

Core Nonfiction Reading 2

Midterm Test 1 (Unit 1-7)

A. Choose the right word and fill in the blanks.

phrase	option	oxygen	lighter	revolution
policy	overall	simulate	tight	vital

1. The Pacific Plate is sliding under the smaller, _____ plates.
2. The eight-hour workday has been common since the Industrial _____ in the 19th century.
3. It is _____ that astronauts exercise in space to keep their muscles and bones strong.
4. Some computer programs, like virtual reality, _____ standing and walking.
5. The _____ "green building" is important to people who care about the environment.
6. The company may change its _____ on set working times.
7. Empire dresses had high waists and were _____ at the top but loose at the bottom.
8. Knowledge of technology can help improve the _____ quality of a country's workforce.
9. Biofeedback therapy is one _____ to treat a person's phobias.
10. In space, the lack of water and _____ makes it difficult to do routine things.

B. Match the word to its definition.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approximately 2. protest 3. currently 4. realize 5. tailor 6. expert 7. float 8. pattern 9. riot 10. sew | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to understand or become aware b. to express strong opposition to something at a public event with other people c. a person with special skill in or knowledge of a certain subject d. about; not exactly but almost e. something that happens repeatedly in the same way f. at the present time g. a person who makes men's clothes h. a situation in which a large group of people act in a violent and uncontrolled way i. to make or repair clothing with a needle and thread j. to move freely on or through a liquid, or as if in a liquid |
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C. Read the passage and choose the right answer.

How the Fashion Industry Has Changed

Fashion is constantly evolving. Trends change from year to year. They did not always change at such a pace. Prior to the 1800s, clothing was either made at home or custom designed by dressmakers and tailors. A dress could take up to ten hours to make. It was a slow, expensive process.

Dressmakers and tailors needed a cheaper way to make dresses and suits. Tailors noticed that many different people were buying the same styles of clothing. They developed patterns to use for many customers, not just one. The way clothes were made also changed when the first sewing machine was created in the 1800s. Sewing machines saved designers hours compared to sewing by hand. Now a dress could be finished in a single hour.

After sewing machines became popular, sewing factories appeared. They further decreased the time it took to make clothes. This caused a decrease in clothing costs as well. Clothes began to be sold at fixed prices in standard sizes. They were then more affordable for the lower classes.

Clothes were being made quickly, and they needed to be sold just as quickly. Once department stores came about in the 1800s, consumers could purchase many items in one place. These included clothing, hats, gloves, shoes, and jewelry. As a result, department stores became popular places to shop. Companies that sold products in department stores began to advertise in magazines. This gave them influence over people's beliefs about which styles were fashionable.

Fashion used to change slowly. Then that process started to happen rapidly. Clothing styles have gone on to change much over the years, but the process of making clothes has not. Patterns and sewing machines revolutionized the industry, and they could be around for a while.

1. There were no sewing machines before the 1800s.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. Clothing factories led to standard clothing sizes.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. According to the reading, fashion changes more quickly now than in the past.
 - a. True
 - b. False

E. Read the passage and choose the right answer.

Powering the Ring of Fire

“The Ring of Fire” is not really a ring. It is an imaginary arc that outlines most of the Pacific Ocean. The arc extends from Antarctica in the south as far west as Indonesia, then north to Russia and Alaska before it falls southeast along the west coasts of North and South America. Many of the world’s volcanoes are located around the Ring of Fire. The area has a lot of earthquakes and tsunamis as well.

The Ring of Fire sounds like a dangerous place. Fire, after all, is a destructive force. In fact, the ring lives up to its name. The powerful forces of this arc are generated by the plates that make up the surface of the earth. The scientific term for these is “tectonic plates.” Scientists have identified fifteen major tectonic plates that make up the earth’s surface, as well as several minor ones. Seven of them are huge, while the others are quite small. These plates are always moving. The largest, the Pacific Plate, is currently shrinking because the Eurasian Plate and North American Plate are pressing on it. As a result, the Pacific Plate is sliding under the smaller, lighter plates. Where the plates do this, volcanoes form. Earthquakes are also generated. And when earthquakes happen under the ocean, tsunamis result.

No doubt you have heard about large earthquakes around the Ring of Fire. Large volcanic eruptions also appear in the news from time to time. More frequent smaller events typically go unreported. Those who study volcanoes and earthquakes keep watch on and count both the small and large events. They have found that over seventy-five percent of the earth’s quakes and volcanic eruptions occur around the Ring of Fire.

1. According to the reading, which part of the Ring of Fire is the furthest west?
 - a. Antarctica
 - b. Indonesia
 - c. Russia
 - d. South America

2. What is getting smaller, according to the passage?
 - a. Fifteen major tectonic plates
 - b. The Eurasian Plate
 - c. North American Plate
 - d. The Pacific Plate

3. What is the cause of the Ring of Fire’s powerful forces? Which phrase in italics shows the answer?
 - a. Many of the world’s volcanoes
 - b. Fire

- c. Plates which are always moving
- d. Tsunamis