

Lift

LEVEL 1 UNIT 6 Assessment

VOCABULARY

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct answer.

- 1** The word *appreciation* means
- (A) a sense of awe.
 - (B) a sense of anxiety.
 - (C) a feeling of not knowing.
 - (D) a feeling of being grateful.
- 2** To *commit* to something is to
- (A) say you will do it.
 - (B) say you might do it.
 - (C) say you could do it.
 - (D) say you will try to do it.
- 3** A person with an *objective* has a
- (A) goal.
 - (B) score.
 - (C) feeling.
 - (D) possibility.
- 4** A person with a way of thinking about something has a(n) ignorance / potential / perspective about it.
- 5** A person with a possibility of doing something has energy / potential / importance.
- 6** Our ignorance / distrust / inspection about life beyond our universe makes it seem scary and unknown.
- 7** There are seven mountains / continents / tributaries in the world.
- 8** When a small source of water flows into a larger one, the smaller one is called a tributary / continent / habitat.
- 9** When people *accomplish* something, they
- (A) do a surprising thing.
 - (B) do an important task.
 - (C) make a person happy.
 - (D) make an old thing new again.
- 10** A person with a career in *marine* science likely works
- (A) near the ocean.
 - (B) near the clouds.
 - (C) in the desert.
 - (D) in the forest.

11 When an event is *unexpected*, it causes

- (A) talk.
- (B) danger.
- (C) surprise.
- (D) laughter.

12 A person with the right *character* for a job is

- (A) well suited to the task.
- (B) poorly trained for the task.
- (C) nervous about the task.
- (D) overqualified for the task.

13 When you *deter* someone, you

- (A) help them.
- (B) stop them.
- (C) enable them.
- (D) criticize them.

14 People with good defenses / odds / ideals have a good chance to succeed.

15 The person with the right promises / acquaintances / qualifications usually gets the job.

16 Olympic athletes represent / resent / reform their home countries during the competition.

17 Someone who is an *asset* to a team is

- (A) angry.
- (B) useful.
- (C) hesitant.
- (D) wishful.

18 A person's *skill set* is their set of

- (A) plans.
- (B) abilities.
- (C) prospects.
- (D) references.

19 A species' *habitat* is its

- (A) prey.
- (B) home.
- (C) lifestyle.
- (D) atmosphere.

20 People who *neglect* a problem

- (A) study it briefly.
- (B) manage it skillfully.
- (C) give it little attention.
- (D) pretend to understand it.

21 People who buy and sell goods are involved in gold / commerce / progress.

22 Scientific students / definitions / advancements have enabled humankind to achieve amazing things.

23 Reducing our carbon emissions would benefit humanity / homes / commerce.



READING

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Unauthorized Life Forms

- 1 Mei checked the time on her smartwatch—again—then tapped out another message to her best friend Sakura: *Where are you?* She stared at the glowing screen, but no message came in reply.
- 2 She couldn't sit in her mother's lab, waiting. She and Sakura had to present their science project in class tomorrow, and although they'd finished their experiment, they still had to organize the research.
- 3 Mei grabbed her backpack. Sakura couldn't have gone far—after all, they lived in one small biodome. It was an enclosed ecosystem, a model of a rainforest habitat. Their community had lived in this human-made environment since Earth's atmosphere had become too harmful to live in. It was an effort to save humanity.
- 4 On her way out of the lab, Mei passed through the conference room, where her mother had set up a ping-pong table. Clicks and clacks filled the room as members of the research staff smacked the ball back and forth across the table. Her mother stood to the side, keeping score. She gave Mei a smile and a wave.
- 5 "Still trying to boost morale," her mom called out.
- 6 Mei nodded because she knew her mom's team had been under a lot of stress, and the biodome director had instructed Mei's mom to lift their spirits.
- 7 As she pushed her way out of the front door, the rainforest closed around her, its towering trees nearly blotting out the sun far above. The thick tropical air clung to her skin, hot and sticky, and the heavy scent of dead leaves and sweet flowers filled her nose. Mei pushed her damp hair from her face and set off, frogs and insects chirping and humming around her.
- 8 Soon the crashing sound of tumbling water told her she was nearing the waterfall, Sakura's favorite spot. Then she saw something unexpected—Sakura charging around a bend in the path.
- 9 "Sakura!" Mei squeaked. "Where have you—"
- 10 She stopped and stared at the bag Sakura was trying to hide behind her back.
- 11 She wrinkled her nose. "Is that—"
- 12 "Yes," Sakura hissed, "it's a waste bag from the cafeteria." She glanced around, then grabbed Mei's arm and pulled her down the path. "You can't tell anyone what I'm about to show you."

GO ON 

- 13 Sakura led Mei to the thick steel and glass wall that separated their biodome from Earth's barren landscape beyond. She gestured toward the dry, cracked ground and scraggly brown grass.
- 14 Mei peered through the glass—then jumped in surprise as two skinny kittens tumbled from a thicket of grass, jumping and playing with each other.
- 15 "I've been sneaking out one of the emergency exits to feed them," said Sakura. "As long as I'm quick, the alarm doesn't sound."
- 16 Mei stared at her. "You broke the barrier? But that could put the whole biodome at risk."
- 17 "What am I supposed to do, Mei?" Sakura swallowed. "If I don't feed them, they'll starve, and you know the biodome director won't allow unauthorized life forms inside without a long quarantine. And just look at them."
- 18 Mei watched the kittens pawing at the glass to get Sakura's attention. She nodded. "Everyone loves kittens."
- 19 She stopped . . . and blinked. Everyone did love kittens!
- 20 "Wait here," she told Sakura as she raced back down the path.
- 21 When Mei returned thirty minutes later, she was not alone. Her mother—and her mother's team—crowded in behind her. Sakura's eyes widened, but Mei simply pointed through the glass, where the kittens were curled up together, sleeping.
- 22 "Oh!" cried one of the researchers as the entire team knelt down to gaze at the kittens. "They're so cute!"
- 23 Mei looked up at her mother, who put her arm around Mei's shoulder.
- 24 "You were right," said her mother. "I'll have to move the ping-pong table out to make room for them."
- 25 Sakura frowned. "Room for them? But—they're unauthorized."
- 26 "Maybe," said Mei's mother, "but once the director sees how much they boost morale, it won't take long to get them authorized."



24 What is Mei's goal in finding her mother at the end of the story?

- (A) She wants to have her mother study the kittens.
- (B) She wants to help her mother improve her team's morale.
- (C) She wants to show her mother that Sakura has broken a rule.
- (D) She wants to have her mother figure out a better way to feed the kittens.

25 Why is Sakura hiding the fact that she is feeding the kittens?

- (A) She doesn't want Mei to see them.
- (B) She doesn't want them to live inside the biodome.
- (C) She doesn't want to finish the science project with Mei.
- (D) She doesn't want the director to learn she has broken the barrier.

26 What does Mei's reaction to the kittens tell the reader about her character?

- (A) She loves kittens.
- (B) She is scared for her friend.
- (C) She enjoys solving problems.
- (D) She just wants to please her mother.

27 Read paragraph 4 of "Unauthorized Life Forms."

In this paragraph, what sense is the author trying to engage?

- (A) seeing
- (B) hearing
- (C) touching
- (D) smelling

28 In 3–5 sentences, describe how the story's main conflict is resolved.

29 In 3–5 sentences, describe how Mei's viewpoint about Sakura's kittens changes.



READING

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the questions.

Press “Pause” on Space Tourism

- 1 The lightning-fast growth of space tourism should concern us all. In the past, only astronauts and other highly trained crew could participate in space missions. Then in 2001, a U.S. businessman named Dennis Tito became the world’s first space tourist. Tito’s only qualification was his wealth: he paid \$20 million for a spin around the earth. Twenty years later, space tourism has continued to grow as an industry run by private companies. The chance to go into space is a dream come true for many adventurers. But is space tourism safe? A space flight’s safety depends on many decisions—decisions that should not be left to private companies. We need independent, global standards for space tourism flights to ensure safety is properly maintained.
- 2 On the positive side, advancements in technology have made space flights safer over time. According to Phil McAlister, the director of commercial spaceflight for the U.S. government space agency NASA, one of SpaceX’s crafts is now about three times safer than NASA’s space shuttles were at the end of the space shuttle program in 2011. Private companies point to these improved odds and argue that too much regulation would prevent innovation. But according to Tommaso Sgobba from the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS), the industry’s newness is part of the problem. Space tourism has a good safety history so far—but it does not have a long safety history. To make sure that it will stay safe, the industry should be carefully regulated. The IAASS believes that an independent team of experts should certify the safety of each space system.
- 3 With each space company making its own rules, a fatal accident may be just one bad decision away. One example is a 2014 test flight of Virgin Galactic’s SpaceShipTwo craft. A pilot released the craft’s feathering tail too soon, causing the vehicle to break apart. According to Sgobba, a spacecraft’s design should make it impossible for one mistake to cause a crash. A certification process could help prevent disasters like SpaceShipTwo’s fatal crash.
- 4 Another area that needs regulation is environmental impact. All rockets have to burn a huge amount of fuel to shoot off into space. Liquid hydrogen is the most environmentally friendly fuel because it leaves behind harmless water vapor. However, rockets also need some solid fuel to escape earth’s gravity. Some crafts use a hybrid liquid-and-solid fuel engine that spews soot like a giant burning candle. What will happen when more and more burning candles streak through the earth’s atmosphere?

GO ON

- 5 Jessica Dallas, a researcher at the Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research, has analyzed the data on rocket propellants. She warns that we still don't know enough about rockets' effects on our atmosphere. Black soot may stay in the stratosphere—the earth's upper atmosphere—for up to four years. These carbon particles may affect the earth's ozone layer and contribute to climate change. Since climate change is already an urgent global problem, shouldn't we limit recreational space flights until we understand their environmental impact?
- 6 No matter how thrilling space tourism is, this new industry has the potential to be dangerous both to the tourists and to humanity. Private space companies need oversight in making decisions that affect lives.



- 30** Which sentences are claims the author makes about the standards needed for space tourism flights? Choose two answers.
- (A) The chance to go into space is a dream come true for many adventurers.
 - (B) An independent team of experts should certify the safety of each space system.
 - (C) A fatal accident occurred on the 2014 test flight of Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo craft.
 - (D) Liquid hydrogen is the most environmentally friendly fuel because it leaves behind harmless water vapor.
 - (E) The environmental impact of rockets should be regulated because all rockets burn a huge amount of fuel.
- 31** Which claims from "Press 'Pause' on Space Tourism" lack proper evidence as support? Choose two answers.
- (A) The lightning-fast growth of space tourism should concern us all. (paragraph 1)
 - (B) A fatal accident may be just one bad decision away. (paragraph 3)
 - (C) Black soot may stay in the stratosphere for up to four years. (paragraph 5)
 - (D) Carbon particles may affect the earth's ozone layer and contribute to climate change. (paragraph 5)
 - (E) The new space tourism industry has the potential to be dangerous to humanity. (paragraph 6)

- 32** Which sentences from "Press 'Pause' on Space Tourism" provide support for the claim that space flights are safer now? Choose two answers.
- (A) A space flight's safety depends on many decisions—decisions that should not be left to private companies. (paragraph 1)
 - (B) According to Phil McAlister, the director of commercial spaceflight for the U.S. government space agency NASA, one of SpaceX's crafts is now about three times safer than NASA's space shuttles were at the end of the space shuttle program in 2011. (paragraph 2)
 - (C) Space tourism has a good safety history so far—but it does not have a long safety history. (paragraph 2)
 - (D) With each space company making its own rules, a fatal accident may be just one bad decision away. (paragraph 3)
 - (E) Jessica Dallas . . . warns that we still don't know enough about rockets' effects on our atmosphere. (paragraph 5)

- 33** Read the sentences from "Press 'Pause' on Space Tourism."

The lightning-fast growth of space tourism should concern us all. In the past, only astronauts and other highly trained crew could participate in space missions. Then in 2001, a U.S. businessman named Dennis Tito became the world's first space tourist. . . . Twenty years later, space tourism has continued to grow as an industry run by private companies.

Which image does *lightning-fast* bring to mind in this context?

- (A) a quick flash
- (B) a dark storm
- (C) an exploding rocket
- (D) a floating astronaut



34 Read the sentences from “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

Some crafts use a hybrid liquid-and-solid fuel engine that spews soot like a giant burning candle. What will happen when more and more burning candles streak through the earth's atmosphere?

Which image does the underlined phrase bring to mind?

- (A) noisy engines falling from the sky
- (B) flaming rockets speeding through space
- (C) colorful spaceships floating in the atmosphere
- (D) tiny flames flickering in the vastness of space

35 In 3–5 sentences, explain the author’s opinion and the two main claims used to support that opinion in “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

[illegible]

36 Read paragraphs 4 and 5 of “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

In 3–5 sentences, evaluate how well the author makes the argument for delaying space tourism until we understand the environmental impact.

[illegible]

FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

DIRECTIONS: In the sentences below, does the dash (1) separate additional information, (2) create a pause in conversation, or (3) introduce a list? Choose 1, 2, or 3.

- 37 “Sakura!” Mei squeaked. “Where have you—”

1 / 2 / 3

- 38 Mei grabbed her backpack. Sakura couldn’t have gone far—after all, they lived in one small biodome. 1 / 2 / 3

- 39 Then she saw something unexpected—Sakura charging around a bend in the path. 1 / 2 / 3

- 40 She wrinkled her nose. “Is that—” 1 / 2 / 3

- 41 Becoming an astronaut involves three main things—training, knowledge, and experience. 1 / 2 / 3

DIRECTIONS: Choose the correct answer.

- 42 Read the sentences from “Unauthorized Life Forms.”

“I’ve been sneaking out one of the emergency exits to feed them,” said Sakura. “As long as I’m quick, the alarm doesn’t sound.”

Mei stared at her. “You broke the barrier? But that could put the whole biodome at risk.”

Based on the context, what does *barrier* mean in this sentence?

- (A) a rule or law
- (B) a problem that prevents reaching a goal
- (C) a number or amount that is difficult to go above
- (D) a structure that prevents movement between two spaces, often for protection

- 43 Read the sentences from “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

Since climate change is already an urgent global problem, shouldn’t we limit recreational space flights until we understand their environmental impact?

No matter how thrilling space tourism is, this new industry has the potential to be dangerous both to the tourists and to humanity.

Which word helps the reader understand the meaning of *recreational*?

- (A) impact
- (B) tourism
- (C) industry
- (D) humanity



- 44** Read the sentences from “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

All rockets have to burn a huge amount of fuel to shoot off into space. Liquid hydrogen is the most environmentally friendly fuel because it leaves behind harmless water vapor. . . . Some crafts use a hybrid liquid-and-solid fuel engine that spews soot like a giant burning candle. . . .

Jessica Dallas, a researcher at the Australian Centre for Space Engineering Research, has analyzed the data on rocket propellants.

Which phrase helps the reader understand the meaning of *propellants*?

- (A) shoot off
- (B) environmentally friendly
- (C) giant burning candle
- (D) has analyzed the data

- 45** Read the sentences from “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

All rockets have to burn a huge amount of fuel to shoot off into space. Liquid hydrogen is the most environmentally friendly fuel because it leaves behind harmless water vapor. However, rockets also need some solid fuel to escape earth’s gravity. Some crafts use a hybrid liquid-and-solid fuel engine that spews soot like a giant burning candle.

What context clues help the reader understand what *spews* means? Choose two answers.

- (A) burn
- (B) shoot off
- (C) leaves behind
- (D) water vapor
- (E) gravity

- 46** Read the sentences from “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

Black soot may stay in the stratosphere—the earth’s upper atmosphere—for up to four years. These carbon particles may affect the earth’s ozone layer and contribute to climate change.

Based on the context, *particles* means

- (A) fuels.
- (B) gases.
- (C) liquids.
- (D) pieces.

- 47** Read paragraph 2 of “Unauthorized Life Forms.”

The word research / problems / arguments

best defines this group of words: *lab, studies, experiments*.

- 48** Read paragraphs 5 and 6 of “Unauthorized Life Forms.”

Choose the word that completes the series:

morale, attitude, spirit, personality / mood / trait.

- 49** Read paragraph 13 of “Unauthorized Life Forms.”

The words *barren, dry, and scraggly* belong to the category landscapes / atmospheres / biodomes.



- 50** Read paragraphs 3 and 4 of “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

The word decision / mistake / certification belongs to the same category as the word *regulation*.

- 51** Read paragraph 1 of “Press ‘Pause’ on Space Tourism.”

Choose the word that completes the series:

industry, companies, commercial / adventurer / independent.

GO ON 

WRITING

- 52** Technological advancements and new inventions have changed the way we live. Think about one invention that has had an impact on the way we live. Write an informational essay explaining this invention to someone who is unfamiliar with it. Examples could include cell phones, laptops, electric cars, the Internet, smart TVs, or anything else that is a recent invention.

Your informational essay should include an introduction that captures the reader's attention and introduces the topic. It should also explain the impact that the invention has had on our lives. The body should include at least two body paragraphs that describe the advantages and disadvantages of the invention, with supporting ideas. The conclusion should restate the main ideas and reflect on the information. Write your essay in the space below.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.