

Exercise 9

Read the next part of the passage. Use the information in the passage to label the space station. Use the phrases in the box.

The life cycle of Skylab began after a period of massive expenditure on space rockets, moon capsules and service modules, many of which were still in serviceable condition on return to Earth, and so the decision was taken to reuse leftover components from these to forge the space station. Many of these were from the Apollo moon missions. For example, the Orbital Workshop (the thickest end of the space station) was made from two tanks that had been used for storing liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen; the former was reconfigured to become a living and working facility, and the latter was used for storing waste products that had accumulated on the mission – unlike in other spacecraft, these were not recycled or dumped into space.

At the opposite extremity of the space station was the Service Module, whose conical point would dock with the rest of the space station. In actual fact, Skylab was so designed to allow for more than one module to dock simultaneously; this was the contingency plan in the event of any major mishap that meant that the astronauts needed rescuing.

Skylab itself was essentially cylindrical in form, except for the Apollo Telescope Mount, which stuck out at a right angle from the main body of Skylab. This allowed for observation of the Earth and stars without atmospheric interference. This was instrumental in the collection of many thousands of photographs that were taken and subsequently analysed.

Radiating out from a central point were the solar array panels, arranged in a cross-like formation and looking almost like a windmill. These were designed in order to achieve optimum alignment.

The Airlock Module, with a length of 5.4 metres and a width of 2.1 metres, was used by the astronauts to exit the space station and perform spacewalks. It allowed the astronauts to access the exterior and perform any necessary maintenance. This was the cylindrical section with the smallest radius, dwarfed by the bulk of the substantially wider body of the Orbital Workshop and its attachments.

Airlock Module

Apollo Telescope Mount
Orbital Workshop

Command Module

Service Module

Solar Array Panels

