Trapped in the Cycle

I. Illustrate each paragraph (A-F)

A. It was a very surprising day. Mia had never seen the mall so crowded before. People rushed from one store to another, their arms full of shopping bags. Bright advertisements covered every wall, proclaiming discounts, limited-time offers, and essential products. Music blared from the speakers, intensifying the sense of urgency. Mia walked slowly, observing the chaos around her. Her best friend, Jordan, tugged her toward a store with flashing lights. “Come on, Mia! The new sneakers just dropped. We have to get them before they sell out!” he said eagerly.

B. [1] _____. People were fighting over clothes, shoving one another to claim the best deals. A woman in front of her clutched five pairs of identical jeans. Did she truly need all of them? Mia glanced down at her own sneakers. They were worn but still comfortable. Did she really need a new pair just because everyone else was buying them?

C. Jordan returned, gripping the sneakers. “I got them! Last pair in my size,” he said, breathless. He looked thrilled but also drained.[2] _____. Jordan looked at her, perplexed. “Because it’s fun? Because everyone wants them?” Mia nodded slowly. “Yeah, but what if we already have enough?” She glanced at the frantic shoppers around her. [3] _____. For the first time, Mia wasn’t sure she wanted to buy anything at all.

D. As they exited the store, Mia noticed a little boy crying near the toy section. His mother attempted to soothe him, but he kept pointing at a toy robot on the shelf. [4] _____. Mia frowned. Was this where it all began?

E. Outside the mall, a man sat on the sidewalk playing the guitar. His case lay open for tips, but only a few coins rested inside. Shoppers hurried past him, too preoccupied with their purchases to notice. Mia paused for a moment, listening to his song. It was soft and melodic, a stark contrast to the clamor inside the mall. [5] _____. He looked up and smiled. "Thank you," he said.

F. As they walked toward the bus stop, Mia turned to Jordan. "What if we spent money on things that truly mattered? What if we helped people instead of constantly purchasing unnecessary items?" Jordan shrugged. "I don’t know, Mia. That’s just how the world works. People buy things, companies sell more, and the cycle continues." [6] _____. She wasn’t certain, but she knew one thing—next time she walked into a store, she would think twice before making a purchase.

A	**B**	**C**
D	**E**	**F**

II. **Six sentences have been removed. Choose the most suitable sentence from the list A-G. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.**

A) She reached into her pocket and dropped a few coins into his case.
B) She wasn’t convinced, but she let Jordan lead her inside anyway.
C) Were they really happy? Or were they just chasing something they would never catch?
D) Mia sighed. “I don’t know. Why do we always feel like we have to buy things just because they’re new?”
E) "You have so many of them at home," she said, sounding tired.
F) Maybe the cycle would always continue, but did she have to be part of it?
G) The place was packed, and the atmosphere felt more like a competition than a place to shop.
H) She noticed that most people weren’t even talking to each other, just staring at their phones as they waited in line.

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