In 1998, Tom Whittaker made history. He became the first disabled person to climb Mount Everest. Ten years earlier, Tom had been in a car accident. He was badly injured. He lost both his right foot and his kneecap. Still, Tom wasn’t going to let anything keep him from his goal. He was going to climb the world’s tallest mountain.

A. For most of us, headaches aren’t a big deal. We get them now and then. They cause a little pain, then they go away. For about one in 10 people, however, headaches are more serious. They get extremely strong headaches called migraines.

Migraine headaches are more than just annoying. They can last for several hours, or even several days. Sometimes, people with migraines have so much pain that they have to stay in bed. They may not be able to do everyday activities. Often, they miss school or work. The problem is larger than you might think. Migraine headaches result in more than one million lost school days every year.

No one knows exactly what causes migraines. In different people, different things can set one off. With some people, eating certain foods can trigger a migraine. With others, it may be loud noises or blinking lights.

1. Compared to ordinary headaches, migraines are much
   ○ A. less serious.
   ○ B. less painful.
   ○ C. more painful.
   ○ D. more common.

2. In this story, the word trigger means
   ○ A. stop.
   ○ B. cause.
   ○ C. help.
   ○ D. slow down.
B. Wilt Chamberlain was once basketball’s greatest superstar. He played in the 1960s and 1970s. The big seven-foot center was a dazzling scorer. During his career, he had many excellent games. One game, however, stands out above the rest. That was the night he scored 100 points.

Why was the 100-point game so amazing? On most nights, it’s not easy for a team to score that many points, let alone a player. Yet on March 2, 1962, Wilt did it all by himself. Wilt’s team was the Philadelphia 76ers. The 76ers were playing against the New York Knicks. From the very beginning of the game, the 76ers gave the ball to Wilt. Almost every time they did so, Wilt managed to score. By halftime, Wilt had 41 points. After three quarters, he had 79 points. The fans went crazy as the game came to an end. Wilt had scored a record 100 points. This was the first time that it happened. It’s never happened again.

1. What is the best title for this story?
   ○ A. “Wilt’s 100-Point Game”
   ○ B. “The Philadelphia 76ers”
   ○ C. “How to Play Basketball”
   ○ D. “Isn’t This Amazing?”

2. Which of these is an opinion?
   ○ A. Wilt played in the 1960s and 1970s.
   ○ B. Wilt was playing for the 76ers.
   ○ C. The 76ers were playing against New York.
   ○ D. Wilt was basketball’s greatest superstar.

3. How many points did Wilt have at halftime?
   ○ A. 41
   ○ B. 79
   ○ C. 100
   ○ D. 141

C. In the summer of 1997, a disaster struck Indonesia. The disaster was a series of fires that sent huge clouds of smoke rising into the air. The fires spread across a huge area. Thousands of acres were destroyed by flame. But it wasn’t the flames that caused the most serious problems. It was the smoke. The smoke was so thick that it made people sick, even people hundreds of miles away.

The smoke swept over Indonesia. Then it spread to other countries. In Singapore and Malaysia, cities were choked by a thick layer of hazy smog. Millions of people suffered from the air pollution.

The thick smoke also caused accidents. Drivers could barely see the roads through their windshields. One airplane crashed in the haze. Two ships ran into each other in the sea. In November, rains came and put out the raging fires. By that time, tremendous damage had been done.

1. Where did the fires begin?
   ○ A. Malaysia.
   ○ B. Singapore.
   ○ C. Indonesia.
   ○ D. Indonesia and Singapore.

2. The two ships ran into each other because of
   ○ A. heavy rain.
   ○ B. thick smoke.
   ○ C. high waves.
   ○ D. hot flames.

3. The article’s main purpose is to
   ○ A. explain how to put out forest fires.
   ○ B. tell you about a disaster in Indonesia.
   ○ C. persuade you not to start fires.
   ○ D. amuse you with a story about accidents.
D. All week long, I looked forward to finishing my book. The book was called *The Secret of the Hidden Cave*. It was a mystery, my favorite kind. Because I was busy with homework, I knew I wouldn’t get the opportunity to finish it until Friday. Anyway, thinking about the story gave me something to look forward to. It was the most exciting book I had ever encountered.

When Friday came, I sat down on the couch and began to read. Each new page was better than the one before. What would the explorers find at the bottom of the cave? This question was driving me crazy! Finally, I got to the next-to-last page. I was about to learn the secret! When I turned the page, I was shocked. The last page was missing!

“It’s not fair,” I yelled. Then I heard a giggle. Looking into the next room, I saw my little sister. She was running away with something in her hand.

E. August, 1999, was a sad month for the Russian space program. After 13 1/2 years, it finally abandoned the space station *Mir*. The *Mir* had been in space since 1986. For years, it was the pride of the Russian program. Lately, however, the space station had been the scene of many accidents. Three occurred within a single year. First, a fire broke out on board. The crew of the *Mir* almost had to leave the space station. Then, a cargo ship crashed into the side of the space station. The crash caused major damage to the *Mir*’s solar panels. Finally, a computer breakdown nearly caused disaster.

In the end, none of these accidents caused the shutdown. The *Mir* was left behind because it was simply too old. The equipment was getting creaky. If astronauts stayed there, they would probably be risking their lives. The *Mir* had lasted far longer than expected. When it was built, the space station was supposed to last only five years.

1. What is the best title for this story?
   - A. “The Mystery of the Missing Page”
   - B. “Why I Read Books”
   - C. “Too Much Homework”
   - D. “The Story of Famous Explorers”

2. In this story, the word *encountered* means
   - A. borrowed.
   - B. returned.
   - C. finished.
   - D. came across.

3. What can you guess from this story?
   - A. Mystery books are always missing a page.
   - B. The explorers found a skeleton in the cave.
   - C. The explorers didn’t find anything in the cave.
   - D. The reader’s sister tore out the last page.
**VOCABULARY**

**Synonyms**
Read the underlined word in each phrase. Mark the word below it that has the same (or close to the same) meaning.

**Sample:**
- take a **stroll**
  - O A. look
  - O B. number
  - O C. board
  - O D. walk

1. **squirming** around
   - O A. standing
   - O B. running
   - O C. laughing
   - O D. wriggling

2. **nonstop** wailing
   - O A. crying
   - O B. speaking
   - O C. talking
   - O D. joking

3. **a surprising triumph**
   - O A. solution
   - O B. victory
   - O C. friend
   - O D. day

4. **tattered** clothing
   - O A. colorful
   - O B. new
   - O C. worn-out
   - O D. clean

5. **waterfront** location
   - O A. central
   - O B. mountainous
   - O C. island
   - O D. shore

6. **sole** survivor
   - O A. first
   - O B. only
   - O C. last
   - O D. oldest

7. **tilt** your head
   - O A. lean
   - O B. nod
   - O C. shake
   - O D. lay

**Antonyms**
Read the underlined word in each phrase. Mark the word below it that means the opposite or nearly the opposite.

**Sample:**
- nervous feeling
  - O A. calm
  - O B. frightened
  - O C. angry
  - O D. funny

1. **tightly** the hold
   - O A. return
   - O B. remove
   - O C. slow down
   - O D. loosen

2. **valuable** idea
   - O A. useful
   - O B. super
   - O C. worthless
   - O D. certain

3. **possible solution**
   - O A. problem
   - O B. surprise
   - O C. activity
   - O D. idea

4. **unfamiliar** faces
   - O A. pleasant
   - O B. known
   - O C. beautiful
   - O D. strange

5. **unfortunate** event
   - O A. important
   - O B. early
   - O C. late
   - O D. lucky

6. **tighten** your grip
   - O A. brighten
   - O B. loosen
   - O C. increase
   - O D. maintain

7. **spare** part
   - O A. needed
   - O B. extra
   - O C. loose
   - O D. costly
Answer Key

Vocabulary

Synonyms
Sample: D

Antonyms
Sample: A

TEST 4
Sample: 1.D  2.C

Passage A
1. C  2. B

Passage B
1. A  2. D  3. A

Passage C

Passage D
1. A  2. D  3. D

Passage E