

Test 1

Face to Face with Hurricane Camille

I. Text Comprehension

A. Choose the BEST answer based on your comprehension of the text.

1. Why did John Koshak decide to stay and face the devastating hurricane?
 - A. Because the hurricane wouldn't be bad.
 - B. Because the family moved there not long ago.
 - C. Because he didn't take the matter in a serious way.
 - D. Because he didn't think the family was in any real danger.
2. When did the whole family feel in real trouble?
 - A. When the storm was overwhelming.
 - B. When the French doors blew in with an explosive sound.
 - C. When the front door was pushed open by a blast of water.
 - D. When the water tasted salty.
3. For what purpose did the author insert Paragraph 19 and 20 in the story?
 - A. To tell the reader how destructive Hurricane Camille was.
 - B. To describe what NHC had done with Hurricane Camille.
 - C. To provide evidence of the seriousness of natural disasters.
 - D. To build a suspense about what would happen to the family.
4. What can we learn from Paragraph 35 about the dog and cat returning alive and hungry?
 - A. They were as lucky as their masters were.
 - B. The family was less seriously damaged.
 - C. God helps those who help themselves.
 - D. Animals better survive natural disasters.
5. What did Grandmother Koshak mean by saying "we lost nothing important" in Paragraph 39?
 - A. Nothing is more important than human lives.
 - B. Material possessions are not important.
 - C. An integrated family secures a happy life.
 - D. The family lost nothing in the hurricane.

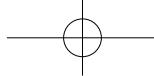
B. Are the following statements true or false? Mark "T" for true and "F" for false.

1. Pop Koshak was an expert machinist and so took the job of preparing the generator for the hurricane. ()
2. According to NHC, Hurricane Camille was the greatest recorded storm ever to hit a populated area in the Western Hemisphere. ()
3. When the family were forced into the television room upstairs, Pop Koshak dragged a double mattress from a bedroom to make a lean-to against the wind. ()
4. It was a painful time for the family to sort out the wreckage of the house, as it reminded them of the horrible experience in the storm. ()
5. The story ended with the talk between John and his parents to show that people gained more than physical damage in the storm. ()

II. General Knowledge

Fill in the blanks based on the general knowledge.

1. Depending on where they occur, tropical storms are labeled _____, _____ and _____.
2. Hurricanes are classified into _____ categories according to Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.
3. Currently, there are _____ lists of male and female names in _____ order used alternatively for hurricanes.
4. China Meteorological Administration adopts a color-coded warning system for severe weather conditions, such as extreme temperature, torrential rainfall, drought, etc. The alerts are labeled in blue, yellow, _____ and _____ from the lowest to the highest.
5. Although different from country to country, the emergency telephone number often consists of _____ digits so that it can be remembered easily and dialed quickly.
6. Worldwide, emergency services mainly deal with _____, _____ and medical rescues.
7. The European Union adopts _____ as an emergency number in addition to other local emergency numbers. In the United States and Canada, people dial _____ in case of emergency.
8. The _____, or the turning point of a narration, occurs when the conflicts reach the summit, and the most exciting action or highest tension occurs.
9. In general, there are four basic conflicts in a narration: man against man, _____, _____ and man against society.



10. The main character of a literary work, around whom the events of the narration revolve, is called the _____. Against him/her is the _____, a character or an institution that represents the opposition.

III. Words & Expressions

Choose the one that BEST explains the underlined part.

- Lily fought back the outrage that was driving her to pummel Charlie for not getting her approval on something as dangerous as flying.
A. whip B. punch C. hammer D. batten
- On the beach, a person may sit on an old blanket, idly watching the clouds stretch and tear, or, if the day is windy, scud toward the horizon.
A. move quickly B. stretch fast C. roam D. roll fast
- Britain's failure to ride out international economic difficulties lends further weight to microeconomic causes in explaining its poor economic performance.
A. figure out B. pass through C. work out D. come through
- The police are advising motorists marooned by the blizzards to stay in their cars until the rescue services can reach them.
A. blocked B. deserted C. isolated D. abandoned
- "Munch on fruits and vegetables," the health officials implore, "they will reduce the risk of chronic ills such as heart disease, high blood pressure and cancer."
A. deplore B. entreat C. urge D. expect
- The ferocity and speed of the contagion were unprecedented, unleashing what is called "the first global financial crisis of the 21st century".
A. uniqueness B. fierceness C. wideness D. bitterness
- As soon as Miss Laura heard of Pen's misfortunate, all her wrath against him straightaway vanished, and gave place to the most tender and unreasonable compassion.
A. bias B. revenge C. fury D. complaint
- Mr. Rumsfeld wanted to use Iraq to test his theory of "light" warfare—the ability of a small high-tech army to topple a regime.
A. overthrow B. disintegrate C. smash D. remove
- But nearly all of the publicly known cyber damage to computer terminals comes from viruses rampaging on the Internet, which are accidentally introduced by workers to the systems of their companies.
A. mushrooming B. penetrating C. raging D. racing

10. Dad not only has to know best, but he has to do his best to pitch in with the children, and by all accounts, the children will benefit.
A. play with B. join with C. cope with D. stay with
11. When Lindsay's father retired, she and her sisters begged him to rake a bungalow up the coast, but he chose this house from where he can see the shop he worked for.
A. build B. buy C. rent D. hunt
12. These observations may not salvage the relationship, but the problem-solving skills got from such discussions may help your child the next time around, and throughout her life.
A. heal B. found C. improve D. moderate
13. Doctors also find that the trauma of premature birth can be devastating to parents, who may suffer from depression and anxiety disorders, including post-traumatic stress.
A. upsetting B. surprising C. damaging D. frightening
14. Over the years this country seemed to waver unpredictably between love and hatred for the United States, sometimes begging for its attention, sometimes lashing out at it.
A. fluctuate B. hesitate C. vibrate D. alternate
15. On Monday night the Prime Minister faces the biggest challenge at the Parliament just as security forces batten down the city center ahead of what they fear will be violent protests on Tuesday.
A. block B. evacuate C. search D. occupy

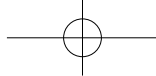
IV. Proof-reading & Error Correction

The passage contains TEN errors. Each indicated line contains a maximum of ONE error. In each case, only ONE word is involved. You should proofread the passage and correct it in the following way:

For a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank provided at the end of the line.

For a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with a “^” sign and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank provided at the end of the line.

For an unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with a slash “/” and put the word in the blank provided at the end of the line.



Say goodbye to the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season, which was a study in contradictions. It spared the usual Southern targets although Irene paralyzed the Eastern seaboard and devastated parts of the Northeast with dead flooding. The season ended Wednesday as the sixth straight year without U.S. landfall of a major hurricane, yet Irene was one of costliest storms in the U.S. history and killed at least 47 people here in the United States.

Irene was not considered as a major hurricane because it did not have winds exceeding 111 mph, or Category 3, when it has made landfall in North Carolina on Aug. 27. "You would think the impacts would be somewhat light, and the damages caused by Irene will be up there in one of the top 30 or so storms," National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read said.

Irene caught many New Englanders by the surprise in late August. Broadway shows were cancelled as New York officials ordered 370,000 people to leave their homes in low-lying areas and immobilize the nation's biggest subway system.

Irene was by far the more destructive event to hit Vermont in almost a century. Flooding from the storm killed six people, damaged and destroyed hundreds of miles of roads, score of bridges, hundreds of homes, and left hundreds of people homeless. The final repair estimate for the roads and bridges could reach \$250 million, which don't count damage to private property.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

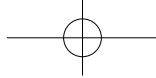
V. Translation

The paragraphs are taken from the text you have learned. Try to translate them in your own way and then compare your version with the original one.

Section A Chinese to English

这时，该地区的一些组织，实际上是全美国的同胞，都已向这个被飓风劫掠蹂躏的地区伸出了援助之手。天还没亮，密西西比州国民警卫队和一些民防单位便开进了灾区，疏导交通，保护财物，建立通讯联络中心，帮助清理废墟，并用车将无家可归的人送往难民收容中心。上午十时许，救世军的流动快餐车、红十字会志愿者及工作人员开始奔赴所有能够抵达的地方去分发热饮、食品、衣服和卧具。

全国各地成百上千的城镇募集了数百万美元的捐款送往灾区。各种家用和医疗用品通过飞机、火车、卡车和轿车源源不断地运进灾区。联邦政府用船只运来了440万

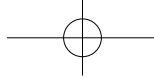


磅食品，还运来了移动房屋，造起了移动教室，并开设了发放低息长期商业贷款的办事机构。

Section B English to Chinese

It grew dark before seven o'clock. Wind and rain now whipped the house. John sent his oldest son and daughter upstairs to bring down mattresses and pillows for the younger children. He wanted to keep the group together on one floor. "Stay away from the windows," he warned, concerned about glass flying from storm-shattered panes. As the wind mounted to a roar, the house began leaking, the rain seemingly driven right through the walls. With mops, towels, pots and buckets the Koshaks began a struggle against the rapidly spreading water. At 8:30, power failed, and Pop Koshak turned on the generator.

The roar of the hurricane now was overwhelming. The house shook, and the ceiling in the living room was falling piece by piece. The French doors in an upstairs room blew in with an explosive sound, and the group heard gun-like reports as other upstairs windows disintegrated. Water rose above their ankles.



VI. Reading Comprehension

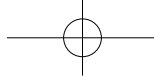
Read the passage and then choose the BEST answer to each question.

1. In a northwestern Kansas wheat field, not far from the Nebraska border, John Newport returned to his field chores after a brief rain shower had passed. The edge of an enormous thunderstorm, laced with brilliant lightning, had passed overhead and it seemed as if the worst of the storm was over.
2. Life was not easy on the Great Plains of Phillips County, Kansas on May 25, 1932. For some members of the Newport family, life was about to become even harder. A muffled roar in the distance grew sharper and louder. As John began to move toward the house, he realized that the low, indistinct form in the distance was not rain or a patch of fog, but a rotating transparent cloud, beneath a dark mass of cloud extending under the southwest corner of the thunderstorm. An occasional snake-like form would briefly appear within the cloud, and then suddenly vanish. It was coming directly toward the farm.
3. At his next glance, three or four contorted and transparent columns would briefly circle the center of what looked like a patch of swirling mist. The cloud looked nothing like the thin funnels and ropes that he had seen in the distance every few years. He now ran at full speed for the house, trying with each gasp to shout “Cyclone!” Within the next few seconds, life or death decisions would be made about contented possessions, about family members, and about self preservation. The rotating cloud had changed from transparent mist to solid brown mass at the edge of the newly plowed fields and continued to advance relentlessly on the small cluster of farm buildings.
4. With the edge of the vortex still to the southwest, the corner of the roof suddenly gave way and the 30-year-old cottonwood trees that surrounded the house began to snap. A powerful jet of air, flowing into the tornado, began ripping at the house and the entire building vibrated as the unearthly roar grew steadily louder. One child grabbed a prized locket from a dresser, another gazed at the barnyard full of panic-stricken animals, another yelled for the dog. The oldest stared in denial at her mother; the youngest just stood and cried.
5. The mother had but one thought that everyone head immediately for the small root cellar. The storm cave, dug some distance from the house, was now out of reach

behind a growing wall of flying debris. The root cellar was the only remaining refuge. The children went first, the mother grabbing each by the arm, and quickening their movement by a half-step. The father braced himself against the kitchen door. The last child was on the steps when the parents finally moved toward the cellar, but the first of the intense whirling columns had reached the house.

6. In later interviews, none of the children mentioned whether there was, between the parents, a final glance at one another. If there were final words at the top of the stairs, they were not heard above the deafening roar.
7. Winds in excess of 200 mph created a pressure of 20 tons on the side of the small farm house and the building finally reached its limit of resistance. In an instant, a lifetime of work... walls, beams, plaster, furniture, tools, clothes, toys, books, and family treasures were all airborne. Some would fall only a few hundred feet away; smaller bits and pieces would be carried 120 miles. Sheet metal and boards flew across the barnyard at 150 feet per second, impaling anything that was standing. The 12-inch-thick hand-hewn sills, on which the house had sat for forty years, would hit the ground a quarter-mile away and plunge eight feet into the prairie soil. An entire cottonwood tree was found two miles away.
8. After a few minutes the children emerged from the cellar, not into the kitchen, but out into a rain and hail storm. They located the lifeless body of their mother about 100 yards from the empty foundation. The father, barely alive, was found 200 yards further away, across the state line in Nebraska. His last words were instructions to get to the nearest neighbor for help, a half mile away. He fell into unconsciousness in the arms of his eldest daughter. The children, Mildred, Martha, Eleanor, Dean, and Paul, aged 3-15, ran through a barrage of five-inch-diameter hail. They arrived at the next farm battered, bloodied, with broken arms and ribs. John died a few hours later in the neighbor's living room. The children began new lives with their grandparents.

1. Which of the following best describes how the storm developed that day?
 - A. It changed from transparent columns to sweeping brown mass.
 - B. It was intensified into solid brown mass after a heavy rain.
 - C. It evolved when the edge of the vortex swept the house.
 - D. It grew from a shower into a rain and then hail storm.
2. What does the underlined sentence in Paragraph 2 imply?
 - A. The children would learn to reorganize their lives by themselves.
 - B. Some family members would have to live with their relatives.
 - C. The survivors of the family would live in lasting agonies of lament.
 - D. The family would have to work harder to rebuild their house.



3. What does the underlined word “briefly” in Paragraph 2 probably mean?
 - A. for the moment
 - B. in a moment
 - C. at the moment
 - D. for a moment

4. John Newport got into a panic when _____.
 - A. the thunder grew sharper and louder
 - B. the cloud changed into solid brown mass
 - C. the low, indistinct form became a rotating cloud
 - D. he realized something strange in the cloud movement

5. How many people would the life-and-death decisions be made for?
 - A. Five.
 - B. Six.
 - C. Seven.
 - D. Nine.

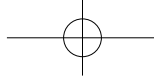
6. What does the phrase “in denial” in Paragraph 4 indicate about the oldest child?
 - A. She couldn’t believe what was happening.
 - B. She didn’t know what would happen to the family.
 - C. She hoped for dash and daring from her mother.
 - D. She felt at a loss as to how to help the family.

7. What does Paragraph 6 suggest?
 - A. More serious disasters would fall upon the family.
 - B. Losing parents was such a deep sadness to the children.
 - C. Separation from their mother was not expected.
 - D. The children were too scared to notice their parents.

8. Which of the following is shared by the Newports and the family in “Face to Face with Hurricane Camille”?
 - A. Everyone suffered heavily in the disastrous storm.
 - B. Both families survived though with heavy losses.
 - C. The adults showed the power of love with their acts.
 - D. Children in both families behaved calmly and bravely.

9. What is the primary cause of the Newports’ heavier suffering than the family in “Face to Face with Hurricane Camille”?
 - A. The untimely precautions.
 - B. The force of the storms.
 - C. The weakness of the house.
 - D. The power of the family.

10. What can we infer from the passage?
 - A. Love could be best interpreted in life-and-death struggles.
 - B. Life on the Great Plains was hard due to frequent tornados.
 - C. Northwestern Kansas was one of the most tornado-prone areas.
 - D. Human potentials could bring out tremendous power when facing disasters.



VII. Writing

Since entering the 21st century, the world has been haunted by natural disasters more often than ever. Some attribute it to human's uninhibited exploitation of the earth and discharges of pollutants into the environment. So to save the earth and then to save human beings, we must reduce our demand on nature, and give the earth more time to recover. While others hold that frequent natural disasters are unavoidable results of the earth's aging process. So what we should do is not to regress to the past simple mode of living, but to progress to a more environmentally friendly modern life. What is your opinion? Please write an essay of about 400 words. You should supply an appropriate title for your essay.

In the first part of your writing you should state clearly your main argument, and in the second part you should support your argument with appropriate details. In the last part you should bring what you have written to a natural conclusion or make a summary.