

Passage 5

In spite of the wealth of examples of urban architecture in older cities, both in Europe and in the United States solutions to current problems of the physical decay of cities in the United States have come slowly. The first reaction after the war was to bulldoze and build bright new towers and efficient roadways, but these solutions did not respond to people. By the close of the 1960's it became more common to deal gently with the 'existing' urban fabric and to insert new buildings in such a way as to complement the physical and social environment; in other cases valued buildings have been rehabilitated and returned to economic productivity. A particularly striking example is the rehabilitation of Ghirardelli Square, San Francisco. This, hillside mélange of nineteenth-century commercial buildings clustered around a chocolate plant, was purchased in 1962 by William Roth to forestall wholesale development of the waterfront as a district of high-rent apartment towers. Nearly all of the nineteenth-century buildings were retained and refurbished, and a low arcade was added on the waterside. There are several levels, dotted with kiosks and fountains, which offer varied prospects of San Francisco Bay. Perhaps most telling is the preservation of the huge Ghirardelli sign as an important landmark; it is such improbable, irrational, and cherished idiosyncrasies which give cities identity and character.

1. The author's main purpose in the passage is to describe
 - (A) the differences between urban architecture in Europe and in the United States
 - (B) the most striking features of San Francisco's scenic waterfront district
 - (C) nineteenth-century buildings in twentieth-century cities
 - (D) characteristics of recent solutions to urban architectural problems in the United States
2. According to the passage, after the war many of the attempts of urban architects failed because
 - (A) buildings were not built quickly enough
 - (B) new roads required too much space
 - (C) the needs of the urban residents were overlooked
 - (D) the towering buildings were too tall
3. The author discusses Ghirardelli Square in order to illustrate which of the following procedures?
 - (A) The construction of new buildings to conceal older structures
 - (B) The selective removal of old buildings to create space for residential units
 - (C) The 'restoration of old buildings to make them commercially useful
 - (D) The demolition of apartment towers to make way for more attractive construction
4. According to the passage, the Ghirardelli sign was preserved because it
 - (A) was designed and built by a famous artist
 - (B) is included in an advertising contract with the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company
 - (C) is suitable as a vantage point from which to view San Francisco Bay
 - (D) has long-standing importance as a symbol in the community
5. The sentence in lines 14-16 would best keep its meaning if "most telling" were replaced by
 - (A) most significant
 - (B) in greatest demand'
 - (C) most debatable
 - (D) the best publicized

PRACTICE TEST 54

Passage 1

By the late nineteenth century, the focus for the engineers and builders of tunnels was beginning to shift from Europe to the United States and especially New York, where the rivers encircling Manhattan captured the imagination of tunnelers and challenged their ingenuity. The first to accept the challenge was a somewhat mysterious Californian named DeWitt Clinton Haskin, who turned up in New York in the 1870's with a proposal to tunnel through the silt under the Hudson River between Manhattan and Jersey City.

Haskin eventually abandoned the risky project. But a company organized by William McAdoo resumed the attack in 1902, working from both directions. McAdoo's men were forced to blast when they ran into an unexpected ledge of rock, but with this obstacle surmounted, the two headings met in 1904 and McAdoo donned oilskins to become the Hudson's first underwater bank - to - bank pedestrian. *World's Work* magazine proudly reported in 1906 that New York could now be described as a body of land surrounded by tunnels. Three one - way shafts beneath the Hudson and two under the Harlem River were already holed through; three more Hudson tubes were being built. Eight separate tunnels were under construction beneath the East River.

1. According to the passage, DeWitt Clinton Haskin came from
A) Jersey City (B) Europe (C) California (D) New York
2. What does the author imply about DeWitt Clinton Haskin's background?
(A) It did not qualify him to handle explosives.
(B) It was not something people knew much about.
(C) It included diverse work experiences.
(D) It included many inferior projects.
3. According to the passage, when did William McAdoo begin to work on the Hudson River tunnel?
(A) 1870 (B) 1902 (C) 1904 (D) 1906
4. According to the passage, the workers tunneling for William McAdoo were surprised to find which of the following where they were working?
(A) Oil (B) Silt (C) Rock (D) Shafts
5. The quotation from *World's Work* magazine in line 12 introduces facts about
(A) cities that were building new tunnels to Manhattan
(B) people's concern over the weakening of the city's foundation
(C) the role of New York City in promoting engineering
(D) the number of tunnels being built at the time
6. Where in the passage does the author refer to the first person to walk beneath the Hudson River?
(A) Lines 1 – 3 (B) Lines 4 – 6
(C) Lines 8 – 11 (D) Lines 14 – 15