrun the country. BUT the environment would eventually recover.
7. How about the one about the astronauts? "Travellers are eager to come home" or "the harsh conditions"?	travellers are eager to come home (宇航员想回家)
8. That was a critical reading passage quotation about how Mars's barren landscape is comparable to a politician's promises.	No answer

参考阅读原文

One day, perhaps, brave astronauts will set forth to colonize the planet Mars. However human colonies can't be sterilized in the way a rover can be, so they may conflict with the desires of astrobiologists to keep Mars biologically pristine. Would be colonists can find this hard to understand. What is so special about an apparently lifeless or almost lifeless planet?

To understand why many scientists value a pristine Mars so much, we need to look into its geological history.

It seems likely that Mars had extensive oceans during its earliest Noachian period, which lasted for a few hundred million years. Its oceans almost certainly contained many organics from comets just as for Earth. All this suggests that for several hundred million years, Mars was a near twin of Earth.

What if we find independently originated life on Mars, or amazingly interesting evidence of early stages that almost reached life but not quite? Should we leave the planet pristine to avoid contaminating it?

I would say why not? Let's go all the way to Mars, and set up colonies in orbit around the planet, but never set foot on it at all, to avoid contaminating it.

It is a bit like mountains that are left unclimbed out of respect for the mountain or local beliefs. Not too many of those but the mountains in Bhutan over 6000m are unclimbed.

This would be a future where you have agile rovers on the surface. and increasingly sophisticated humanoid avatars on the surface as well, directed and teleoperated by colonists in orbital colonies.

It is a future where the Martian past and present turn out to be amazingly interesting, so much so, that humans never land on the surface in person, in their physical bodies, to preserve a biologically pristine Mars.

I, for one, would find that an inspiring future to live in.

Since their introduction from Europe in the 19th century, the effect of rabbits on the ecology of Australia has been devastating. They are suspected of being the most significant known factor in species loss in Australia.[citation needed] The extent of plant species' loss is unknown at this time though it is known that rabbits often kill young trees in orchards, forests, and on properties by ringbarking them.[6]

Rabbits are also responsible for serious erosion problems, as they eat native plants, leaving the topsoil exposed and vulnerable to sheet, gully, and wind erosion. The removal of this topsoil is devastating to the land, as it takes many hundreds of years to regenerate.

2. 短文章 (super-organism about ant) 超个体 (指群居昆虫群体)

1. What was the purpose of the passage? Application of scientific field or challenging the value of a biological model	有学生选择"application of scientific" (科学应用)
2. What does "invite" most nearly means?	有学生选择"prompt"

参考阅读原文

Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson walks with focused wonder. He has spent 79 years exploring the insect world and has perfected the craft of spotting the tiny creatures. Ants are his specialty.

On a recent stroll through the woods at Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., he scans for favorable insect dwellings: decaying tree stumps and fallen logs. It's too cold to dig for ants today, so Wilson sticks to the path and fixes his gaze 15 feet in front of him. He can spot anything that creeps and crawls within this perimeter.

Wilson recalls having roamed these woods with a homemade butterfly net when he was 9. He and his parents moved to the area from Alabama, where he had communed with snakes in swamps. In Washington, he found new creatures and spent much time at the National Zoo.

He recently paid another visit to the zoo to watch the resident colony of leafcutter ants. Wilson peers into one of the bustling ant tanks and says, "A colony like this one is the most complicated social system outside humanity."

The ants' social behavior has fascinated Wilson and fellow biologist Bert Holldobler for decades. In their new book, *The Superorganism: The Beauty, Elegance, and Strangeness of Insect Societies*, they devote an entire chapter to leafcutter ants.

Leafcutters are gardeners, growing white fungus farms on the leaves they harvest. It can take more than a million ants to support the queen, and every member of the colony has a job to do. Some harvest the leaves, some tend the "garden" and others protect it from invaders.

The ants have an extremely high division of labor. This is a trait shared by all superorganisms, which consist of many individuals working within a self-sustaining social unit. The leafcutter work force is all-female; males are born once a year, live short lives and function primarily as "a sperm-guided missile," Wilson explains. Some female leafcutters have the potential to reproduce, become a queen and start a new colony, but many do not. Workers who remain help care for the queen's eggs and offspring.

This altruism, part of what defines a superorganism, is what helps the colony survive.

Species that form superorganism colonies are highly successful. Yet Wilson estimates