

Reading Passage

Passage 1 - Opera

Opera refers to a dramatic art form, originating in Europe, in which the emotional content is conveyed to the audience as much through music, both vocal and instrumental, as it is through the lyrics. By contrast, in musical theater an actor's dramatic performance is primary, and the music plays a lesser role. The drama in opera is presented using the primary elements of theater such as scenery, costumes, and acting. However, the words of the opera, or libretto, are sung rather than spoken. The singers are accompanied by a musical ensemble ranging from a small instrumental ensemble to a full symphonic orchestra.

1. It is pointed out in the reading that opera ----.

- A) has developed under the influence of musical theater
- B) is a drama sung with the accompaniment of an orchestra
- C) is not a high-budget production
- D) is often performed in Europe
- E) is the most complex of all the performing arts

2. We can understand from the reading that ----.

- A) people are captivated more by opera than musical theater
- B) drama in opera is more important than the music
- C) orchestras in operas can vary considerably in size
- D) musical theater relies above all on music
- E) there is argument over whether the music is important or the words in opera

3. It is stated in the reading that ----.

- A) acting and costumes are secondary to music in musical theater
- B) many people find musical theater more captivating than opera
- C) music in musical theater is not as important as it is in opera
- D) an opera requires a huge orchestra as well as a large choir
- E) opera doesn't have any properties in common with musical theater

Passage 2 - Dolphins

Dolphins are regarded as the friendliest creatures in the sea and stories of them helping drowning sailors have been common since Roman times. The more we learn about dolphins, the more we realize that their society is more complex than people previously imagined. They look after other dolphins when they are ill, care for pregnant mothers and protect the weakest in the community, as we do. Some scientists have suggested that dolphins have a language but it is much more probable that they communicate with each other without needing words. Could any of these mammals be more intelligent than man? Certainly the most common argument in favor of man's superiority over them that we can kill them more easily than they can kill us is the least satisfactory. On the contrary, the more we discover about these remarkable creatures, the less we appear superior when we destroy them.

4. It is clear from the passage that dolphins ----.

- A) don't want to be with us as much as we want to be with them
- B) are proven to be less intelligent than once thought
- C) have a reputation for being friendly to humans
- D) are the most powerful creatures that live in the oceans

- E) are capable of learning a language and communicating with humans

5. The fact that the writer of the passage thinks that we can kill dolphins more easily than they can kill us ----.

- A) means that they are better adapted to their environment than we are
- B) shows that dolphins have a very sophisticated form of communication
- C) proves that dolphins are not the most intelligent species at sea
- D) does not mean that we are superior to them
- E) proves that Dolphins have linguistic skills far beyond what we previously thought

6. One can infer from the reading that ----.

- A) dolphins are quite abundant in some areas of the world
- B) communication is the most fascinating aspect of the dolphins
- C) dolphins have skills that no other living creatures have such as the ability to think
- D) it is not usual for dolphins to communicate with each other
- E) dolphins have some social traits that are similar to those of humans