

Read the text in which a mountaineer writes about the highest mountain in the world. Then choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each question (1-7). Put a cross (☒) in the correct box on the answer sheet. The first one (0) has been done for you.

Mount Everest

Secretly I dreamed of ascending Everest myself one day; for more than a decade it remained a burning ambition. By the time I was in my early twenties climbing had become the focus of my existence to the exclusion of almost everything else. Achieving the summit of a mountain was tangible, immutable, concrete. The incumbent hazards lent the activity a seriousness of purpose that was sorely missing from the rest of my life. I thrilled in the fresh perspective that came from tipping the ordinary plane of existence on end.

And climbing provided a sense of community as well. To become a climber was to join a self-contained, rabidly idealistic society, largely unnoticed and surprisingly uncorrupted by the world at large. The culture of ascent was characterized by intense competition and undiluted machismo, but for the most part, its constituents were concerned with impressing only one another. Getting to the top of any given mountain was considered much less important than *how* one got there: prestige was earned by tackling the most unforgiving routes with minimal equipment, in the boldest style imaginable. Nobody was admired more than so-called free soloists: visionaries who ascended alone, without rope or hardware.

In those years I lived to climb, existing on five or six thousand dollars a year, working as a carpenter and a commercial salmon fisherman just long enough to fund the next trip to the Bugaboos or Tetons or Alaska Range. But at some point in my midtwenties I abandoned my boyhood fantasy of climbing Everest. By then it had become fashionable among alpine cognoscenti to denigrate Everest as a “slag heap” – a peak lacking sufficient technical challenges or aesthetic appeal to be a worthy objective for a “serious” climber, which I desperately aspired to be. I began to look down my nose at the world’s highest mountain.

Such snobbery was rooted in the fact that by the early 1980s, Everest’s easiest line – via South Col and the Southeast Ridge – had been climbed more than a hundred times. My cohorts and I referred to the Southeast Ridge as the “Yak Route”. Our contempt was only reinforced in 1985, when Dick Bass – a wealthy fifty-five-year-old Texan with limited climbing experience – was ushered to the top of Everest by an extraordinary young climber named David Breashears, an event that was accompanied by a blizzard of media attention.

Previously, Everest had by and large been the province of elite mountaineers. In the words of Michael Kennedy, the editor of *Climbing* magazine, “To be invited on an Everest expedition was an honor earned only after you served a long apprenticeship on lower peaks, and to actually reach the summit elevated a climber to the upper firmament of mountaineering stardom.” Bass’s ascent changed all that. In bagging Everest, he became the first person to climb all of the Seven Summits, a feat that brought him worldwide renown, spurred a swarm of other weekend climbers to follow in his guided bootprints, and rudely pulled Everest into the postmodern era.

“To aging Walter Mitty types like myself, Dick Bass was an inspiration,” Seaborn Beck Weathers explained in a thick East Texas twang during the trek to Everest base Camp last April. A forty-nine-year-old Dallas pathologist, Beck was one of eight clients on Rob Hall’s 1996 guided expedition. “Bass showed that Everest was within the realm of possibility for regular guys. Assuming you’re reasonably fit and have some disposable income, I think the biggest obstacle is probably taking time off from your job and leaving your family for two months.”

For a great many climbers, the record shows, stealing time away from the daily grind has not been an insurmountable obstacle, nor has the hefty outlay of cash.

- 0 **The author believed that mountaineering**
- A gave meaning to his existence.
 - B was as exciting as flying.
 - C was less dangerous than generally assumed.
 - D can be too hard for most people.
- 1 **According to the author, mountaineers were**
- A almost all sociable men.
 - B similar to each other in many ways.
 - C always in the public eye.
 - D often influenced by society's opinions.
- 2 **Among mountaineers, those who took risks**
- A sometimes seemed less competitive.
 - B ignored the opinions of others.
 - C often failed to reach the summit.
 - D were looked up to by others.
- 3 **A change took place in that Everest became**
- A a realistic option for the author.
 - B trendy for enthusiastic European climbers.
 - C more expensive to climb than other mountains.
 - D a less desirable goal for mountaineers.
- 4 **Bass's achievement convinced mountaineers that**
- A their opinion of Everest was justified.
 - B Bass's guide was the best new talent in mountaineering.
 - C Everest was now a priority for rich Americans.
 - D good press coverage made anything possible.
- 5 **Before Bass's achievement, climbing Everest was**
- A a popular topic with journalists.
 - B only written about in specialist publications.
 - C a privilege offered to special people.
 - D only very rarely attempted.
- 6 **Bass became famous because he**
- A introduced new techniques for climbing Everest.
 - B used his achievement to promote his business.
 - C did something that had never been done before.
 - D reached the top of several mountains alone.
- 7 **Concerning climbing Everest, Seaborn Beck Weathers said that**
- A keeping up with younger climbers was a challenge.
 - B being away from home was a problem.
 - C paying the guide was the biggest expense.
 - D training to be in top condition was necessary.

Mount Everest

0	A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	A	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/>

Von der
Lehrperson
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