TPO 43, integrated task

The author of the reading believes that there are several different theories about how a group of extinct marine animals named agnostids may have lived. The lecturer, however, finds the theories dubious and casts doubt on the reasons proposed by the reading passage.

The author argues that the agnostids may have been free-swimming predators, based of the evidences that show other types of primitive arthropods were strong swimmers and tough predators, so it can be assumed that agnostids lived the same way as the primitive arthropods did. Conversely, the lecturer brings up the idea that predator arthropods had developed eyes while agnostids had tiny eyes or were even blind. So this fact can rule out the free-swimming predators theory.

Furthermore, the reading passage holds the view that agnostids may have been seafloor dwelling creators based on the examples of other primitive arthropods living this way. This theory is challenged by the lecturer. She says that seafloor dwellers are really slow creatures and are not able to move far. They can only be found in localized areas while agnostids were spread over large locations and had the ability to move fast.

Finally the reading asserts that there is the possibility that the agnostids were parasites living on primitive fish or even on larger arthropods. In contrast, the lecturer is of the opinion that parasites populations are limited, having large populations of parasites certainly results the death of the host. Based of the evidences that show agnostids populations were really large, this theory can be ruled out.

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