



Daily Article (Bharath's Reading list) - Answers and Explanations 09.08.2023

Article link : <https://bit.ly/3ON9Vsh> (The Devil in the Routine: The crash of Spanair flight 5022)

1. Which of the following was not a contributing factor to the crash of Spanair flight 5022?

- A. Regulatory failures that prevented detection of the faulty warning systems
- B. A series of delays, interruptions, and stressors affecting a normally competent crew who attempted takeoff without extending the flaps and slats
- C. Poor checklist design at European airlines, stall procedures which did not draw attention to the position of the flaps, and a takeoff warning system that was not checked before every flight
- D. The aircraft in question being a fairly old model retired by all other airlines due to the lack of modern safety systems and avionics

Explanation : D

The article mentions all given points except D. Note the line, 'Although the airline was under special observation due to its poor financial status, recent audits by European and Spanish authorities had found no serious safety problems, and a separate inspection by Boeing experts concurred.'

2. Based on the article, which of the following is not true?

- A. The TOWS is a safety critical system which deserves to be held to a high standard of mechanical reliability
- B. The crash of Spanair flight 5022 was entirely preventable, not only by the crew, but by others too along the long road to disaster
- C. Despite poor checklist design being identified as a reason for similar crashes to the Spanair one in the past, neither Spain nor the European Union followed the checklist design guidelines developed by the FAA in the wake of the other crashes

D. None of the above

Explanation: D

Based on the article, options A, B and C are all true.

3. Which of the following best explains the title of the article?

A. The fire started by the crash of Spanair flight 5022 took on wildfire characteristics and burned several hectares of land and among the effects observed was a smoke devil

B. The author believes that within every pilot, there is an unconscious but persistent tendency to force past checks and takeoff without extending flaps, as though driven by a devil on their shoulder, a devil only well-designed procedures can defeat

C. The devil is in the details; plane crashes are more often due to systemic deficiencies including poor procedural design and regulatory failures than due to pilot error

Explanation: B

Refer to the last paragraph. Option A is unrelated to the title. Also, the article does not say that more crashes are due to systemic deficiencies than due to pilot error.