Topic: TPO 47 - Integrated Task

Essay:

The reading asserts that there have been several arguments against the power flight of the Pterosaurs resulting that they would not be able to generate the energy needed to fly. The lecturer, however, finds the idea dubious and refutes them all by specific details.

First, the reading states that ancient reptiles such as Pterosaurs were probably cold-blooded because we know that the modern reptiles are cold-blooded. On the other hand, the lecturer mentions the fact that they have discovered a dense layer of hair-like or fur covering that makes them similar to warm-blooded animals. This cover can keep their body temperature high resulting a faster metabolism to supply the energy needed to fly.

Furthermore, the reading states that the weight of the flying animals is a limiting factor in order to power flight. The heavy Pterosaurs probably would not have been able to flap their wings fast enough to fly because they were as large as a giraffe. On the contrary, the lecturer states that the Pterosaurs were unusually light in contribution to their size. It was because their bones were hollow instead of being dense, so it would have helped them flap their wings easier than thought.

Finally, the author argues that the Pterosaurs back leg muscles were too weak to help them take off, so that the methods used by birds to take off would not have worked for Pterosaurs. Conversely, the professor underlines the fact that the Pterosaurs like some modern flying birds use 4 legs to walk, run or jump in order to lunch into the air.

Number of words: 261

Time: 25 min