

English 10 • Unit 6 • Practice Assessment Answers & Explanations

Comprehension

1. *The correct answer is C.*

As the reader might expect, Lemonick’s main idea appears early in the passage; in line 4 he says, “There are plenty of reasons to go back.” The first answer is incorrect because the author admits that President Bush thinks the moon “may not be the most sensible route” to Mars (line 2). The other two answers are contradicted in the first paragraph.

2. *The correct answer is B.*

Lemonick mentions that fact when he discusses the idea of a solar power station on the moon (lines 20-25). The first answer is incorrect: it is an opinion (indicated by the word “best”) that is only hinted at in the paragraph. The third answer is a fact but is stated before and apart from Lemonick’s discussion of solar power. The fourth is an opinion hinted at the end of the passage.

3. *The correct answer is A.*

This is the topic of the fourth paragraph (lines 15-19). The third answer can be eliminated because the author never compares the effectiveness of the two kinds of power. The other two answers both tend to support rather than counter the “straight-to-Mars boosters.”

4. *The correct answer is B.*

The word “arguably” is a clue that there can be two sides on the issue. The other choices are facts.

5. *The correct answer is C.*

Silver says, “This brings us to the classic argument of whether human space exploration in general is a good thing” (lines 25-26), and the lines that follow present benefits. The first answer is addressed in lines 5-10, not in lines 25-36. The second is incorrect: Silver mentions other countries as potential partners in space, not as opponents of space flight. The fourth is incorrect because that issue is discussed in lines 19-23, not in lines 25-36.

6. *The correct answer is C.*

The words and images have emotional connotations. The other answers have words and images with primarily factual, scientific connotations.

7. *The correct answer is C.*

The space observatory is mentioned in lines 12-14 of “Why Go Back to the Moon?” and in lines 32-34 of “In Defense of Space Exploration.” The first two answers are mentioned only in “In Defense of Space Exploration” (lines 14-23 and 37-41, respectively). The fourth answer is mentioned only in “Why Go Back to the Moon?” (lines 22-25).

8. *The correct answer is A.*

The smiling child looking up and pointing forward conveys a positive belief in the future. The other answers all could be said to be vaguely suggested in the ad, but none is anywhere near as obvious a feeling as the first.

Constructed Response

9. *Answers will vary.*

The sentence is a statement of opinion. The clue word “terrific” expresses the author personal view of the idea, a view that others might not hold.

10. *Answers will vary. Either could be correct with adequate support.*

Both selections present an effective argument in favor of space programs; both also cite facts in support of the reasoning. “Why Go Back to the Moon?” may be more persuasive because the topic is more specific; on the other hand, the selection does not address opposing points of view as strongly as “In Defense of Space Exploration” does. Furthermore, the sequence of reasons is easier to follow in “In Defense of Space Exploration.”

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Vocabulary

1. *The correct answer is C.*

The passage implies that moon rocks have the potential to provide mineralogical clues. The other answer choices do not make specific connection *mineralogical*.

2. *The correct answer is A.*

Lemonick goes on to refer to “the clarity of outer space” (lines 13-14). The second answer might define *astronomical* in a different context, but not in this one. The third can be eliminated because microwaves are not mentioned until later in the passage. The fourth is incorrect because although optics has to do with telescopes, it is secondary to the discussion of building observatories.

3. *The correct answer is A.*

The lines clearly connect “moon landings” with “lunar geology.” The second is incorrect because knowing the noun *geology* does not help the reader understand the adjective *lunar*. The third and fourth are incorrect because neither *solar* nor *robotic* are associated with other nouns, and neither gives a clue to the meaning of *lunar* in this context.

4. *The correct answer is C.*

The first answer is incorrect because *strained* implies difficulty; the second is incorrect because *grotesque* refers to the monstrous; and the fourth is incorrect because *antic* suggests hectic activity.

5. *The correct answer is D.*

The idea of space exploration implies adventure. The first two answers are incorrect because *rude* and *pushy* refer to improper boldness in social situations. The third is incorrect because *obvious* refers to something that is easily seen or understood.

6. *The correct answer is A.*

In line 22, *consistent* implies working together to meet a goal. The second and third answers are incorrect because *unchanging* and *constant* suggest consistency over time, which is not the topic here. The fourth is incorrect because *unfailing* implies questions of success, which are not raised here.

Writing and Grammar

1. *The correct answer is B.*

The sentence here contains two independent clauses and a subordinate clause (*who wanted to fly to the International Space Station*), making it a compound-complex sentence. The first is a compound sentence that includes a participial phrase. The third is a complex sentence, consisting of one independent clause (*they discovered*) and two subordinate clauses. The fourth is a simple sentence, consisting of one independent clause and various phrases.

2. *The correct answer is C.*

The subordinate clause, *when civilian spaceships are built* introduces two independent clauses, resulting in a compound-complex sentence. The first two answers are complex sentences, each containing one independent clause and two subordinate clauses. The fourth answer is a compound sentence.

3. *The correct answer is A.*

The subordinate clause here is *if people are interested in a short flight*; the other two clauses are independent clauses. The second and fourth answers are compound sentences. The third is a complex sentence, consisting of one independent clause and one subordinate clause.