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Note : -----/ 30

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## I. READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)

### THE TEXT

1. Anousheh Raissyan - better known by her married name, Ansari describes her journey from the daughter of Iran to a space pioneer. The story Anousheh tells begins in an Iran that was still ruled by the Shah. All too soon the fires of revolution swept up the entire nation - not just the young men, but old people and little girls. Yet through out this tumultuous and very dangerous time, Anousheh managed to find solace by looking up at the stars at night and visiting them in her mind. Eventually, Anousheh and parts of her family made their way to America.

2. It was a first in the annals of space history. The Iranian-born American will go down in the record books in a couple of ways. A Russian-built rocket carrying the world's first female space tourist blasted off last Monday in Kazakhstan on a flight to the international space station. Anousheh Ansari, the telecommunications entrepreneur, was accompanied by a U.S.-Russian crew on the Soyuz TMA-9 capsule. She's the first woman to pay her way into space and the first person of Iranian descent to get there. Ansari is the fourth space tourist. Unexpectedly, she found herself training as a commercial space traveller in Russia when a medical disqualification with the prime passenger appeared and suddenly she was mere weeks away for a trip into space.

3. During her flight she sent updates from space that were posted in a blog making her the "first blogger in space". Over the days as her mission proceeded I saw some startling things in the encouraging comments that appeared on her site. **Many** were in Farsi but many were in passable English. For this instant in time she was pulling her fellow Iranians out of their own daily troubles and bringing them up into space with her. One of her space messages in particular ***grabbed me by both shoulders*** when I first read it - and yes, brought a tear to my eye since I could easily imagine myself in an identical moment. In this case it was shortly after she had reached orbit: *"I could not catch my breath. My beautiful planet, under the warm rays of the sun, turned gracefully beneath me."*

*Adapted from Internet - September 18, 2006*

## **COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

**1. Tick (✓) the most appropriate option (1 mark)**

The text is mainly about how...

- a. Anousheh made her way to space despite life hardships.
- b. serious the difficulties Anousheh faced while travelling in space.
- c. fierce the competition Anousheh encountered with other female space tourists.

**2. Find details in the text showing that the following statements are false (3 marks)**

- a. The revolution in Iran prevented the little girl from enjoying her dream about space. (parag. 1)  
.....
- b. Anousheh's flight into space was unexpected because she was not accepted in Russia. (parag.2)  
.....
- c. Anousheh's adventure in space didn't affect people in Iran. (parag.3)  
.....

**3. Complete the table with the right information about Anousheh's trip into space (2 marks)**

Departure point	Means of transport
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**4. Answer the following question: (1 mark)**

How did Anousheh manage to keep in touch with her countrymen on Earth while she was in space?  
.....

**5. Find out words in the text meaning approximately the same as the following (2 marks)**

- a. forced into some kind of situation or course of action (p. 1) : -----
- b. launched with great force (p. 2): -----

**6. What does the underlined expression in paragraph 3 mean? Tick (✓) the right option (1 mark)**

'*grabbed me by both shoulders*' means:

- a. hit me hard on the shoulders.
- b. made me lose my cool temper for a while.
- c. deeply touched my feelings.

**7. What does the underlined word in paragraph 3 refer to? (1 mark)**

"Many" refers to: -----

**8. Would you like to live the same experience of Anousheh Ansari? Why / Why not? (1 mark)**

.....  
.....

## II. LANGUAGE (6 marks)

### 1. Fill in the blanks with words from the box- There are TWO EXTRA words (3 marks)

*outnumber / both / grandest / in / considerably / on / legends / awesome*

If we were to believe our eyes, we were flying through space, speeding along a black ribbon of raised highway with the heavens circling all around. The reality was that we were crossing southern Tunisia's Chott el Djerid, the Lake of \_\_\_\_\_, and, as we could now confirm, a place of mirages on the \_\_\_\_\_ scale. We were \_\_\_\_\_ our way to Douz, an oasis at the edge of the Sahara. Palm trees \_\_\_\_\_ residents 25 to 1 in Douz, making the town of 12,000 the largest of Tunisia's desert oases. But each winter, the town's population swells \_\_\_\_\_ when it plays host to the four-day International Festival of the Sahara, a spectacular celebration of the arts and traditions of the desert people drawing \_\_\_\_\_ performers and audience from across Northern Africa

### 2. Choose the correct alternative (3marks)

Avatar, the Oscar-nominated film that took movie technology to the next level, is now coming to the Science Centre's IMAX Theatre in 3D. The movie **(by / from / to)** Canadian Director James Cameron will be screened at the Science Centre until **(last / early / since)** January. Sandra Baumgartner from the Science Centre says there was **(few / many / a lot of)** debate about having Avatar **(come / coming/ comes)** to the IMAX. "When we were looking at film selections and talking to our **(listeners / viewers/ crew)**, they all agreed that technology **(rather/ further / bother)** than the movie was what all people really wanted to see," Baumgartner said.

**III. WRITING (12 marks)**

**1. Complete the dialogue by writing the hotel receptionist's questions.(4 marks)**

Receptionist: Good evening sir. \_\_\_\_\_?

Mr. Smith: Good evening, my name is Smith. I have a room booked in advance.

Receptionist: Oh right, I'll just check. \_\_\_\_\_ again?

Mr. Smith: Smith, John Smith

Receptionist: Smith? Well there is no record of a reservation here. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?

Mr. Smith: No, by fax. I've got a copy of your reply here, look.

Receptionist: I see. Well. \_\_\_\_\_?

Mr. Smith: Well. Just three nights.

Receptionist: Ok Sir. I'll check in.

**1. Essay (8 marks)**

After watching a shocking documentary on TV about the extravagance in spending on space flights, you – as a columnist in a magazine- decide to write an article in which you try to highlight the inconveniences of space tourism and to draw the readers' attention to more important human issues.

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