BLOGS

Reading Comprehension Questions for CLAT 2024

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PASSAGE

Coral reefs are one of the most diverse and vibrant ecosystems on Earth. These underwater marvels are formed by the accumulation of calcium carbonate skeletons secreted by coral polyps over time.

Beyond their mesmerizing beauty, coral reefs provide invaluable ecological services, including acting as nurseries for various marine species, protecting coastlines from erosion, and supporting local economies through tourism and fishing.

However, coral reefs are under grave threat due to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea temperatures result in a phenomenon known as coral bleaching, where corals expel the symbiotic algae living within their tissues. This loss of coloration is a sign of stress and makes the corals more susceptible to diseases. Prolonged bleaching events can lead to mass coral mortality and a decline in reef health.

Ocean acidification, another consequence of increased carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, poses a significant danger to coral reefs. As oceans absorb more carbon dioxide, the water becomes more acidic, inhibiting the ability of corals to build their calcium carbonate skeletons. This weakens the overall structure of the reef and makes it harder for new coral colonies to establish themselves.

Human activities also exacerbate the challenges faced by coral reefs. Overfishing, pollution, and physical damage from tourism-related activities can further degrade these delicate ecosystems. Effective marine protected areas and sustainable fishing practices are crucial for safeguarding the future of coral reefs.

Despite the grim outlook, researchers and conservationists are actively working to mitigate the impacts of climate change on coral reefs. Local efforts such as coral transplantation and reef restoration have shown promise in aiding reef recovery.

International collaborations too have been entered into to reduce greenhouse gas emissions aim to limit global temperature increases and give coral reefs a chance to adapt to changing conditions.

1. What measures are being taken to address the challenges faced by coral reefs?

A) Researchers are focusing solely on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
B) Coral reefs are left to adapt naturally, without any human intervention.
C) Local efforts are being implemented, along with international collaborations to limit greenhouse gas emissions.
D) Conservationists are primarily relying on tourism-related activities to fund coral reef protection initiatives.

2. Which of the following statements accurately describes the relationship between coral bleaching and rising sea temperatures?

A) Coral bleaching is caused by pollution and rising sea temperatures, leading to mass coral mortality.
B) Rising sea temperatures trigger a natural process in corals known as bleaching, which enhances their colors.
C) Coral bleaching is a result of rising sea temperatures, causing corals to expel symbiotic algae and become more susceptible to diseases.
D) Coral bleaching occurs due to ocean acidification caused by rising sea temperatures, weakening the overall structure of reefs.

3. In the context of the passage, how does ocean acidification impact the process of coral reef formation?

A) Ocean acidification directly promotes the growth of calcium carbonate skeletons in corals.
B) Ocean acidification prevents the expulsion of symbiotic algae, leading to healthier coral reefs.
C) Weaker coral skeletons due to ocean acidification allow new coral colonies to establish more easily.

D) Ocean acidification interferes with the ability of corals to build their skeletons, thus affecting the overall structure and formation of coral reefs.

4. What distinguishes effective marine protected areas from other conservation strategies in safeguarding coral reefs?

A) Marine protected areas rely solely on coral transplantation to restore reef health.
B) Conservationists focus on reducing carbon emissions within marine protected areas to combat ocean acidification.
C) The primary goal of marine protected areas is to promote tourism and generate revenue for coral reef protection.
D) Effective marine protected areas combine sustainable fishing practices and habitat preservation to address the challenges faced by coral reefs.

5. How does ocean acidification affect coral reefs?

A) Ocean acidification causes corals to expel their calcium carbonate skeletons.
B) Ocean acidification leads to coral bleaching and subsequent mass mortality.
C) Ocean acidification strengthens the overall structure of coral reefs by promoting the growth of calcium carbonate.
D) Ocean acidification inhibits the ability of corals to build their skeletons, making it harder for new coral colonies to establish.

ANSWERS

1. C
2. C
3. D
4. D
5. D

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