


READING COMPREHENSION

 Time allowed for this section: 55 minutes

Directions: In this section you will read several passages. Each one is followed by several questions about it. For this section, you are to choose the one best answer, (A), (B), (C), or (D), to each question. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and fill in the space that corresponds to the letter of the answer you have chosen.

Answer all the questions following a passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage.

Read the following passage.

One of the most successful communal experiments in the New World was that of the Shakers, a sect that fled from England to New York State in 1774 in order to escape religious bigotry. In America, they adopted the name Shaker, once used derisively by the English to describe the dance they performed when in a state of religious ecstasy. At the movement's peak, in the decade prior to the Civil War, there were 6,000 Shakers in 18 communities throughout the eastern states. Since then, however, the Shakers have almost dwindled away. Today only two active Shaker communities remain, with a total membership of eighteen, all female. The Shakers, resigned to the death of their sect, have never believed that everyone could be persuaded to share their beliefs.

Example 1:

Where did the Shaker movement begin?

- (A) The eastern states
- (B) The New World
- (C) New York
- (D) England

Sample Answer

A B C D