Ontario’s Agawa Canyon Train Tour welcomes visitors aboard comfortable coaches for one of the most spectacular train excursions in North America. Departing from Sault Ste. Marie, the Algoma Central Railroad’s one-day wilderness excursion takes passengers 180 kilometers northwards, over towering trestles, alongside unspoiled northern lakes and rivers, and through the awesome granite rock formations and mixed forests of the Canadian Shield. This scenery inspired the Group of Seven to paint some of Canada’s most notable landscape art. The rugged land shows little evidence of the Ojibway, fur traders, lumberjacks and prospectors who lived here in earlier times. After a few hours, the train coasts 150 meters down to the floor of the Agawa Canyon where passengers spend two hours experiencing the rugged beauty up close, including four sets of waterfalls and a breathtaking lookout. The train excursions are especially popular during autumn when Algoma country is ablaze with colour. The Snow Train’s passengers can experience the majestic power and beauty of a Canadian winter as they journey through panoramic views, snow-laden trees and waterfalls transformed into fantastic ice sculptures. In any season, the spectacular scenery provides photographers with many opportunities to capture on film the magnificence of the rugged Canadian landscape.

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Section F: Reading  
FMSS OSSLT Activity 2008 2009

Multiple-Choice (Record the best or most correct answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

1. Why is the Agawa Canyon Train Tour especially popular during autumn?
   A The rates are cheaper.
   B The landscape is colourful.
   C The temperature is more comfortable.
   D The tours will soon stop for the winter.

2. Which of the following had the most lasting impact on the Agawa Canyon?
   A railroads
   B prospecting
   C the fur trade
   D the lumber industry

3. Why does the author describe the county as "ablaze" with colour?
   A The canyon has been on fire in the past.
   B The colours are similar to those seen in a fire.
   C They set the trees on fire.
   D The colours are ablazing.

4. What are "towering trestles"?
   A long hair.
   B fencing that controls the growth of flowers.
   C large support beams that hold the train tracks off the canyon floor.
   D large trees that climb high into the air along portions of the Agawa Canyon.

5. A painter or a photographer would be most inspired by:
   A the towering trestles
   B the granite rock formations
   C the 150-metre descent
   D the 180-kilometre journey

6. "The rugged land shows little evidence of the Ojibway, fur traders, lumberjacks and prospectors who lived here in earlier time." The commas in this sentence are used to:
   A separate the items
   B emphasize the items
   C give the reader time to think
   D create a list

7. What ideas connect the first and last sentences?
   A photography
   B rock climbing
   C train rides
   D the Canadian/Ontario landscape
Section F: Reading

Written Answer

8. **Would you like to take a trip on the Agawa Canyon Train Tour?** Use information from this selection—and your own ideas—to support your answer.

9. **Summarize** this selection. Include a main idea and one point that supports it.

Rough notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.