

The deserts, which already occupy approximately a fourth of the Earth's land surface, h

question 1

The word "threatened" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A Restricted
- B Endangered
- C Prevented
- D Rejected

question 2

According to paragraph 3, the loss of natural vegetation has which of the following con

- A Increased stony content
- B Reduced water absorption
- C Increased numbers of spaces in the soil
- D Reduced water runoff

question 3

According to paragraph 5, in dry periods, border areas have difficulty

- A Adjusting to stresses created by settlement
- B Retaining their fertility after desertification
- C Providing water for irrigating crops
- D Attracting populations in search of food and fuel

question 4

According to paragraph 6, which of the following is often associated with raising crops

- A Lack of proper irrigation techniques
- B Failure to plant crops suited to the particular area
- C Removal of the original vegetation
- D Excessive use of dried animal waste

question 5

According to paragraph 9, the ground' s absorption of excess water is a factor in dese

- A Interfere with the irrigation of land
- B Limit the evaporation of water
- C Require more absorption of air by the soil
- D Bring salts to the surface

question 6

All of the following are mentioned in the passage as contributing to desertification EXC

- A Soil erosion
- B Global warming
- C Insufficient irrigation
- D The raising of livestock

question 7

Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlight

- A Desertification is a significant problem because it is so hard to reverse and affects lar

- B Slowing down the process of desertification is difficult because of population growth.
- C The spread of deserts is considered a very serious problem that can be solved only if the population is reduced.
- D Desertification is extremely hard to reverse unless the population is reduced in the vast areas of the world.

question 8

It can be inferred from the passage that the author most likely believes which of the following?

- A Governments will act quickly to control further desertification.
- B The factors influencing desertification occur in cycles and will change in the future.
- C Desertification will continue to increase.
- D Desertification will soon occur in all areas of the world.

question 9

Look at the four squares [] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

The deserts, which already occupy approximately a fourth of the Earth's land surface, have increased in number and area.

question 10

Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Select the THREE answer choices that, taken together, best summarize the passage. Write the letters of the three choices in the spaces provided.

- A. Growing human populations and the agricultural demands that come with such growth have led to desertification.
- B. As periods of severe dryness have become more common, failures of a number of desertification control programs have been reported.
- C. Excessive numbers of cattle and the need for firewood for fuel have reduced grasses in many areas.
- D. Extensive irrigation with poor drainage brings salt to the surface of the soil, a process known as salinization.
- E. Animal dung enriches the soil by providing nutrients for plant growth.
- F. Grasses are generally the dominant type of natural vegetation in semiarid lands.

