Passage 7

Space Exploration

A. Space exploration aims to bring to light many questions about existence and even survival. Firstly, the exploration of outer space might offer an answer to humanity's dated query, 'Are we alone in the universe?' With the immensity of space and man's limited means of exploring it, it is extremely difficult to prove or disprove the existence of alien life. Some established institutions like the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) aim to discover if there are other forms of life in the cosmos. Carl Sagan, a renowned astronomer, expressed his belief of the possibility that humankind may not be alone in the universe.

B. Secondly, space exploration allows man to discover the infinite possibilities that he can create in outer space. Russia and the US are among the first countries to explore such possibilities in space exploration. Personalities who have played major roles in early space exploration include Konstantin Tsiolkovsky and Wernher von Braun. Tsiolkovsky was a Soviet Russian rocket scientist who deemed that man will ultimately be able to conquer outer space. Von Braun, a German rocket engineer who helped man to reach the moon with the successful launch and return of Apollo 11, believed that man can go wherever he wants to, even outer space.

C. Several nations, science experts and interested individuals know that it is important to gain knowledge about outer space. Institutions such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are geared towards discovering something in space that may enhance man's knowledge and offer answers to man's questions on whether or not we are alone in the infinite cosmos.

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Questions

Look at the following list of statements (Questions 1 – 4) about space exploration.

Match each statement with the correct person or institution (A – E).

A. Wernher von Braun
B. Konstantin Tsiolkovsky
C. Carl Sagan
D. NASA
E. SETI

1. It is highly likely that man is not the only intelligent being in the whole universe.
2. Man will triumph over the mysteries of the cosmos.
3. If man wants to, man can belong anywhere, including the cosmos.
4. Exploring the cosmos might shed light on man's queries.

Approach

STEP 1 Identify the keywords and question focus in each numbered statement in the list.

STEP 2 Find out the relevant information in the passage.

STEP 3 Match the numbered statement with its corresponding lettered item.

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