Exercise 6

Read the following text for questions 1-9.

THE STORY OF THE FIRST PHOTOGRAPHS

Last summer, I visited a museum in my city. One of the rooms was full of very old photographs. Some of them were more than 150 years old. As I looked at the pictures, I started thinking: who took the first photograph? How did photography begin?

The first photograph was taken in 1826 by a French man named Joseph Nicéphore Niépce. He used a special camera and a metal plate covered with chemicals. The picture shows the view from a window in his house. It looks simple, but it was a huge discovery. Before this, nobody knew how to keep a real image forever.

Later, in 1839, another Frenchman named Louis Daguerre improved the process. He created the daguerreotype, which made it easier to take photographs. These early photos were black and white and needed people to stay still for a long time. Sometimes they had to sit for ten minutes without moving! This is why people in old photos often have serious faces—they could not smile for so long.

Photography became more popular during the 19th century. In the 1850s, cameras became smaller and cheaper. This allowed more people to take photographs of their families, cities, and important events. For example, during the American Civil War, photographers took many pictures of soldiers and battlefields. These photos showed the reality of war in a way paintings could not.

In the 20th century, photography changed again. Color photography became available, and cameras became easier to use. People no longer needed professional photographers to take their pictures. Cameras like the Kodak became very popular with ordinary families.

Today, almost everyone carries a camera in their pocket. With smartphones, people can take photos anytime, anywhere. Some people say this has changed the way we remember our lives. In the past, families kept photo albums at home. Now, many people keep their photos online or share them on social media.

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Looking at those old photographs in the museum made me realize how important photography is. It allows us to keep memories, share moments, and understand history better.

For questions 1-4, choose the correct answer A, B, C, or D. mark your answers on the answer sheet.

1. What does the first photograph show?

A) A group of people standing outside.
B) A view from inside a house.
C) The sky and the clouds.
D) The view from a window in Niépce's house.

2. Why do people in early photos look serious?

A) They were usually unhappy.
B) Photographers told them not to smile.
C) They had to stay still for a long time.
D) Smiling was not popular in the past.

3. What happened during the 1850s?

A) Cameras became more expensive.
B) People stopped using photographs.
C) Cameras became easier for people to buy and use.
D) Photographs were only taken by artists.

4. What does the writer say about modern photography?

A) People print more photos now than before.
B) Cameras today are usually very heavy.
C) People now need professional photographers again.
D) Many people store photos online or share them on social media.

For questions 5-9, decide if the following statements agree with the information given in the text. Mark your answers on the answer sheet.

5. The writer first became interested in photography when visiting a museum.

A) True **B)** False **C)** No Information

6. People had to sit still for ten minutes when taking early photographs.

A) True **B)** False **C)** No Information

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