

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

The influx of Americans into Oregon in the 1840s ignited a dispute between Britain and the United States that, in its more **intemperate** phases, was accompanied by shrill demands in both countries for war. The argument originated in the fact that the boundaries of Oregon had never been clearly **fixed**.

The name vaguely embraced the territory west of the Rockies between the northern boundary of Mexican-held California and the southern edge of Russian-held Alaska, which at the time extended south to parallel 54° 40'. In 1818, when America proposed a boundary at the 49th parallel an extension of the border with Canada that already existed east of the Rockies and the British suggested a line farther south, statesmen of both nations avoided the resulting impasse by agreeing to accept temporary "joint occupancy".

But by the early 1840s, the issue could no longer be avoided: Oregon fever and Manifest Destiny had become potent political forces. Though many eastern Americans considered Oregon country too **remote** to become excited about, demands for its occupation were shouted with almost religious fervor. Senator Thomas Hart Benton, for one, urged Congress to muster "thirty or forty thousand American rifles beyond the Rocky Mountains that will be our effective negotiators."

The Democratic Party made "54°40' or fight", an issue of the

1844 Presidential election and just managed to install James K. Polk, an **ardent** expansionist, in the White House. But despite their seeming intransigence, neither Polk nor the British government wanted to fight. And just about the time that Polk learned that the land lying north of the 49th parallel was useless for agriculture, the British decided the American market for goods was worth far more than Oregon's fast-dying fur trade. So **they** quietly settled for the 49th parallel, the boundary that the United States had proposed in the first place.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. The disagreement over the boundaries of Oregon was peacefully solved.
- B. The United States wanted more land than it needed.
- C. Politicians in 1840 favored war with Britain.
- D. The United States ended up by sharing Oregon with Canada.

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

- A. untimely
- B. initial
- C. immoderate
- D. uninformed

3. As used in the passage, the word "fixed" is closest in meaning to ____.

- A. repaired
- B. adjusted
- C. built
- D. established

4. The word "remote" in the passage is closest in meaning to ____.

- A. far away
- B. dangerous
- C. large
- D. uninteresting

5. The confrontation with Britain over Oregon boundaries came to a head in the early 1840s for all the following reasons EXCEPT ____.

- A. more people were living in Oregon at that time
- B. the expansionists made the situation a political issue
- C. all people were united in favoring the expansion and settlement of Oregon

