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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 hurricane?
 - A. Because the hurricane wouldn't be devastating.
 - 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 they were 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 Paragraphs 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 keep what would happen to the family in suspense.
4. What can we learn from Paragraph 35 about the dog and cat's returning alive and hungry?
 - A. They were as lucky as their masters.
 - B. The Koshaks' home was less seriously damaged.
 - C. They were as brave and lucky as their masters.
 - 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 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 despite the physical damage people became closer and more supportive after the hurricane. ()

II. Words & Expressions

Choose the one that BEST explains the underlined part.

1. 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
2. It's the anxiety, depression, loneliness and stress that have come to afflict employees during the recession.
A. torment B. impress C. divert D. mobilize
3. 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
4. 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. stranded D. abandoned
5. “Munch on fruits and vegetables,” the health officials implored, “for they will reduce the risk of chronic ills such as heart disease, high blood pressure and cancer.”
A. deplored B. entreated C. urged D. expected
6. 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

7. As soon as Miss Laura heard of Pen's misfortune, all her wrath against him vanished and gave place to the most tender and unreasonable compassion.
A. bias B. revenge C. fury D. complaint
8. The scandal about the president is spread through the whole country and threatens to topple the government.
A. overthrow B. disintegrate C. smash D. remove
9. 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 also has to do his best to pitch in with the children, and by all accounts, the children will benefit.
A. play with B. join and help C. talk 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 could see the shop he had worked for.
A. search into B. find out C. build up D. look for
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 superpower, 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 faced the biggest challenge at the Parliament just as security forces battened down the city center ahead of what they feared would be violent protests on Tuesday.
A. sealed off B. withdrew from C. marched through D. shut down

III. Proofreading & 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 on 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 canceled as New York officials ordered 370,000 people to leave their homes in low-lying areas and mobilize 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. Reading Comprehension

Section A Multiple Choice Questions

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 should 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 away. 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 word "briefly" in Paragraph 2 probably mean?
 - A. For the moment.
 - B. In a moment.
 - C. At the moment.
 - D. For a moment.

3. 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

4. What does the phrase “in denial” in Paragraph 4 indicate about the oldest child?
 - A. She couldn’t accept 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.

5. 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.

6. What can we infer from the passage?
 - A. Parental love could be best interpreted in life-and-death struggles.
 - B. Life on the Great Plains was hard due to frequent tornadoes.
 - C. Northwestern Kansas was one of the most tornado-prone areas.
 - D. Humans could show great potentials and overcome disasters.

Section B Short Answer Questions

In this section there are four questions based on the passage in Section A. Answer each question in NO MORE THAN TEN WORDS.

7. What does the underlined sentence in Paragraph 2 imply?

8. How many people were involved in the life-and-death experience?

9. What does Paragraph 6 suggest?

10. Compared with the family in “Face to Face with Hurricane Camille,” what might be the primary cause of the Newports’ heavier suffering?

VI. Writing

Read carefully the following two excerpts on rebuilding, and then write your response in **NO LESS THAN 300 WORDS**, in which you should:

1. summarize the main messages in the two excerpts, and then
2. express your opinion on the issue, especially on whether people should rebuild in the same area or relocate elsewhere.

You can support yourself with information from the excerpts.

Pay attention to content relevance, content sufficiency, organization and language quality.

Excerpt 1

Leaving After a Disaster

The rebuilding question was asked after Katrina destroyed New Orleans, and now after Sandy demolished the New Jersey Shore. *The New York Times* reports, “We should strongly discourage the reconstruction of destroyed or badly damaged beachfront homes in New Jersey and New York. Some very valuable property will have to be abandoned to make the community less vulnerable to storm surges. This is tough medicine, to be sure, and taxpayers may be forced to compensate homeowners. But it should save taxpayers money in the long run by ending this cycle of repairing or rebuilding properties in the path of future storms.”

In fact, since natural disasters impact large communities, wide-ranging public debates have arisen regarding whether or not entire communities should take on the exorbitant costs of rebuilding.

The New York Times reports, “Across the nation, tens of billions of tax dollars have been spent on subsidizing coastal reconstruction in the aftermath of storms, usually with little consideration of whether it actually makes sense to keep rebuilding in disaster-prone areas.” Many scientists argue that rebuilding in these areas is a waste of money and puts people’s lives at risk. In fact, some people feel more comfortable leaving and starting over somewhere new. As *Scientific American* reports, “If a county experienced two natural disasters, migration out of that county increased by one percentage point, with the strongest reactions happening in response to hurricanes.”

Whether you relocate by choice or by necessity, it is possible to start over in a new place and be as happy as (or happier than) before.

Excerpt 2**Staying After a Disaster**

Many people have chosen to stay after a natural disaster and rebuild their homes. People and communities are resilient. The nation has seen entire communities rebuild and come back even stronger after disasters. In addition to a natural desire to stay at home, other factors make it more likely that people will stay.

If one's family or job is located in the area, it's more likely that the individual will choose to stay put and rebuild. Or, as *The Conversation* reports, "The longer a person's family has lived in a particular area, the more likely that person is to return home after being evacuated. Likewise, the stronger their ties to communities, neighbors and local economic activities, the more likely that person is to try to go back."

Many families in areas that have been hit more than once by a natural disaster continue to stay. In a report probing why people stay in disaster-prone cities, the author writes, "If [people] trust the public officials and disaster managers in a particular community, they are more likely to continue living there after a disaster, because they believe the managers will do a good job in future crises."

After living through a horrific natural disaster once, people naturally are fearful of going through it again. Fortunately, you can determine whether it's possible to rebuild to a higher construction standard that would make your new home sturdier than the old one. Moreover, some homeowners use these disaster situations as opportunities to perform major home upgrades.