

501 Reading Comprehension Questions

Questions 54 and 55 are based on the following paragraph.

In prolonged space flight, besides the obvious hazards of meteors, rocky debris, and radiation, astronauts will have to deal with muscle atrophy brought on by weightlessness; therefore, when they return to Earth, they face a protracted period of weight training to rebuild their strength.

- 54.** What is the most likely meaning of the underlined word *debris* as it is used in this passage?
- a. fragments
 - b. decay
 - c. bacteria
 - d. alien life
- 55.** The underlined word *atrophy*, as used in the paragraph, most nearly means
- a. pain.
 - b. wasting.
 - c. weakening.
 - d. cramping.

Question 56 is based on the following paragraph.

Most of the women in the orchestra wore conventional black skirts and white shirts during concerts and had their hair neatly pulled back. Robin, with her brightly colored clothing and unusual hair-styles, was considered quite eccentric.

- 56.** What is the meaning of the underlined word *eccentric* as it is used in the sentence?
- a. unconventional
 - b. joyful
 - c. unreliable
 - d. proud