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Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage. There are desert plants which survive the dry season in the form of inactive seeds. There are also desert insects which survive as inactive larvae (幼虫). In addition, difficult as it is to believe, there are desert fish which can survive through years of drought (干旱) in the form of inactive eggs. These are the shrimps (小虾) that live in the Mojave Desert, an intensely dry region in the south-west of the United States where shade temperatures of over 50C are often recorded. The eggs of the Mojave shrimps are the size and have the appearance of grains of sand. When sufficient spring rain falls to form a lake, once every two to five years, these eggs hatch (孵化). Then the water is soon filled with millions of tiny shrimps about a millimetre long which feed on tiny plant and animal organisms which also grow in the temporary desert lake. Within a week, the shrimps grow from their original 1 millimetre to a length of about 1.5 centimetres. Throughout the time that the shrimps are rapidly maturing, the water in the lake equally rapidly evaporates. Therefore, for the shrimps it is a race against time. By the twelfth day, however, when they are about 3 centimetre long, hundreds of tiny eggs form on the underbodies of the females. Usually by this time, all that remains of the lake is a large, muddy patch of wet soil. On the thirteenth day and the next, during the final hours of their brief lives, the shrimps lay their eggs in the mud. Then, having ensured that their

species will survive, the shrimps die as the last of the water evaporates. If sufficient rain falls the next year to form another lake, the eggs hatch, and once again the shrimps pass rapidly through their cycle of growth, adulthood, egg-laying, and death. Some years there is insufficient rain to form a lake: in this case, the eggs will remain dormant for another years, or even longer if necessary. Very, very occasionally, perhaps twice in a hundred years, sufficient rain falls to form a deep lake that lasts a month or more. In this case, the species passes through two cycles of growth, egg-laying, and death. Thus, on such occasions, the species multiplies considerably, which further ensures its survival.来源 : www.100test.com

21. Which of the following is the MOST distinctive feature of Mojave shrimps? A) Their lives are brief. B) They feed on plant and animal organisms. C) Their eggs can survive years of drought. D) They lay their eggs in the mud.

22. By saying “ for the shrimps it is a race against time ” (Para. 3, line 2) the author means _____. A) they have to swim fast to avoid danger in the rapidly evaporating lake B) they have to swim fast to catch the animal organisms on which they survive C) they have to multiply as many as possible within thirteen days D) they have to complete their life cycle within a short span of time permitted by the environment

23. The passage mainly deals with _____. A) the life span of the Mojave shrimps B) the survival of desert shrimps C) the importance of water to life D) life in the Mojave Desert来源 : 考试大

24. The word “ dormant ” (Para. 4, Line 3) most probably means _____. A) inactive B) strong C) alert D) soft

25. It may be inferred from the passage that _____. A) appearance

and size are most important for life to survive in the desert B) a species must be able to multiply quickly in order to survive C) for some species one life cycle in a year is enough to survive the desert drought D) some species develop a unique life pattern to survive in extremely harsh conditions 100Test 下载频道开通，各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com