A. Read the first part of the text and choose the correct answer (a, b or c)

The Camera Never Lies, But the Software Can

Part 1:

WHEN John Knoll created Photoshop in 1989, he knew he was designing an image-editing program that could be used in good ways and bad. But even Mr. Knoll, who wrote the software with his brother, Tom, was unprepared for how peculiar photo manipulation would become. "When we worked on it, mostly we saw the possibilities, the cool things," said Mr. Knoll, 58. "Not how it would be abused."

The same tools that can be used to crop, retouch and otherwise edit digital images can be used just as easily to distort, alter and fabricate them. With Photoshop and similar programs now widely available in inexpensive, easy-to-use consumer versions, just about anyone with rudimentary computer skills can cut, paste, erase, combine and retouch photographs. It doesn't take much skill to make the unreal seem real.



"Once this kind of technology was only available to people who could spend $1,000 on software," said Mr. Knoll, who now works for Industrial Light and Magic, the special effects company. "Now it's available to everyone, even those who want to use it for calumny."

Playing with and circulating digital images has become something of a national hobby, the visual equivalent of virtual jokes. Family photos are frequent targets, and the Web full of memes and fakes: a shark attacking a British Navy diver as he escapes up a ladder to a helicopter; northeastern North America in complete darkness after the August blackout; a "triple tornado" accompanying Hurricane Lili, which hit Louisiana in October 2002.

1. Who can use photoshop?
a. experts in photography
b. Software engineers
c. anyone with rudimentary computer skills

2. In the past, this technology was available for:

a. people who could afford it
b. everyone
c. engineers

3. A shark attacking a British Navy driver and a "triple tornado" photos are examples of:

a. meme
b. fakes
c. never-before-seen photos

4. The word "targets" in the phrase "Family photos are frequent targets" means:

a. presents
b. something at which someone is aiming an action
c. identifying someone else in a post

5. What can be concluded in the first part of the text?

a. photo manipulation went out of control
b. It is used nowadays for virtual jokes

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c. It is used to create fake news

B. Read the second part of the text and write true, false or not given to the statements below

Part 2:



Faked photos are nothing new. Even with film and negatives, it was possible, with the right darkroom equipment and some skill and creativity, to remove people from images, for example, or to combine a jackrabbit and an antelope to create a gag "jackalope" postcard. Nor is photography for political purposes new. In 1840, Hippolyte Bayard, one of the earliest photographers, staged a picture of himself as a drowned man because he thought his work was not given proper recognition by the French government.

Many modified photos are just funny, like the one of a man lifting what appears to be a 90-pound cat. But David Mikkelson, who with his wife, Barbara, runs Snopes.com, an online repository and debunker of urban legends and hoaxes, including some composite photos, said that sometimes fake images strike a chord because they reflect a certain reality. "People are making caricatures based on existing conceptions," he said. "This helps them spread far and wide."



Images can also create their own version of reality. David King, author of "The Commissar Vanishes: The Falsification of Photographs and Art in Stalin's Russia", said that point was brought home to him years ago by a well-known 1920 photograph of Lenin with the writer Maxim Gorky. "It's just the two of them standing there together," he said. In 1972, Mr. King found the original print of the photo in an antiquarian bookshop in Amsterdam and saw that it contained more than 20 other people. "They were all wiped out," he said.

When Mr. King showed the original photo to Russian friends, they looked at him curiously. "They thought I had put people into the picture," he said "It had become such an imprint on the Soviet mind."

Mr. Mikkelson said he believed that over the years people have grown more skeptical of the images they see. "It's a lot harder to fool people," he said. "The tools are improving, but the skills to convincingly manipulate photos are scarcer than people think."

1. The creation of fake photos is something new. _____
2. The Jacklope is a real animal. _____
3. Hyppolite Backyard took a picture of himself as a drowned man. _____
4. David Mickkelson is the only owner of Snopes.com. _____
5. In Snopes.com you can know if a picture is real or not. _____
6. Lenin and Gorky took a picture of only the two of them. _____
7. Mr. King's friend believed he had edited the photo. _____
8. Mr. Mickkelson thinks now people don't believe very much in the photos they see. _____
9. David Mikkelson thinks that it is easy to distinguish real photos from fake ones.

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Complete the questions below with short answers. (1-3 words)

1. Tom Knoll said that when they worked on creating photoshop, they only saw _____.
2. Photoshop was only available for those who could spent _____.
3. Circulating digital images has become something of a _____.
4. Hyppolite felt he didn't receive recognition by the _____.
5. Where did Mr. Mickkelson find the original photo of Lenin and Maxim Gorky?

   _____.

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