

Practice Test One: Diagnostic Test

1. Which of the following is the main topic of the passage?
 - (A) assessment of the work of specialists concerned with ecology
 - (B) a discussion of possible causes of extinction, and of ways to make predictions about environmental change
 - (C) the changing aspects of our environment
 - (D) a comparison of the extinction rates of different taxa

2. The word *susceptibility* in line 5 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) insensitivity
 - (B) receptiveness
 - (C) immunity
 - (D) vulnerability

3. An example of a taxon would be
 - (A) a phylum
 - (B) the rate of environmental change
 - (C) a fossil
 - (D) studies of extinction

4. The author compares mammals and birds to
 - (A) mollusks and insects
 - (B) phylum and class
 - (C) dinosaurs and reptiles
 - (D) ecologists and biologists

5. It can be inferred from the passage that a significant event of the Cretaceous Period was
 - (A) the appearance of many taxa
 - (B) the dramatic effect of the dinosaur on the environment
 - (C) the extinction of birds
 - (D) the extinction of dinosaurs

6. It can be inferred from the passage that dinosaurs
 - (A) included species that were mammals
 - (B) were better represented in the fossil record than other species
 - (C) possessed disadvantageous traits
 - (D) were not susceptible to extinction

7. The word *dramatically* in lines 16–17 means
 - (A) strongly
 - (B) inspiringly
 - (C) flimsily
 - (D) visually

8. The word *fields* in line 20 is closest in meaning to
 - (A) areas
 - (B) meadows
 - (C) studies
 - (D) careers