

# Toefl iBT Practice Test TPO 4 Reading Section 2

No. of Questions: 28

Time: 40 minutes

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## Cave Art in Europe

The earliest discovered traces of art are beads and carvings, and then paintings, from sites dating back to the Upper Paleolithic period. We might expect that early artistic efforts would be crude, but the cave paintings of Spain and southern France show a marked degree of skill. So do the naturalistic paintings on slabs of stone excavated in southern Africa. Some of those slabs appear to have been painted as much as 28,000 years ago, which suggests that painting in Africa is as old as painting in Europe. But painting may be even older than that. The early Australians may have painted on the walls of rock shelters and cliff faces at least 30,000 years ago, and maybe as much as 60,000 years ago.

The researchers Peter Ucko and Andree Rosenfeld identified three principal locations of paintings in the caves of western Europe: (1) in obviously inhabited rock shelters and cave entrances; (2) in galleries immediately off the inhabited areas of caves; and (3) in the inner reaches of caves, whose difficulty of access has been interpreted by some as a sign that magical-religious activities were performed there.

The subjects of the paintings are mostly animals. The paintings rest on bare walls, with no backdrops or environmental trappings. Perhaps, like many contemporary peoples, Upper Paleolithic men and women believed that the drawing of a human image could cause death or injury, and if that were indeed their belief, it might explain why human figures are rarely depicted in cave art. Another explanation for the focus on animals might be that these people sought to improve their luck at hunting. This theory is suggested by evidence of chips in the painted figures, perhaps made by spears thrown at the drawings. But if improving their hunting luck was the chief motivation for the paintings, it is difficult to explain why only a few show signs of having been speared. Perhaps the paintings were inspired by the need to increase the supply of animals. Cave art seems to have reached a peak toward the end of the Upper Paleolithic period, when the herds of game were decreasing.

## Question 1 of 28

The word 【marked】 in the passage is closest in meaning to

- considerable
- surprising
- limited
- adequate

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## Question 2 of 28

Paragraph 1 supports which of the following statements about painting in Europe?

- It is much older than painting in Australia.
- It is as much as 28,000 years old.
- It is not as old as painting in southern Africa.
- It is much more than 30,000 years old.

Paragraph 1 is marked with 

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### Question 3 of 28

The word **【principal】** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- major
- likely
- well protected
- distinct

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## Question 4 of 28

According to paragraph 2, what makes some researchers think that certain cave paintings were connected with magical-religious activities?

- The paintings were located where many people could easily see them, allowing groups of people to participate in the magical-religious activities.
- Upper Paleolithic people shared similar beliefs with contemporary peoples who use paintings of animals in their magical-religious rituals.
- Evidence of magical-religious activities has been found in galleries immediately off the inhabited areas of caves.
- The paintings were found in hard-to-reach places away from the inhabited parts of the cave.

Paragraph 2 is marked with 

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## Question 5 of 28

The word **【trappings】** in the passage is closest in meaning to

- conditions
- problems
- influences
- decorations

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The subjects of the paintings are mostly animals. The paintings rest on bare walls, with no backdrops or environmental **【trappings】**. Perhaps, like many contemporary peoples, Upper Paleolithic men and women believed that the drawing of a human image could cause death or injury, and if that were indeed their belief, it might explain why human figures are rarely depicted in cave art. Another explanation for the focus on animals might be that these people sought to improve their luck at hunting. This theory is suggested by evidence of chips in the painted figures, perhaps made by spears thrown at the drawings. But if improving their hunting luck was the chief motivation for the paintings, it is difficult to explain why only a few show signs of having been speared. Perhaps the paintings were inspired by the need to increase the supply of animals. Cave art seems to have reached a peak toward the end of the Upper Paleolithic period, when the herds of game were decreasing.

## Question 6 of 28

Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the **【highlighted sentence】** in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- Upper Paleolithic people, like many contemporary peoples, believed that if they drew a human image in their cave art, it would cause death or injury.
- Many contemporary peoples believe that the drawing of a human image can cause death or injury, so they, like Upper Paleolithic people, rarely depict human figures in their cave art.
- If Upper Paleolithic people, like many contemporary peoples, believed that the drawing of a human image could cause death or injury, this belief might explain why human figures are rarely depicted in cave art.
- Although many contemporary peoples believe that the drawing of a human image can cause death or injury, researchers cannot explain why Upper Paleolithic people rarely depicted human figures in their cave art.

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According to paragraph 3, scholars explained chips in the painted figures of animals by proposing that

- Upper Paleolithic artists used marks to record the animals they had seen
- the paintings were inspired by the need to increase the supply of animals for hunting
- the artists had removed rough spots on the cave walls
- Upper Paleolithic people used the paintings to increase their luck at hunting

Paragraph 3 is marked with 

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## Question 8 of 28

Why does the author mention that Upper Paleolithic cave art seemed to have 【reached a peak toward the end of the Upper Paleolithic period, when the herds of game were decreasing】 ?

- To argue that Upper Paleolithic art ceased to include animals when herds of game became scarce
- To provide support for the idea that the aim of the paintings was to increase the supply of animals for hunting
- To emphasize the continued improvement in the quality of cave art throughout the Upper Paleolithic period
- To show the direct connection between the decrease in herds of game and the end of the Upper Paleolithic period

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According to paragraph 4, scholars believe that wild cattle, horses, and mammoths are the animals most frequently portrayed in cave paintings for all of the following reasons EXCEPT:

- These animals were difficult to hunt because of their unpredictable behavior.
- People preferred these animals for their meat and for their skins.
- The painters admired the beauty of these large animals.
- People feared these animals because of their size and speed.

Paragraph 4 is marked with 

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## Question 10 of 28

According to paragraph 4, which of the following may best represent the attitude of hunters toward deer and reindeer in the Upper Paleolithic period?

- Hunters did not fear deer and reindeer as much as they did large game animals such as horses and mammoths.
- Hunters were not interested in hunting deer and reindeer because of their size and speed.
- Hunters preferred the meat and hides of deer and reindeer to those of other animals.
- Hunters avoided deer and reindeer because of their natural weapons, such as horns.

Paragraph 4 is marked with 

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According to paragraph 4, what change is evident in the art of the period following the Upper Paleolithic?

- This new art starts to depict small animals rather than large ones.
- This new art ceases to reflect the ways in which people obtained their food.
- This new art no longer consists mostly of representations of animals.
- This new art begins to show the importance of hunting to the economy.

Paragraph 4 is marked with 

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According to paragraph 5, which of the following has been used as evidence to suggest that Upper Paleolithic people were capable of complex thought and conscious awareness of their environment?

- They engraved animal figures on the shafts of spears and other objects.
- They may have used engraved signs to record the phases of the Moon.
- Their figurines represented the human female in exaggerated form.
- They may have used figurines to portray an ideal type or to express a desire for fertility.

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Question 13 of 28

Look at the four squares [■] that indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage.

Therefore, if the paintings were connected with hunting, some other explanation is needed.

Where would the sentence best fit?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Cave Art in Europe

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**Directions:** An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. *This question is worth 2 points.*

To review passage. Click **View Text**

Upper Paleolithic cave paintings in western Europe are among humanity's earliest artistic efforts.

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- 
- 

### Answer Choices

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Researchers have proposed several different explanations for the fact that animals were the most common subjects in the cave paintings.   | <input type="checkbox"/> The cave paintings focus on portraying animals without also depicting the natural environments in which these animals are typically found.                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The art of the cultural period that followed the Upper Paleolithic ceased to portray large game animals and focused instead on the kinds of animals that people of that period preferred to hunt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Some researchers have argued that the cave paintings mostly portrayed large animals that provided Upper Paleolithic people with meat and materials.             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some researchers believe that the paintings found in France provide more explicit evidence of their symbolic significance than those found in Spain, southern Africa, and Australia.              | <input type="checkbox"/> Besides cave paintings, Upper Paleolithic people produced several other kinds of artwork, one of which has been thought to provide evidence of complex thought. |



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The earliest discovered traces of art are beads and carvings, and then paintings, from sites dating back to the Upper Paleolithic period. We might expect that early artistic efforts would be crude, but the cave paintings of Spain and southern France show a marked degree of skill. So do the naturalistic paintings on slabs of stone excavated in southern Africa. Some of those slabs appear to have been painted as much as 28,000 years ago, which suggests that painting in Africa is as old as painting in Europe. But painting may be even older than that. The early Australians may have painted on the walls of rock shelters and cliff faces at least 30,000 years ago, and maybe as much as 60,000 years ago.

The researchers Peter Ucko and Andree Rosenfeld identified three principal locations of paintings in the caves of western Europe: (1) in obviously inhabited rock shelters and cave entrances; (2) in galleries immediately off the inhabited areas of caves; and (3) in the inner reaches of caves, whose difficulty of access has been interpreted by some as a sign that magical-religious activities were performed there.

The subjects of the paintings are mostly animals. The paintings rest on bare walls, with no backdrops or environmental trappings. Perhaps, like many contemporary peoples, Upper Paleolithic men and women believed that the drawing of a human image could cause death or injury, and if that were indeed their belief, it might explain why human figures are rarely depicted in cave art. Another explanation for the focus on animals might be that these people sought to improve their luck at hunting. This theory is suggested by evidence of chips in the painted figures, perhaps made by spears thrown at the drawings. But if improving their hunting luck was the chief motivation for the paintings, it is difficult to explain why only a few show signs of having been speared. Perhaps the paintings were inspired by the need to increase the supply of animals. Cave art seems to have reached a peak toward the end of the Upper Paleolithic period, when the herds of game were decreasing.

## Petroleum Resources

Petroleum, consisting of crude oil and natural gas, seems to originate from organic matter in marine sediment. Microscopic organisms settle to the seafloor and accumulate in marine mud. The organic matter may partially decompose, using up the dissolved oxygen in the sediment. As soon as the oxygen is gone, decay stops and the remaining organic matter is preserved.

Continued sedimentation; the process of deposits' settling on the sea bottom; buries the organic matter and subjects it to higher temperatures and pressures, which convert the organic matter to oil and gas. As muddy sediments are pressed together, the gas and small droplets of oil may be squeezed out of the mud and may move into sandy layers nearby. Over long periods of time (millions of years), accumulations of gas and oil can collect in the sandy layers. Both oil and gas are less dense than water, so they generally tend to rise upward through water-saturated rock and sediment.

Oil pools are valuable underground accumulations of oil, and oil fields are regions underlain by one or more oil pools. When an oil pool or field has been discovered, wells are drilled into the ground. Permanent towers, called derricks, used to be built to handle the long sections of drilling pipe. Now portable drilling machines are set up and are then dismantled and removed. When the well reaches a pool, oil usually rises up the well because of its density difference with water beneath it or because of the pressure of expanding gas trapped above it. Although this rise of oil is almost always carefully controlled today, spouts of oil, or gushers, were common in the past. Gas pressure gradually dies out, and oil is pumped from the well. Water or steam may be pumped down adjacent wells to help push the oil out. At a refinery, the crude oil from underground is separated into natural gas, gasoline, kerosene, and various oils. Petrochemicals such as dyes, fertilizer, and plastic are also manufactured from the petroleum.

As oil becomes increasingly difficult to find, the search for it is extended

The word 【accumulate】 in the passage is closest in meaning to

- grow up
- build up
- spread out
- break apart

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