BLOGS

Sample Questions For CLAT 2023: English Section

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SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Directions for Questions 1-8:

Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions

A major tenet of the neurosciences has been that all neurons (nerve cells) in the brains of vertebrate animals are formed early in development. An adult vertebrate, it was believed, must make do with a fixed number of neurons: those lost through disease or injury are not replaced, and adult learning takes place not through the generation of new cells but through the modification of connections among existing ones. However, new evidence for neurogenesis (the birth of new neurons) has come from the study of the canary song.

Young canaries and other songbirds learn to sing much as humans learn to speak, by imitating models provided by their elders. Several weeks after birth, a young bird produces its first rudimentary attempts at singing; over the next few months the song becomes more structured and stable, reaching a fully developed state by the time the bird approaches its first breeding season. But this repertoire of song is not permanently learned.

After each breeding season, during late summer and fall, the bird loses mastery of its developed vocabulary, and its song becomes as unstable as that of a juvenile bird. During the following winter and spring, however, the canary acquires new songs, and by the next breeding season it has developed an entirely new repertoire. Recent neurological research into this learning and relearning process has shown that the two most important regions of the canary‘s brain related to the learning of songs actually vary in size at different times of the year.

In the spring, when the bird‘s song is highly developed and uniform, the regions are roughly twice as large as they are in the fall. Further experiments tracing individual nerve cells within these regions have shown that the number of neurons drops by about 38 percent after the breeding season, but by the following breeding season, new ones have been generated to replace them.

A possible explanation for this continual replacement of nerve cells may have to do with the canary‘s relatively long life span and the requirements of flight. Its brain would have to be substantially larger and heavier than might be feasible for flying if it had to carry all the brain cells needed to process and retain all the information gathered over a lifetime.

Although the idea of neurogenesis in the adult mammalian brain is still not generally accepted, these findings might help uncover a mechanism that would enable the human brain to repair itself through neurogenesis. Whether such replacement of neurons would disrupt complex learning processes or long-term memory is not known, but songbird research challenges scientists to identify the genes or hormones that orchestrate neurogenesis in the young human brain and to learn how to activate them in the adult
brain.

1. Which one of the following best expresses the main idea of the passage?

(a) New evidence of neurogenesis in canaries challenges an established neurological theory concerning brain cells in vertebrates and suggests the possibility that human brains may repair themselves.
(b) The brains of canaries differ from the brains of other vertebrate animals in that the brains of adult canaries are able to generate neurons.
(c) Recent studies of neurogenesis in canaries, building on established theories of vertebrate neurology, provide important clues as to why researchers are not likely to discover neurogenesis in adult humans.
(d) Recent research into neurogenesis in canaries refutes a long-held belief about the limited supply of brain cells and provides new information about neurogenesis in the adult human brain.

2. According to the passage, which one of the following is true of the typical adult canary during the late summer and fall?

(a) The canary’s song repertoire takes on a fully structured and stable quality.
(b) A process of neurogenesis replaces the song-learning neurons that were lost during the preceding months.
(c) The canary begins to learn an entirely new repertoire of songs based on the models of other canaries.
(d) The regions in the canary’s brain that are central to the learning of song decrease in size.

3. Information in the passage suggests that the author would most likely regard which one of the following as LEAST important in future research on neurogenesis in humans?

(a) research on possible similarities between the neurological structures of humans and canaries
(b) studies that compare the ratio of brain weight to body weight in canaries to that in humans
(c) neurological research on the genes or hormones that activate neurogenesis in the brain of human infants
(d) studies about the ways in which long-term memory functions in the human brain

4. Which one of the following, if true, would most seriously undermine the explanation proposed by the author in the third paragraph?

(a) A number of songbird species related to the canary have a shorter life span than the canary and do not experience neurogenesis.
(b) The brain size of several types of airborne birds with life spans similar to those of canaries has been shown to vary according to a two-year cycle of neurogenesis.
(c) Several species of airborne birds similar to canaries in size are known to have brains that are substantially heavier than the canary's brain.
(d) Individual canaries that have larger-than-average repertoires of songs tend to have better developed muscles for flying.

5. The use of the word "vocabulary" (line 23) serves primarily to-

(a) demonstrate the presence of a rudimentary grammatical structure in canary song
(b) point out a similarity between the patterned groupings of sounds in a canary's song and the syllabic structures of words
(c) stress the stability and uniformity of canary's song throughout its lifetime
(d) suggest a similarity between the possession of a repertoire of words among humans and a repertoire of songs among canaries

6. According to the passage, which one of the following factors may help account for the occurrence of neurogenesis in canaries?

(a) the life span of the average canary
(b) the process by which canaries learn songs

(c) the frequency of canary breeding seasons

(d) the number of regions in the canary brain related to song learning

7. Which one of the following best describes the organization of the third paragraph?

(a) A theory is presented, analyzed, and modified, and a justification for the modification is offer.

(b) Research results are advanced and reconciled with results from other studies, and a shared principle is
described.

(c) Research results are presented, further details are provided, and a hypothesis is offered to explain the results.

(d) Research results are reported, their implications are explained, and an application to a related field is
proposed.

8. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would most likely describe the current understanding of neurogenesis as:

(a) exhaustive

(b) progressive

(c) incomplete

(d) antiquated

Directions for 9-12: Choose the word for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

9. I hate sitting …… him as he always smells of garlic.

(a). besides

(b). along

(c). at

(d). beside

10. Some regions of our country still remain …… to the average man.

(a). inaccessible

(b). impossible

(c). impermeable

(d). impenetrable

11. It …… that Prashant will not be selected for the post

(a). feels

(b). seems

(c). looks

(d). believes

12. In Bush, Saddam was up …… more than his match.

(a). for

(b). into

(c). against

(d). to

Directions for 13-15: Choose the phrase that best fits the meaning of the phrase in quotes as a whole.

13. What with all those extra expenses, we're going to be "in the red" this month.

(a). Very busy

(b). Making loss

(c). Working overtime

(d). Without a place to live

14. The party was "cut short" due to power outage.

(a). To break into pieces

(b). To be interrupted

(c). To be postponed

(d). To get worse

15. I am waiting "with bated breath" for the release of the latest season.

(a). Unable to breathe

(b). In anticipation

(c). Waiting patiently

(d). An impatient person

Answers

1.a

2.d

3.b

4.c

5.d

6.a

7.c

8.c

9.d

10.a

11.b

12.c

13.b

14.b

15.b

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