Reading

Reading Passage 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1-13**, which are based on **Reading Passage 1** below.

THE OLD BUT GOLD "CINDERELLA"

Hard rock band Cinderella gained success in the mid-'80s, turning out a series of million-selling albums and hit singles. By the mid-'90s, the group's mass popularity had subsided due to professional setbacks and perceived changes in taste. But they continued to tour regularly well into the 21st century.

Cinderella was founded in Philadelphia, PA, in 1983 by Tom Keifer and bassist Eric Brittingham, who quickly added lead guitarist Jeff LaBar. Guitarist Michael Kelly Smith and drummer Tony Destra were also early members of the band, but they left in 1985 to form Britny Fox. Cinderella then added drummer Jody Cortez and continued as a four-piece. Insisting on playing original material, they performed in clubs and bars in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and in 1985 Jon Bon Jovi caught one of their shows. He was sufficiently impressed to alert his record company, Mercury, which signed the band. Their debut album, Night Songs, was released in June 1986. Shortly after its completion, Cortez left the band and was replaced by Fred Coury. The LP was not an immediate success, but it gained momentum gradually while the band toured extensively as an opening act to promote it. It broke into the Billboard chart in July, and the track "Shake Me," although it failed to chart as a single, got enough radio attention to turn up on Billboard's Album Rock Tracks chart in August. On October 1, the album was certified gold. That month, Mercury released a second single, "Nobody's Fool," accompanied by a music video that earned play on MTV; it broke into the charts in November and peaked at number 13 in February 1987.

Having broken through to popular success with Night Songs, Cinderella returned with their second album, Long Cold Winter, in July 1988. The album reached number ten in September, the same month it was certified gold and platinum simultaneously. As the group continued to tour relentlessly through 1988 and 1989, Mercury broke more singles from the LP. "The Last Mile," released in December, peaked at number 36 in March 1989;

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"Coming Home," released in March, hit number 20 in June; and "Gypsy Road," finally put on 45 a year after the release of Long Cold Winter.

Again, Cinderella came off the road and spent a year crafting its third album, Heartbreak Station, which appeared in November 1990. Although it was a hit out of the box, going gold in January 1991 and platinum in February, the album encountered more resistance than the band's previous efforts, peaking at number 19, with no multi-platinum certifications forthcoming. More disturbing than this mild commercial disappointment, however, were problems within the band. Coury departed, and Cinderella initially replaced him with Kevin Valentine, then hired noted session drummer Kenny Aronoff temporarily before bringing in Kevin Conway. Then, after the Heartbreak Station tour had ended and the band was gearing up to go to Japan in 1991, Keifer woke up one morning and found he couldn't sing. Doctors initially were unable to figure out what was wrong, but a specialist finally diagnosed paresis of the laryngeal nerve controlling the left vocal cord. Keifer was forced to undergo two throat operations, followed by extensive therapy. Cinderella managed to put a track, "Hot and Bothered," on the chart-topping Wayne's World soundtrack, released in February 1992, but otherwise the band was out of commission for an extended period of time.

In the meanwhile, fashions changed. Cinderella had been part of a "pop-metal" movement including Bon Jovi, Great White, and Ratt, who preceded them. But when "grunge" rockers Nirvana, boasting a neo-punk style, broke through to success in the fall of 1991 with their album Nevermind, the record suddenly became enamored of their stripped-down approach. Suddenly, instead of the teased and blown-dry coiffures and skin-tight stage costumes of the pop-metal bands, it was the dirty-hair-falling-in-the-face, flannel-shirt-and-jeans look of Nirvana. Soon, the pop-metal groups were written off with a new epithet, dismissed as "hair metal" bands. By the time Keifer & Co. finally emerged with the fourth Cinderella album, Still Climbing, in November 1994, it could only manage to spend one week at number 178 before disappearing. Mercury promptly dropped the band.

Cinderella's touring opportunities also dried up, and while the group did not formally disband in 1995, it became inactive for lack of offers. By 1998, there was enough interest by promoters for Cinderella to reunite for a tour. On October 2 and 3, they appeared at the Key Club in Hollywood, CA, and recorded the show for an album in July 1999. But the releases were not successful, and Cinderella's contract was canceled. Nevertheless, a

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faithful fan base supported continuing road work by the band, which reunited in the summer of 2000 for a tour with Poison, followed by a second outing by the two groups in 2002. In 2005, VH1 sponsored the Rock Never Stops package tour, which Cinderella headlined, supported by Ratt, Quiet Riot, and Firehouse, with dates extending through the summer.

Questions 1-4

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answer in boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet.

1 Cinderella was founded in Philadelphia, in 1983 and three years later released their first album with ..... company.

2 The Long Cold Winter ..... gained two certifications, gold and platinum, in 1988.

3 After the release of the third album, ... became the last official member.

4 Their first reunited tour took place at the ..... in 1998.

Questions 5-9

Do the following statements agree with the information given in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 5-9 on your answer sheet, write

TRUE *if the statement agrees with the information*

FALSE *if the statement contradicts the information*

NOT GIVEN *if there is no information on this*

5 Tony Destra was one of the first members of Cinderella in 1983.

6 Cortez played in the band for only four months.

7 Cinderella saw continuous success with Coming Home and Gypsy Road in 1989, followed by The Last Mile.

8 It was not until the Heartbreak Station tour ended that Keifer had to have a medical treatment.

9 The Rock Never Stops tour was funded by VH1, with a number of music bands performing over the last months of the year 2005.

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Questions 10-13

Match each sentence with the correct ending, **A-F**, below.

Write the correct letter, **A-F**, in boxes 10-13 on your answer sheet.

10 Night Songs

11 Long Cold Winter

12 Heartbreak Station

13 Still Climbing

A	was completed by the time a replacement of members took place.
B	none of its singles fell out of the top 50 of the Billboard Chart.
C	received no platinum certifications at all.
D	remained in the chart for one week
E	was advertised by the extensive tours.
F	released right before the band's period of adversity.

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