PHẦN 2: ĐỌC HIỂU – VSTEP

Thời gian: 60 phút
Số câu hỏi: 40

Directions: *In this section of the test, you will read FOUR different passages, each followed by 10 questions about it. For questions 1-40, you are to choose the best answer A, B, C, or D for each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen. Answer all questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.*

You have 60 minutes to answer all the questions, including the time to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

PASSAGE 1 – Questions 1-10

As new industrialism swept over the land in the wake of the Civil War, people flocked to the nation's cities in unprecedented numbers from rural regions, villages, and foreign countries. Housing for the new city-dwellers took many forms as new architectural styles were developed.

During this period of urban expansion, speculative builders discovered **a bonanza** in the form of the row house. Designed for single-family occupancy, these dwellings cost relatively little to construct because they shared common walls with their neighbors and because many could be erected side by side on a narrow street frontage. Along New York's gridiron of streets and avenues rose block after block of row houses, which, by the 1880s, were **almost invariably** faced with brownstone. In contrast, wooden row houses on the West Coast appeared light and airy with their coats of bright paint. San Francisco developed a particularly successful row vernacular, suitable for rich and poor alike, as typified by clusters of homes like the Rountree group, which featured Queen Anne elements in their pitched roofs and heavily decorated exteriors. Although critics likened the facades of **such structures** to the "puffing, paint, and powder of our female friends", the houses were efficiently planned, sanitary, and well-lighted. Virtually every dwelling **boasted** one or more bay windows, which were as important to sun-loving San Franciscans as brownstone fronts were

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to New Yorkers. As an English traveler observed, California architecture, "with all the windows gracefully leaping out at themselves", should rightly be called the "bay-window order".

1. The main purpose of the author in this passage is_____.

A. to contrast two versions of a similar architectural form

B. to persuade people to live in row houses

C. to argue for the excellence of California row houses

D. to describe the effects of urbanization

2. The phrase "a bonanza" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. a confusing choice B. a difficult challenge

C. an exciting design D. a good investment

3. The phrase "almost invariably" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. usually B. seldom

C. sometimes D. never

4. According to the passage, why did speculative builders profit from row houses?

A. Because they cost very little to build.

B. Because they were for single families.

C. Because they were well-constructed.

D. Because they were attractive.

5. All of the following can be inferred about row houses from the passage EXCEPT_____.

A. they provided for high-density housing

B. they housed people of different economic classes

C. they provided a new and popular form of architectural design

D. they had no front yards

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6. The phrase "<u>such structures</u>" in the passage refers to_____.

A. West Coast wooden row houses

B. poor people's houses

C. the homes in the Rountree group

D. Queen Anne's home

7. What can be inferred from the passage about New York row houses?

A. They were less colorful than row houses on the West Coast.

B. They were windowless.

C. They were smaller than California row houses.

D. They were less similar in appearance than row houses in California.

8. In the passage, critics of California row houses commented on their_____.

A. excessive use of bay windows

B. ostentatious decoration

C. repetitive nature

D. lack of light

9. The word "<u>boasted</u>" in the passage is used to indicate the owners'_____.

A. skill B. wealth

C. intelligence D. pride

10. The author of the passage implies that the most important feature for Californians living in row houses was_____.

A. the color

B. the price

C. the windows

D. the heavily decorated exteriors

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