

CRST History of Life (290) - Section B05 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. According to numerous passages in Genesis, what is placed as central to creation?**
 - A. Animals**
 - B. Plants**
 - C. Man**
 - D. Water**
- 2. Which of the following best describes the process of natural selection?**
 - A. Random mutation of genes**
 - B. Survival of individuals based on advantageous traits**
 - C. Deliberate breeding by humans**
 - D. Sudden environmental changes**
- 3. What is the term used for the biblical account of the flood?**
 - A. The Great Deluge**
 - B. The Great Catastrophe**
 - C. The Great Overflow**
 - D. The Big Flood**
- 4. Which of the following statements is true regarding the characteristics of suboptimal structures?**
 - A. They are highly efficient**
 - B. They appear well-structured**
 - C. They are often seen in nature**
 - D. They indicate poor design or evolution**
- 5. According to the film "Is Genesis History?", what evidence suggests a dispersal from Babel?**
 - A. Distinctive pottery found in distant locations**
 - B. Written records of migrations**
 - C. Language similarities**
 - D. Architectural similarities**

- 6. Are physical constants, such as gravity and atomic force strength, variable in nature?**
- A. Yes, they fluctuate significantly**
 - B. No, they have precise, unchanging values**
 - C. They are only constant in certain conditions**
 - D. They vary depending on the location in the universe**
- 7. Which of the following is a misconception about physical constants?**
- A. They are unchanging values**
 - B. They cannot be precisely measured**
 - C. They fluctuate significantly**
 - D. They are universal across all measurements**
- 8. What term describes the condition of holding two contradictory views simultaneously?**
- A. Cognitive dissonance**
 - B. Confirmation bias**
 - C. Parallel thinking**
 - D. Deductive reasoning**
- 9. A straightforward interpretation of the Bible suggests that creation occurred approximately how many years ago?**
- A. 2,000 years**
 - B. 4,000 years**
 - C. 6,000 years**
 - D. 10,000 years**
- 10. What evidence did Dr. Stephen Boyd present in "Is Genesis History?" about a dinosaur dig site?**
- A. Evidence of rapid sedimentation**
 - B. Evidence of slow fossilization**
 - C. Evidence of glacial deposits**
 - D. Evidence of volcanic activity**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. C
10. A

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Explanations

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1. According to numerous passages in Genesis, what is placed as central to creation?

- A. Animals**
- B. Plants**
- C. Man**
- D. Water**

In the context of Genesis, the narrative emphasizes the creation of man as a pivotal event. According to the text, humanity is described as being made in the image of God, indicating a special status and a unique relationship with the Creator. This notion underscored the importance of human beings within the created order and the responsibility bestowed upon them to steward the earth. The creation account presents humanity as the culmination of God's creative work, signifying that humans have a central role in the divine plan for creation and the ongoing relationship between God and His creation. While animals, plants, and water are certainly important elements of creation, they do not carry the same relational significance or authority in the Genesis narrative as does humanity. Thus, the text places man at the center of the creation story, highlighting a theological perspective on human dignity and purpose within the world.

2. Which of the following best describes the process of natural selection?

- A. Random mutation of genes**
- B. Survival of individuals based on advantageous traits**
- C. Deliberate breeding by humans**
- D. Sudden environmental changes**

The process of natural selection is best described as survival of individuals based on advantageous traits. This concept, first articulated by Charles Darwin, posits that individuals within a population exhibit variations in their traits, some of which give them a better chance of surviving and reproducing in their particular environment. Over time, these advantageous traits become more common in the population as individuals that possess them are more likely to survive and pass on their genes to the next generation. While random mutation of genes does play a crucial role in generating the variations upon which natural selection acts, it is not sufficient on its own to describe the mechanism of natural selection itself. Deliberate breeding by humans, known as artificial selection, refers to a different process where humans select for specific traits in plants and animals, rather than the natural, unguided process seen in natural selection. Sudden environmental changes can influence natural selection by creating new pressures, but the core of natural selection is the differential survival and reproduction associated with advantageous traits. Thus, the essence of natural selection resides in the survival of individuals with traits that confer a fitness advantage in their environment.

3. What is the term used for the biblical account of the flood?

- A. The Great Deluge**
- B. The Great Catastrophe**
- C. The Great Overflow**
- D. The Big Flood**

The term "The Great Deluge" specifically refers to the biblical account of the flood as described in texts such as the Book of Genesis. This phrase encapsulates the idea of a vast and catastrophic flooding event that swept across the earth, an event that has roots in various ancient traditions and is often interpreted as a divine judgment on humanity for its wickedness. The use of the term "deluge" evokes not only the enormity of the flood itself but also its significance in religious narratives, often associated with themes of renewal, judgment, and salvation. Other phrases like "The Great Catastrophe" and "The Big Flood" may be employed in different contexts but do not carry the same historical and theological weight as "The Great Deluge." "The Great Overflow," while descriptive of a flooding event, does not align with the specific biblical terminology and tradition associated with this significant narrative. Thus, the term "The Great Deluge" effectively conveys both the event's scale and its importance within the biblical framework.

4. Which of the following statements is true regarding the characteristics of suboptimal structures?

- A. They are highly efficient**
- B. They appear well-structured**
- C. They are often seen in nature**
- D. They indicate poor design or evolution**

Suboptimal structures are those that demonstrate certain inefficiencies or limitations in their design, which often suggests a history of evolutionary change rather than a perfect engineering solution. The notion of "poor design" reflects how these structures may not optimize their functionality due to constraints imposed by evolutionary processes. For example, many organisms exhibit traits that are more suited for their ancestral environments rather than their current situations, indicating that evolution does not always lead to the most efficient outcomes due to various historical and environmental factors. This concept highlights the reality that evolution works with existing structures and may repurpose them for new functions, rather than designing new features from scratch. Therefore, while these structures may not be 'ideal' from a design standpoint, they serve a purpose within the organism's evolutionary context. In contrast, efficiency and well-structured appearances imply a level of optimization that suboptimal structures do not possess, and their recurrence in nature aligns more with the idea of evolutionary compromise rather than high efficiency or aesthetic design.

5. According to the film "Is Genesis History?", what evidence suggests a dispersal from Babel?

A. Distinctive pottery found in distant locations

B. Written records of migrations

C. Language similarities

D. Architectural similarities

The evidence suggesting a dispersal from Babel, as presented in the film "Is Genesis History?", focuses on distinctive pottery found in distant locations. This refers to the notion that after the events at Babel, groups of people migrated and settled in various regions, bringing with them certain cultural artifacts, including unique pottery styles. The presence of similar pottery across different geographic areas can indicate that these groups shared a common cultural heritage before their dispersion, reflecting their historical connection. This archaeological evidence helps support the idea that a significant event, such as the scattering at Babel, could have led to the establishment of distinct groups in separate regions while retaining some aspects of their original culture, reflected in their pottery. In contrast, language similarities, architectural similarities, and written records of migrations could also suggest dispersal; however, pottery is a more tangible archaeological factor directly linked to cultural practices that emerged after such a significant event.

6. Are physical constants, such as gravity and atomic force strength, variable in nature?

A. Yes, they fluctuate significantly

B. No, they have precise, unchanging values

C. They are only constant in certain conditions

D. They vary depending on the location in the universe

Physical constants, such as the gravitational constant and the strength of atomic forces, are indeed characterized by precise and unchanging values under standard conditions. These constants form the foundation of scientific theories and laws that describe the behavior of matter and energy in the universe. The stability of these constants is essential for making accurate predictions in physics and chemistry. They allow scientists to derive equations and models that consistently yield the same results, irrespective of when or where the experiments are conducted, as long as they are in the same physical context. While variations may occur in some contexts, such as extreme gravitational fields or at quantum scales where other physical laws might come into play, the fundamental values of constants themselves remain unchanged. This reliability is what enables a coherent understanding of the laws governing the natural world across various scientific disciplines.

7. Which of the following is a misconception about physical constants?

- A. They are unchanging values**
- B. They cannot be precisely measured**
- C. They fluctuate significantly**
- D. They are universal across all measurements**

Physical constants, such as the speed of light in a vacuum or the gravitational constant, are considered to be stable values that do not fluctuate significantly under normal conditions. The essence of these constants is that they provide a reliable basis for scientific calculations and theories, and any variations are typically within extremely tight bounds that are negligible for most practical purposes. The idea that these constants fluctuate significantly contradicts the foundational principles of physics, where they serve as fixed points around which a great deal of scientific understanding is built. They are universal in the sense that they apply to a wide range of physical scenarios and are not subject to change within the established frameworks of science. Thus, recognizing that physical constants are unchanging is essential for creating a cohesive understanding of the laws of nature. They can be measured with high precision, although achieving infinite accuracy is theoretically and practically impossible, which informs a proper understanding of measurement limitations but does not imply that the constants themselves change.

8. What term describes the condition of holding two contradictory views simultaneously?

- A. Cognitive dissonance**
- B. Confirmation bias**
- C. Parallel thinking**
- D. Deductive reasoning**

The term that accurately describes the condition of holding two contradictory views simultaneously is cognitive dissonance. This psychological phenomenon occurs when an individual experiences discomfort or tension due to conflicting beliefs, attitudes, or behaviors. For instance, a person might understand the detrimental effects of smoking while also being a smoker, leading to an internal struggle between their knowledge and their actions. This tension often motivates individuals to find a way to resolve the contradiction, which could involve changing one of the conflicting beliefs or rationalizing their behavior. In contrast, confirmation bias refers to the tendency to favor information that confirms existing beliefs rather than seeking out or giving equal weight to evidence that could challenge those beliefs. Parallel thinking is a collaborative reasoning process that seeks to evaluate multiple perspectives rather than holding contradictory views, and deductive reasoning is a logical process in which a conclusion follows necessarily from the premises provided. Each of these terms describes different cognitive processes and does not capture the essence of experiencing conflicting thoughts as cognitive dissonance does.

9. A straightforward interpretation of the Bible suggests that creation occurred approximately how many years ago?

- A. 2,000 years**
- B. 4,000 years**
- C. 6,000 years**
- D. 10,000 years**

The correct interpretation indicates that a literal reading of the Bible, particularly the genealogies and the timeline presented in texts such as the Book of Genesis, suggests that creation occurred roughly 6,000 years ago. This conclusion stems from calculating the ages of the patriarchs and the timeline of events outlined in the scriptural narrative. Many theologians and scholars who adhere to a young Earth creationist viewpoint commonly accept this timeframe. They analyze the genealogical records in the Bible, tracing back to Adam and Eve, and correlate them with known historical events to arrive at this estimate. In contrast, the other timeframes provided do not align with the traditional biblical chronology. The 2,000-year estimate often reflects the time since Jesus Christ, while the 4,000-year marker might consider the time from the supposed creation to a point in ancient history, such as the time of Christ. The 10,000-year estimate goes beyond the typical biblical interpretation and reflects a more lenient view on the age of the Earth that is often influenced by scientific understandings rather than a straightforward biblical interpretation.

10. What evidence did Dr. Stephen Boyd present in "Is Genesis History?" about a dinosaur dig site?

- A. Evidence of rapid sedimentation**
- B. Evidence of slow fossilization**
- C. Evidence of glacial deposits**
- D. Evidence of volcanic activity**

Dr. Stephen Boyd highlighted evidence of rapid sedimentation at the dinosaur dig site to support his arguments regarding the historical account of the Earth. Rapid sedimentation suggests that layers of sediment were deposited in a relatively short period, which can be indicative of conditions such as those that might occur during a catastrophic event. This aligns with a viewpoint that interprets geological formations and fossil records through a lens that recognizes a quicker timeline for the processes involved, rather than slow and gradual formation over millions of years. This evidence emphasizes the idea that the preservation of fossils and the conditions under which they were formed can vary significantly depending on the geological event. In this instance, rapid sedimentation could help explain the well-preserved state of the dinosaur remains found at the site, supporting a narrative consistent with a young Earth model. Identifying rapid sedimentation contrasts with scenarios that might suggest lengthy processes, strengthening the argument for viewing geological evidence through the lens of Genesis history.