Read the passages and answer the questions that follow. Remember to pace yourself and go back to reread the text. You can also annotate in the text as you read, or take notes on another paper. Try your best. The selections are taken from Benchmark Unit 10 Assessment. Fluency practice follows the assessment.

Lea los pasajes y responda a las preguntas que siguen. Recuerde de leer el texto la primera vez y volver a leerlo para comprenderlo mejor. También puedes anotar el texto mientras lo lees, o tomar notas en otro papel. Haz tu mejor esfuerzo. Las selecciones de lectura son de la evaluación de la Unidad número 10. La práctica de fluidez sigue la evaluación.
Read the passage about an important tool used in construction. Then answer the questions.

**A Safer Way to Build Roads**

1. Before dynamite was invented, it was much harder to build roads and dig mines that required blasting through rock. Today, dynamite makes these construction challenges easier and safer.

2. Dynamite is a chemical explosive. When it is ignited, it burns extremely fast and produces a huge amount of hot gas. The hot gas expands and applies extreme pressure to whatever is near it, even something as hard as rock! But it’s safer than other explosives because its explosion creates a “cool flame,” which is less likely to ignite other chemicals or gases that may be present.

3. Dynamite relies on a chemical called nitroglycerin, which is very dangerous to handle. The nitroglycerin is packed in an absorbent material that looks like sawdust and makes it safer to handle. Most dynamite is packaged in round cylinder-shaped tubes, each of which is about an inch in diameter and about 8 inches in length. The mixture of chemical and absorbent material is packed into a paper tube sealed with paraffin to protect it from moisture. Some dynamite tubes are smaller; some are much larger to serve big strip mining operations. Today’s dynamite is only sold commercially to professionals who know how to handle it.
4 You must be a certified blasting expert to use dynamite. Here’s how it works.

5 The first step is to determine how much dynamite you need by studying the project and the area. You must put up signs to warn the public of the blasting. Holes are drilled into the rocks to hold the dynamite. The dynamite is transported to the site in secure trucks. The wires and switches are brought in a separate vehicle. Once the tubes are slid into the holes, they are wired together. Only the certified blaster is allowed to make the final connections to the main firing switch.

6 Once everything is ready, a warning horn sounds a series of one-minute blasts. At one minute to firing, a series of short horns sound. The blaster unlocks the main switch and fires the charges. **BOOM!** After the explosion, the area is inspected for safety. A long horn lets everyone know the area is clear.

7 Dynamite is a powerful tool for building cities, roads, and mines. In fact, its name has even become a word that means “exciting and very impressive.” The next time someone says that you are “dynamite,” take it as a compliment. It means you are powerful and did a good job!
1. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

**Part A** What heading would best reflect the main idea of paragraph 3?
A  What Dynamite Looks Like
B  How Dynamite Explodes
C  Who Invented Dynamite
D  Why Dynamite is Helpful

**Part B** Which detail from the paragraph best supports the answer in Part A?
A  All dynamite relies on a chemical called nitroglycerin.
B  Dynamite is dangerous for most people to handle.
C  Most dynamite is packaged in round cylinder-shaped tubes.
D  Dynamite is only sold commercially on the market today.

2. What is one thing dynamite blasters do for safety?
A  They keep the dynamite and switches in separate vehicles.
B  They use dynamite for building roads and digging mines.
C  They make larger tubes for big strip mining operations.
D  They use the word dynamite to mean “powerful and good.”
3. Read this sentence from paragraph 5.

The dynamite is transported to the site in secure trucks.

What is the meaning of the prefix *trans-* in *transported*?

A danger  
B across  
C three  
D safe

4. Think about the steps that happen when dynamite is used to blast rock for a road. Write the letter of each step in the chart and put them in correct order. (One step will not be used.)

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**Steps:**

A Wire each tube separately.  
B Slide tubes into the holes.  
C Inspect the area for safety.  
D Carve holes in the rock.  
E Sound a warning horn.  
F Hit the switch.

5. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence below.

Dynamite is a powerful tool for building tunnels and roads in big_______.

A citys  
B cites  
C cities  
D cityes
6. Which **two** details from the passage are shown in the illustration?
   
   A. The absorbent material looks like sawdust.
   
   B. The paraffin-sealed tube protects dynamite from moisture.
   
   C. Nitroglycerin poses serious dangers to handlers.
   
   D. The “cool flame” will not ignite other chemicals.
   
   E. Dynamite is transported across states in trucks.
   
   F. Dynamite applies pressure to nearby rock when it explodes.

7. What is the meaning of **secure** as it is used in paragraph 5?
   
   A. made of light metal
   
   B. confident and happy
   
   C. able to move quickly
   
   D. strong and locked tight
Read this passage about a scientist. Then answer the questions.

A Dynamite Idea

1. Every year, a committee in Sweden gives prizes to honor great accomplishments in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, and literature. Another prize honors work for peace. Who started these prizes? They were the brainchild of a scientific genius named Alfred Nobel.

2. Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Nobel moved with his family to St. Petersburg, Russia, when he was 9 years old. As a teenager, he showed a great talent for science. By the time he was 16, he was a competent chemist and spoke five languages. When he was 18, his family moved to the United States, where he attended college and studied chemistry. During this time, he went to Paris to study and met the Italian scientist, Ascanio Sobrero. Sobrero had recently discovered an explosive liquid called nitroglycerin. Nobel was fascinated.

3. Nobel set out to discover a way to make nitroglycerin safer to handle. He built factories in Germany, Sweden, New York, and California. In 1866, he discovered that when nitroglycerin was put into a clay-like material, it was much safer and easier to store, use, and transport. In 1867, Nobel received a patent for his new invention. At first, he called it Nobel’s Blasting Powder, but he soon changed the name to Dynamite, named for the Greek word dynamis, meaning “power.”

4. Nobel’s invention of dynamite, along with his 354 other patents, made him a very wealthy man. He never married, but he wrote plays, novels, and poems. He had a tremendous energy for his work. He had a great interest in the cause of peace and hoped that his inventions would help bring an end to war.
In 1895, he wrote a will that set up awards to be given annually to honor the work of men and women from around the world. The Nobel Foundation was established to fulfill his wishes. Nobel died in 1896 in Italy and was buried in Stockholm, Sweden. When his will was read, people were surprised. He had left most of his fortune in trust to establish the Nobel Prizes. The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901; they have been awarded every year since then.

8. Which **two** features tell you that this passage is a biography?
   - A It teaches a lesson about life that applies to everyone.
   - B It reveals one person’s goals and accomplishments.
   - C It presents important events in one person’s life.
   - D It creates a sense of suspense about someone.
   - E It describes what a famous person looks like.
   - F It explains important scientific processes.

9. This question has two parts. First, answer Part A. Then answer Part B.
   
   **Part A** From reading this passage, what can you conclude about Nobel’s personality?
   - A He was independent and creative.
   - B He was fearful and soft-spoken.
   - C He was confused and unsure.
   - D He was angry and violent.

   **Part B** Which detail from the passage supports the answer to Part A?
   - A “As a teenager, he showed a great talent for science.”
   - B “He built factories in Germany, Sweden, New York, and California.”
   - C “He never married, but he wrote plays, novels, and poems.”
   - D “He had a tremendous energy for his work.”
10. In paragraph 4, which phrase helps you understand what a patent is?
   A “invention of dynamite”
   B “plays, novels, and poems”
   C “cause of peace”
   D “end to war”

11. Which sentence best describes Nobel’s connection to Ascanio Sobrero?
   A Sobrero paid for Nobel’s experiments with nitroglycerin.
   B Nobel invited Sobrero to work with him in Stockholm.
   C Sobrero became Nobel’s most famous teacher.
   D Nobel made Sobrero’s explosive safer to use.

12. In paragraph 1, what is the meaning of the word brainchild?
   A the son or daughter or an inventor
   B an idea thought up by one person
   C the level of intelligence shown by someone
   D an invention made possible by science

13. What is the main purpose of the Nobel Prizes?
   A to help people invent new explosives
   B to spend Nobel’s money by giving it away
   C to pay for Nobel’s factories to continue operations
   D to recognize the work of scientists and writers

14. Based on the two passages you have read, how did dynamite influence the Nobel Prizes? Write 2–3 sentences to explain. Use details from both passages to support your answer.

   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
Revising and Editing

Read this biography of Louis Pasteur written by a student. It contains some mistakes in grammar and spelling. Revise and edit the report by answering the questions.

(1) Louis Pasteur was born in France in 1822. (2) A professor of chemistry and gained fame for his studies of germs. (3) Through a series of experiments, he proved that tiny organisms called bacteria caused milk to go sour when it was stored for only a few days. (4) Many people made him sick by drinking sour milk.

(5) Pasteur discovered that boiling and cooling milk will remove these harmful bacteria. (6) Today, this process is known as pasteurization. (7) We rely on it to keep our milk and juices safe to drink.

(8) Louis Pasteur also invented ways to prevent certain diseases. (9) He used his knowledge of germs and disease to invent vaccines. (10) These vaccines saved many lives. (11) For example, Louis Pasteur is remembered as one of the great scientists of all time.

15. How should sentence 2 be written?
   A He is a professor of chemistry and fame for his studies of germs.
   B He became a professor of chemistry and gained fame for his studies of germs.
   C A professor of chemistry who gained tremendous fame for his studies of germs.
   D Correct as is

16. How should sentence 4 be written?
   A Many people made it sick by drinking sour milk.
   B Many people made them sick by drinking sour milk.
   C Many people made themselves sick by drinking sour milk.
   D Correct as is
17. What is the correct spelling of the underlined word in sentence 5?
   A harmfull  
   B harmfel  
   C harmfle  
   D Correct as is

18. What is the correct spelling of the underlined word in sentence 9?
   A knowluge  
   B knowledge  
   C knowledge  
   D Correct as is

19. What is the best way to write the underlined words in sentence 11?
   A For these reasons,  
   B In addition,  
   C At first,  
   D Correct as is
20. Based on the two passages you have read, write an entry for an online encyclopedia about the invention and uses of dynamite. Use details from both passages to write your entry. Be sure to use complete sentences and follow the conventions of standard English.
“Good morning, Tom. Good morning, Teddy. Good morning, Abe,” said George.

“Good morning to you, too,” said Tom, Teddy, and Abe.

It was a beautiful morning at Mount Rushmore. Years ago, artists carved the faces of four presidents into the mountain. The sun lit up the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.

George said, “We need to vote on adding another president’s face to our monument.”
“Four presidents are enough,” said Tom. “George and I helped start the country. Abe kept it together during the Civil War. And Teddy did a fine job helping the country grow.”

“We’ve discussed this already,” said Abe. “We are presidents from the first 125 years of American history. We need to add a president from the past 100 years.”

Teddy agreed. “I was the twenty-sixth president. More than a dozen new presidents have come and gone since then,” he said.

“Surely one of them should have his face added to our monument,” said George. “Whom would you suggest?”

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**Self-Check**

1. When and where does this story take place?
2. What is the main conflict of the story?
3. Which president would you put on Mount Rushmore? Why?
Scarecrow Joe

The old crows weren’t afraid of Scarecrow Joe. Farmer Robin knew that she had to do something, so she dressed Joe in black clothes.

“That will make you look scary,” she said to Scarecrow Joe.

But the crows thought that Joe looked like a big, black, friendly bird. They just kept eating Farmer Robin’s corn.

One day an eagle flew over the field and saw the crows eating Farmer Robin’s corn. The eagle decided to help poor, frightened Scarecrow Joe by swooping down and scaring the crows.

The eagle said, “I’m an eagle who scares crows,” and sat on Joe’s shoulder. From that day on, the eagle and the scarecrow kept Farmer Robin’s corn safe.
1. What is the setting of the story?

2. What did Farmer Robin do to make Scarecrow Joe look scary?

3. Why weren’t the crows scared by Scarecrow Joe?

4. How did the problem get solved?