Read the passage below adapted from "Single Room, Earth View" by Sally Ride from Prentice Hall Literature. Then answer the four questions that follow.

Single Room, Earth View

1. Everyone I've met has a glittering, if vague, mental image of space travel. And naturally enough, people want to hear about it from an astronaut: "How did it feel . . . ?" "What did it look like . . . ?" "Were you scared?" Sometimes, the questions come from reporters, their pens poised and their tape recorders silently reeling in the words; sometimes, it's wide-eyed, ten-year-old girls who want answers. I find a way to answer all of them, but it's not easy.

2. Imagine trying to describe an airplane ride to someone who has never flown. An articulate traveler could describe the sights but would find it much harder to explain the difference in perspective provided by the new view from a greater distance, along with the feelings, impressions, and insights that go with the new perspective. And the difference is enormous: space flight moves the traveler another giant step farther away. Eight and one-half thunderous minutes after launch, an astronaut is orbiting high above the earth, suddenly able to watch typhoons form, volcanoes smolder, and meteors streak through the atmosphere below.

3. While flying over the Hawaiian Islands, several astronauts have marveled that the islands look just as they do on a map. When people first hear that, they wonder what should be so surprising about Hawaii looking the way it does in the atlas. Yet, to the astronauts, it is an absolutely startling sensation: the islands really do look as if that part of the world has been carpeted with a big page torn out of a Rand-McNally atlas, and all we can do is try to convey the surreal quality of that scene.

4. In orbit, racing along at five miles per second, the space shuttle circles the earth once every 90 minutes. I found that at this speed, unless I kept my nose pressed to the window, it was almost impossible to keep track of where we were at any given moment—the world below simply changes too fast. If I turned my concentration away for too long, even just to change film in a camera, I could miss an entire landmass. It's embarrassing to float up to a window, glance outside, and then have to ask a crewmate, "What continent is this?"

5. We could see smoke rising from fires that dotted the entire east coast of Africa, and in the same orbit only moments later, ice floes jostling for position in the Antarctic. We could see the Ganges River dumping its murky, sediment-laden water into the Indian Ocean and watch ominous hurricane clouds expanding and rising like biscuits in the oven of the Caribbean.

6. Mountain ranges, volcanoes, and river deltas appeared in salt-and-flour relief, all leading me to assume the role of a novice geologist. In such moments, it was easy to imagine the dynamic upheavals that created jutting mountain ranges and the internal wrenchings that created rifts and seas. I also became an instant believer in plate tectonics; India really is crashing into Asia, and Saudi Arabia and Egypt really are pulling apart, making the Red Sea wider. Even though their respective motion is really no more than mere inches a year, the view from overhead makes theory come alive.
As the shuttle races the sun around the earth, we pass from day to night and back again during a single orbit—hurtling into darkness, then bursting into daylight. The sun's appearance unleashes spectacular blue and orange bands along the horizon, a clockwork miracle that astronauts witness every 90 minutes. But I really can't describe a sunrise in orbit. The drama set against the black backdrop of space and the magic of the materializing colors can't be captured in an astronomer's equations or an astronaut's photographs.

I once heard someone (not an astronaut) suggest that it's possible to imagine what spaceflight is like by simply extrapolating from the sensations you experience on an airplane. All you have to do, he said, is mentally raise the airplane 200 miles, mentally eliminate the air noise and the turbulence, and you get an accurate mental picture of a trip in the space shuttle.

Not true. And while it's natural to try to liken space flight to familiar experiences, it can't be brought "down to Earth"—not in the final sense. The environment is different, the perspective is different. Part of the fascination with space travel is the element of the unknown—the conviction that it's different from earthbound experiences. And it is.
Competency 0001
Identify a writer's point of view and intended meaning.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

   A. Space flight is not fully comprehensible to anyone who has not experienced it directly.

   B. Information gathered on space flights raises many fascinating questions about the relationship between the earth and the rest of the universe.

   C. Space flight is in many respects similar to flying in an airplane for the first time.

   D. Information gathered on space flights has been a key element in recent advances in geologic and geographic knowledge.

Correct Response: A. The main idea of a written passage is the central point that an author intends to communicate to readers. Although the main idea of this passage is not directly stated, it can be inferred from the passage as a whole. In the opening paragraph, the author notes that it is never easy to answer questions about space travel, and the remainder of the selection shows why this is so. Of the answer choices provided, choice A best states the author's central point that it is extremely difficult to describe the sensations that an astronaut experiences in space because space flight is fundamentally unlike any other human activity.
Competency 0004
Recognize the roles of purpose and audience in written communication.

2. Information included in paragraphs 4 through 6 is primarily intended to:

A. point out similarities and differences between space travel and airplane travel.

B. describe some of the challenges facing astronauts while in orbit.

C. provide examples of how space flight has increased scientists' knowledge of various phenomena.

D. illustrate astronauts' unique perspective as they orbit the earth.

Correct Response: D. In reading paragraphs 4 through 6 of this selection, it should become clear that the author's goal is to provide readers with information about what astronauts see and experience as they orbit the earth. The author does this by providing examples of what she herself saw and felt while in space. Her illustrations indicate that space flight gives astronauts a unique vantage point that has no earthbound counterpart (answer choice D).
Competency 0002

Analyze the relationship among ideas in written material.

3. From the information in the selection, the most valid conclusion is that:

A. a central objective of many space flights is to test the validity of geological theories.

B. it is difficult to simulate perfectly the sensory experiences of space flight.

C. responding to public demands for information is the most difficult aspect of space travel for many astronauts.

D. astronauts tend to view their technical preparation for space travel as inadequate.

Correct Response: B. A conclusion is any observation that follows reasonably from information stated or implied in a passage. In the closing paragraphs of the selection, the author explains how the sensations an astronaut experiences in space are fundamentally different from those experienced in ordinary air travel. Yet air travel is probably the closest most people will get to the experience of space flight. Thus, it is reasonable to conclude that simulating the sensory experiences of space flight is extremely difficult (answer choice B).
Competency 0003
Use critical reasoning skills to evaluate written material.

4. Which of the following best establishes the author's credibility?
   
   A. her personal experience with space flight
   
   B. her even-handed approach to controversies involving space travel
   
   C. her extensive contact with news media and the general public
   
   D. her willingness to discuss her own limitations as well as her strengths

Correct Response: A. Determining what authority a writer has for making various statements in a passage requires the use of critical reasoning skills. One way that writers establish their credibility is by providing reliable evidence about the topic they are discussing. The author, Sally Ride, is one of a select group of people who has actually experienced space flight, which makes her observations particularly believable about what one sees and feels while traveling through space. Therefore, answer choice A is the best response.
Read the passage below, adapted from A People and a Nation: A History of the United States by Mary Beth Norton, et al. Then answer the three questions that follow.

In the 1890s, a severe depression, frightening labor violence, political upheaval, and foreign entanglements had shaken the nation. Although many of the promises of technology had been fulfilled, great numbers of Americans continued to suffer from poverty and disease. Later, of course, with returning prosperity, unemployment would decline and output would soar as the nation’s mills resumed full production. In the minds of many, industrialists had become the nation’s new monsters, controlling markets, wages, and prices in order to maximize their profits. Using politics to enrich themselves, government seemed corroded by bosses and their henchmen.

From this malaise emerged a broad, complex spirit of reform, so many-sided that it is hard to identify the movement’s unifying characteristics. By the 1910s, many reformers were calling themselves progressives, and a new political party by that name had formed to embody their principles. Since that time, historians have used the term progressivism to refer to the reform spirit in general, while disagreeing over the movement’s precise meaning and its membership.

Befitting their name, progressives had strong faith in the ability of humankind to create a better world. They often used such phrases as “humanity’s universal growth” and “the upward spiral of human development.” Government, purged of corruption and favoritism to make it the servant of the people became the instrument of progress. During the Progressive Era, a new activism infused the presidency, as well as Congress and state and local governments. More than ever before, Americans looked to government as an agent that could and should intervene in social and economic relations to protect the common good.
Competency 0005

Recognize unity, focus, and development in writing.

5. Which change would best focus attention on the main idea of the first paragraph?

A. After Part 1, add the sentence, "The late nineteenth century also witnessed the birth of the modern city."

B. Delete Part 3.

C. After Part 4, add the sentence, "The growing power of big business certainly resulted in both costs and benefits for the nation."

D. Delete Part 4.

Correct Response: B. To achieve unity and focus in their writing, writers must avoid irrelevant details that distract the reader from the main idea being developed in a passage. The main point of the first paragraph is that various economic and political developments of the 1890s increased social distress and fueled popular discontent with established authority. Deleting Part 3 eliminates distracting information that shifts attention from the upheavals of the 1890s to the economic prosperity of a later period. Therefore, answer choice B is the best response.
Competency 0007
Recognize sentences that effectively communicate intended messages.

6. Which part contains an error in the use of a modifier?
   A. Part 2
   B. Part 5
   C. Part 12
   D. Part 13

Correct Response: B. To communicate messages effectively, writers should be familiar with the correct use of modifiers. A modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that describes or limits the meaning of another word, phrase, or clause. As Part 5 illustrates, the incorrect use of modifiers creates ambiguity. In this sentence, the participial phrase "using politics to enrich themselves" should either immediately precede or immediately follow the words that it modifies, "bosses and their henchmen." In the passage, however, the phrase appears to modify the word "government." A writer might correct the problem by revising the sentence to read "Government seemed corroded by bosses and their henchmen, who used politics to enrich themselves." Therefore, answer choice B is the best response.
Competency 0008
Recognize standard conventions of formal written English usage in the United States.

7. Which change is needed in the passage?
   
   A. Part 7: Delete the comma after the word "progressives."
   
   B. Part 8: Add a comma after the word "progressivism."
   
   C. Part 9: Delete the comma after the word "name."
   
   D. Part 11: Add a comma after the word "people."

Correct Response: D. Among the conventions of formal written English are rules governing the use of punctuation. To answer this question correctly, you must identify an error in the use of commas. Part 11 requires an additional comma following the modifying phrase "purged of corruption and favoritism to make it the servant of the people" (answer choice D). This correction clarifies the meaning of the sentence by separating the modifying phrase from the independent clause "Government . . . became the instrument of progress."
Read the passage below, about modern print and electronic news journalism. Then answer the four questions that follow.

News is whatever a writer or editor chooses to report, and all journalists have much from which they can choose. Indeed, there are considerably more stories available to the media than appear in newspapers and magazines, or on radio or television. In making their selections, editors and writers must consider a number of factors. These include the medium in which the journalist is working, the audience for the news, and the timeliness and importance of the topic or event being covered. What becomes news is further determined by general editorial policies, competition with other media, and costs.

Not all news stories can be presented because media outlets have limits on the space or time available for news coverage. Programming schedules limit the length of radio and television news coverage. The size of the "news hole" in newspapers and the amount of editorial space in magazines are determined in large part by advertising revenue. How much money advertisers are willing to pay for an advertisement is in turn determined by ratings and circulation. The more viewers a news program has, the more it can charge advertisers; similarly, the more readers a newspaper or magazine has, the more advertisers can expect to pay.

Within these limits, editors must select and prioritize available stories. These choices are strongly influenced by the type of news outlet in which the editor is working. Daily newspapers are generally more concerned about something that has just happened than is the case with monthly magazines. Given a choice between equally important developments, television news programs are more likely to feature stories that provide good visual imagery than stories for which there is little film to show. Weekly or monthly magazines, on the other hand, strive for greater depth and complexity in their news coverage.

Of the other factors influencing the news selection process, timeliness is particularly significant. To many journalists, news is reporting on current events and issues. Thus, writers and editors look for stories with a "news peg"—some aspect of the story that tells readers why it is important to them now. Information that is less timely receives a lower priority, and may not be presented at all if time or space get filled up. These choices also reflect editors' perceptions of their audience. They must decide which of the available news stories will most interest their intended readers or viewers. This creates a particular problem for the editors of daily newspapers and broadcast news programs because their audience tends to be much more diverse than the readership of monthly magazines.

News is also shaped by what is available. To a large extent, that is a product of what is happening in the world, the daily events and developments that reporters cover on their beats. But news is also generated by public relations firms and interest groups. No writer or editor has time to investigate all possible sources of news. Many stories appear because someone other than the writer or editor considers them important and provides the information to the news outlet.

As they sift through available news stories, editors must keep in mind the editorial guidelines of their publication or broadcast company. All media outlets have self-censoring policies concerning what information is appropriate and acceptable. Editors also stay apprised of the news that competing news media are offering. Ignoring a story that everyone else considers important is generally not good business. Finally, all news media have budgets. The costs of gathering the news can be high, and some stories may not be pursued because the expense is simply too great.

Selecting the news—determining what is newsworthy—is thus a complex process. Numerous considerations shape the choices made by journalists and editor. And each will make different decisions about what is today's news.
Competency 0001
Identify a writer’s point of view and intended meaning.

8. Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of the selection?

A. Editors play a more influential role than journalists in the news selection process.

B. In general, timeliness is the most important determinant of what is news.

C. Print and electronic editors take fundamentally different approaches to the news selection process.

D. Journalists and editors must balance a variety of factors when determining what is news.

Correct Response: D. The main idea of a written passage is the central point that an author intends to communicate to readers. Although the main idea of this passage is not directly stated, it can be inferred from the passage as a whole. Throughout the passage, the author examines various factors influencing journalistic decisions about what news should be presented to the public. Of the answer choices provided, choice A best states the author’s central point that journalists and editors must consider a variety of factors when determining what is most newsworthy.
Competency 0002
Analyze the relationship among ideas in written material.

9. According to information presented in the selection, there is a cause-and-effect relationship between:

A. the intended audience for a story and whether an editor considers the story newsworthy.

B. the advertising rates charged by a media organization and a story's likely appeal to viewers, listeners, or readers.

C. the cost of publishing or broadcasting a story and the importance of that story to readers, listeners, and viewers.

D. the stories that competing media are presenting at a given moment and the timeliness of a story.

Correct Response: A. Writers often want to explain why things happen as they do. In this selection, the author is most concerned about the factors that might cause an editor to print or air one story while rejecting another. One of the more important influencing editorial decisions about a story's newsworthiness is the story's intended audience (answer choice A).
Competency 0003

Use critical reasoning skills to evaluate written material.

10. Information presented in the selection best supports which of the following conclusions?

   A. Competition among major media has expanded the definition of what is considered news.

   B. The more cost-effective a media organization’s news selection process, the larger its audience is likely to be.

   C. Editors are not always able to present the stories that they would most like to air or print.

   D. Advertisers have far too much influence over editorial decisions about what is newsworthy.

Correct Response: C. A conclusion is any observation that follows reasonably from information stated or implied in a passage. Given limitations on space and the many factors that must be considered when deciding what is newsworthy, it is reasonable to conclude that editors are not always able to present the stories that they would most like to air or print (answer choice C). There are doubtless instances in which editors must pass over stories they deem important because the stories might offend advertisers or are likely to have little appeal to their intended audience.
Competency 0004
Recognize the roles of purpose and audience in written communication.

11. Which of the following titles, if substituted for the existing title, would best match the author's main purpose in this selection?

   A. "So Many Things to Say, So Few Ways to Say It"
   B. "Who Actually Controls the News"
   C. "So Much That Is Newsworthy, So Much That Is Not"
   D. "How the News Becomes the News"

**Correct Response: D.** Nearly all writers have a purpose for writing that is expressed or implied in what they write. In this selection, the writers' main purpose is to describe various considerations that influence the news selection process. Of the answer choices provided, choice D is the best response because the ways in which editors balance those considerations determines "How the News Becomes the News."