Integrated Task: TPO 43

The reading asserts that Agnostids which were a group of marine animals and their fossils have been found in rocks of many areas around the world were relatives of modern insects and it discusses three possible theories defining their behaviors. The lecturer, however, casts doubt on the specifications and probabilities provided by the reading passage.

The author suggests that the Agnostids may have been free-swimming predators. As these creatures used to be good swimmers, they would have been active hunters. Although they have been small in size, there used to be plenty of smaller organisms for them to pray on. Conversely, the lecturer brings up the idea that if these creatures wanted to be hunters, they would have needed to have large and sharp eyes in order to track smaller animals. It is known that all other types of marine hunters used to possess sharp eyes while Agnostids had had tiny eyes with a poor visual sight that they were almost blind. If they had been hunters, they should have had other kinds of sensory organisms and since there have no records of such organisms been found, the idea of free-swimmers might not be valid.

Furthermore, the reading passage brings up the idea that Agnostids may have been seafloor dwellers. The lecturer explains that the common features of such dwellers contradict with the characteristics known about the Agnostids as seafloor dwellers are both slow movers and have localized geographical habitat because of not being able to move fast enough. Based on the knowledge of the Agnostids, they were probably able to move quickly and as a result, they could have been living in multiple geographical regions. The plenty of regions that their fossils were found would be a piece of acceptable evidence of Agnostids’ large spreading rate which might be unusual to mark them as seafloor dwellers.

Finally, it is stated in the article that Agnostids may have been parasites. The lecturer, on the other hand, posits that as parasites had typically been living not in very large groups since there might be the danger for the species of the same kind to be killed off by the host organ, and that it is known about the Agnostids being lived in large numbers and admitted by a large number of their fossils, the idea suggested by the author might not be reasonable.

392 words

35 minutes