

Answer Key & Explanations

Q1 — B. The passage opens with the biodiversity "puzzle" and resolves it via nutrient cycling — that's the core purpose. (A) is a supporting detail, not the main point; (C) and (E) aren't discussed; (D) is too narrow.

Q2 — C. The passage's whole explanation for reef biodiversity rests on efficient, low-loss nutrient recycling. If loss increased, that mechanism weakens, so biodiversity would likely decline. (A), (B), (D), (E) all introduce unsupported ideas.

Q3 — B. Structure: traditional view → revisionist view → objection to revisionist view. (B) matches this exactly. (A) overstates ("definitive alternative"); (E) wrongly claims a synthesis is offered.

Q4 — B. Direct paraphrase of paragraph 2's claim that methods "were already present, if less systematically applied." (A) overstates; (D) is the critics' view (paragraph 3), not the revisionists'.

Q5 — B. This example appears in paragraph 3, raised by critics as evidence the revisionist account risks missing a real conceptual shift. (A) misattributes it to the wrong side.

Q6 — C. The revisionist claim depends on new infrastructure being the decisive factor. Major discoveries happening without it directly undercuts that claim. (A), (D), (E) support the revisionist view instead; (B) is about medieval universities, not the 17th-century claim being tested.

Q7 — B. "Honor sunk costs" = act as though they matter, i.e., factor them into behavior. Other options import senses of "honor" (ceremony, praise, payment) not supported by context.

Q8 — B. Final sentence states persisting may serve a "reputational function" — implying it's not irrational once that's factored in. (E) overstates ("disprove entirely").

Q9 — C. Author explicitly calls it "a matter of speculation rather than settled science" while noting real scholarly interest — a hedge, not rejection or endorsement.

Q10 — B. The key contrast: vertebrate cognition relies on central coordination "of nearly all bodily action," while octopus arms act independently. (A) and (D) introduce details not used as the basis of comparison.