

UNIT 7 : EXTREME SITUATIONS

CLOSE-UP PAGE 90

Choose the correct answers.

RIVER DEEP, MOUNTAIN HIGH!

From the top of the highest mountain to the bottom of the sea, the world is full of extremes. Let's take a look at some of the most amazing ones.



With temperature well (1) _____ freezing and very strong winds, a mountain top is an extreme place to be! The tallest mountain (2) _____ the planet is, of course, Mount Everest. Its peak rises 8,850 metres (3) _____ sea level. (4) _____ the years, 1,200 people have made the long, lonely climb to the top of Everest!

The Sahara Desert in North Africa and is (5) _____ the same size as USA!

With so much sun and very little rain, summer temperatures there are often (6) _____ 32 ° Celsius. The hottest



temperature ever recorded on earth was in the Sahara, when the temperature reached 58° Celsius!



The Amazon is one of the longest rivers in the world. It begins in the mountains of Peru, goes (7) _____ South America and ends at the Atlantic Ocean. If you ever go on a journey to the Amazon, be very careful! As well as the lovely pink dolphins there are also some horrible creatures (8) _____ the water, including the flesh-eating piranha!

Complete the passage below using these words.

convinced	mercy	missions	prove
satisfaction	tragedy	training	violent

In the US Coast Guard's national motor lifeboat school, trainee boat drivers often find themselves at the (1) _____ of waves that can kill them. They must face some of the most (2) _____ and unpredictable seas. In an area known as the 'Graveyard of the Pacific', drivers learn how to cope with the kind of rough conditions that they will frequently face in their job, battling against the severe weather.

The (3) _____ is important as these skills will help them to perform their dangerous life-saving (4) _____. Instructor Aaron Ferguson is (5) _____ that the motor lifeboat school gives the students the best kind of training.

The two-weeks class ends with the students ready to do the 'man-overboard drill'. For student, Ralph Johnston, this is the chance to (6) _____ that he can move the lifeboat through huge waves while keeping it steady. The rescue attempt succeeds and he passes the test. For the instructors, there is (7) _____ in knowing that the skills students learn here might one day prevent a terrible (8) _____.