

Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.

A Top-Flight Career

1 Must thrive under pressure, enjoy taking initiative, and think clearly in high-stress situations. This position is not for the meek. Strong focus is required. Interested applicants will be properly vetted. Training will be provided for qualified candidates. In the United States alone, there are nearly 87,000 flights per day (including passenger, personal, and military planes). While proper aviation is the responsibility of the pilot, it 2 was the work of a few specially trained, carefully selected, skilled decision makers working behind the scenes that secures the safe, expeditious flow of air traffic.

1

Which sentence best introduces the paragraph?

- A) An interest in aeronautics, aviation, and aircraft can lead to a variety of career options.
- B) Since the Wright brothers' first successful airplane flight in 1903, many people have wanted to become pilots.
- C) Some jobs are particularly well suited for certain personality types.
- D) Wanted: articulate, assertive, intelligent person who likes to take charge.

2

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) is
- C) had been
- D) would have been

These masters of the **3** skies known as air traffic controllers are responsible for ensuring the safe takeoff, travel, and landing of 64 million flights per year. To get

4 you're air traffic control career off the ground, the most traditional path is through an approved training program. The FAA's Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative established aviation-related curricula at more than 30 postsecondary schools. **5** If traditional schooling does not suit an interested individual, the FAA allows candidates to substitute at least three years of "progressively responsible" work experience for a bachelor's degree.

3

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) skies, known as air traffic controllers
- C) skies, known as air traffic controllers,
- D) skies known as air traffic controllers,

4

- A) their
- B) there
- C) your
- D) they're

5

At this point, the writer wants to provide further details about the Air Traffic Collegiate Training Initiative's resulting partnerships. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) Such programs are offered by several large universities, such as Arizona State, as well as by many smaller community colleges.
- B) It's never too early for students to think about their intended field of study and desired career path.
- C) Post-graduation employment opportunities range from electronic technicians to general engineers.
- D) The FAA is the agency within the US Department of Transportation responsible for all private and commercial non-military aviation.

Your dream can begin to take flight after you **6** actualize a qualifying score on the FAA-authorized pre-employment **7** test: a rigorous vetting process including physical and mental exercises. Certain conditions, such as high blood pressure, may disqualify an applicant due to the stressful nature of the job. But more than anything, the federal government cares about one's age. **8** Those who wish to enter the profession must do so before their 31st birthday.

6

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) achieve
- C) commit
- D) perpetrate

7

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) test. A
- C) test—a
- D) test a

8

At this point, the writer wants to explain the limitation introduced in the previous sentence. Which choice best accomplishes this goal?

- A) In the interest of keeping the public safe, the FAA determined that a controller's effectiveness diminishes after the age of 30 and has run its course by the mandatory retirement age of 56.
- B) Upon graduation, one retains employment eligibility for two years before having to undergo the requalification process to ensure one's skills and abilities are still sharp.
- C) A candidate with related military experience is eligible to bypass certain steps and can enjoy an expedited application process, but she must still submit geographic preferences for work placement.
- D) In order to work for the FAA, one must a strong command of the English language and must be able to speak concisely because of its necessity in potentially dangerous air traffic scenarios.

9 Training: the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City provides a 12-week course for all qualified applicants. This program ensures that all controllers understand current regulations, the airway system, and aircraft specifications; can manage taxiways, runways, and holding areas; and 10 learn how to clear aircraft for takeoff and landing. Standardized training minimizes variance, since the reduction of delays is paramount to the job. Being an air traffic controller means making many important decisions to be made on the fly, but one who lands the position of air traffic controller earns a fulfilling career that ensures millions of skybound travelers safely reach their destinations. 11

- 9
- A) NO CHANGE
 - B) If you manage to fly through all initial requirements, you have a 12-week layover at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City.
 - C) If you keep your nose to the grindstone and and satisfy all requirements, you can then attend the 12-week course of study at the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City.
 - D) Those who have satisfied all initial requirements attend the school of champions: the FAA Academy in Oklahoma City.

- 10
- A) NO CHANGE
 - B) would learn
 - C) to learn
 - D) learning

- 11
- The author is considering concluding the passage with the following sentence.
- Air traffic controllers protect airline passengers by maintaining a traveling distance of 5 vertical nautical miles and 1,000 vertical feet between aircraft.
- Should the author make this addition here?
- A) Yes, because it elucidates information previously presented in the paragraph about air safety.
 - B) Yes, because it provides necessary details about the importance of an air traffic controller's job.
 - C) No, because it adds loosely related information that does not effectively conclude the passage.
 - D) No, because it contradicts information previously presented in the paragraph about aircraft specifications.