

## Core Nonfiction Reading 1 Midterm Test

## Units 1-7

**A. Choose the right answer.** (You may need to change the form of the word.)

genetic attract	struggle amazing	survive cave	unique connect	formally employ
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1. All his life he has been \_\_\_\_\_ with illness.
2. He didn't \_\_\_\_\_ long after the accident.
3. His style is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In casual situations he is called Richard, but \_\_\_\_\_ he is known as Sir Richard Branson.
5. The graphics in the newest video games are \_\_\_\_\_!
6. Diseases and resistance to them can be \_\_\_\_\_.
7. She \_\_\_\_\_ all the young men in the neighborhood.
8. Biologists visit \_\_\_\_\_ to learn about the unusual animals in them.
9. She is \_\_\_\_\_ as a teacher.
10. People tend to \_\_\_\_\_ money with happiness.

**B. Match the word to its definition.**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. alcohol     | a. an organization that works to help people who are in need            |
| 2. emotion     | b. something that exists or happens                                     |
| 3. amazing     | c. a piece of paper that proves a person finished college or university |
| 4. reality     | d. drinks such as beer and wine   |
| 5. outline     | e. to give out; to hand out   |
| 6. involved    | f. a line around an object or shape                                     |
| 7. charity     | g. very surprising; wonderful   |
| 8. unusual     | h. a feeling  |
| 9. degree      | i. different; not normal or common                                      |
| 10. distribute | j. part of  |

**C. Read the passage and then answer the questions.**

**Stan Lee: The Man Behind Marvel**

You probably know about Spiderman, Hulk, the X-Men, and Iron Man. You might not know about Stan Lee, however. Lee has been very important in the lives of these superheroes. They have been important in his life as well.

At the age of seventeen, Lee started working for the company that would become Marvel Comics. He worked hard at his job. He was always writing, reviewing text, and working with artists. Soon, he became the boss.

Under Lee, Marvel became one of the most popular comic book companies in the world. Lee and Marvel took the idea of comics beyond children. Before him, superheroes were perfect. He gave them problems that regular people have. They lost their jobs. They worried about their girlfriends. Teenagers and even adults began to like comics.

Mr. Lee's superheroes had regular problems, but his life hasn't been regular at all. He provided the voices when many of his superheroes turned into cartoons. More recently, Lee has acted in all of the movies that his superheroes are in. At the age of 91, he was still playing small parts in movies. For example, in *The Amazing*

Spiderman, he played a librarian.

Without Stan Lee, comics wouldn't be what they are today. Lee took a small comic company and made it famous. Even people who don't enjoy comic books know who Spiderman and Iron Man are. Stan Lee's characters have become household names.

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Stan Lee started the company Marvel Comics. | True / False |
| 2. Lee made all his superheroes perfect.       | True / False |
| 3. Lee has appeared in many superhero movies.  | True / False |

**D. Read the passage and then answer the questions.**

**Richard Branson: Rags to Riches**

Richard Branson was not a good student. In fact, he quit school at the age of 16. That, however, did not stop him from becoming successful. Today, this billionaire is formally known as Sir Richard Charles Nicholas Branson. And he is one of the richest men in the United Kingdom. He is worth about US\$ 4.6 billion. He even owns his own island!

After he left school, Richard started a magazine called Student. It was an overnight success. From there, he got involved in the record industry. He started a successful record store in London. After that, he started a record label called Virgin Records.

Clearly, music has been important to Richard's success, but it is not the only thing he is involved in. He is the founder of the Virgin Group, which employs more than fifty thousand people and operates in fifty different countries. The group is made up of hundreds of companies. Perhaps you have flown on a Virgin Airlines plane or bought music from a Virgin Megastore. If you dream of space travel, Virgin Galactic might be able to one day make that dream a reality.

The key to Sir Richard Branson's success has been his ability to connect with people. He may not have gotten the best grades in school, but he is a charming and likeable businessman. Sir Richard's story is unusual, but it provides hope to people all over the world. From average beginnings to great success, his story is truly one of "rags to riches."

1. What was Sir Richard Branson's first business?
  - a. A magazine
  - b. A record store
  - c. Virgin Airlines
  - d. Virgin Megastore
2. Branson's \_\_\_\_\_ includes hundreds of companies.
  - a. island
  - b. record label
  - c. Virgin Group
  - d. Virgin Galactic
3. According to the reading, what has been the main factor in Richard's success?
  - a. Being in the United Kingdom.
  - b. The record industry
  - c. His ability to connect with people
  - d. His grades in school.