

Session 1

TIPS FOR TAKING THE TEST

Here are some suggestions to help you do your best:

- Be sure to read all the directions carefully.
- Most questions will make sense only when you read the whole passage. You may read the passage more than once to answer a question. When a question includes a quotation from a passage, be sure to keep in mind what you learned from reading the whole passage. You may need to review both the quotation and the passage in order to answer the question correctly.
- Read each question carefully and think about the answer before choosing your response.

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 1 through 7.

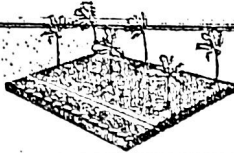
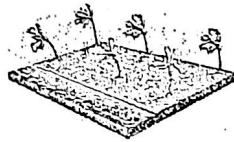
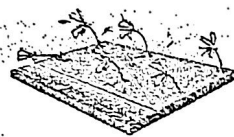

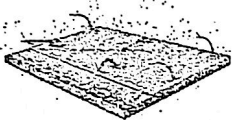
Hurricane Hunters

- On the morning of September 8, 1900, the people of Galveston, Texas, woke up to beautiful blue skies. As the day progressed, the winds grew stronger, and it became obvious that a storm was approaching. But Galveston's residents had no idea that this storm was a deadly hurricane. By nightfall, the high wind speeds and ocean waves
- 5 caused by the hurricane had leveled homes, trees, and power lines. The hurricane had destroyed their town and the lives of thousands.

- Before modern technology such as satellites helped people predict the weather, determining the severity of an approaching hurricane was guesswork. Hurricanes are such destructive storms because along with their high winds and heavy rainfall, they
- 10 cause water levels to rise rapidly. This flooding is called the storm surge. In the past, citizens usually were unprepared to deal with these situations.

Hurricane Hunters

- Today, we are much better able to predict how severe a hurricane will be. These predictions are largely based on the efforts of a group of pilots who work for the United States Air Force Reserve Command and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
- 15 Administration (NOAA). Known as hurricane hunters, these pilots fly directly into hurricanes to collect weather data. Sometimes they bring along researchers from universities. The data they amass helps meteorologists determine how strong a hurricane will be when it hits land.

Category	Sustained Winds	Wind Damage to Trees	Types of Damage Due to Hurricane Winds
1	74–95 mph		Very dangerous winds. Homes could have damage to roof shingles, vinyl siding, and gutters. Extensive damage to power lines and poles will likely result in power outages that could last days.
2	96–110 mph		Extremely dangerous winds. Homes could sustain major roof and siding damage. Near-total power loss is expected for several days to weeks.
3 (major)	111–129 mph		Devastating winds. Homes may sustain major damage or removal of roof decking and gable ends. Electricity will be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.
4 (major)	130–156 mph		Catastrophic winds. Homes may sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Power outages will last weeks to possibly months. Most people will leave the area for weeks or months.
5 (major)	157 mph or higher		Catastrophic damage. A high percentage of structures will be destroyed, with total roof failure and wall collapse. Power outages will last for weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

Hurricane hunters do not fly above, below, or around a great storm. They fly
 20 directly into its eye. The “eye” is the center of the hurricane. A hurricane’s winds rotate around its eye. The winds become faster and stronger near the center. But the eye itself is the calmest part of any hurricane. In the eye of a hurricane, the skies are clear and winds are light.

Hurricane hunters fly into storms while they are over the ocean. They fly through
 25 the dangerous outer winds of the storm, cross the eye, and fly out of the other side. Then, they turn around and fly through the hurricane again. On a typical flight, the hunter might fly through a hurricane six times. U.S. pilots fly through hurricanes over the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico. The hurricanes in these areas are the most likely to land in the United States.

The History of Hurricane Hunters

- 30 You might expect hurricane hunting to be a new development. But it originated more than seventy years ago. The first hurricane hunter was Colonel Joseph Duckworth. Duckworth was a U.S. Air Force pilot who was experienced at flying through storms. During World War II, he taught pilots how to use skill and planning to minimize the risks involved in flying in bad weather. In 1943, Duckworth became
- 35 the first person to intentionally fly into the eye of a hurricane.

At first, people questioned Duckworth's reasons for flying into the hurricane. However, he proved that it was not as dangerous as people had suspected. In the seven decades since Duckworth's original flight, very few planes have gone down as a result of flying through hurricanes.

- 40 After the disaster at Galveston, the U.S. military struggled to improve storm-predicting methods. Navy fleets were constantly being damaged by storms at sea. Shortly after Duckworth proved that a pilot could safely fly through a hurricane, hurricane hunters began helping forecasters save lives and prevent damage. In 1944, hurricane hunters tracked the development of a storm from Puerto Rico in the
- 45 Caribbean all the way to its landing on the New England coast. Thanks to the hurricane hunters' data, emergency services knew when and where the hurricane would hit. The damage and loss of life were far less than they would have been if the people of New England did not know to prepare in advance.

- Although hurricane hunting is not gravely dangerous for an experienced pilot, it
- 50 still poses risks. As technology continues to advance, these risks will be further reduced. In the future, pilotless drones may take over the task of hurricane hunting. One model, the Global Hawk, is already being tested. The Global Hawk drones were previously military drones. It was first discovered they were beneficial for capturing images of out-of-control wildfires and later they were used for science missions. They
- 55 have also been used to aid responders in the aftermath of other natural disasters such as the 2010 Haiti earthquake and 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Scientists say that if all goes as planned, they will be instrumental in helping them better forecast hurricanes.

1 How does the description of the hurricane in Galveston best help develop a central idea of the article?

- A It explains that hurricanes can cause water levels to surge.
- B It describes a hurricane hunter's flight into a hurricane.
- C It shows the danger of being unprepared for a hurricane.
- D It tells about the modern technology available at the time.

2 Which statement from the article best supports the claim that hurricane hunting is not as dangerous as it seems?

- A "On a typical flight, the hunter might fly through a hurricane six times." (lines 26 and 27)
- B "U.S. pilots fly through hurricanes over the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico." (lines 27 and 28)
- C "Duckworth was a U.S. Air Force pilot who was experienced at flying through storms." (lines 32 and 33)
- D "Thanks to the hurricane hunters' data, emergency services knew when and where the hurricane would hit." (lines 45 and 46)

3

Read this sentence from lines 17 and 18.

The data they amass helps meteorologists determine how strong a hurricane will be when it hits land.

What does the word “amass” mean as it is used in this sentence?

- A hoard
- B collect
- C provide
- D distribute

4

The section titled “Hurricane Hunters” mainly develops a central idea of the article by

- A including statistics to show how many people hurricane hunters have helped
- B explaining what a hurricane is to highlight the need for hurricane hunters
- C offering information on a hurricane’s eye to show where a hurricane hunter flies
- D describing hurricane hunters’ job and how their work helps others

5

Read this sentence from lines 49 and 50.

Although hurricane hunting is not gravely dangerous for an experienced pilot, it still poses risks.

The author uses the word “gravely” to show that the danger is not generally

- A taken seriously
- B common
- C frightening
- D life threatening

GO ON

6

Which statement best provides a summary of the article?

- A Hurricane hunters are willing to risk their lives to fly through the eye of a storm.
- B Hurricane hunting is not as dangerous as it may seem and saves a lot of lives.
- C Hurricanes are deadly storms that can be predicted with the help of hurricane hunters.
- D Hurricane-hunting technology has been around for more than seventy years.

7

What additional information can the reader learn from the diagram that is not included in the article?

- A Hurricanes are categorized by their strength and the damage they cause.
- B Hurricane hunters can fly in storms with winds up to seventy-four miles per hour.
- C People need accurate warnings in order to be properly prepared for hurricanes.
- D There are hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico.

PRACTICE TEST 2

GO ON

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 8 through 14.

Basant Birthday

by Maya Kanwal

I sucked in my breath as I stepped into the kite seller's dingy shop, hidden in the cavernous bazaar of Lahore. From floor to ceiling, multicolored kites were stacked in precarious piles. Others lit up the walls like neon signs. Some hung with their noses up, golden reflectors flashing, like battleships ready for takeoff.

5 It was February, and *basant*, spring, was all around us in Pakistan. Basant brings rain showers to dance in, acres of mustard fields in yellow bloom, and festivals. In Lahore, we wear clothes the color of mustard flowers, while our grandmothers labor over cauldrons of curried mustard leaves, preparing pungent, soul-warming saag¹. And we fly kites.

10 But we don't just fly kites—we fight them!

I ached to send up my own fighter kite, cut away my opponent's string, and yell, "Bo kata! There, I cut it!" And this year, I would finally get the chance to try!

15 Crowds of excited visitors jammed the streets outside as I gazed at the kite shop's selection. Honking horns and whooping yells sounded like war cries for the kite fighting that would begin later that day.

How many kites would I cut down? I could fly a kite as well as any other child. But every basant, once my brother Amir and his friends began the rooftop kite fighting, I had to tear myself away and trail downstairs behind the other girls. Changing into my new silk clothes, I would join my mother at the party we always
20 hosted.

This year my birthday fell on the festival weekend, and for my present, I'd asked if I could stay on the roof with the boys. My surprised parents had laughed at first, but then handed me a wad of rupees² to go with Amir to buy my very own stack of fighter kites.

¹saag: a cooked dish made of leafy green vegetables like spinach

²rupee: the standard currency in India

25 "A little *sharla*³ for the missy?" the kite seller snickered at me, his craggy fingers busy bending bamboo splints. "Or do you deserve a pretty *patang*³?" He dangled a round butterfly kite in front of me.

Amir frowned at the kite seller. "Give her some real fighter kites, the *guddas*³. We'll also need some good string," he said, "not the cheap stuff."

30 "All right, little fighters. Come with me, then." The kite seller ducked through a door in the back of the shop. We followed him into a narrow alleyway.

Two men were looping string around a pair of poles. A third man, fingers thickly bandaged, was coating the string with glittering yellow paste.

35 "This is the *manjha*⁴ that will make your string sharp enough to cut down other kites," Amir explained to me.

"I know what *manjha* is for!" I replied. "But what's it made of?"

"It's rice paste and ground glass," replied the kite seller, rubbing his hands together with glee, "mixed with some of my secret ingredients."

40 Back inside the shop, the kite seller wrapped our kites and string in waterproof bags. We wandered back out to the bazaar to join our family at the food stalls. As I scooped up saag with hot bread, I realized I had forgotten all about the bracelets I'd wanted to buy to match my new dress. Not that I cared now—I had battles to fight.

45 As soon as we got home, we rushed to the rooftop. The city below was dressed up like a bride. Cheery fabric adorned every building and strings of bright flags flapped across streets and alleys. Drums were booming and bugles started to wail all around us.

People would send up their reflective white kites at twilight, when giant searchlights began to flood the dark sky. But while the sun still shone, thousands of multicolored kites swayed in the sky like a joyous swarm of birds.

50 I warmed up with my *sharlas* first, letting out the strings in short jerks. They all got cut away in no time, plummeting to the street to be chased down by rowdy children. I teetered back and forth, trying to protect my kites.

"Oy!" Amir grabbed my arm. "Stop running around like a chicken or you'll fall off the roof."

³*sharla*, *patang*, and *guddas*: types of kites

⁴*manjha*: a string that is coated in powdered glass to make it sharp, used for kite fighting

I sighed. How would I ever cut down another kite if I couldn't take my eyes off my
55 own?

Then our neighbors on the opposite roof challenged Amir to a duel.

"All right! With the rules!" Amir jumped up to trace out a rectangle with chalk. I
watched him calmly maneuver his kite upward, leaning back, keeping his body still and
strong, never stepping out of the rectangle. His fingers and right elbow did all the work.
60 Then his kite swooped down like a hawk, slashing through the neighbors' string. Amir
danced a victory jig to the beat of the drums pounding below on the street.

"Still and strong," I told myself. "Still and strong." My gudda caught the wind and
became one with it. I fell into a rhythm and began swaying with my kite. In my trance,
I forgot to worry about being cut down.

65 Then I found my kite flapping close to Amir's. Slowly, I let the string out, the kite
soaring higher with each tug. Squinting to see the two strings, I tugged as they touched.
Up and down, swiftly! Amir's kite spiraled down, and he wheeled about, surprise
twinkling in his eyes.

"Bo kata!" I yelled.

70 "No more teaching," he replied.

"Now we fight." I was ready!

8 Read these sentences from lines 11 and 12.

I ached to send up my own fighter kite, cut away my opponent's string, and yell, "Bo kata! There, I cut it!"

What does the phrase "I ached" in this sentence help the reader understand about the narrator?

- A The narrator has been practicing with her kite for many hours.
- B The narrator longs to join in kite fighting so much it hurts her.
- C The narrator is frightened to lose her kite during a fight.
- D The narrator feels physical pain while flying her kite.

9 What do lines 25 through 27 suggest about the kite seller?

- A He knows the narrator likes butterflies.
- B He thinks a young girl cannot fight kites.
- C He wants to share his knowledge of kites.
- D He wants to scare the narrator away.

PRACTICE TEST 2

GO ON

10 Read this sentence from lines 32 and 33.

A third man, fingers thickly bandaged, was coating the string with glittering yellow paste.

What is the **most** likely reason the man's fingers are thickly bandaged?

- A The man got into a fight with someone at the kite festival.
- B The man had an accident while harvesting the rice for paste.
- C The man was injured while flying his kite at the festival.
- D The man has been working with the sharp rice paste.

11 Read these sentences from lines 54 and 55 of the story.

I sighed. How would I ever cut down another kite if I couldn't take my eyes off my own?

What do these sentences reveal about the narrator's attitude toward kite fighting?

- A She lacks confidence in her kite-handling abilities.
- B She is self-centered and does not care about anyone else's kites.
- C She will show poor sportsmanship if she loses her kite.
- D She is bored and no longer interested in kite fighting.

12 Read lines 62 through 64.

"Still and strong," I told myself. "Still and strong." My gudda caught the wind and became one with it. I fell into a rhythm and began swaying with my kite. In my trance, I forgot to worry about being cut down.

What do these lines reveal about what the narrator learns about kite fighting?

- A She learns to keep her string as tight and still as possible.
- B She learns the victory dance her brother uses to celebrate.
- C She learns to stop worrying so much about losing.
- D She learns to face into the wind as she flies the kite.

- A He realizes his sister has more skill than he thought.
- B He learns to protect his sister from dangerous strangers.
- C He learns that he should let his sister win now and then.
- D He realizes he should invite her to join his friends more often.

14

Which sentence is the best summary of the story?

- A A girl learns about kite making from a local kite seller.
- B A girl gets to fight kites for the first time on her birthday.
- C A girl and her brother learn how to get along with each other.
- D A girl teaches a shop owner a lesson about being polite.