



CUNYASSESSMENT TEST IN READING (CATR) Practice 3

“Underwater Treasure”

Read the passage below and then answer the multiple choice questions which follow. Check your answers with the answer key.

For some people, finding buried treasure is an obsession. However, for others, inventing devices to locate that treasure is the greater obsession. Tommy Thompson, even though he located a sunken ship carrying as much as \$1 billion in gold, definitely belongs in the latter category.

Thompson developed an interest in underwater exploration as a young man. He quickly became determined to find a way to explore deep-sea wrecks. In the mid 1980s, when Thompson began his explorations, no accurate equipment was available. So Thompson and his crew developed their own. They devised a huge remote operating submarine, weighing over 6,000 pounds and equipped with sonar detectors, cameras, and, most importantly, an innovative set of mechanical arms for picking up under water items. So meticulously designed were their equipment and their techniques that they were able to pick up coins from the ocean floor without scratching them.

The ship that Thompson had set his sights on was the *America Central*, a steamship carrying gold from the mines in California, which had sunk off the South Carolina coast in 1857. Thompson determined the exact whereabouts of the lost ship by interviewing descendants of survivors and poring through written accounts of the tragedy. In September 1988 Thompson and his crew finally found the remains of the *Central America*. Their work earned them millions of dollars, but more significantly, the procedures and equipment they developed for use in their search opened up a whole new world for future treasure hunters.

1. The main idea of this passage is
 - a. Underwater treasure hunters place themselves in great danger.
 - b. Tommy Thompson's crew finally discovered the remains of the *Central America* in September 1988.
 - c. Advanced methods of searching can help treasure seekers find great riches.
 - d. Tommy Thompson systematically found ways to locate and retrieve the *Central America's* treasure.

2. The major piece of equipment Thompson invented was
 - a. the camera.
 - b. a set of very precise mechanical arms.
 - c. methods of locating historical accounts of shipwrecks.
 - d. scuba gear.

3. We can conclude that Thompson
 - a. started out with a great deal of money.
 - b. lived on a boat for most of the year.
 - c. had ancestors who had been on the *Central America*.
 - d. was a skillful inventor.

4. As used in the passage, the word meticulously means
 - a. very slowly.
 - b. spectacularly.
 - c. precisely and carefully.
 - d. humanly.

ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

- A** is incorrect because it is irrelevant. The passage does not discuss the dangers of underwater treasure hunts.

B is incorrect. It is a fact that is mentioned in the last paragraph, but is not the main idea of the passage.

C is incorrect because it is too general. The passage specifically focusses on underwater treasure hunts, not treasure hunts in general.

D is correct.
- A** is incorrect, because while the submarine was equipped with cameras, Thompson did not invent the camera.

B is correct.

C is incorrect. While historical accounts of shipwrecks were used to help locate the wreck, there is no mention of Thompson having developed methods of locating such accounts.

D is incorrect. There is no mention of scuba gear in the passage.
- A** is incorrect. While the hunt for the treasure was doubtless costly, we cannot assume that Thompson financed the search himself.

B is incorrect. There is no mention in the passage of where Thompson lived.

C is incorrect, as nothing is said in the passage about Thompson's ancestors.

D is correct.
- A** is incorrect, as we have no reason to believe that the design of the mechanical arms was done slowly.

B is incorrect. The arms were well designed, and innovative, but not spectacular.

C is correct. We can guess this because the equipment is described as being able to do a very delicate and exact task, picking up small object from the ocean floor without damaging them.

D is incorrect, as it does not make sense to say that a particular invention was made by humans, as all mechanical inventions are made by humans.