

ECAT Pre General Science English Online Test

Sr	Questions	Answers Choice
1	On January 3, 1961, nine days after Christmas, Richard Legg, John Byrnes, and Richard McKinley were killed in a remote desert in eastern Idaho. Their deaths occurred when a nuclear reactor exploded at a top-secret base in the National Reactor Testing Station (NRTS). Official reports state that the explosion and subsequent reactor meltdown resulted from the improper retraction of the control rod. When questioned about the events that occurred there, officials were very reticent. The whole affair, in fact, was discussed much, and seemed to disappear with time. In order to grasp the mysterious nature of the NRTS catastrophe, it help to know a bit about how nuclear reactors work. After all, the generation of nuclear energy may strike many as an esoteric process. However, given its relative simplicity, the way in which the NRTS reactor functions is widely comprehensible. In this particular kind of reactor, a cluster of nine-ton uranium fuel rods are positioned lengthwise around a central control rod. The reaction begins with the slow removal of the control ro, which starts a controlled nuclear reaction and begins to heat the water in the reactor. This heat generates steam, which builds pressure inside the tank. As pressure builds, the steam looks for a place to escape. The only place this steam is able to escape is through the turbine. As it passes through the turbine on its way out of the tank, it turns the giant fan blades and produces energy. On the morning of January 3, after the machine had been shut down for the holidays, the three men arrived at the station to restart the reactor. The control rod needed to be pulled out only four inches to be reconnected to the automated driver. However, records indicate that Byrnes yanked it out 23 inches, over five times the distance necessary. In milliseconds the reactor exploded. Legg was impaled on the ceiling; he would be discovered last. It took one week and a lead-shielded crane to remove his body. Even in full protective gear, workers were only able to work a minute at a time. The three men are buried in lead-lined coffins under concrete in New York, Michigan, and Arlington Cemetery, Virginia. The investigation took nearly two years to complete. Did Byrnes have a dark motive? Or was it simply an accident? Did he know how precarious the procedure was? Other operators were questioned as to whether they knew the consequences of pulling the control rod out so far. They responded "Of course! We often talked about what we would do if we were at a radar station and the Russians came. "We'd yank it out." Official reports are oddly ambiguous, but what they do not explain, gossip does. Rumors had it that there was tension between the men because Byrnes suspected the other two of being involved with his young wife. There is little doubt than he, like the other operators, knew exactly what would happen when he yanked the control rod. As used in paragraph 5, which is the best <u>synonym</u> for ambiguous?	A. Vague B. Disturbing C. Detailed D. Strange

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A. Neutral
B. Dejected
C. Sarcastic
D. Ominous

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The tone of the author can best be described as

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A. Slow
B. Difficult
C. Risky
D. Involved

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As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for precarious?

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Richard McKinley were killed in a remote desert in eastern Idaho. Their deaths occurred when a nuclear reactor exploded at a top-secret base in the National Reactor Testing Station (NRTS). Official reports state that the explosion and subsequent reactor meltdown resulted from the improper retraction of the control rod. When questioned about the events that occurred there, officials were very reticent. The whole affair, in fact, was discussed much, and seemed to disappear with time.

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Which of the following literary techniques does the author use in the passage?

I hyperbole, characterized by the use of exaggeration for effect

II foreshadowing, characterized by the use of hints that depict future events in the narrative or story

III flashback, characterized by the description of a scene set in a time earlier than the main story

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II and III

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- A. Not mentioned in any official about the incident
- B. Contaminated with toxic elements
- C. Completely annihilated
- D. Honored as a memorial to the

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Based on information in the passage, it can be inferred that, after the explosion and subsequent meltdown, the reactor was

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According to the paragraph 2, which of the following is directly responsible for energy production?

- A. The turning of the turbine blades
- B. The escape of pressurized steam
- C. He removal of the control rod
- D. The positioning of the uranium fuel rods

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- A. Risky or dangerous
- B. Highly scientific
- C. Kept secret
- D. Understood by few

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As used in paragraph 2, which is the best definition for esoteric?

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- A. Nosy
- B. Talkative
- C. Reserved
- D. Concerned

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As used In paragraph 1, which is the best antonym for reticent?

Many people like to eat pizza, but not everyone knows how to make it. Making the perfect pizza can be complicated, but there are lots of ways for you to make basic version at home.

When you make pizza, you must begin with the crust. The crust can be hard to make. If you want to make the crust yourself, you will have to make dough using flour, water, and yeast. You will have to knead the dough with your hands. If you do not have enough time to do this, you can use a prepared crust that you buy from the store.

After you have chosen your crust, you must then add the sauce. Making your own sauce from scratch can take a long time. You have to buy tomatoes, peel them, and then cook them with spices. If this sounds like too much work, you can also purchase jarred sauce from the store. Many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home.

Now that you have your crust and your sauce, you need to add the cheese. Cheese comes from milk, which comes from cows. Do you have a cow in your backyard? Do you how to milk the cow? Do you know how to turn that milk into cheese? If not, you might want to buy cheese from the grocery store instead of making it yourself. When you have the crust, sauce, and cheese ready, you can add other toppings. Some people like to put meat on their pizza, while other people like to add vegetables. Some people even like to add pineapple! The best part of making a pizza at home is that you can customize it by adding your own favorite ingredients

Which of the following conclusions would work best at the end of this passage?

A. Although the crust, sauce, and toppings are all important ingredients in pizza, it is clear that the cheese is most important. Therefore, be sure your cheese is homemade

B. It can be understood that making your pizza from scratch should be avoided at all costs. Use store bought ingredients and save yourself a heap of trouble.

C. As you can see, cooking a pizza can be fun, but it can also be very expensive. But, as you can see, the best things are worth paying for

D. Once you have prepared the crust, sauce, cheese, and toppings you are ready to bake your pizza, I think you will see that making at home can be a good alternative to purchasing it from the store

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According to the author, which of the following ingredients do you need to have ready before you can add the toppings?

I crust

II sauce

III cheese

A. I only

B. I and II only

C. II and III only

D. I, II and III