

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow it.

BASE Jumping

In the extreme sport of BASE jumping, participants jump from fixed objects and use a parachute to ensure a safe landing. There are four jump categories: **b**uildings, **a**ntennas, **s**pans (such as bridges) and **e**arth (or natural formations). The word, BASE was coined by Carl Boenish, a film-maker who published films and magazines about sports⁶. By the time of his death in 1984, which, ironically, resulted from a cliff jump in Norway, the sport had become popular. While Boenish brought much attention to the sport, jumpers have been doing it since at least the early 1900s, including a jump from the Statue of Liberty in 1912.

Modern BASE jumping evolved from skydiving, a sport in which participants jump from an aircraft with parachutes. While the sports are similar, BASE jumps are performed from lower heights, occur close to the jumping platform, and start at lower airspeeds than skydiving. Because of these differences, BASE jumping involves more risks to jumpers. In low altitude jumps, BASE jumpers can have difficulties controlling their body before landing. If a jumper leans too far forward, he or she could tumble and not have enough time to **deploy** the chute properly. The parachute of a BASE jumper needs to open quickly and properly at low airspeeds. If a BASE jumper leaps from 500 feet, he or she will crash in approximately six seconds if the chute does not open. If a skydiver's parachute opens improperly, there is much more time to correct the problem or use a second chute. Because of these differences, BASE jumpers require special parachutes and harnesses to complete their jumps.

Because BASE jumping does not involve aircraft, the same legal issues that apply to skydiving do not apply. Before leaping into the air, BASE jumpers must consider whether the property owners allow it; otherwise, jumpers could face fines for using sites that prohibit trespassing or jumping.

Questions

- 1. Why did the author write this passage?**
 - A. to inform the reader about extreme sports
 - B. to describe the similarities and differences of two extreme sports
 - C. to explain how BASE jumping became a popular sport
 - D. to inform the reader about the dangers associated with parachutes
- 2. Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?**
 - A. Diving Dangerously.
 - B. Extreme Chutes.
 - C. Freefalling.
 - D. Danger Junkies
- 3. Why is BASE jumping more dangerous than skydiving ?**
 - A. BASE jumping requires special equipment.
 - B. BASE jumping is just as dangerous as skydiving.
 - C. BASE jumping does not involve the dangers associated with flying.
 - D. BASE jumping allows less time to correct a problem during a jump.
- 4. As used in the passage, the word *deploy* most nearly means**
 - A. open
 - B. seek
 - C. arrange
 - D. inflate
- 5. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?**
 - A. BASE jumping and skydiving are risky sports but pose no mortal danger.
 - B. There are no regulations regarding parachute sports.
 - C. Boenish helped popularize BASE jumping.
 - D. Skydivers jump only from fixed objects or locations.
- 6. How should this sentence read to be most correct?**
 - A. No change
 - B. Put a period after BASE
 - C. Remove the comma before BASE.
 - D. Put a comma after BASE.
- 7. Answer the following question using complete sentences:**

What can you infer would be the safest types of conditions for a BASE jumper?

Answers:

1. **B**
2. **B**
3. **D**
4. **A**
5. **C**
6. **C**
7. **Answers will vary**