

## SAMPLE READING 54 PRETEST

Read the passage below. Then select the letter of the best answer to each question that follows.

(1) South Pole explorer, Ernest Shackleton, never reached his goal of crossing Antarctica, but the circumstances that prevented him from reaching that goal pushed him to achieve an even more amazing feat. (2) In January, 1915, Shackleton's ship, the Endurance, became trapped in ice off Antarctica. (3) He and his crew of twenty-seven lived on the ship trapped in the ice floes for nine months, until they had to abandon ship when the ice crushed the boat. (4) The day the boat sank, Shackleton wrote his new goal: "The task is to reach land with all members of the Expedition." (5) The group camped on the ice floes for six months, until the ice broke up and they took small lifeboats to nearby uninhabited Elephant island. (6) During their time on the boat, ice, and island, Shackleton's group endured temperatures as low as twenty degrees below zero and had no daylight from May to July. (7) They had to hunt scarce seals and penguins for food, and were hunted themselves by killer whales and sea leopards, which would rise through the ice in search of prey. (8) Throughout this time, Shackleton demonstrated his leadership by rationing food, rotating use of the warmer sleeping bags, and keeping a calm, positive attitude that helped morale. (9) He also showed great courage as he and five of his men crossed eight hundred miles of dangerous ocean to the nearest inhabited island to seek help. (10) Despite no maps and terrible weather, Shackleton's small boat reached the island where Shackleton and an even smaller group crossed unexplored, jagged mountains to reach a whaling station. (11) He organized a rescue party to retrieve the rest of his crew, and despite the perils of living in south polar waters for almost two years, all twenty-seven men came back from the expedition. (12) Shackleton never crossed the South Pole, but he completed the task of bringing back all his crew alive.

1. The "more amazing feat" referred to in sentence 1 is Shackleton's
  - A. ability to withstand severe cold.
  - B. managing to get all crew members back alive.
  - C. crossing jagged, unexplored mountains.
  - D. crossing eight hundred miles of ocean.

2. The main pattern of organization used in the passage is one of
  - A. list of items.
  - B. definition and example
  - C. time order
  - D. cause and effect
  
3. Sentence 1 is made up of
  - A. fact
  - B. opinion
  - C. fact and opinion
  
4. The author's main purpose in this passage is to
  - A. inform the readers about the facts of the Shackleton expedition
  - B. persuade readers that Shackleton was responsible for the failure of the expedition.
  - C. entertain readers with anecdotes about the hardships of the Shackleton expedition
  
5. The author's tone is
  - A. detached
  - B. admiring
  - C. doubtful
  - D. sentimental
  
6. The author implies that
  - A. Shackleton's men were generally cowardly and poor sailors.
  - B. Shackleton carelessly began the voyage without adequate preparation.
  - C. he considers Shackleton's voyage a failure because it did not reach the South Pole.
  - D. Shackleton's men would likely have perished if not for his courage.
  
7. The main idea of the passage is
  - A. stated in sentence 1
  - B. stated in sentence
  - C. stated in sentence 8
  - D. not stated