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The Building of the Pyramids
The oldest stone buildings in the world are the pyramids. __1__. There are over eighty of them scattered along the banks of the Nile, some of which are different in shape from the true pyramids. The most famous of these are the “ step ” pyramid and “ Bent ” pyramid. Some of the pyramids still look much the same as they must have done when they were built thousands of years ago. Most of the damage suffered by the others has been at the hands of men who were looking for treasure or, more often, for stone to use in modern buildings. __2__. These are good reasons why they can still be seen today, but perhaps the most important is that they were planned to last forever. __3__. However, there are no writings or pictures to show us how the Egyptians planned or built the pyramids themselves. __4__. Nevertheless, by examining the actual pyramids and various tools which have been found, archaeologists have formed a fairly clear picture of them. One thing is certain: there must have been months of careful planning before they could begin to build. __5__. You may think this would have been easy with miles and miles of empty desert around, but a pyramid could not be built just anywhere. Certain rules had to be followed, and certain problems had to be

overcome. A The dry climate of Egypt has helped to preserve the pyramids, and their very shape have made them less likely to fall into ruin. B It is practically certain that plans were made for the building of the pyramids because the plans of other large works have fortunately been preserved. C The first thing they had to do was to choose a suitable place. D Consequently, we are only able to guess at the methods used. E Many people were killed while building the pyramids. F They have stood for nearly 5,000 years, and it seems likely that they will continue to stand for thousands of years yet.

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The Building of the Pyramids

1. F。第一句说“金字塔是世界上最古老的石头建筑”，F说“它们已经屹立了将近5000年并且似乎会继续存在数千年”，以实际数字说明了第1句。

2. A。A说“埃及干燥的气候有助于保持金字塔，金字塔自身的形状也使之不容易毁坏。”空格后句的主语these就是指这两个原因。

3. B。B说“几乎可以确定的是(埃及人)为建造金字塔指定了施工方案，因为有些其他大型建筑的工程图已被幸运地保存下来，”后一句说“然而没有文字记录或图片告诉我们埃及人如何设计或建造金字塔。”。这两句在意思上形成转折。

4. D。根据本段前面两句的句意这里应该选择D(因此，我们只能猜测他们使用的方法)。

5. C。该段首句说有一件事情确定无疑，即他们(埃及人)开工前一定花了数月时间仔细设计建造方案，C说“他们要做的第一件事情就是选址”，和第一句意思连贯，而且下文中的this只能指选址这件事。

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