

Name:

Date:

Class:

Music

Reading Comprehension

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions

Reading Passage 1

Making Great Music

It takes a lot of work for a musician to create a great performance, whether it is on stage at a concert or on a record album. Although it looks easy for someone to produce a few songs for a compact disc or go on stage and amuse the audience, there is a lot of work that the fans never see. First a group of musicians sits down with a list of songs and decides which ones would be most appropriate for them to perform. This meeting may go on for days.



The characteristics of a good song are that it has an exciting chorus, strong ending, and fantastic music. Also, a good song tends to make people tap their feet and clap their hands. Once the group has decided what songs they will perform, they spend lots of time practicing and getting ready. When the group decides that they have practiced enough, they go on a tour of several cities to perform. Posters let the public know about the big show. On the day of the concert, there is a splendid circus of activity as the drums, guitars, and other background instruments are set up on a platform. Finally, there is an exciting concert with a continuous show of lights and sounds.

If the concert tour is successful, a company may want the group to record for them. The tendency today is to sell music in the form of CDs or MP3. Sometimes, a group will record their performance at a concert. More often, however, the group will go to a studio to record. After the recording is finished, the music is ready to be sent to stores everywhere. After the CD is released, the job of putting together a concert starts all over again.



Vocabulary



amuse: [ə'mju:z] v 使……高興、逗樂	perform: [pə'fɔ:m] v 表演、演出
appropriate: [ə'prɒpri,et] adj 適當的	performance: [pə'fɔ:məns] n 表演、演出
background: ['bæk,graʊnd] adj 背景的	poster: ['pɒstə] n 海報
characteristic: [,kærɪktə'rɪstɪk] n 特徵	splendid: ['splendɪd] adj 豪華的、富麗堂皇的
chorus: ['kɔ:rəs] n 副歌	studio: ['stju:di,ɔ] n 錄音室
circus: ['sɜ:kəs] n 雜技團、馬戲團	tap: [tæp] v 輕拍、輕叩
compact disc: [kəm'pækt dɪsk] n 雷射唱片	tend: [tend] v 往往會
continuous: [kən'tɪnjuəs] adj 無間斷的	tendency: ['tendənsɪ] n 傾向、趨勢
fantastic: [fæn'tæstɪk] adj 極好的、極出色的	

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Choose the correct answers.

Main Idea

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
(A) How music has changed over the years.
(B) Why people like going to concerts.
(C) Why CDs are more popular than MP3.
(D) All the work musicians have to do.

Supporting Idea

2. According to the passage, people know about a band's concert _____.
(A) on television
(B) from newspapers
(C) through posters
(D) over the radio

Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers.

1. It was a(n) _____ show. The audience clapped happily when it was over.
(A) continuous (B) fantastic (C) appropriate (D) background
2. Julia got a _____ of her favorite movie star for her birthday.
(A) poster (B) studio (C) circus (D) chorus
3. Natalie waited for a(n) _____ time to tell her daughter the cat had died.
(A) fantastic (B) splendid
(C) appropriate (D) continuous
4. It is usually easy to remember the _____ of a popular song.
(A) chorus (B) poster (C) studio (D) compact disc
5. Brett _____ to get angry easily when he is tired.
(A) performs (B) amuses (C) tends (D) taps
6. The dog's _____ barking kept me up all last night.
(A) splendid (B) fantastic
(C) background (D) continuous
7. Our son will be _____ in his first Christmas play this year.
(A) tending (B) performing (C) tapping (D) amusing

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Reading Passage 2

Michael Jackson, the man called the “King of Pop,” passed away in 2009 after a **tremendously** successful but often very troubled musical career. He had many **achievements**, including 13 number one singles, 13 Grammy Awards, and selling over 750 million **units** of music around the world. **Nevertheless**, his life was often difficult, and many people said he was not happy.

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Jackson was born in 1958, the seventh of nine children. His father, Joseph Jackson, worked in a steel mill, and also **performed** in a band called The Falcons. Joseph Jackson helped his children **develop** their musical talents but he also brought them **misery**. Michael Jackson said his father often beat him and hurt him **emotionally**. There were times when Michael Jackson said just the sight of his father made his stomach hurt.

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By the age of eight, Jackson’s musical talents were **obvious**. He was singing with his brothers in their band The Jackson 5, which had signed with a major record **label**. However, Michael Jackson did not reach his **peak** until he left his brothers. In 1979, Jackson’s first **record** on his own, “Off the Wall”, became the first U.S. album to produce four top 10 hits and **launched** Jackson’s career without The Jackson 5. Then in 1982, his album “Thriller” was **declared** the best-selling album of all time.

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Despite his success, Jackson had many problems in his life. He had **operations** done to change his face, and some seemed to have gone wrong. There were **rumors** that his nose was not real. In addition, he was **accused** of touching a young boy in a manner that was not **appropriate**. While none of these stories were **confirmed**, they have troubled Jackson. When he died at the age of 51, most people agreed that Jackson was one of the kings of **entertainment**, but not many said it brought him happiness.

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MICHAEL
JACKSON

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1. What is the main idea of this passage?

- (A) Jackson was successful, but also had personal problems.
- (B) Jackson was the most famous person in the world.
- (C) Jackson's father helped Jackson become famous.
- (D) Jackson changed the music industry forever.

Main Idea

2. The underlined word "units" means _____.

- (A) items
- (B) songs
- (C) albums
- (D) records

Vocabulary

3. What was **NOT** one of Jackson's problems?

- (A) His father made him feel sick.
- (B) The work done on his face was not very successful.
- (C) Some people said he had physical contact with a young boy.
- (D) After he became famous, he could not write hit songs.

Supporting Idea

4. Jackson became truly successful when he _____.

- (A) started singing in The Jackson 5
- (B) started singing without his brothers
- (C) signed with a major label
- (D) won his 13th Grammy Award

Detailed Information

5. Which of the following statements is **TRUE** about Jackson's musical career?

- (A) He had four number one songs from one album.
- (B) He sold less than 750 million units of music.
- (C) He signed with a major record label when he was 10.
- (D) His album, "Off the Wall", became best-selling of all time.

Inference

6. From this article, one could say that Jackson _____.

- (A) was always very sad
- (B) hated being famous
- (C) was in the show business for most of his life
- (D) introduced a new type of music to the world