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COMPREHENSION [30 MIN.] SECTION A READING

COMPREHENSION [25 MIN.] In this section there are four passages followed by questions or unfinished statements, each with four suggested answers marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that you think is the correct answer. Mark your choices on your ANSWER SHEET.

TEXT A From Dr. R. S. Scorer of Britain's Imperial College of Science comes the latest theory about the cause of lightning flashes. Dr. Scorer believes the cause is hail falling through super-cooled clouds. Ice particles bouncing off the falling hail acquire a positive charge and rise to the top of the cloud while the hail carries a negative charge to the bottom of the cloud. According to Dr. Scorer, Benjamin Franklin first proved thunderclouds are charged with electricity. Later investigation showed that the tops of the clouds have a great positive charge and the bottoms a great negative charge. When the charges become great enough to break down the insulating properties of the air, lightning flashes carry the electricity within the cloud, or from cloud to cloud, or from cloud to earth. But the question remained: how do the charges develop within the cloud? To seek the cause, Dr. Scorer and his colleagues at the college first duplicated thundercloud currents in a liquid tank. They doubt that mixture takes place only in the tops of the clouds. Next a study of thunderclouds over the North Atlantic

showed that lightning occurs only when the air temperature around the cloud is below freezing. Particles at the top of the cloud begin to freeze, but those in the remainder of the cloud stay unfrozen although below freezing temperature. To measure moisture, the scientists sent planes equipped with external refrigerated rods into the clouds. The idea was that moisture would freeze on the rods and could later be measured. The men found, however, that some of the moisture particles bounced off the rods. This accidental discovery set the scientists on a new course of action. In the laboratory, S. E. Reynolds whirled a refrigerated rod through ice particles and found that the particles bounced off the rod acquired a positive charge. This was the missing link. Without hail and super-cooled clouds, he concluded there could be no lightning.⁶⁶ According to the article, Benjamin Franklin was the first to prove that _____. A. lightning is caused by hail falling through super-cooled clouds B. thunderclouds are not charged with electricity C. thunderclouds are charged with electricity D. lightning was not an invention of the devil⁶⁷. After Benjamin Franklin's discovery, others showed that _____. A. the tops of thunderclouds have a great positive charge B. the bottoms of the clouds have a great negative charge C. only the middles of thunders are electrically charged D. both A and B⁶⁸. A study of thunderclouds over the North Atlantic showed that lightning occurred only when the air temperature _____. A. around the cloud was below freezing B. above the cloud was lower than the temperature below the cloud C. around the cloud was above freezing D. of the cloud was above freezing⁶⁹. What is implied in this passage? A. Positive charges are in

the top of the cloud, negative charges in the bottom.B. When positive and negative charges within a cloud cannot break down the insulating properties of air, no lightning will be formed.C. Without hail and thunder, there could be no lightning.D. Without refrigerated rods, lightning could not be created.

TEXT B
The bicycling craze came in when we were just about at the right age to enjoy it. At first even “ safety ” bicycles were too dangerous and improper for ladies to ride, and they had to have tricycles. My mother had (I believe) the first female tricycle in Cambridge: and I had a little one, and we used to go out for family rides, all together. my father in front on a bicycle, and my brother Charles standing on the bar behind my mother. I found it very hard work, going noisily away on my hard tyres. a glorious, but not a pleasurable pastime. Then, one day at lunch, my father said he had just seen a new kind of tyre, filled up with air, and he thought it might be a success. And soon after that every one had bicycles, ladies and all. and bicycling became the smart thing in society, and the lords and ladies had their pictures in the papers, riding along in the park, in straw boater hats. My mother must have fallen off her bicycle pretty often, for I remember seeing, several times, the worst cuts on her legs. But she never complained, and always kept these mishaps to herself. However, the great Mrs. Phillips, our cook, always knew all about them. as indeed she knew practically everything that ever happened. She used to draw us into the servants ’ hall to tell us privately:

“ Her Lady ship had a bad fall yesterday. she cut both her knees. But don ’ t let her know I told you. ” So we never dared say anything.

Similar accidents used to occur when, at the age of nearly seventy, she insisted on learning to drive a car. She never mastered the art of reversing, and was in every way an unconventional and terrifying driver. Mrs. Phillips used then to tell us: “ Her Ladyship ran into the back of a milk-cart yesterday. but it wasn ’ t much hurt ” . or “ A policeman stopped her Ladyship because she was on the wrong side of the road. but he said she didn ’ t know what the white line on the road meant, so he explained and let her go on. ” Mrs. Phillips must have had an excellent intelligence service at her command, for the stories were always true enough.⁷⁰ According to the passage, the writer _____. A. belongs to a high social class B. comes from a middle class family C. didn ’ t like to go bicycling with his parent D. felt it a glory to own a bicycle⁷¹. “ Mrs. Phillips have an excellent Intelligence Service at her command ” means _____. A. she was excellent in her service B. she must be exceedingly intelligent C. she must be very good at getting information D. lots of people worked with her⁷². The writer admires Mrs. Phillips because _____. A. she was an excellent cook B. she was in command of all the servants C. she could keep secrets D. she knew everything that went on⁷³. The writer ’ s mother, it seems, _____. A. disliked slow driving B. hated out-door life C. was good-natured old lady D. was a strong-willed old lady

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