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Weekly Test Lesson 15

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Medal of Honor

Almost 1.5 million men and women currently serve in the United States military. They may be in the U.S. Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard, or Navy. No matter how different the service branches are, their members have one thing in common—patriotism. Their love for their country and their fellow Americans has been the force behind their everyday heroism as members of the military. Many people have served in the military. However, only a few have performed acts of such extraordinary courage that they have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest military award given to members of the U.S. military. It is awarded by Congress for valor in action against an enemy force. It was proposed by the Senate and approved by President Lincoln in 1861 during the Civil War. Only about 3,500 people have received the award.

First Recipient

The first Medal of Honor was awarded to Private Jacob Parrott in 1863. In 1862, Jacob Parrott was 19 years old. He enlisted in the Union army during the Civil War. Parrott volunteered for an enemy raid. With a small group of men, he went 200 miles into enemy territory. They captured a train and tried to destroy enemy railroad tracks. They were captured and held as prisoners. Parrott escaped and rejoined his unit for the rest of the war. After the Civil War, he returned home and became a cabinet maker.

Other Early Recipients

Joseph H. DeCastro was the first Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor. On July 3, 1863, he captured the Confederate flag during combat in Gettysburg. DeCastro quickly gave the captured flag to his leader, General Webb, and returned to combat. Because DeCastro carried his own unit's flag, capturing an enemy flag was a special accomplishment.

Robert Blake was the first African American to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Blake served on a gunboat in the navy. On December 25, 1863, he volunteered to carry supplies into combat. Blake was later promoted and remained in the navy.

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Reading

Also during the Civil War, Mary Edwards Walker was the first woman to receive the Medal of Honor in 1865. She had a degree in medicine that qualified her to be a doctor. However, she initially volunteered as a nurse when the Civil War started. She was later appointed as an assistant surgeon. She was captured and held prisoner for several months. Walker retired from government service in 1865. She wore the medal with great pride every day.

Recipients Today

Members of today's military are still receiving the Medal of Honor. One recent recipient is Florent A. Groberg. On August 8, 2012, Groberg was injured while protecting other members of his unit. This action put Groberg's own life at risk but saved many others. While it seems illogical to put himself in such a dangerous situation, Groberg's quick actions prevented many soldiers from getting injured.

Although only a few men and women receive medals, everyone in the military has already demonstrated great courage simply by joining. Patriotism is courage with a focus on nation, family, and friends.

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- 1 How were Medal of Honor recipients Jacob Parrott and Mary Edwards alike and different? Use details from the text to support your answer.

- 2 Read the sentence from the text.

While it seems illogical to put himself in such a dangerous situation, Groberg's quick actions prevented many soldiers from getting injured.

What is the **most likely** meaning of illogical as used in this sentence?

- (A) not making sense
 (B) in the middle
 (C) being brave
 (D) in action

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- 3 This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

Part A

How are Robert Blake and Florent A. Groberg similar?

- (A) They both were awarded their medals for supplying the troops.
- (B) They both were awarded their medals for helping the troops.
- (C) They both were soldiers who fought in the Civil War.
- (D) They both got injured while performing a heroic act.

Part B

Which detail supports the answer to part A?

- (A) Blake volunteered to carry supplies into combat, and Groberg protected members of his unit.
 - (B) Blake volunteered to carry supplies into combat, and Groberg was injured.
 - (C) Blake served in the navy, and Groberg put his life at risk.
 - (D) Blake was promoted, and Groberg put his life at risk.
- 4 Mark the boxes to match each person to their reason for being included in the text regarding the Medal of Honor.

| | Blake | DeCastro | Groberg | Parrott | Walker |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| A recent recipient | | | | | |
| First Hispanic recipient | | | | | |
| First recipient | | | | | |
| First female recipient | | | | | |
| First African American recipient | | | | | |

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Reading

- 5 How does the order of events help the reader understand that the Medal of Honor is still relevant today?
- Ⓐ The order of events shows that soldiers today are not as brave as earlier soldiers.
 - Ⓑ The order of events shows that earlier acts of bravery inspired soldiers today to act bravely.
 - Ⓒ The order of events shows that soldiers today are still being honored with the Medal of Honor.
 - Ⓓ The order of events shows that the Medal of Honor is an award that is no longer awarded to soldiers.
- 6 How do the headings help organize the information in the text?
- Ⓐ They organize the recipients into the order in which they got their medals.
 - Ⓑ They show the branches of the military in which each recipient served.
 - Ⓒ They order the recipients into how bravely they acted.
 - Ⓓ They tell the wars in which each recipient served.

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Writing

- 7 Which sentence has an error in spelling?
- (A) My mother showed me how to thread the needle carefully.
 - (B) The scientists carefully cleaned the fossel they found.
 - (C) I learned how to ride a bicycle when I was six.
 - (D) The magazine had a very interesting article.
- 8 Which of the following has an error in punctuation usage?
- (A) First I didn't feel prepared to present my report to the class.
 - (B) In addition, I didn't feel well that day.
 - (C) Next, Lily gave her report.
 - (D) Later, we got our grades.
- 9 Which set of sentences is written correctly?
- (A) Don wants to get a dog this summer. Because, he'd like to get a puppy.
 - (B) Don wants to get a dog this summer. In contrast, he'd like to get a puppy.
 - (C) Don wants to get a dog this summer. Specifically, he'd like to get a puppy.
 - (D) Don wants to get a dog this summer. In comparison, he'd like to get a puppy.
- 10 Read the paragraph. Underline the sentence that has an error in grammar usage.

Sabena was looking forward to the state fair because there would be carnival rides, games, contests, and animal exhibits. She wanted to be ready for a variety of activities, so Sabena dressed in casual clothes. As a result, Sabena's friend picked her up at 1:00. In contrast to Sabena, her friend was wearing a dress.