

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. How can the weaker gravity in space negatively affect the health of astronauts?

- A Astronauts' bones are repaved in space and they become brittle.
- B Astronauts' muscles get no workout and can waste away.
- C Astronauts are not exposed to radiation that can prevent abnormal cell growth.
- D Astronauts' organs may float around in their bodies and become damaged.

2. How do the three sections—"Space Sanitation," "Falling Apart," and "High Costs"—contribute to the overall structure of the passage?

- A The first two sections describe problems; the third section describes the solution.
- B The three sections describe the space shuttle improvements in chronological order.
- C Each section describes a different problem faced by space astronauts.
- D Each section considers the negative and positive effects of space travel.

3. Read the following sentences from the passage:

"For that reason, NASA will probably send older astronauts to Mars. It takes 10 to 20 years for radiation damage to result in cancer. So astronauts in their 60s would be nearing the end of their natural life spans by the time cancer showed up. 'There are a lot of astronauts who would sign up to go to Mars, even knowing full well the dangers,' says Roach."

What can we conclude from the sentences above?

- A Many NASA astronauts would risk radiation, which may lead to cancer, for the chance to travel to Mars.
- B Astronauts of all different age groups are less willing to go to Mars because of the threat of cancer.
- C NASA is committed to saving the lives of its aging astronauts, especially those who are willing to go to Mars.
- D NASA is not committed to saving the lives of any of its aging astronauts.

4. Read the sentence: "No matter how great the leap, though, their bodies remain stubbornly terrestrial, **adapted** for life on solid ground."

What does "**adapted**" mean as used in this sentence?

- A changed
- B unaccustomed
- C suited
- D addicted

5. Which statement best describes the main idea of the passage?

- A It is important for astronauts to stay healthy, so they should limit their space travel.
- B There is nothing more worthwhile than space travel, so many astronauts are willing to risk their lives to participate.
- C The mission to Mars will solve the major challenges of space travel.
- D There are several major challenges associated with humans traveling in space.

6. What are two challenges that astronauts going to Mars will face that previous astronauts have not faced?

7. The author begins the ninth paragraph by stating, "Life with weaker gravity isn't all fun and games." Why do you think the author wrote this sentence?

8. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

A trip to Mars _____ may be "worth every penny" because it might solve problems related to waste, energy production, and water shortages on Earth.

- A above all
- B initially
- C ultimately
- D never