Reading 425

For questions 1-6, choose which of the paragraphs A-G fit into the numbered gaps in the following article. There is one extra paragraph which does not fit in any of the gaps.

MASTER OF THE DEEP

Jacques-Yves Cousteau, 1910-1997, was one of the greatest Frenchmen of the 20th century. He invented the modern diver's breathing apparatus, and went on to become one of the world's best-known explorers. A new era of marine exploration began in the summer of 1943 in a secluded French cove when Cousteau first slipped into the sea wearing his Aqua-Lung, the simple but elegant invention that enabled humans to take their breath with them beneath the sea.

1 _ _ _ _ _

He knew what he wanted, but it did not exist. What he wanted was self-contained compressed-air cylinders plus a device with hoses and mouthpiece. This device would feed him air only on the intake, at the pressure of the surrounding sea, shutting off the flow when he exhaled.

2 _ _ _ _ _

For human use the device proved so remarkably effective that today millions of divers put on this device without a thought. But at the time the Aqua-Lung was history in the making. It opened the submarine world to a new age of discovery.

3 _ _ _ _ _

The end of World War II freed naval officer Cousteau for further joyful underwater pursuits. He used a wooden-hulled, former minesweeper, the Calypso, to continue his exploration of the ocean depths. He recorded his experiences in his book, The Silent World (1953), a publishing sensation that sold five million copies and was translated into 22 languages. In subsequent years, Cousteau developed a miniature submarine, the Diving Saucer, built underwater dwellings for prolonged diving, and produced a series of television films that would make him one of the world's best-known faces. But as the years passed, he began to notice something disquieting in the Mediterranean Sea.

4 _ _ _ _ _

This was especially apparent in the Mediterranean Sea, which is an enclosed, nearly tideless, sea with many of the characteristics of a lake, so that any environmental interference would not take long to show itself. Later Cousteau went on the high seas, returning to Assumption Island in the Indian Ocean, where many years before he had filmed much of The Silent World.

5 _ _ _ _ _

He founded the Cousteau Society to publicise and support his new passion. He took Calypso all over the world, documenting the unchecked looting, as he called it, of the oceans and rivers. Everywhere he went he talked to fishermen, farmers, and even to Presidents.

6 _ _ _ _ _

Cousteau will be remembered for his ability to communicate, just as his name will always be connected with water. In 1992 he attended the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, pleading for the sane use of Earth's finite resources. He spent the rest of his life in tireless advocacy of the sea. Truly, Jacques-Yves Cousteau was the 'master of the deep'.

Missing paragraphs:

A He was horrified to find the same sickness. What had been an aquatic paradise, pulsating with life and ablaze with colour, was nearly lifeless. Appalled and angered, Cousteau the diver and film-maker became Cousteau the environmentalist.

B 'At night I had often had visions of flying by extending my arms as wings,' Cousteau wrote in his diary. 'Now I flew without wings. On that first Aqua-Lung dive, I experimented with loops and somersaults. I stood upside down on one finger. Delivered from gravity and buoyancy, I flew around as if in space.'

C His divers were having problems with their bulbs for flash photographs: in the high pressure of deep water they tended to leak around their base, causing them to misfire. Cousteau's solution was inspired. The ship's engineer drilled two small holes in the bases, the cook melted wax for them, and the surgeon injected the liquid wax into them using a syringe. When it solidified, underwater lighting was assured.

D Cousteau wished to be able to swim horizontally like a fish, weightless, and manoeuvering easily in three dimensions. He would have nothing to do with the divers in the standard diving dress of the time, whom the French called 'heavy feet', with their copper helmet and lead-soled boots, making their ponderous way across the seabed.

E Unlike many brilliant technical men, Cousteau was supremely articulate and conveyed his compelling ideas with eloquence. He lectured equally well in French or English, often without notes, with a vivid imagery in both tongues that a poet would have been proud of.

F Cousteau took his idea to an engineer called Emile Gagnan. He was astonished when Gagnan picked something up from his work surface and said 'You mean like this?' It was the valve for the 'gazogene', a gadget designed to enable motor cars to run on domestic gas in times of petrol shortage.

G In many places fish were growing scarce, and once richly-carpeted seabeds now lay bare. Alarmed, he began a survey, testing water quality and analyzing seabed sediments. Everywhere the message was the same: overfishing, pollution, and unrestrained 'development' of the shores had reduced its marine life by 30 to 40 percent, Cousteau estimated.

Key

1. D
2. F
3. B
4. G
5. A
6. E