*Saman Sotoudeh – TPO 47- Integrated Task*

The reading asserts that it is not possible for pterosaurs to be capable of powered flight. The lecturer, however, finds the idea dubious and casts doubt on the reasons proposed by the reading passage.

First, the author argues that ancient reptiles, just like modern reptiles, are cold-blooded, and as a result, have a slow metabolism, which unables them to produce lots of energy needed for powered flight. Conversely, the lecturer brings up the idea that fossil studies of pterosaurs indicated that they had a dense, hairlike covering like fur, which suggests that pterosaurs were warm-blood animals since fur enabled them to maintain their high body temperature. Hence, as they were warm-blooded animals, they were able to produce the energy required for this flight, and the argument of the reading passage is flawed.

Furthermore, the reading passage holds the view that pterosaurs were probably so heavy mainly because they were as large as a giraffe and concludes based on this assumption that this heaviness unables them to keep themselves airborne. On the contrary, the professor underlies the fact that anatomical features of pterosaurs reveal that these reptiles had little weight in proportion to their size. This is mainly because of their hollow bones, which saved them lots of weight comparing to a solid bone. As a result, they would not have any difficulties to stay airborne by powered flight.

Lastly, the reading passage asserts that pterosaurs could neither run fast enough nor jump high enough so as to launch themselves into the air since their back-leg muscles were too small and weak. On the contrary, the speaker dismisses this issue due to a major difference between pterosaurs and birds in walking. He discusses that birds use two legs for walking, while pterosaurs used all their four legs to walk on the ground. As a result, they could use all these four legs in order to push themselves off the ground, and even the largest pterosaur would have no trouble launching itself into the air.

**Time*: 15' + 3' (Revise)***

**Word count: *333***