

18年度第1回 1級 筆記問題

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18-1-1k D-3a

A Matter of Taste

The French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu's 1979 book *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste* was a milestone in social science research. Based on surveys of people from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds regarding their taste in things like music, fashion, and books, Bourdieu confirmed the stereotype that there is a significant correlation between social class and cultural preferences. What made his analysis groundbreaking, however, was his research into people's justifications for their preferences. While members of the working class tended to give pragmatic explanations for their tastes citing, for example, utility or entertainment value responses from the middle and upper classes were more elaborate and revealing. They not only had great confidence in the superiority of their preferences but also felt their tastes reflected core attributes that formed the essence of their identity. Rejecting the traditional notion that cultural preferences are based on disinterested aesthetic judgements, Bourdieu concluded that taste is a primary means by which people differentiate themselves from others, thereby perpetuating class disparity. According to music critic Carl Wilson, Bourdieu's ideas "press the point that aesthetics are social all the way down," reinforcing social class's "system of inequality and competition."

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● Question 32 Pierre Bourdieu argued that cultural tastes

1 lead to negative stereotypes which cause people from the lower class to feel their preferences are inferior.

2 tend to be based on a combination of practical and theoretical considerations that are unrelated to social class.

3 are the best way for people from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds to gain acceptance into social circles of the middle and upper classes.

4 are an important factor that contributes to the maintenance of established distinctions between social classes.

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