PARAGRAPH 1

Most people consider the landscape to be unchanging, but Earth is a dynamic body, and its surface is continually altering—slowly on the human time scale, but relatively rapidly when compared to the great age of Earth (about 4.5 billion years). There are two principal influences that shape the terrain: constructive processes such as uplift, which create new landscape features, and destructive forces such as erosion, which gradually wear away exposed landforms.

Directions: Mark your answer by filling in the oval next to your choice.

1. According to paragraph 1, which of the following statements is true of changes in Earth's landscape?

- ○ They occur more often by uplift than by erosion.
- ○ They occur only at special times.
- ○ They occur less frequently now than they once did.
- ○ They occur quickly in geological terms.

2. The word "relatively" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- ○ unusually
- ○ comparatively
- ○ occasionally
- ○ naturally

PARAGRAPH 2

Hills and mountains are often regarded as the epitome of permanence, successfully resisting the destructive forces of nature, but in fact they tend to be relatively short-lived in geological terms. As a general rule, the higher a mountain is, the more recently it was formed; for example, the high mountains of the Himalayas are only about 50 million years old. Lower mountains tend to be older, and are often the eroded relics of much higher mountain chains. About 400 million years ago, when the present-day continents of North America and Europe were joined, the Caledonian mountain chain was the same size as the modern Himalayas. Today, however, the relics of the Caledonian orogeny (mountain-building period) exist as the comparatively low mountains of Greenland, the northern Appalachians in the United States, the Scottish Highlands, and the Norwegian coastal plateau.

3. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

- ○ When they are relatively young, hills and mountains successfully resist the destructive forces of nature.
- ○ Although they seem permanent, hills and mountains exist for a relatively short period of geological time.
- ○ Hills and mountains successfully resist the destructive forces of nature, but only for a short time.
- ○ Hills and mountains resist the destructive forces of nature better than other types of landforms.

4. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 2 about the mountains of the Himalayas?

- ○ Their current height is not an indication of their age.
- ○ At present, they are much higher than the mountains of the Caledonian range.
- ○ They were a uniform height about 400 million years ago.
- ○ They are not as high as the Caledonian mountains were 400 million years ago.

5. The word "relics" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- ○ resemblances
- ○ regions
- ○ remains
- ○ restorations

LIVEWORKSHEETS