

Matière : Anglais Durée : 2h

PART ONE: Reading (15 points)

A/ Comprehension: (8 points)

Read the text carefully then do the following activities:

Early this morning (on 27th March 2013) in Russia, when a meteor broke up a few dozen kilometers above ground, **its** supersonic flight and mid-air death generated shock waves that rattled houses, broke windows, and sent dozens to the hospital. The meteor's break-up released energy equivalent to a few hundred thousand tons of TNT. But while it was surely scary for those whose heads it passed over, compared to a disaster that took place a few thousand miles to the east more than 100 years ago, today's meteor was rather small and weak.

"On June 30, 1908, says NASA, a truly massive meteor exploded near the Podkamennaya Tunguska River in Siberia. The explosion sent out a shockwave **that** decimated the region". "Now known as the Tunguska event, an expedition to the area made in 1921", says the *Guardian*, "laid bare the devastation caused by impact, with 80m of trees leveled over 830 square miles (2,150 sq km)."

Like today's Russian meteor, the Tunguska meteor was thought not to have hit the ground in a conventional impact, but rather to have exploded above the ground. The Tunguska meteor, however, was much bigger, and its explosion was likely much nearer to the surface. "The combination of pressure and heat caused the asteroid to fragment and annihilate itself, producing a fireball and releasing energy equivalent to about 185 Hiroshima bombs," says NASA.

The massive explosion packed a big blow. The resulting seismic shockwave registered with sensitive barometers as far away as England. Dense clouds formed over the region at high altitudes **which** reflected sunlight from beyond the horizon. Though recent research has claimed both to have unveiled an impact crater for the Tunguska event and to have pinned the explosion on a dust- and gas-rich comet, NASA says that the most widely-accepted explanation is that it was an exploding meteor.

Unnoted about the last meteor (The Chelyabinsk meteor) was the incident's timing: had the object arrived 5 hours later, it would have exploded over the city of St. Petersburg basically wiping that city out. In both the 1908 and the 2013 incidents, no human lives were lost, which may be just luck.

<http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com>

1 – Circle the letter that corresponds to the right answer:

The text is: a. a letter

b. a website article

c. an extract from a book.

2 – Write the letter which corresponds to the right answer:

A. A meteor broke up in 2013 near

a) the African continent.

b) the north pole.

c) the USA.

B. The Tunguska event happened

a) more than a century ago.

b) less than a decade ago.

c) a year ago.

C. In the meteors' incidents.....

a) a few people were killed

b) all people living in the area were killed.

c) no person was killed

3 – Answer the following questions according to the text:

a) What did shock waves cause?

b) What was the pressure of the Tunguska meteor compared to?

c) When did the latest meteor break up?

d) What would have happened if the Chelyabinsk meteor had arrived five hours later?

4 – In which paragraph is it mentioned that the explosion was felt as an earthquake?

what do the underlined words refer to in the text?

i) → ; b. That (§2) → ; c. Which (§4) →

Circle the letter which corresponds to the right answer:

The text is: a. narrative b. prescriptive c. expository.

B/ Text Exploration: (7 points)

1 – Find in the text words that are closest in meaning to the following:

a. Calamity (§1) = ; b. Burst (§2) = ; c. Warmth (§3) =

2 – Complete the chart as shown in the example:

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Near	Nearer than	The nearest
.....	Bigger than
Far
Conventional

3 – Rewrite sentence (b) so that it means the same as (a):

- a) Like today’s Russian meteor, the Tunguska meteor hits the ground in a conventional impact.

b) and
- a) “After the Tunguska event the Russian made an expedition to the area,” the Guardian reported.

b) The Guardian reported.....
- a) The last meteor was compared to a disaster that happened more than a century ago.

b) We

4 – Classify the following words according to the pronunciation of their final “ed”:

Generated – Packed – Decimated – Caused.

/t/	/d/	/id/

5 – Fill in the gaps with words from the list:

Observed – Than – Astronomers – Speed – Explosion – Brilliant – Heat.

On 15 February 2013, a small asteroid entered Earth's atmosphere over Russia at about 09:20 YEKT (03:20 UTC) with an estimated speed of 18.6 km/s — approximately 50 times the of sound at that altitude—and quickly became a superbolide meteor—the Chelyabinsk meteor—over the southern Ural region. The dazzling light of the meteor was brighter the sun, and bright enough to cast moving shadows during the morning in Chelyabinsk. It was over a wide area of the region and in neighbouring republics. Eyewitnesses also felt intense from the fireball. The object was undetected before its atmospheric entry and its created considerable confusion among local residents.

PART TWO: Written Expression (5 points)

Choose one of the following topics.

Topic one: Write a composition of about 100 to 120 words on the following:

Imagine what would happen if a collision occurred between Earth and an asteroid. Help yourself using the following notes:

- Climate change / lack of water. Alteration of the Earth orbit / great freeze.
- Extinction of human kind / disappearance of fauna and flora...

Topic two: Write a composition of about 100 to 120 words on the following:

Publicity gives important opportunities for companies to prosper and extend their activities. Do you agree with this point?

Discuss and give your opinion.