

English ECAT Pre Engineering Chapter 8 Comprehension Online Test

Sr	Questions	Answers Choice
1	<p>First introduced in 1927, The Hardy Boys Mystery Stories are a series of books about the adventures of brothers Frank and Joe Hardy, teenaged detectives who solve one baffling mystery after another. The Hardy Boys were so popular among young boys that in 1930 a similar series was created for girls featuring a sixteen-year-old detective named Nancy Drew. The cover of each volume of The Hardy Boys states that the author of the series is Franklin W. Dixon; the Nancy Drew Mystery Stories are supposedly written by Carolyn Keene. Over the years, though, many fans of both series have been surprised to find out that Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene are not real people. If Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene never existed, then who wrote The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries?</p> <p>The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew books were written through a process called ghostwriting. A ghostwriter writes a book according to a specific formula. While ghostwriters are paid for writing the books, their authorship is not acknowledged, and their names do not appear on the published books. Ghostwriters can write books for children or adults, the content of which is unspecific. Sometimes they work on book series with a lot of individual titles, such as The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew series.</p> <p>The initial idea for both The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew series was developed by a man named Edward Stratemeyer, who owned a publishing company that specialized in children's book.</p> <p>Stratemeyer noticed the increasing popularity of mysteries among adult, and surmised that children would enjoy reading mysteries about younger detectives with whom they could identify. Stratemeyer first developed each book with an outline describing the plot and setting. Once he completed the outline, Stratemeyer then hired a ghostwriter to convert it into a book of slightly over 200 pages. After the ghostwriter had written a draft of a book, he or she would send it back to Stratemeyer, who would make a list of corrections and mail it back to the ghostwriter. The ghostwriter would revise the book according to Stratemeyer's instructions and then return it to him. Once Stratemeyer approved the book, it was ready for publication.</p> <p>Because each series ran for so many years, Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys both had a number of different ghostwriters producing books; however, the first ghostwriters for each series proved to be the most influential. The initial ghostwriter for The Hardy Boys was a Canadian journalist named Leslie McFarlane. A few years later, Mildred A. Wirt, a young writer from Iowa, began writing the Nancy Drew books. Although they were using prepared outlines as guides, both McFarlane and Wirt developed the characters themselves. The personalities of Frank and Joe Hardy and Nancy arose directly from McFarlane's and Wirt's imaginations. For example, Mildred Wirt had been a star college athlete and gave Nancy similar athletic abilities. The ghostwriters were also responsible for numerous plot and setting details. Leslie McFarlane used elements of his small C fictional hometown.</p> <p>Although The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books were very popular with children, not everyone approved of them. Critics thought their plots were unrealistic and even far-fetched, since most teenagers did not experience the adventures Frank and Joe Hardy or Nancy Drew did. The way the books were written also attracted criticism. Many teachers and librarians objected to the ghostwriting process, claiming it was designed to produce books quickly rather than create quality literature. Some libraries – including the New York Public Library – even refused to include the books in their children's collections. Ironically, this decision actually helped sales of his books, because children simply purchased them when they were unavailable in local libraries.</p> <p>Regardless of the debates about their literary merit, each series of books has exerted an undeniable influence on American and even global culture. Most Americans have never heard of Edward Stratemeyer, Leslie McFarlane, or Mildred Wirt, but people throughout the world are familiar with Nancy Drew and Frank and Joe Hardy.</p> <p>According to the passage, the Nancy Drew mystery series was introduced in</p>	<p>A. 1925 B. 1927 C. 1929 D. 1930</p>

Fleas are perfectly designed by nature to feast on anything containing blood. Like a shark in the water or a wolf in the woods, fleas are ideally equipped to do what they do, making them very difficult to defeat. The bodies of these tiny parasites are extremely hardy and well-suited for their job.

A flea has a very hard exoskeleton, which means the body is covered by a tough, tile-like plate called a sclerite. Because of these plates, fleas are almost impossible to squish. The exoskeletons of fleas are also waterproof and shock resistant, and therefore fleas are highly resistant to the sprays and chemicals used to kill them.

Little spines are attached to his plate. The spine the flea scurries through an animal's fur in – search of grooming pet tries to pull a flea off through the hair coat, these spines will extend and stick to the fur like Velcro.

Fleas are some of the best jumpers in the natural world. A flea can jump seven inches, or 150 times its own length, either vertically or horizontally. An equivalent jump for a person would be 555 feet, the height of the Washington Monument. Fleas can jump 30,000 times in a row without stopping, and they are able to accelerate through the air at an incredibly high rate – a rate which is over ten times what humans can withstand in an airplane.

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The adult female flea mates after her first blood meal and begins producing eggs in just 1 to 2 days. One flea can lay up to 50 eggs in one day and over 2,000 in her lifetime. Flea eggs can be seen with the naked eye, but they are about the size of a grain of salt. Shortly after being laid, the eggs begin to transform into cocoons. In the cocoon state, fleas are fully developed adults, and will hatch immediately if conditions are favorable. Fleas can detect warmth, movement, and carbon dioxide in exhaled breath, and these three factors stimulate them to emerge as new adults. If the flea does not detect appropriate conditions, it can remain dormant in the cocoon state for extended periods. Under ideal conditions, the entire life cycle may only take 3 weeks, so in no time at all, pets and homes can become infested.

Because of these characteristics, fleas are intimidating opponents. The best way to control fleas, therefore, is to take steps to prevent an infestation from ever occurring.

Using the information in the passage as a guide, it can be concluded that

- A. Humans do not possess the physical characteristics of the flea because they have no use for them
- B. Humans do not pay much attention to fleas because they do not pose a serious threat
- C. Fleas have many physical advantages, although these are outweighed by their many disadvantages
- D. Fleas are designed in such a way as to give them unique physical advantages in life

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- A. When they outgrow the cocoon
- B. After a period of 3 weeks
- C. When they sense there is access to blood
- D. If there is too much carbon dioxide in the cocoon

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It can be inferred that fleas will emerge from eggs as adults

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The author mentions the Washington Monument in order to

A. Estimate the extreme distance that a flea is able to jump

B. Illustrate a comparison made between fleas and humans

C. Clarify a point made regarding fleas and acceleration

D. Demonstrate the superiority of fleas over human

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Based on information in the passage, the reader can understand that

- A. Fleas will die without access to blood
- B. Fleas survive at a higher rate in outdoor habitats
- C. Fleas will die after they produce 2,000 eggs
- D. Newly hatched fleas are the size of a grain of salt

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According to the passage, fleas are able to jump

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II and III

- I with a high rate of acceleration
- II up and down and from side to side
- III because the blood they eat contains resilin

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According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?

- A. Fleas extend their little spines if threatened
- B. Fleas have the ability to jump higher than humans
- C. Humans can jump higher if they consume foods containing resilin
- D. The resilin found in fleas is used to make rubber bands

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Fleas are difficult to squish because they have

I Sclerites

II Tough spines

III Resilin in their joints

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- A. Have waterproof sclerites
- B. Are excellent jumpers
- C. Reproduce very rapidly
- D. Can stick to fur like Velcro

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The author's tone in the passage is best described as

- A. Concerned
- B. Passionate
- C. Informative
- D. Opinionated