Reading

- **Read the text and answer the questions below.**

August 1985: The worst month for air disasters

There are many grim landmarks in the history of aviation. One in particular stands out. Three decades ago, 720 travellers and crew lost their lives on board commercial aircraft in a single month - more than in any other before or since.

The deaths occurred in four separate accidents in August 1985. Each disaster had quite different causes. The aircraft involved ranged from a 747 with hundreds on board to a tiny twin engine turboprop carrying just eight people.

There was Japan Air Lines flight 123, the worst single-aircraft accident in history, in which 520 of 524 on board were killed. A further 137 died when Delta flight 191 flew into heavy winds as it approached Dallas-Fort Worth International. A fire on board British Airtours flight 28M at Manchester Airport led to 55 deaths. And all those on board the smallest aircraft, Bar Harbor Airlines flight 1808, lost their lives as it flew into a small airport in Maine, USA.

Each, in their own way, had a lasting legacy, whether in the memories of those left bereaved or in changes in technology and procedure introduced as a direct result. The worst death toll was on Japan Air Lines Flight 123, a Boeing 747, which was en route from Tokyo to Osaka on 12 August 1985 when the airtight bulkhead between its cabin and tail tore open. The change in pressure blew off the vertical stabiliser, or tail fin. It also destroyed the hydraulic systems. The plane lurched up and down.

Choose the correct letter, A, B, C or D.

1. **When did the 720 travellers die?**
   a. Thirteen decades ago.
   b. A few decades ago.
   c. 30 years ago.
   d. There is no information about it.

2. **Twin engine turboprop could carry:**
   a. Eight people.
   b. Four people.
   c. Two people.
   d. Only a pilot.

3. **The worst accident in history, according to the paragraph, was:**
   a. Flight 123.
   b. Delta flight 191.
   c. British Airtours flight 28M.
   d. Bar Harbor Airlines flight 1808.

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4. **Why did the Japan Air Lines Flight 123 crashed?**
   a. The change in pressure blew off the vertical stabiliser.
   b. Destruction of the hydraulic systems.
   c. The airtight bulkhead between its cabin and tail tore open.
   d. It is unknown.

- **Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage?**

The largest thing in the universe

More than ten years ago, while taking the temperature of the universe, astronomers found something odd. They discovered that a patch of sky, spanning the width of 20 moons, was unusually cold.

The astronomers were measuring the thermal radiation that bathes the entire universe, a glowing relic of the big bang. To gaze at this cosmic microwave background, or CMB, is to glimpse the primordial[1] universe, a time when it was less than 400,000 years old.

The CMB blankets the sky, and looks pretty much the same everywhere, existing at a feebly cold temperature of 2.725 kelvins - just a couple degrees warmer than absolute zero. But armed with the newly launched WMAP satellite, the astronomers had set out to probe temperature variations as tiny as one part in 100,000. Born from the quantum froth that was the universe a half-moment after the big bang, those random fluctuations help scientists understand what the cosmos is made of and how it all came to be.

And standing out amidst those fluctuations was a cold spot. Over the years, astronomers have come up with all sorts of ideas to explain it, ranging from instrumental error to parallel universes. But now, they're homing in on a prime suspect: an enormous cavern of emptiness called a cosmic supervoid, so big that it might be the largest structure in the universe.

According to theory, such a vast void, in which nary a star or galaxy exists, can leave a frigid imprint on the CMB. The answer to the mystery, then, might simply be a whole lot of nothing. Yet puzzles remain, and the case is far from closed.

Primordial[1] - ancient, existing a very long time.

1. **Astronomers often find something odd on the sky.**
2. **The CMB is the thermal radiation across the entire universe.**
3. **The CMB varies from extremely low to very high temperatures.**
4. **Investigation of fluctuations of temperature in the space help scientists to understand what the cosmos is made of.**
5. **The cosmic supervoid is the largest structure in the universe.**

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