PART I: Close Reading [40 points]

Read the following texts and answer the 10 questions. Write full sentences.

1. The Pangolin (source: National Geographic Kids)



Pangolins live in many different habitats, including rainforests and grasslands. Four species of pangolins live throughout Asia: Chinese, Sunda, Indian, and Philippine pangolins. The other four -ground, giant, white-bellied, and black-bellied- live in Africa.

Solitary animals, pangolins are active mostly at night. Many live on the ground, but some, like the black-bellied pangolin, also climb trees. Like anteaters, pangolins have long snouts and even longer tongues, which they use to snack on ants and termites they dig up from mounds with their powerful front claws.

All pangolins are covered in scales made of keratin—the same material as human fingernails—which gives them the nickname "scaly anteater." The pangolin's armor is so tough that even predators such as lions can't bite through it. When threatened, pangolins roll into a ball like an armadillo, making them less than half their normal size. This helps them shield their stomach and face, which aren't covered in protective scales. From this position, pangolins can release a stinky fluid from a gland at the base of their spiky tails to keep predators away.

All pangolins face declining populations because of illegal trade. In fact, they're believed to be the world's most trafficked non-human mammal. Their scales, like rhino horns, have no proven medicinal value, yet they're used in traditional Chinese medicine to help with health problems such as arthritis. Tens of thousands of pangolins are poached for their scales each year, as well as for their meat.

1. Where is the most likely place to find a pangolin?

A. In the Sahara desert

B. In a tropical forest

C. In the ocean

D. On a cold mountain

2. What do pangolins like to eat?

A. Fruits and leaves

B. Fish and birds

C. Ants and termites

D. Grass and seeds

3. What do pangolins do when they feel threatened?

A. Fly away

B. Hide underground

C. Roll into a ball

D. Run very fast

4. Why are pangolins in danger?

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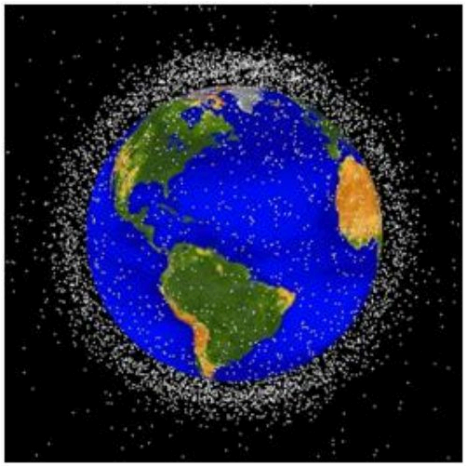
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2. Space Junk (by Josh Adler) (adapted from Readworks)



Many people know that trash is a big problem on planet Earth. What many people don't know is that trash has become a problem in outer space too. Years of space exploration have left tons of "space junk" in orbit around the planet.

According to *BBC News*, there are more than 22,000 pieces of junk in space around the earth. And these are just the items that we can see from

the surface of the earth by telescopes or radars. There are also millions of smaller pieces of junk that we can't see.

Objects, like bits of old space rockets or satellites, move around the planet at very high speeds, so fast that even a very small piece can break important satellites or become dangerous to people, particularly astronauts. If the tiniest piece of junk crashed into a spacecraft, it could damage the vehicle. That's because the faster an object moves, the greater the impact if the object collides with something else.

To make things worse, when two objects in space collide, the two objects break into many smaller pieces. This happened in 2009 when a working United States satellite collided with a Russian satellite that was no longer functioning. The collision caused the satellites to break into more than 2,000 pieces, increasing the items of space junk.

To help minimize additional space junk, countries around the world have agreed to limit the time their space tools stay in orbit to 25 years. Many scientists are also proposing different ways to clean up space junk. In England a metal harpoon is being tested that can be fired into space trash, grip the trash, and then pull the space junk into the earth's atmosphere where it would burn up.

The Germans have been planning a space mission with robots that would collect pieces of space trash and bring them back to Earth so that they can be safely destroyed. In 2007 the Chinese tried to blow up one of its older satellites with a missile. Unfortunately, the explosion only created thousands of smaller pieces, adding junk in space! "The time to act is now; as we go farther in time we will need to remove more and more fragments," he says.

5. What has left tons of "space junk" in orbit around the earth?

A. robots sent on space missions

B. years of space exploration

C. lack of recycling

D. missiles in outer space

6. Countries around the world have agreed to limit the time their space tools stay in orbit to 25 years. What problem does this solution address?

A. the increasing amount of space junk in orbit around the earth

B. space agencies exploring space

C. Chinese efforts to blow up a satellite

D. objects moving around the planet at very high speeds

7. What was the passage mostly about?

A. different missions scientists are trying in space

B. the effects that tiny pieces of space junk could have on the earth

C. the problem of space junk and scientists' attempts to solve this problem

D. the problem of trash on planet Earth

8. What did the 2009 collision of a United States satellite and a Russian satellite cause?

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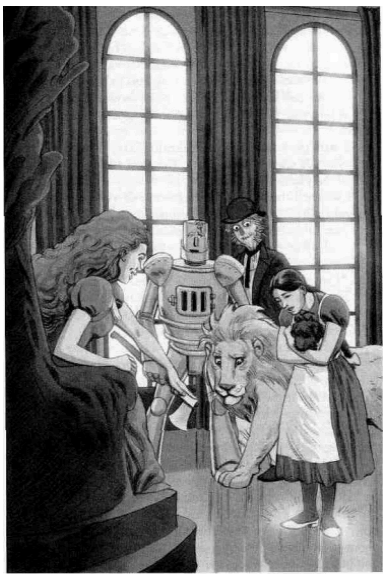
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3. The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum



"How can I get back to Kansas?" Dorothy asked her.
"Your Silver Shoes will carry you there," the Good Witch replied.
"They have powerful magic, but you did not know about it.
You were able to go back to your Aunt Em as soon as you put the Silver Shoes on."

"But then I would still be in the cornfield,"
the Scarecrow said. "And I wouldn't have my brains."
"I have a heart now," the Tin Man said.
"Dorothy helped me to leave the forest. I am very happy."
"I am happy too," the Lion said. "I am not a coward anymore
and I will be King of the animals."

"I am very glad that I helped you," Dorothy said. "You have helped me too. But now I want to go back to Kansas."
"The Silver Shoes will take you there," Glinda told Dorothy. "Knock the shoes together three times and say where you want to go."

"But first I must say goodbye to my friends!" the girl said. Then Dorothy, who was crying now, hugged the Lion and kissed him. She kissed the Tin Man and hugged the Scarecrow. Glinda gave the girl a goodbye kiss.

Then, with Toto in her arms, Dorothy closed her eyes and knocked the Silver Shoes together three times.
"Take me home to Aunt Em, in Kansas!" Dorothy cried. Immediately, she flew through the air, around and around, up and up. Then she quickly hit the ground with a bump.

When she opened her eyes, she was sitting in front of the new house that Uncle Henry had built on the prairie. And there was Uncle Henry! Toto ran up to him, barking loudly. Dorothy looked at her feet, but the Silver Shoes had gone. They had fallen off in the desert and were never seen again.

Aunt Em came out of the house and saw Dorothy.
"My dearest child!" she cried. "Where have you come from?"
"I have come from the Land of Oz and Toto was there too," Dorothy replied. She hugged Aunt Em and kissed her.
"Oh, Aunt Em, I am so glad to be home!" she said.

9. Describe Dorothy's character. Is she a good friend? Why? Or Why not? Use examples from the text to support your answer.

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10. Why do you think Dorothy chooses to leave Oz, even though she has made good friends there? Why is returning home important?

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Part II - Opinion Essay [60 points]

Write an opinion essay on the following question:

Is it better to go to the beach for vacation, or the mountains?

Which one do you prefer? Why? Write about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Provide examples and reasons for your choice.

*Write approximately **100 words.***

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Good Luck!