What might be the next alarm bell to ring?Of course a truck bomb would intensify national nervousness by making things that are ubiquitous--trucks--seem ominous And high explosives directed against say Hoover Dam would not only complicate life in the Southwest it would underscore the unsettling message that even big things can be pulverized However it is time to think about attacks using things not solid and directed against things not as solid as skyscrapers or dams Consider cyberterrorism assaults that can be undertaken from anywhere on the planet against anything dependent on or directed by flows of information

Call this soft terrorism Although it can put lives in jeopardy it can do its silent stealthy work without tearing flesh or pulverizing structures It can be a weapon of mass disruption rather than mass destruction as was explained by the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection in its 1997 report on potential cyberattacks against the "system of systems" that is modern America " Life is good in America " the report says " because things work When we flip the switch the lights come on When we turn the tap clean water flows " Now suppose a sudden and drastic shrinkage of life's "taken for granted " quotient The report notes that terrorist attacks have usually been against single targets--individuals crowds buildings But today 's networked world of complexity and interconnectedness has vast

new vulnerabilities with a radius larger than that of any imaginable bomb blast Terrorists using computers might be able to disrupt information and communications systems and, by doing sO attack banking and financial systems energy(electricity oil gas) and the systems for the physical distribution of America's economic output Hijacked aircraft and powdered anthrax--such terrorist tools are crude and scarce compared with computers which are everywhere and inexpensive Wielded with sufficient cunnin9 they can spread the demoralizing helplessness that is terrorism's most important intended byproduct Computers as weapons even more than intercontinental ballistic missiles render irrelevant the physical geography-- the two broad oceans and two peaceful neighbors--that once was the basis of America's sense of safety A threat is a capability joined with a hostile intent In early summer l997 the U S military conducted a threat-assessment exercise code-named Eligible Receiver to test the vulnerabilities of " borderless cyber geography" The results confirmed that in a software-driven world an enemy need not invade the territory or the air over the territory of a country in order to control or damage that country' S resoUrces The attack tools are on sale everywhere computers modems software telephones The attacks can shut down services or deliver harmful instructions to systems And a cyberattack may not be promptly discovered The report says " Computer intrusions do not announce their presence the way a bomb does [459 words] 1

This passage is mainly about_____ A future terrorist attacks

B　fighting against terrorism C　weapons of mass disruption D　weapons of mass destruction 2　The underlined word "ubiquitous" in the first paragraph most probably means_____

A　common B　real C　solid D　tangible 3　Soft terrorism is mainly directed against_____　A　dams B　skyscrapers C　unsettling messages D　information systems 4　America's sense of safety may be threatened to the greatest extent when_____are used as terrorist weapons　A　computers B　hijacked aircraft C　powered anthrax D　intercontinental ballistic missiles 5　The threatassessment exercise once conducted in U　S　_____　A　obscured its cyber geography B　confirmed the potential threat of cyberattacks C　rendered irrelevant its physical geography D　enhanced America's sense of safety considerably　　　　Anthrax n　　　　Ballistic　　Cyber ( )　　　　Cyberterrorism　　　　flip v　n　　　　Hoover Dam n　　　　Infrastructure　　　　Intrusion n　　　　jeopardy n　Modem n　　　　ominous　　Pulverize　quotient n　　Shrinkage n　　Ubiquitous adj　underscore vt　n　Wield vt　　　　100Test

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