



I. READING COMPREHENSION

TEXT 1

1. Anousheh Raïssyan - better known by her married name, Ansari describes her journey from the daughter of Iran to a space pioneer. The story Anousheh tells begins in an Iran that was still ruled by the Shah. All too soon the fires of revolution swept up the entire nation - not just the young men, but old people and little girls. Yet throughout this tumultuous and very dangerous time, Anousheh managed to find solace by looking up at the stars at night and visiting them in her mind. Eventually, Anousheh and parts of her family made their way to America.

2. It was a first in the annals of space history. The Iranian-born American will go down in the record books in a couple of ways. A Russian-built rocket carrying the world's first female space tourist blasted off last Monday in Kazakhstan on a flight to the international space station. Anousheh Ansari, the telecommunications entrepreneur, was accompanied by a U.S.-Russian crew on the Soyuz TMA-9 capsule. She's the first woman to pay her way into space and the first person of Iranian descent to get there. Ansari is the fourth space tourist. Unexpectedly, she found herself training as a commercial space traveller in Russia when a medical disqualification with the prime passenger appeared and suddenly she was mere weeks away for a trip into space.

3. During her flight she sent updates from space that were posted in a blog making her the "first blogger in space". Over the days as her mission proceeded I saw some startling things in the encouraging comments that appeared on her site. **Many** were in Farsi but many were in passable English. For this instant in time she was pulling her fellow Iranians out of their own daily troubles and bringing them up into space with her. One of her space messages in particular ***grabbed me by both shoulders*** when I first read it - and yes, brought a tear to my eye since I could easily imagine myself in an identical moment. In this case it was shortly after she had reached orbit: "I could not catch my breath. My beautiful planet, under the warm rays of the sun, turned gracefully beneath me." *Adapted from Internet - September 18, 2006*

1. **Tick (✓) the most appropriate option (1 mark)** The text is mainly about how...

- a. Anousheh made her way to space despite life hardships.
 b. serious the difficulties Anousheh faced while travelling in space.
 c. fierce the competition Anousheh encountered with other female space tourists.

2. **Find details in the text showing that the following statements are false (3 marks)**

- a. The revolution in Iran prevented the little girl from enjoying her dream about space. (p 1)

 b. Anousheh's flight into space was unexpected because she was not accepted in Russia. (p2)

 c. Anousheh's adventure in space didn't affect people in Iran. (parag.3)

3. **Complete the table with the right information about Anousheh's trip into space**

Departure point	Means of transport
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4. **Answer the following question: (1 mark)**

How did Anousheh manage to keep in touch with her countrymen on Earth while she was in space?

5. **Find out words in the text meaning approximately the same as the following**

- d. forced into some kind of situation or course of action (p. 1) : -----
 e. launched with great force (p. 2): -----

6. **What does the underlined expression in p. 3 mean? Tick (✓) the right option**

- 'grabbed me by both shoulders' means: a. hit me hard on the shoulders.
 b. made me lose my cool temper for a while. c. deeply touched my feelings.

7. **What does the underlined word in paragraph 3 refer to? (1 mark)**

"Many" refers to: -----

8. **Would you like to live the same experience of Anousheh Ansari? Why / Why not?**

