

Question 1

Correct answer:

None of the other answers

Explanation:

The author's tone throughout the passage may not stick out as you are reading it. Even though he discusses the extinction of the dodo, he relates the events without being emotional about them, and ends with a scientific principle about how this can happen to other species. Thus, we cannot say that he is "oversensitive" about these issues or any others, or similarly, that he is "despondent" (feeling hopeless, pessimistic, and sad) or "furious" (extremely angry) about the dodo's extinction. Nothing in the passage suggests that the author's tone is "carefree" either, as he obviously thinks the dodo's extinction is an important example of what can happen when a species cannot adapt fast enough to a too-quickly-changing environment. This leaves us with one answer, the correct one: "None of the other answers."

Question 2

Correct answer:

objective

Explanation:

The author's tone in this passage is one that you may not even have noticed when reading the passage. Science passages like this one often employ a detached, impersonal, and neutral tone that can be called "objective." This type of tone doesn't involve the writer's opinion or take sides with one or another of the topics being discussed. For instance, if the writer made the hares seem pitiable and the stoats seem like mean, bloodthirsty predators, his tone could not be said to be "objective." However, the writer treats the stoats and hares in much the same way, discussing them in terms of their changing coat colors. "Objective" is the best answer for this question because we cannot support the assertions that the author's tone is "angry," "optimistic," "considerate," or "judgmental."

Question 3

Correct answer:

an excerpt from a lecture to an educated audience

Explanation:

In the second paragraph, we find the contextual info we are looking for: "I am speaking of tonight". From this we can assuredly infer that the words were delivered orally, and the elevated content implies an educated audience.