Read the poem below. Then answer the questions that follow.

"Dulce et Decorum Est"
by Wilfred Owen

1 Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,
Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,
Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs,
And towards our distant rest began to trudge.

5 Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots,
But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame, all blind;
Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots
Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! - An ecstasy of fumbling
10 Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime. -
Dim through the misty panes and thick green light,
As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

15 In all my dreams before my helpless sight
He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.
If in some smothering dreams, you too could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,

20 His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,
If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs
Bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, -

25 My friend, you would not tell with such high zest
To children ardent for some desperate glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est

Pro patria mori.¹

PUBLIC DOMAIN

¹ Literal translation: It is sweet and right to die for your country.
1. Which statement best summarizes the central idea of this poem?

(A) It is one’s patriotic duty to fight for one's country, regardless of how unpleasant the consequences.

(B) Those who praise war and promote the involvement of young people are promoting a false image of glory.

(C) Engaging in war involves tremendous sacrifice and bravery for the public good.

(D) All possible methods of resolving conflict should be pursued before young people are asked to fight for their country.

2. Part A

What do the first four lines of stanza 1 suggest about the current situation of the soldiers?

(A) They have come to depend upon each other for their continued survival.

(B) They are depressed because they failed to achieve the day’s objectives.

(C) They have been at war so long that they can barely remember their former lives.

(D) They are retreating to their camp to escape the fighting.
What does stanza 3 show about the soldiers’ situation?

(A) The soldiers are not really able to leave the battle behind.

(B) The soldiers learn to fend for themselves during a crisis.

(C) The soldiers are capable of doing what they have to do.

(D) The soldiers are so weary that their mental state is affected.
In what three ways does this poem challenge or disagree with the idea that to die for your country is a noble thing to do?

(A) It treats the outcome of a battle as less important than soldiers’ experiences.
(B) It shows the pain soldiers feel when society does not appreciate their sacrifices.
(C) It portrays soldiers as essentially powerless.
(D) It suggests that men are forced to become soldiers against their will.
(E) It implies that soldiers who are truly brave do not care about making sacrifices.
(F) It establishes that the ancient Romans were the last true soldiers.
(G) It denies the possibility of soldiers dying with dignity.