

Practice Exercise 6

November 9, 1965—it was a pleasant day. The evening exodus from the hearts of the great cities had just begun, when, without warning, lights in office towers flickered out and died at 5:16 p.m. Thousands of feet above, astonished airline pilots saw Manhattan fade, then disappear. In eight minutes, a near total electrical eclipse had swept over an area slightly smaller than Great Britain but crowded with thirty million people. A massive power failure had torn the intricate electrical grid that served parts of eight states and sections of Ontario, Canada. The Great Blackout, as it came to be called, was the first dramatic warning that the relationship between energy supply and demand had reached a precarious balance.

1. From the fact that all electrical power was lost in the affected area, you can conclude that
 - a. elevators stopped.
 - b. traffic lights blinked out.
 - c. subway trains ground to a halt.
 - d. all of the above occurred.
2. Because an electrical failure could sweep through such a large area in eight minutes, you can conclude that
 - a. such a thing could never happen again.
 - b. the distribution network was fragile.
 - c. Great Britain is likely to suffer a similar outage since it is approximately the same size.
 - d. high demand in Manhattan was the cause.
3. You can conclude that
 - a. planes en route to Manhattan had to land elsewhere.
 - b. people in Great Britain began to panic when they heard the news.
 - c. Canadians later withdrew from the electrical grid.
 - d. people in the area sold their homes and moved.
4. Underline the sentence that supports the conclusion in number 3.