Core Nonfiction Reading 3

Final Test (Unit 8-14)

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

prey	permanent	collide	artificial	property
priority	fortunately	usage	potential	accomplish

1. There is a new process that could help researchers discover medical _____(i)es in plants.
2. Charged particles _____ with gas particles from Earth to create the northern lights.
3. A smart home can reduce energy _____.
4. Sometimes brain damage can be _____.
5. _____, a lot of brain injuries heal over time.
6. Some fish capture their _____ by tricking them.
7. Many _____ drugs may be hiding in the Amazon.
8. Zamenhof _____(i)ed his goal of uniting people with a universal second language.
9. _____ intelligence is the study of how to create machines that think like humans.
10. For some people, convenience might be a _____.

B. Match the word to its definition.

1.	version	a.	to stop a job or career due to age or because you do not need or want to work anymore
2.	nowadays	b.	in addition
3.	considerable	c.	large in size or amount
4.	preservation	d.	to have a specific goal or purpose
5.	moreover	e.	one of the large parts that some countries are divided into
6.	aim	f.	to give special attention to
7.	territory	g.	these days; at the present time
8.	retire	h.	an area that an animal or group of animals uses and defends
9.	province	i.	the act of keeping something safe from harm or loss
10.	emphasize	j.	a form of something that is different in some way from other forms

C. Read the passage and choose the right answer.

The Day the Lights Went Out

On March 13, 1989, a geomagnetic storm hit Earth so hard that it caused the entire province of Quebec, Canada, to black out. Blackouts are not unusual, but this one was different because it was caused by a solar storm. The event made scientists very aware of how solar flares can affect the world.

On March 10, 1989, astronomers had seen a powerful explosion on the Sun. This explosion caused a storm cloud to rush from the Sun towards Earth. On March 12, the huge cloud of solar plasma—a gas of electrically charged particles—finally hit Earth's magnetic field. The intensity of this geomagnetic storm caused an amazing performance by the northern lights. They could be seen as far south as Florida and Cuba. It also created electrical currents in the ground beneath North America.

On March 13, these electrical currents found a weakness in the power grid of Quebec. As a result, the area suffered a blackout that lasted twelve hours. Millions of people found themselves in dark office buildings or stranded in elevators. The blackout forced schools, businesses, and airports to close. It was a terrifying time. People who had never seen the northern lights believed that nuclear war had broken out. They were not alone. There were electrical problems all over North America and Europe. Luckily, no other populated area suffered a complete blackout like Quebec did.

The Quebec Blackout makes it very clear that space weather and solar flares can affect the entire world. Airplanes can lose radio power and have problems with navigational equipment. When satellites go out, it affects television, cellular phones, and GPS. The good news is that such severe storms are rare. Scientists all over the world are working together to predict them. The more we know about the Sun and how it works, the better we can prepare for future activity.

1. The Quebec blackout occurred a few days after an explosion on the Sun.
a. True
b. False

2. Quebec was the only area to experience electrical problems.
a. True
b. False

3. Severe solar storms like the one in 1989 do not happen very often.
a. True
b. False

E. Read the passage and choose the right answer.

Esperanto

Esperanto is a language that was invented by a man named L. L. Zamenhof in the late 1800s. It is called a constructed language because it didn't develop naturally. (1) It is not the language of any single country or group of people, although it is spoken by a few million. Esperanto is a unique language with many advantages.

Zamenhof grew up in an area of Poland where there was (1) **a lot of hostility among different ethnic groups**. In the small area where he lived, there were speakers of at least four different languages. Zamenhof felt that his neighbors would have gotten along if they could have spoken to each other clearly. Instead, they were divided and trapped by language barriers. As an adult, he invented Esperanto to unite people around the world and (1) *to be used as a universal second language.*

Esperanto, it is said, is about five times (2) *easier to learn* than any other language. It has (2) only sixteen grammar rules and no irregular patterns. Parts of speech, for example, are obvious because of their suffixes. The suffix *-o* marks a noun, *-a* marks an adjective, and *-e* marks an adverb. Each letter has exactly one sound, so (2) **spelling and pronunciation are also easy**. Esperanto has been designed to be straightforward and simple.

Another advantage to this constructed language is that it is neutral. (3) **Many people feel that English is already spoken so widely that it should become the international language**. However, this view is unpopular in many countries because of history or politics. Esperanto is seen as belonging to everyone. It (3) can be understood despite speakers' native accents, and because it is so simple, (3) *its speakers don't make as many minor mistakes* as non-native speakers make in English or other second languages.

Esperanto has appeared in (4) **many films and novels**. It is used by scientists for international communication, and it has even been (4) *used by the US Army.* It may one day become an official language of the European Union. Although Esperanto (4) is not spoken by everyone, it can be said that Zamenhof accomplished his goal.

1. What motivated Zamenhof to invent Esperanto? Which **bold phrase** shows the answer?

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. 4

2. Which is NOT an advantage of Esperanto? Which underlined phrase shows the answer?

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. 4

3. What was Zamenhof's ultimate goal for Esperanto? Which *phrase in italics* shows the answer?

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. 4