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Carefully read the excerpt below, taken from an article in The Wall Street Journal, then answer the three questions that follow.

1 NASA's now-retired fleet of space shuttles and other launchers used globally for manned missions were designed to be fueled hours before liftoff—with astronauts and ground personnel typically barred from the pad area until the process was finished.

5 “Over the last year and a half, NASA and SpaceX have performed a detailed analysis of all potential hazards” stemming from the fueling process, and required controls were approved by agency officials in July, the company said in a statement Monday. “These analyses and controls will be carefully evaluated in light of all data and corrective actions resulting from” the investigation of the Sept. 1 accident, the statement said.

10 Investigators believe operational issues linked to fueling procedures, rather than a manufacturing flaw, likely caused the explosion, which also destroyed a commercial satellite.

SpaceX recently issued an update to its investigation indicating that it managed to re-create the complex interplay of variables—including pressure and temperature—suspected of rupturing a helium tank inside the Falcon 9 booster's upper stage.

Source Reference: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/nasa-advisory-group-raises-concerns-about-spacex-rocket-fueling-plans-1477955860>

1. In line 13, the word “interplay” refers to:

- A) Errors that occurred in the manufacturing of the Falcon 9
- B) A combination of aircraft variables that influence each other
- C) The results of the pending investigation on the Falcon 9
- D) Direct causes of the explosion, such as pressure and temperature

2. The reporter's usage of a quotation in lines 3-8 primarily serve the purpose of:

- A) Persuading the reader of a specific cause of the accident
- B) Demonstrating the resulting steps taken after the accident
- C) Showing one person's perspective of the accident
- D) Discrediting the officials of NASA

3. Which pair of words best describes NASA, based solely off the first paragraph of this excerpt?

- A) Cautious and Systematic
- B) Unprepared and Anxious
- C) Explorative and Bold
- D) Careless and Foolish

## Answer Key:

1. B
2. B
3. A