

Student Name _____

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**Grade Band 8/10
English Language Arts/Literacy
Test Booklet**

Practice Test

TEST BOOKLET SECURITY BARCODE

Unit 1

Directions:

Today, you will take Unit 1 of the Grade Band 8/10 English Language Arts/Literacy Practice Test.

Read each passage and question. Then, follow the directions to answer each question. Mark your answers by completely filling in the circles in your answer document. Do not make any pencil marks outside of the circles. If you need to change an answer, be sure to erase your first answer completely.

One of the questions will ask you to write a response. Write your response in the space provided in your answer document. Be sure to keep your response within the provided space. Only responses written within the provided space will be scored.

If you do not know the answer to a question, you may go on to the next question. If you finish early, you may review your answers and any questions you did not answer in this unit ONLY. Do not go past the stop sign.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Allan Montague (referred to as "Montague" in the passage), along with his mother and his cousin Alice, has moved to New York in the early 1900s to join his younger brother Oliver. Oliver, who arrived in New York several years earlier, has been introducing Montague and Alice to his exclusive group of wealthy friends at various parties. The passage begins with Alice describing to Montague why she has recently left such a party.

The Metropolis

by Upton Sinclair

- 1 "I told her a story—I said I'd had a telegram that your mother was ill, and that I didn't want to spoil their good time, and had gone by myself. That was the best thing I could think of. I wasn't afraid to travel, so long as I was sure that Charlie couldn't catch up with me."
- 2 Montague said nothing; he sat with his hands gripped tightly.
- 3 "It seemed like a desperate thing to do," said Alice, nervously. "But you see, I was upset and unhappy. I didn't seem to like the party any more—I wanted to be home. Do you understand?"
- 4 "Yes," said Montague, "I understand. And I'm glad you are here."
- 5 They reached home, and Montague called up Harvey's and told his brother what had happened. He could hear Oliver gasp with astonishment. "That's a pretty how-do-you-do!" he said, when he had got his breath back; and then he added, with a laugh, "I suppose that settles poor Charlie's chances."
- 6 "I'm glad you've come to that conclusion," said the other, as he hung up the receiver.
- 7 This episode gave Montague quite a shock. But he had little time to think about it—the next morning at eleven o'clock his case was to come up for trial, and so all his thoughts were called away. This case had been the one real interest of his life for the last three months; it was his purpose, the thing for the sake of which he endured everything else that repelled him. And he had trained himself as an athlete for a great race; he was in form, and ready for the effort of his life. He went down town that morning with every fibre of him, body and mind, alert and eager; and he went into his office, and in his mail was a letter from Mr. Hasbrook. He opened it hastily and read a message, brief and direct and decisive as a sword-thrust:—

- 8 "I beg to inform you that I have received a satisfactory proposition from the Fidelity Company. I have settled with them, and wish to withdraw the suit. Thanking you for your services, I remain, sincerely."
- 9 To Montague the thing came like a thunderbolt. He sat utterly dumbfounded—his hands went limp, and the letter fell upon the desk in front of him.
- 10 And at last, when he did move, he picked up the telephone, and told his secretary to call up Mr. Hasbrook. Then he sat waiting; and when the bell rang, picked up the receiver, expecting to hear Mr. Hasbrook's voice, and to demand an explanation. But he heard, instead, the voice of his own secretary: "Central says the number's been discontinued, sir."
- 11 And he hung up the receiver, and sat motionless again. The dummy had disappeared!
- 12 To Montague this incident meant a change in the prospect of his whole life. It was the collapse of all his hopes. He had nothing more to work for, nothing more to think about; the bottom had fallen out of his career!
- 13 He was burning with a sense of outrage. He had been tricked and made a fool of; he had been used and flung aside. And now there was nothing he could do—he was utterly helpless. What affected him most was his sense of the overwhelming magnitude of the powers which had made him their puppet; of the utter futility of the efforts that he or any other man could make against them. They were like elemental, cosmic forces; they held all the world in their grip, and a common man was as much at their mercy as a bit of chaff in a tempest.
- 14 All day long he sat in his office, brooding and nursing his wrath. He had moods when he wished to drop everything, to shake the dust of the city from his feet, and go back home. And then again he had fighting moods, when he wished to devote all his life to punishing the men who had made use of him. He would get hold of some other policy-holder in the Fidelity, one whom he could trust; he would take the case without pay, and carry it through to the end! He would force the newspapers to talk about it—he would force the people to heed what he said!
- 15 And then, toward evening, he went home, bitter and sore. And there was his brother sitting in his study, waiting for him.
- 16 "Hello," he said, and took off his coat, preparing his mind for one more ignominy—the telling of his misfortune to Oliver, and listening to his inevitable, "I told you so."

- 17 But Oliver himself had something to communicate, something that would not bear keeping. He broke out at once—"Tell me, Allan! What in the world has happened between you and Mrs. Winnie?"
- 18 "What do you mean?" asked Montague, sharply.
- 19 "Why," said Oliver, "everybody is talking about some kind of a quarrel."
- 20 "There has been no quarrel," said Montague.
- 21 "Well, what is it, then?"
- 22 "It's nothing."
- 23 "It must be something!" exclaimed Oliver. "What do all the stories mean?"
- 24 "What stories?"
- 25 "About you two. I met Mrs. Vivie Patton just now, and she swore me to secrecy, and told me that Mrs. Winnie had told some one that you had behaved so outrageously that she had to ask you to leave the house."
- 26 Montague shrunk as from a blow. "Oh!" he gasped.
- 27 "That's what she said," said he.
- 28 "It's a lie!" he cried.
- 29 "That's what I told Mrs. Vivie," said the other; "it doesn't sound like you—"
- 30 Montague had flushed scarlet. "I don't mean that!" he cried. "I mean that Mrs. Winnie never said any such thing."
- 31 "Oh," said Oliver, and he shrugged his shoulders. "Maybe not," he added. "But I know she's furious with you about something—everybody's talking about it. She tells people that she'll never speak to you again. And what I want to know is, why is it that you have to do things to make enemies of everybody you know?"
- 32 Montague said nothing; he was trembling with anger.
- 33 "What in the world did you do to her?" began the other. "Can't you trust me—"
- 34 And suddenly Montague sprang to his feet. "Oh, Oliver," he exclaimed, "let me alone! Go away!"
- 35 And he went into the next room and slammed the door, and began pacing back and forth like a caged animal.

- 36 It was a lie! It was a lie! Mrs. Winnie had never said such a thing! He would never believe it—it was a nasty piece of backstairs gossip!
- 37 But then a new burst of rage swept over him. What did it matter whether it was true or not—whether anything was true or not? What did it matter if anybody had done all the hideous and loathsome things that everybody else said they had done? It was what everybody was saying! It was what everybody believed—what everybody was interested in! It was the measure of a whole society—their ideals and their standards! It was the way they spent their time, repeating nasty scandals about each other; living in an atmosphere of suspicion and cynicism, with endless whispering and leering, and gossip of low intrigue.
- 38 A flood of rage surged up within him, and swept him, away—rage against the world into which he had come, and against himself for the part he had played in it. Everything seemed to have come to a head at once; and he hated everything—hated the people he had met, and the things they did, and the things they had tempted him to do. He hated the way he had got his money, and the way he had spent it. He hated the idleness and wastefulness, the drunkenness and debauchery, the meanness and the snobbishness.
- 39 And suddenly he turned and flung open the door of the room where Oliver still sat. And he stood in the doorway, exclaiming, “Oliver, I’m done with it!”
- 40 Oliver stared at him. “What do you mean?” he asked.
- 41 “I mean,” cried his brother, “that I’ve had all I can stand of ‘Society!’ And I’m going to quit. You can go on—but I don’t intend to take another step with you! I’ve had enough—and I think Alice has had enough, also. We’ll take ourselves off your hands—we’ll get out!”
- 42 “What are you going to do?” gasped Oliver.
- 43 “I’m going to give up these expensive apartments—give them up to-morrow, when our week is up. And I’m going to stop squandering money for things I don’t want. I’m going to stop accepting invitations, and meeting people I don’t like and don’t want to know. I’ve tried your game—I’ve tried it hard, and I don’t like it; and I’m going to get out before it’s too late. I’m going to find some decent and simple place to live in; and I’m going downtown to find out if there isn’t some way in New York for a man to earn an honest living!”

Excerpt from *The Metropolis* by Upton Sinclair. In the public domain.

1 Read the following sentence from paragraph 16 of the passage.

“Hello,” he said, and took off his coat, preparing his mind for one more **ignominy**—the telling of his misfortune to Oliver, and listening to his inevitable, “I told you so.”

What is the meaning of the word **ignominy** as it is used in the sentence?

- A humiliation
- B problem
- C argument
- D situation

2 Part A

Which statement **best** characterizes Montague’s relationship with his cousin Alice in the passage?

- A** Montague senses that his desire for revenge makes him appear immature to Alice.
- B** Montague believes that Alice shares his aversion to New York City and its society.
- C** Montague worries Alice will think less of him because he was made a fool of by the Fidelity Company.
- D** Montague wonders if Alice will be upset with him after she hears the gossip about him.

Part B

Which excerpt from the passage provides the **best** support for the answer to part A?

- A** “This episode gave Montague quite a shock.” (paragraph 7)
- B** “And now there was nothing he could do—he was utterly helpless.” (paragraph 13)
- C** “It was a lie! It was a lie! Mrs. Winnie had never said such a thing!” (paragraph 36)
- D** “I’ve had enough—and I think Alice has had enough, also.” (paragraph 41)

3 Which are the **last two** events in the passage?

- A** Oliver questions Montague about Mrs. Winnie’s claims.
- B** The narrator describes how Montague has prepared for his court case.
- C** Montague decides to abandon his social situation.
- D** Mr. Hasbrook settles the case with the Fidelity Company.
- E** Alice tells Montague why she left a party.





You have come to the end of Unit 1 of the test. Review your answers from Unit 1 only.



Unit 2

Directions:

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Read the passages and answer the questions.

Your science class is studying technology innovations that help solve problems around the world. As part of a research project, your teacher has helped you find passages about a unique Internet provider and a new way of generating power. Read the passages. You will then answer questions about the passages. Finally, you will write an essay describing the goals and challenges of the two innovations.

Google’s Project Loon: Using Balloons to Connect Remote Areas to the Net

by the *San Jose Mercury News*

- 1 Only half-filled with helium, and already more than 12 feet wide, the giant plastic envelope shimmered and shook in the breeze like some airborne jellyfish rising through a gentle current.
- 2 Soon it shot into the sky, soaring thousands of feet, carrying sophisticated radio gear, processors and solar panels. Its launch on July 26, 2013, was part of an offbeat experiment by Google. The company is using lighter-than-air balloons with the goal of delivering Internet service to parts of the world where there’s no connection.
- 3 “This is a great big hard problem,” said Richard DeVaul, a Google engineer and chief technical architect for the company’s Project Loon. It got that name, in part, because even Google admits the idea sounds a little crazy.
- 4 But Google did a trial run in New Zealand earlier in 2013. Now DeVaul and other engineers on the project say a global network of low-cost, high-altitude balloons could carry enough wireless equipment to beam Internet connections to remote parts of Africa, Asia and other developing regions.

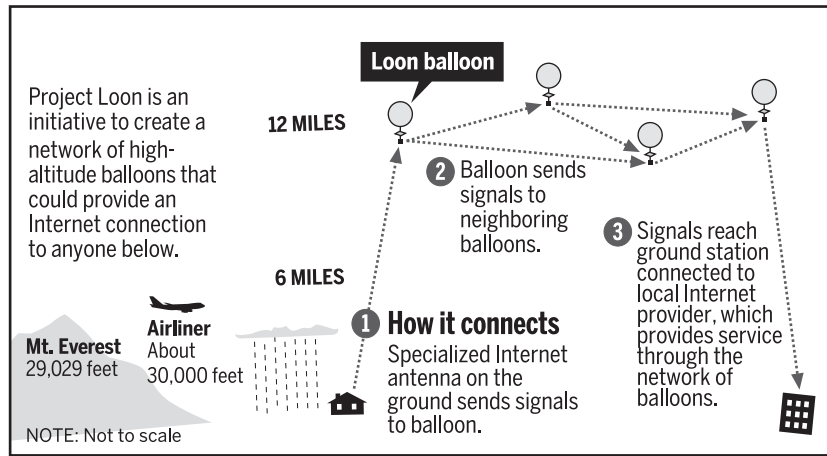
Launch Webcast for Techies

- 5 The engineers are conducting a series of tests in California’s Central Valley. The goal is to work out the answers to a multitude of technical questions that must be resolved to make the project work.
- 6 The July 2013 launch was at a rural airfield that’s primarily used by crop-dusting planes. More tests are planned in the same area. It was chosen because of its uncrowded air space and a driving distance of only two hours from Google headquarters in Mountain View, California.

- 7 “Our main challenge right now is power,” said Sameera Ponda, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology-trained aerospace engineer hired by Google to work on the project. She explained that the Loon team needs more data to decide how to set up the solar array and batteries.
- 8 The balloon’s radio equipment and computers have to run for weeks at a time, even at night. And the equipment has to work at frigid altitudes of 12 miles or more above the Earth.
- 9 The launch was also webcast for an audience of young tech enthusiasts. They watched the action and relayed questions to Ponda and another Loon project staffer, Paul Acosta.
- 10 Project Loon is one of several undertakings by Google’s secretive X division, which is responsible for so-called “moon shot” projects. Those are ideas that seem off the wall, but could have huge potential. Other projects include the wearable computing device dubbed Google Glass. The division is overseen by company co-founder Sergey Brin.

A Quiet Loon, Until Now

- 11 Google had been working on Loon for nearly two years before going public with the idea.
- 12 “Our goal is to provide Internet service to people in areas that can’t afford to throw down fiber lines or even cell towers,” Ponda explained. “We’re hopefully going to be able to make that a reality in the next few years.”
- 13 The project calls for a fleet of hundreds or even thousands of balloons that will float twice as high as most jetliners fly, in a circle around the Earth. But while it sounds simple, the logistics are mind-boggling.



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- 14 The balloons drift with the wind. So Google engineers devised a system to raise or lower them in order to catch the air currents needed to keep them floating just the right distance from each other. They also need to stay aligned so if one floats out of range from Internet users in a particular region, another will come along and take its place.
- 15 The balloon launched in July 2013 was a test device; its radio equipment was not intended to deliver an Internet connection. It also was filled only with helium and was smaller than those tried in New Zealand, Acosta said. The larger models can be 45 feet in diameter and were designed by Google with separate chambers for helium and air, so the latter can be pumped in or out to raise or lower the balloon.
- A 150-Mile Test Flight**
- 16 Controlling the balloons is a massive computational challenge, DeVaul said. Fortunately, he added, “at Google we’ve got a bunch of really clever computer scientists and a lot of computing power. We now believe we can make the rest of this work, technically.”
- 17 Google, of course, has an interest in helping more people get on the Internet. The multibillion-dollar tech giant makes most of its money by showing ads to consumers who use Google’s online services.
- 18 But Project Loon is addressing “a very real problem” that affects the two-thirds of the world’s population who are on the wrong side of the digital divide, said Richard Bennett. He is an expert on broadband networking at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation.
- 19 While the idea could work, Bennett said, it was still not clear who would pay for operating and maintaining the balloon network. Google has been vague about its plans. Bennett speculated the company may be hoping that telecommunications carriers will adopt the idea if Google can show it stands to make money.

- 20 Soon after the balloon was aloft, project launch commander Bill Rogers and other members of his crew loaded their trucks and prepared to track its radio signal. This balloon was designed to travel only about 150 miles before losing altitude and returning to the ground.
- 21 Rogers planned to recover it. But in case someone else found it first, the plastic foam box holding its electronic gear carried a label that read: "Harmless Science Experiment." Another provided a phone number to call.

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- 1 Which **two** sentences from the passage **best** show Google’s motivation for supporting Project Loon?
- A “Fortunately, he added, ‘at Google we’ve got a bunch of really clever computer scientists and a lot of computing power.’” (paragraph 16)
 - B ““We now believe we can make the rest of this work, technically.”” (paragraph 16)
 - C “Google, of course, has an interest in helping more people get on the Internet.” (paragraph 17)
 - D “But Project Loon is addressing ‘a very real problem’ that affects the two-thirds of the world’s population who are on the wrong side of the digital divide, said Richard Bennett.” (paragraph 18)
 - E “While the idea could work, Bennett said, it was still not clear who would pay for operating and maintaining the balloon network.” (paragraph 19)

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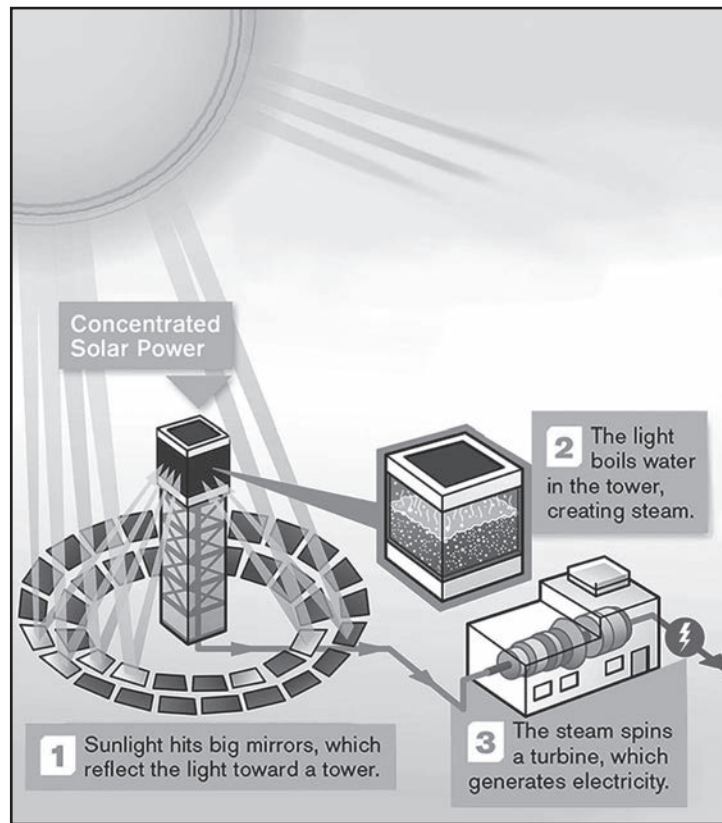
Bright Future: The World’s Largest Solar Power Plant of Its Kind Is Open for Business

by Cody Crane

- 1 Deep in California’s Mojave Desert, a sea of mirrors shimmers under the powerful noon sun. Three towers, each taller than the Statue of Liberty, rise up from their midst. Together, these structures make up an electrical plant—one of the largest of its kind fueled by the sun. In December 2013, workers flipped the switch to power it up.
- 2 The Ivanpah plant, named for the valley where it is located, runs on concentrated solar power. It uses heat from the sun to produce electricity—enough to power 140,000 homes. Building the facility was a challenge. It cost about \$2.2 billion and took three years. The huge plant takes up about 4,000 acres of public land—the equivalent of about 2,000 soccer fields.
- 3 Ivanpah came about as part of California’s push to use more sunlight, wind, and other sources of renewable energy. The state has set an ambitious goal: It aims to generate 33 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2020.

Sun-Powered Plant

- 4 You might be familiar with rooftop solar panels used to power homes, schools, and businesses. These photovoltaic panels convert sunlight directly into electricity. Concentrated solar power like that at Ivanpah also relies on the sun, but in a different way.



- 5 “It takes light and focuses it into a small area to create high temperatures,” says Mark Mehos, an engineer at the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado. How high? About 570°C ($1,060^{\circ}\text{F}$)—nearly six times hotter than the boiling point of water.
- 6 Ivanpah concentrates sunlight using 170,000 heliostats—huge, flat mirrors that move with the sun as it crosses the sky. They reflect light onto the tops of the towers, illuminating them with a brilliant blaze.
- 7 The concentrated sunlight heats up water in the towers. The hot liquid boils and creates steam, which turns the blades of turbines to produce electricity. Traditional power plants work in almost the same way, except they generate steam by burning fossil fuels, like coal and natural gas.

Cleaner, Greener Energy

- 8 Right now, only 12 percent of energy in the U.S. comes from renewable sources. Most comes from fossil fuels. Why would states like California want to cut down their use? One reason: "Fossil fuels aren't going to be around forever," says Mehos. Unlike energy from the sun, fossil fuels take millions of years to form. People are using them a lot faster than they could ever be replenished.
- 9 Burning fossil fuels also produces air pollution, as well as greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide. These gases trap heat in Earth's atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is one of the main contributors to climate change. Aside from China, the U.S. produces more carbon dioxide than any other country on the planet—about 7 million tons a year.
- 10 That's the main reason for California's move to replace fossil fuels with renewables, says Eileen Allen of the California Energy Commission. "We're trying to do what we can to reduce climate-change trends," she says. Solar power doesn't produce greenhouse gases. In fact, compared with a power plant that uses fossil fuels, Ivanpah will reduce carbon emissions by an amount equivalent to taking 70,000 gas-guzzling cars off the road.

Saving for a Rainy Day

- 11 Concentrated solar power is only one part of California's plan. The state says it can meet most of its goal of 33 percent renewables by 2020 by using wind power and photovoltaic solar installations. But these technologies have one serious limitation—they work only when the wind is blowing or the sun is out. A coal-burning power plant, on the other hand, can run around the clock.
- 12 One solution is to store photovoltaic power in batteries for use on overcast days, or in the evening. "But that's not available yet on a large, cost-effective, and efficient scale," says Mehos.
- 13 That's where concentrated solar power can help. The heat it generates can be transferred to a huge tank of molten salt. "It's like a big thermos," says Mehos. The salt can stay hot for weeks and be used to produce steam as needed. Ivanpah doesn't have this type of storage, but newer plants will.

Costs and Benefits

- 14 While concentrated solar power has many advantages, it has drawbacks too. For one, the plants can be built only in areas that get plenty of sunlight year-round. In the U.S., that pretty much restricts them to the Southwest. They're also expensive, says Mehos, which is why his lab is researching ways to lower their costs.
- 15 Another challenge is space. Concentrated solar power requires a huge amount of land to generate a significant amount of energy. When Ivanpah was under construction, people were concerned that the massive plant would detract from the desert's natural beauty. Ivanpah's large footprint has also disturbed animal habitats. "Many of the desert's wildlife residents have been affected by building such a large industrial facility," says Allen. It's caused problems for one creature in particular—the desert tortoise.
- 16 Scientists are still assessing the environmental impact of Ivanpah. Wind turbines went through similar growing pains when it was discovered that their rotating blades could injure birds and bats. But considering the problems associated with fossil fuels, many scientists believe that solar plants do more good than harm.
- 17 Mehos, for one, thinks Ivanpah is a step in the right direction. He sees renewables such as solar becoming a big part of America's energy future—and with good reason. "We want to lessen the impacts of pollution and climate change," he says, "and leave kids a world where energy is sustainable."

Text and diagram from *Science World*, April 14, 2014. Copyright © 2014 Scholastic Inc. Reprinted by permission of Scholastic Inc.

2 Part A

Based on the passage, what is an advantage of concentrated solar power over wind power and photovoltaic solar power?

- A** It is more affordable.
- B** It is renewable.
- C** It requires less space.
- D** It allows energy to be stored longer.

Part B

Which sentence from the passage **best** supports the answer to part A?

- A** “The huge plant takes up about 4,000 acres of public land—the equivalent of about 2,000 soccer fields.” (paragraph 2)
- B** “Unlike energy from the sun, fossil fuels take millions of years to form.” (paragraph 8)
- C** “The salt can stay hot for weeks and be used to produce steam as needed.” (paragraph 13)
- D** “They’re also expensive, says Mehos, which is why his lab is researching ways to lower their costs.” (paragraph 14)

- 3** Based on the information in both the passage and the diagram, what are the **first two** steps required to generate solar power at Ivanpah?
- A** Steam turns turbines to produce electricity.
 - B** Sunlight is reflected onto the top of a tower.
 - C** Water is heated to boiling.
 - D** Mirrors track the sun across the sky.
 - E** Rooftop solar panels attract sunlight.
- 4** According to the passage, California plans to reduce the burning of fossil fuels by
- A** reducing the number of gas-guzzling cars by 70,000.
 - B** obtaining one-third of its energy from renewable sources.
 - C** contributing to the cost of residents' rooftop solar panels.
 - D** adding salt storage units to all concentrated solar power plants.

Refer to the passage “Google’s Project Loon” and the passage “Bright Future.” Then answer the questions.

- 5** Which **two** ideas about future implementation of the new technologies are discussed in **both** passages?
- A** Details about potential uncontrollable elements that could limit the effectiveness of the technologies
 - B** Plans for raising the height of each technology to increase the amount of people served
 - C** Environmental studies to protect ecological habitats from being negatively affected by the technologies
 - D** Concerns about the high costs of developing the technologies
 - E** Experimental tests of the respective technologies to look for potential improvements
- 6** Both the Google Loon project and the Ivanpah power plant work toward solving an important problem. Write a multiparagraph essay to describe the problem each new technology is solving, how it is solving the problem, and what challenges each faces in becoming successful. Use information from **both** passages to develop and support the ideas in your essay.





You have come to the end of Unit 2 of the test. Review your answers from Unit 2 only.



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