ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reading Comprehension Passage 04 MCQ Test With Answers – GORBACHEV'S TRAGEDY

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1	A	2	B	3	C	4	D	5	E										

Explanations

1. ***Choose the appropriate interpretation:***
✓ A) The Soviet leaders had formerly been very harsh and intolerant toward any democratic demands in Eastern Europe.
The first sentence says Gorbachev's predecessors had used **the Red Army to crush democratic aspirations** in Eastern Europe. **Crush** means to stop something completely and by force, so the earlier Soviet leaders were **harsh and intolerant** toward democratic demands. Not the option saying they took no interest at all: using the army to crush these hopes shows they cared very much about stopping them.

2. ***Choose the inappropriate interpretation:***
✓ B) Mr. Gorbachev took great pleasure in seeing the satellites break away from Soviet control.
Here you must find the statement the passage does NOT support. The passage says Gorbachev watched **with no hint of regret** and looked on **unconcernedly**, which means calmly and without strong feelings. It never says he **took great pleasure** in the satellites breaking away. The other options match the text: no regret, no intervention in German reunification, indifference, and behaviour that **amazed and delighted the West**.

3. ***The Red Army***
✓ C) had been known in the past to be powerful enough to put down any uprising in Eastern European countries.
The passage says earlier leaders **had put to use the Red Army to crush democratic aspirations** in Eastern Europe. This shows the army had been strong enough in the past to **put down** (stop by force) any uprising there. Not **the only obstacle on the road to democracy**: the passage never says this, and **only** is too strong.

4. ***Mr. Gorbachev***
✓ D) wasn't so sure of his political stand when the Soviet Union itself began to crumble and fall.
The second paragraph says that **only when the Soviet Union itself began to disintegrate did he begin to have second thoughts**. To have **second thoughts** means to start doubting a decision, so he was no longer sure of his political stand. Not **took great pleasure in amazing and delighting the West**: the passage says his words amazed the West, but not that he enjoyed doing this.

5. ***An appropriate subtitle for the passage might be:***
✓ E) Not Quite So Sure Now
The passage first quotes Gorbachev saying **We no longer think we are unquestionably right**. It then ends with him having **second thoughts** when his own country began to fall apart. **Not Quite So Sure Now** sums up this change from confidence to doubt. Not **Second Thoughts On A Great Soviet Leader**: that would mean other people changing their opinion of Gorbachev, but the passage is about his own doubts.

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