SECTION 3: READING

VII. Read the passage. Then, choose one suitable word to fill in the gaps. (1.0 point)

Some teenagers enjoy spending free time with their friends. (1) _____ prefer doing leisure activities with their family members. I love spending time with my family (2) _____ it's a great way to connect with them.

At the weekend, we usually go for a bike ride. We cycle to some nearby villages to enjoy the fresh air. We take photos and look at them later. My big brother and I are also (3) _____ cooking. My brother looks for easy recipes. After that, we prepare the ingredients and cook. Sometimes the food is good, but sometimes it isn't; however, we love whatever we cook. The leisure activity I like the most is doing DIY projects with my mum. She teaches me (4) _____ my own dresses and doll clothes. On special occasions, we make special dresses together. Once I won the first prize in a (5) _____ contest at my school.

1.	A. Others	B. The others	C. Another	D. The other
2.	A. although	B. despite	C. because	D. while
3.	A. like	B. love	C. into	D. by
4.	A. make	B. makes	C. making	D. to make
5.	A. consume	B. costume	C. customer	D. consumer

VIII. Read the following passage, then answer the questions by circling A, B, C or D. (1.0 point)

In Death Valley, California, one of the hottest, most arid places in North America, there is much salt, and salt can damage rocks impressively. Inhabitants of areas elsewhere, where streets and highways are salted to control ice, are familiar with the resulting rust and deterioration on cars. That attests to the chemically corrosive nature of salt, but it is not the way salt destroys rocks. Salt breaks rocks apart principally by a process called crystal prying and wedging. This happens not by soaking the rocks in salt water, but by moistening their bottoms with salt water. Such conditions exist in many areas along the eastern edge of central Death Valley. There, salty water rises from the groundwater table by capillary action through tiny spaces in sediment until it reaches the surface.

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Most stones have capillary passages that suck salt water from the wet ground. Death Valley provides an ultra-dry atmosphere and high daily temperatures, which promote evaporation and the formation of salt crystals along the cracks or other openings within stones. These crystals grow as long as salt water is available. Like tree roots breaking up a sidewalk, the growing crystals exert pressure on the rock and eventually pry the rock apart along planes of weakness, such as banding in metamorphic rocks, bedding in sedimentary rocks, or preexisting or incipient fractions, and along boundaries between individual mineral crystals or grains. Besides crystal growth, *the expansion of halite crystals (the same as everyday table salt) by heating and of sulfates and similar salts by hydration* can contribute additional stresses. A rock **durable** enough to have withstood natural conditions for a very long time in other areas could probably be **shattered** into small pieces by salt weathering within a few generations.

The **dominant** salt in Death Valley is halite, or sodium chloride, but other salts, mostly carbonates and sulfates, also cause prying and wedging, as does ordinary ice. Weathering by a variety of salts, though often subtle, is a worldwide phenomenon. Not restricted to arid regions, intense salt weathering occurs mostly in salt-rich places like the seashore, near the large saline lakes in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica, and in desert sections of Australia, New Zealand, and central Asia.

1. What is the principal process by which salt breaks rocks apart in Death Valley?
   A. Chemical corrosion
   B. Crystal prying and wedging
   C. Physical erosion
   D. Thermal expansion
2. How does salt water reach the surface in areas along the eastern edge of central Death Valley?
   A. Through rainfall
   B. By being pumped from underground wells
   C. Via capillary action through tiny spaces in sediment
   D. By flowing from nearby rivers
3. What condition in Death Valley promotes the formation of salt crystals in rocks?
   A. High humidity and moderate temperatures
   B. Ultra-dry atmosphere and high daily temperatures
   C. Low temperatures and high precipitation
   D. High humidity and low daily temperatures
4. Besides crystal growth, what additional factors contribute to the stresses that break rocks apart?
   A. Thermal contraction and freezing of water
   B. Expansion of halite crystals by heating and of sulfates by hydration
   C. Impact from falling debris and animal activity
   D. Wind erosion and acid rain

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