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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/162/2021_2022_1996_E5_B9_B410_E6_c81_162570.htm Question 1-8 When Jules Verne wrote Journey to the Center of the Earth in 1864 , there were many conflicting theories about the nature of the Earths interior. Some geologists thought that it contained a highly compressed ball of incandescent gas , while others suspected that it consisted of separate shells , each made of a different material. Today , well over a century later , there is still little direct evidence of what lies beneath our feet. Most of our knowledge of the Earths interior comes not from mines or boreholes , but from the study of seismic waves - powerful pulses of energy released by earthquakes. The way that seismic waves travel shows that the Earths interior is far from uniform. The continents and the seabed are formed by the crust - a thin sphere of relatively light , solid rock. Beneath the crust lies the mantle , a very different layer that extends approximately halfway to the Earths center. There the rock is the subject of a battle between increasing heat and growing pressure. In its high levels , the mantle is relatively cool ; At greater depths , high temperatures make the rock behave more like a liquid than a solid. Deeper still , the pressure is even more intense , preventing the rock from melting in spite of a higher temperature. Beyond a depth of around 2 , 900 kilometers , a great change takes place and the mantle gives way to the core. Some seismic waves cannot pass through the core and others are bent by it. From this and other evidence , geologists

conclude that the outer core is probably liquid , with a solid center. It is almost certainly made of iron , mixed with smaller amounts of other elements such as nickel. The conditions in the Earths core make it a far more alien world than space. Its solid iron heart is subjected to unimaginable pressure and has a temperature of about 9 , 000oF. Although scientists can speculate about its nature , neither humans nor machines will ever be able to visit it.

1. The word "conflicting" in line 2 is closest in meaning to (A) controlling (B) outdated (C) opposing (D) important

2. What is todays richest source of information about the Earths interior for geologists ? (A) Boreholes (B) Shells (C) Seismic waves (D) Mines

3. The word "There" in line 16 refers to the (A) mantle (B) crust (C) seabed (D) Earths center.

4. Which of the following is a primary characteristic of the Earths mantle ? (A) Light , solid rock (B) Uniformity of composition (C) Dramatically increasing pressure (D) Compressed , incandescent gas

5. The phrase "gives way to" in line 24 is closest in meaning to (A) runs along (B) rubs against (C) turns into (D) floats on

6. The word "it" in line 26 refers to (A) mantle (B) core (C) change (D) depth

7. Why does the author state in line 30-31 that the Earths core is "more alien" than space ? (A) Government funds are not available to study the Earths core. (B) Scientists arent interested in the characteristics of the Earths core. (C) It is impossible to go to the Earths core to do research. (D) The Earths core is made of elements that are dangerous to humans.

8. The word "speculate" in line 33 is closest in meaning to

(A) report (B) learn (C) worry (D) hypothesize 100Test
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