A2 English Reading Test 03

Questions

1. According to the best evidence gathered by space probes and astronomers, Mars is an inhospitable planet, more similar to Earth's Moon than to Earth it self – a dry, stark, seemingly lifeless world. Mars' air pressure is equal to Earth's at an altitude of 100,000 feet. The air there is 95 percent carbon dioxide. Mars has no ozone layer to screen out the sun's lethal radiation. Daytime temperatures may reach above freezing, but because the planet is blanketed by the mere wisp of an atmosphere, the heat radiates back into space. Even at the equator, the temperature drops to -50C (-60F) at night. Today there is no liquid water, although valleys and channels on the surface show evidence of having been carved by running water. The polar ice caps are made of frozen water and carbon dioxide, and water may be frozen in the ground as permafrost. Despite these difficult conditions, certain scientists believe that there is a possibility of trans-forming Mars into a more Earth-like planet.
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With which of the following is the passage primarily concerned?

A. The possibility of changing the Martian environment.

B. The challenge of interplanetary travel.

C. The advantages of establishing colonies on Mars.

D. The need to study the Martian ecology.

2. According to the best evidence gathered by space probes and astronomers, Mars is an inhospitable planet, more similar to Earth's Moon than to Earth it self – a dry, stark, seemingly lifeless world. Mars' air pressure is equal to Earth's at an altitude of 100,000 feet. The air there is 95 percent carbon dioxide. Mars has no ozone layer to screen out the sun's lethal radiation. Daytime temperatures may reach above freezing, but because the planet is blanketed by the mere wisp of an atmosphere, the heat radiates back into space. Even at the equator, the temperature drops to -50C (-60F) at night. Today there is no liquid water, although valleys and channels on the surface show evidence of having been carved by running water. The polar ice caps are made of frozen water and carbon dioxide, and water may be frozen in the ground as permafrost. Despite these difficult conditions, certain scientists believe that there is a possibility of trans-forming Mars into a more Earth-like planet.
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The word "stark" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to.

A. harsh

B. unknown

C. dark

D. distant

3. According to the best evidence gathered by space probes and astronomers, Mars is an inhospitable planet, more similar to Earth's Moon than to Earth it self – a dry, stark, seemingly lifeless world. Mars' air pressure is equal to Earth's at an altitude of 100,000 feet. The air there is 95 percent carbon dioxide. Mars has no ozone layer to

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The word "there" in paragraph 2 refers to.

A. a point 100 miles above the Earth

B. the Earth's Moon

C. Mars

D. outer space

4. According to the best evidence gathered by space probes and astronomers, Mars is an inhospitable planet, more similar to Earth's Moon than to Earth it self – a dry, stark, seemingly lifeless world. Mars' air pressure is equal to Earth's at an altitude of 100,000 feet. The air there is 95 percent carbon dioxide. Mars has no ozone layer to screen out the sun's lethal radiation. Daytime temperatures may reach above freezing, but because the planet is blanketed by the mere wisp of an atmosphere, the heat radiates back into space. Even at the equator, the temperature drops to -50C (-60F) at night. Today there is no liquid water, although valleys and channels on the surface show evidence of having been carved by running water. The polar ice caps are made

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Which of the following does the author NOT list as a characteristic of the planet Mars that would make colonization difficult?

A. There is little liquid water.

B. Daytime temperatures are dangerously high.

C. The sun's rays are deadly.

D. Night time temperatures are extremely.

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According to passage, the Martian atmosphere today consists mainly of.

A. carbon dioxide

B. oxygen

C. ozone

D. water vapour

6. According to the best evidence gathered by space probes and astronomers, Mars is an inhospitable planet, more similar to Earth’s Moon than to Earth it self – a dry, stark, seemingly lifeless world. Mars’ air pressure is equal to Earth’s at an altitude of 100,000 feet. The air there is 95 percent carbon dioxide. Mars has no ozone layer to screen out the sun’s lethal radiation. Daytime temperatures may reach above freezing, but because the planet is blanketed by the mere wisp of an atmosphere, the heat radiates back into space. Even at the equator, the temperature drops to -50C (-60F) at night. Today there is no liquid water, although valleys and channels on the surface show evidence of having been carved by running water. The polar ice caps are made of frozen water and carbon dioxide, and water may be frozen in the ground as permafrost. Despite these difficult conditions, certain scientists believe that there is a possibility of trans-forming Mars into a more Earth-like planet.
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It can be inferred from the passage that the “greenhouse effect” mentioned in paragraph 3 is.

A. the direct result of nuclear reactions.

B. the cause of low temperatures on Mars.

C. caused by the introduction of green plants.

D. possible means of warming Mars.

7. According to the best evidence gathered by space probes and astronomers, Mars is an inhospitable planet, more similar to Earth’s Moon than to Earth it self – a dry, stark, seemingly lifeless world. Mars’ air pressure is equal to Earth’s at an altitude of 100,000 feet. The air there is 95 percent carbon dioxide. Mars has no ozone layer to screen out the sun’s lethal radiation. Daytime temperatures may reach above freezing, but because the planet is blanketed by the mere wisp of an atmosphere, the heat radiates back into space. Even at the equator, the temperature drops to -50C (-60F) at night. Today there is no liquid water, although valleys and channels on the surface show evidence of having been carved by running water. The polar ice caps are made of frozen water and carbon dioxide, and water may be frozen in the ground as permafrost. Despite these difficult conditions, certain scientists believe that there is a possibility of trans-forming Mars into a more Earth-like planet.
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The word "suitable"in paragraph 3 is closest in meaning to.

A. resistant

B. altered

C. appropriate

D. native

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According to Christopher Mckay, the possibility of transforming Mars.

A. could only occur in science fiction stories.

B. will not begin for hundreds, even thousands of years.

C. is completely impractical.

D. could be started in forty to fifty years.

9. According to the best evidence gathered by space probes and astronomers, Mars is an inhospitable planet, more similar to Earth's Moon than to Earth it self – a dry, stark, seemingly lifeless world. Mars' air pressure is equal to Earth's at an altitude of 100,000 feet. The air there is 95 percent carbon dioxide. Mars has no ozone layer to screen out the sun's lethal radiation. Daytime temperatures may reach above freezing, but because the planet is blanketed by the mere wisp of an atmosphere, the heat radiates back into space. Even at the equator, the temperature drops to -50C (-60F) at night. Today there is no liquid water, although valleys and channels on the surface show evidence of having been carved by running water. The polar ice caps are made of frozen water and carbon dioxide, and water may be frozen in the ground as permafrost. Despite these difficult conditions, certain scientists believe that there is a possibility of trans-forming Mars into a more Earth-like planet.
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The phrase “more profound” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to.

A. deeper

B. more practical

C. more up-to-date

D. brighter

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According to the article, the basic knowledge need to transform Mars comes from.

A. the science of astronomy

B. a knowledge of Earth's ecology

C. data from space probes

D. science fiction stories