

1. **(I)** In the popular imagination, the Serengeti ecosystem is an ancient African landscape of sweeping golden plains, unchanged for eons. **(II)** Towering giraffes move gracefully in step. **(III)** Elephant herds wade through waves of grasses. Lions chase down spiral-horned antelope in gory hunts. **(IV)** Even the name, Serengeti—believed to come from the Maa word for “endless plain”—is deceptive. **(V)** The people who live in the Serengeti, the Maasai and others, if they are acknowledged at all, are generally portrayed as exotic figures clinging stubbornly to archaic pastoral traditions.

A) I B) II C) III D) IV* E) V

2. **(I)** The Serengeti is many landscapes, including savanna, woodland, and riverine forests. **(II)** No other place on the planet can match it with the last thriving populations of some animals. **(III)** Imagine a place where humans also have lived in balance with animals since the beginnings of our species. **(IV)** But some of the animals that we have come to know so much about are now at risk of disappearing as we humans increasingly lay claim to their habitats and heat the climate. **(V)** Only one place can live up to such a definition, the Serengeti ecosystem, with its landscape of sweeping golden plains, unchanged for eons.

A) I B) II C) III D) IV E) V*

3. **(I)** The Anthropocene is an unofficial unit of geologic time, used to describe the most recent period in Earth’s history. **(II)** The Anthropocene is also framed as an existential threat to the survival of the human species. **(III)** The term is derived from the Greek word for human, anthropos. **(IV)** Scientists, academics, public intellectuals, and policymakers have been using this term to describe a new geological epoch marking an unprecedented era of human impact on the natural environment. **(V)** To many, this period began with the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century, carrying through the development and testing of nuclear weapons, and peaking in recent decades with rapid global warming and the catastrophic depletion of the Earth’s biodiversity.

A) I B) II * C) III D) IV E) V

4. **(I)** Like some of the great environmental catastrophes of the past such as the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, the footprint of human activity will be present in the geological record for millions of years to come. **(II)** All of these have been accelerating in recent decades and do pose existential threats. **(III)** Humanity has every reason to be alarmed about having such an effect on climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, therefore. **(IV)** We must act to address these problems locally, and we must act in no time. **(V)** But first, we must focus on the parts of the globe where human suffering is already extreme.

A) I B) II * C) III D) IV E) V

5. **(I)** Growing rates of global internet access have made countless sources of information readily available but with few checks and balances and widely varying levels of credibility. **(II)** When pollsters ask Americans whether they trust the news they read, listen to, and watch, the answer is increasingly negative. **(III)** This sentiment is, in fact, now common all over the world. **(IV)** Unprecedented access to all kinds of media has not only increased competition among news providers, but it has also led to the extreme proliferation of low-quality yet plausible-looking sources of information all over the globe. **(V)** The world’s new, digital, and highly competitive media environment has unfortunately created fundamental problems in the traditional journalism models that prioritize people’s right to access to reliable data and news.

A) I * B) II C) III D) IV E) V