Part 2

Read the article on 'Standing on Mount Everest' in the Insert Booklet, Part 2, Pages 4-5 and answer Questions 11 - 25.

Standing on Mount Everest

Climbing the world's tallest mountain has altered drastically in the years since human beings first reached the summit in 1953. Hundreds of mountaineers now complete the feat each year, thanks to advances in understanding, technology, and the significant infrastructure provided by professionally guided expeditions, which create a true highway up the mountain for those prepared to face both the hazards and the high cost.

Mount Everest, also known as Sagarmatha in Nepali and Chomolungma in Tibetan, spans the Nepal-Tibet boundary at the peak of the Himalayan mountain range. Despite the fact that reaching the summit of the world is a challenging and perhaps fatal task because of the tremendous altitude, avalanches, icefalls, and other risks, the peak is located near the equator, at a latitude of around 28 degrees, the same as Tampa, Florida.

Everest is estimated to be 50 to 60 million years old, a youngster be geological standards. The mountain was formed when the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates collided, pushing up the rocks that eventually formed the world's highest mountain. That force is still at work today, with the summit of Everest rising approximately a quarter of an inch per year.

At 29,035 feet, the air pressure on Everest's summit is around one-third that at sea level, severely limiting a climber's capacity to breathe in enough oxygen. As a result, experts have discovered that the human body is incapable of staying beyond 19,000 feet for an extended period of time. Climbers' bodies are increasingly at risk for a number of ailments such as pulmonary edema, cerebral edema, and blood embolisms as they progress higher up the mountain and their oxygen intake decreases. At such altitudes, the risk of frostbite increases considerably as the heart works harder to pump blood around the body and give oxygen.

To mitigate the effects of the severe altitude, the vast majority of climbers ascending Everest wear oxygen tanks. Bottled oxygen, on the other hand, has its own set of disadvantages and risks. For starters, it's costly, cumbersome to transport, and empty cylinders are routinely dumped as litter. Furthermore, breathing "gas" only raises relative oxygen levels to about the same level as basecamp air, and if it runs out on summit day, the body may not be able to adapt to the abrupt lack of oxygen. Finally, oxygen units

are notoriously unreliable, as Everest guide Adrian Ballinger discovered on summit day in 2018 when his team's breathing devices failed repeatedly.

Mount Everest's popularity increased in the 1990s, when commercial trips up the peak were pioneered by foreign guides. Despite the dangers, Everest attracts hundreds of climbers from all over the world each year. The Nepal Ministry of Tourism awarded 347 individual climbing licenses to foreign climbers in 2018, with 261 of them reaching the summit, as well as 302 high-altitude personnel. Meanwhile, Alan Arnette, a well-known Everest chronicler, thinks that another 239 people reached the summit from the north side of the mountain.

The best weather for reaching the summit of Everest is usually in the second part of May, but the preparations for a successful ascent begin two months in advance. The majority of teams arrive in Kathmandu in late March for the step called accimatization process. Their basecamp support crew and high-altitude laborers are already on the mountain, transporting loads and preparing the summit path as they walk toward basecamp. Climbers make multiple overnight ventures (“rotations”) to gradually higher camps up the mountain to acclimatize in April, while the first teams of Nepalese guides reach the summit. Teams plan to have a well-established track of several miles of fixed ropes leading from basecamp to the summit by the second week of May, with numerous well-stocked camps along the way.

According to the Himalayan Database, 295 individuals have perished climbing Everest as of the end of the 2018 season, while 5,294 people have successfully summited the mountain. The overall death rate—that is, the number of fatalities divided by the total number of persons on the mountain, not just those who summit—is around 1.2 percent, which means that attempting to climb Everest comes with a one-in-a-hundred chance of dying.

The mountain's true summit is a snow dome roughly the size of a dining-room table. There's enough area for a half-dozen climbers to stand and take in the view, however on busy days, climbers must take turns standing on top of the globe. To many, it feels like the lifetime achievement that is second to none.

**Adjusted from Mount Everest (www.time.com)*

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Questions 11 - 20

Answer the following questions. For each question write no more than THREE words that must be taken from one point in the text. DO NOT write full sentences.

11 When did the first man set foot on top of Mount Everest?

In 1953

12 What facilitate the climbing of Mount Everest?

Professionally guided expeditions

13 Where is the peak of Mount Everest situated?

Himalayan mountain range

14 What is the proportion of air pressure compared to at sea level?

(around) one third

15 What can most mountaineers do to alleviate the possible danger due to height?

Wear oxygen tank

16 When did the climbing of Mount Everest become popular?

In 1990s

17 What do teams of climbers do when they reach Kathmandu?

Acclimatisation process

18 What do the teams wish to establish along the track by the second week of May?

Fixed ropes / (numerous) (well-stocked) camps

19 How many people died while climbing Mount Everest in 2018?

295

20 What does standing on Mount Everest mean to a number of climbers?

The lifetime experience

(Total for Questions 11 - 20 = 10 marks)

Questions 21 -25

Indicate your answers to the questions below by marking a cross for the correct answer ☒. If you change your mind about an answer, put a line through the box ~~☒~~ and then indicate your new answer with a cross ☒.

21 What contributed to success in climbing Mount Everest nowadays? (1)

☐ **A** the weather has changed drastically.

☐ **B** lower cost of climbing Mount Everest.

☐ **C** there are special local guides provided to the climbers.

✓ **D** the improvement in a number of aspects such as knowledge and technology.

22 What is wrong about Mount Everest? (1)

☐ **A** it is part of Himalayan mountain range.

☐ **B** it shares the same latitude as a town in Florida.

✓ **C** According to the geological measures, it is considered one of the oldest.

☐ **D** climbing up, the mountaineers will encounter various natural challenges.

23 Wat is correct about bottled oxygen? (1)

☐ **A** oxygen will turn into toxic gas when used.

✓ **B** the remains of the bottled oxygen will cause environmental problems to the area.

☐ **C** it is light and easily portable.

☐ **D** it is refillable.

24 Which is the recommended period to start the preparation if the climbers would like to reach the summit? (1)

☐ **A** first week of May.

☐ **B** second half of May.

☐ **C** April.

✓ **D** March

25 Why should the climbers make rotations? (1)

✓ **A** to get familiar with the team.

☐ **B** to make sure that they are qualified for the climb.

☐ **C** it is a requirement from the Nepal Ministry of Tourism.

☐ **D** it is a standard procedure to get used to the weather and surrounding.

(Total for Questions 21 - 25 = 5 marks)

TOTAL FOR PART 2 = 15 MARKS