PART II - READING (30 pts.)

TEXT I

TAJ MAHAL IN INDIA

1 Every year, thousands of tourists visit the Taj Mahal, the world’s most well-preserved and architecturally beautiful tomb. To the western World, the image of the curved White domes of the Taj Mahal is connected with India.

2 The story behind the Taj Mahal has its roots in the Mughal Dynasty, a line of Muslim Emperors who reigned in India from 1526 to 1858. During this time, Indian culture and art developed and left many structures of historical significance to Indo-Islamic architecture. But none are as famous as the Taj Mahal.

3 In 1612, one of the world’s greatest love stories began when Mumtaz Mahal, a Muslim Persian Princess married Shah Jehan, known as Prince Khurram before he became king in 1628. The queen’s real name was Arjumand Banu. In the tradition of Mughals, important women of royal family were given another name when they married. Although Mumtaz was Shah Jehan’s second wife, she was considered his ultimate love match. By all accounts, Mumtaz and the emperor were soul mates. Mumtaz accompanied her husband throughout his military expeditions, and was his most trusted political adviser. Unfortunately, as with any legendary love story, tragedy lurked in their future. In 1630, Mumtaz died while giving birth to her 14th child.

4 The death of Mumtaz affected the emperor so deeply that his black hair and beard turned snow white in just a few months. The emperor was overcome with grief, and swore to keep his wife’s memory alive forever. He decided to build her a monument of eternal love. Because Mumtaz was loved by the people with her kindness, the emperor’s citizens were inspired to help build the spectacular monument.

5 After twenty two years and combined effort of twenty thousand workmen and master craftsmen, the monument was finally completed in 1648 at a cost of 32 million rupes. It was built with materials from all over India and Central Asia and required 1000 elephants to transport the material to the site. Construction documents show that Ustad Isa, a famous architect of his time, was the genius behind the structure.

6 The Taj Mahal, built entirely of white marble, uses an architectural design known as interlocking arabesque. Each element of the structure can stand on its own and integrate with the main structure. The central dome, called the Taj, is 58 feet in diameter and 213 feet high. The marble walls inside the dome are covered with intricate mosaic patterns and precious stones. Within the dome lies the jewel inlaid tomb of the queen. The only asymmetrical object in the Taj Mahal is the casket of the emperor.
Four domed chambers surround the Taj. The Mausoleum is part of a vast complex with a main gateway, garden, mosque, guesthouse and several other palatial buildings. A large garden is divided at the centre by four reflecting pools. Like the Taj, the garden elements follow the Arabesque concept, standing on their own and constituting the whole.

One of the most interesting aspects of the Taj Mahal is the magical quality of its changing colors. The Yamuna River behind the Taj reflects light onto the white marble. Depending on the hour of the day or the season, the colors of the Taj are different. The best time to view its stunning beauty is at dawn or sunset.

A. For questions 1-8, match the paragraphs with the main topics. (0.5 pt. each; 4 pts.)

a. An architectural beauty in India
b. The elements surrounding Taj Mahal
c. A promise to build a monument for Mumtaz Mahal
d. The importance of Taj Mahal in Indo-Islamic culture
e. The variety of colours on Taj Mahal
f. The love between Mumtaz and Shah Jehan
g. The architectural design of Taj Mahal
h. The construction of the monument

1.____  2.____  3.____  4.____  5.____  6.____  7.____  8.____

B. For questions 9-17, complete the summary of the text. DO NOT WRITE MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the passage for each answer. (1 pt. each; 9 pts.)

The Taj Mahai, which is the world’s most excellent tomb with respect to architecture, is visited by lots of tourists every year. The Taj Mahal, which was built by the Mughal Dynasty, reigning India between 16th and 19th century, is more (9) ______ than the other buildings. In 1612, when Mumtaz Mahal married Shah Jehan, she was thought as his (10) ______. Mumtaz went to his (11) ______ with him. However, this happiness didn’t last for a long time and in 1630 she passed away while giving birth to her 14th child, which (12) ______ Shah Jehan negatively. Therefore, he intended to construct a monument which shows their (13) ______. All the people living in India assisted to build the monument because people liked her thanks to her (14) ______. Finally, in 1648 the monument was completed by using material from India and Central Asia with the help of a well-known architect known as Ustad Isa. The Taj Mahal, which was constructed by using white marble entirely, utilizes architectural style called (15) ______. Moreover, mosaic patterns are used to build the walls inside the dome. The (16) ______ are one of the most fascinating features of the Taj Mahal because as the hour of the day changes, colours become (17) ______.

_______ / 9
C. For questions 18 – 19, circle the best answer according to the reading text. (1.5 pts. each; 3 pts.)

18. The writer’s main purpose in this passage is to ____________.
   a) give information about how Taj Mahal was constructed and features of the building
   b) show what kind of materials are used while interior part of the building was built
   c) show how Shah Jehan fell in love with his wife and decided to build the building
   d) inform people about the changing colours of Taj Mahal

19. Which of the following is NOT true according to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8?
   a) All the objects except for the casket are symmetrical.
   b) An Arabic architectural design was used in the construction.
   c) The colour of the building changes according to the hour of the day and the season.
   d) Different coloured marbles were used in the construction of the Taj Mahal.

_________ / 3
TEXT II

MARCO POLO

The name Marco Polo has excited the imagination of children and adults alike for hundreds of years. This famous explorer left his home in Venice in 1271 to embark upon a twenty-four-year odyssey that took him where no European had been before—across the Middle East to Central Asia, Peking, and eventually to the court of mighty Mongol emperor, Kublai Khan. Yet, when Marco returned home, he told the amazing stories to very few people.

In the thirteenth-century Europe, merchants wanted to expand their business to new parts of the world. Among them were Marco’s father and uncle, who had already successfully made one training expedition to Asia. (1) _______. But, by the time they arrived in Cathay (present day China) three and half years later, Marco had learnt enough—including four new languages—to gain the confidence and trust of Kublai Khan himself.

Kublai, who wanted to learn as much as possible about western cultures, welcomed the Polos to his court. (2) _______. When he needed accurate accounts of life in many regions of his huge empire, he gave the job to Marco. For seventeen years, Marco travelled thousands of miles and kept detailed journal of the empire’s diverse customs and practices.

In time, the Polos grew eager to return home. Kublai gave one last assignment—to escort a Mongolian princess to Persia where she was to marry the king. From there they continued on to Venice.

When they returned home in 1295, Marco’s stories about people who used paper money, published books with movable type, spoke hundreds of dialects but communicated with one writing system, were rejected as flights of fancy. For Europeans who believed that no civilization could be greater or more advanced than their own, his tales of highly organized, efficiently managed empire that spread from China to Iraq and Russia were too bizarre to be believable. (3) _______.

Marco continued life as a successful merchant trader and adventurer. (4) _______. On his deathbed in 1324, at the age of seventy, Marco was asked to if he wanted to admit he told the lies about Cathay. Marco replied, “I didn’t tell half of what I saw because I knew no one would have believed me.”
A. Insert the appropriate sentence into the appropriate place in the text by writing the correct letter. There is ONE extra which you won’t use. (1 pt. each; 4 pts.)

a. “It is Marco Polo” became a popular expression meaning “it is an exaggerated story.”

b. Marco joined his father and uncle’s second journey east as an inexperienced young man.

c. But people still regarded the stories of his great journey with suspicion.

d. When Marco was a small child, he was always interested in Far East.

e. He developed great respect for them and sought their advice.

________ / 4

B. Circle the best answer according to the reading text. Choose ONE option. (1 pt. each; 4 pts.)

5. What does the passage mainly discuss?
   a) Chinese inventions and their effects
   b) The Mongol court in Peking
   c) Disbelief in Marco Polo’s stories
   d) Marco Polo and his success as a sailor

6. It can be inferred from the passage that Marco Polo’s father and uncle were ________.
   a) merchants
   b) diplomats
   c) fishermen
   d) farmers

7. According to the passage, all of the following are reasons that Europeans did NOT believe Polo’s stories EXCEPT ________.
   a) Europeans were unfamiliar with paper money
   b) other explorers had already been to Cathay
   c) they thought that no society could be more advanced than European society
   d) they thought that it was impossible for citizens of one country to speak hundreds of dialects

8. Marco’s fame in Venice can be best described as ________.
   a) dishonest
   b) brave
   c) clever
   d) foolish

________ / 4
C. Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in the reading passage?
(1 pt. each; 6 pts.)

YES if the statement reflects the claims of the writer
NO if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

9. Marco Polo went out from Venice in the late twelfth century to go to different locations. _______
10. Marco’s father had several training journeys successfully to Asia. _______
11. Kublai showed ignorance about western cultures as he thought that his own culture was more advanced. _______
12. Marco Polo wrote records about Mongolian Empire’s culture. _______
13. Europeans did not use to like Asian culture until they listened to the stories of Marco Polo about the East. _______
14. Marco Polo confessed he had told many lies to people about his journeys before his death._______

________ / 6

READING TOTAL: ________ / 30
PART III – LANGUAGE USE (20 pts.)

A. For questions 1-10, read the text below and decide which option A, B, C or D best fits each space. (0.5 pt. each; 5 pts.)

Culture is central to the experience of living overseas”. Although Robert Kohls, in his book *Survival Kit for Overseas Living* (4th ed. 2001), wrote, "for Americans planning (1) __________ and work abroad", international students in the States certainly share similar experiences of cultural adjustments and transitioning (2) ____________ they are pursuing their studies. No matter (3) ____________ well the international student offices prepare the incoming students before their arrival, they are bound to experience some kind of culture shock. (4) ____________, they find ways to adapt and survive. Even for international students who (5) ____________ the English Language since kindergarten, they may still have difficulties, at least for a while, in listening and understanding American English in a cultural context. The following are some of the feelings and survival tips expressed and (6) ____________ by the international students and advisors.

The excitement (7) ____________ living in a new country and environment, meeting new friends, tasting new cuisines, but at the same time being homesick, are common feelings expressed by new international students. Although Americans are friendly and welcoming to international students, sometimes their "openness and political correctness can be (8) ____________. The details of housing arrangements, noise level in the dormitory, different means of transportation, too many choices and decisions to (9) ____________, or frequent invitations to orientation sessions, can be mind boggling. A comprehensive orientation program, which tries to provide all the academic, social, intercultural, and immigration information, can be "over-stuffed". Students feel that they (10) ____________ the "down-time" to adjust however it is inevitable not to experience some problems related to American culture.

1. a) living b) live c) to live d) to have lived
2. a) while b) after c) before d) by the time
3. a) when b) what c) where d) how
4. a) However b) As a result c) In addition d) In contrast
5. a) have studied b) study c) had studied d) studied
6. a) solved b) consulted c) provided d) examined
7. a) in b) at c) on d) of
8. a) trivial b) respected c) disturbing d) unnecessary
9. a) make b) do c) have d) get
10. a) are not having b) will not be having c) have not had d) do not have

PART A: _________ / 5
B. For questions 11 - 16, use the words in bold (if there is any) and complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (1 pt. each; 6 pts.)

11. He worked very hard to win the Olympics. That’s why he is a champion now.

If ___________________________________________________________.

12. I’m sure Jack didn’t attend the seminar because he was on a business trip.

CAN’T
Jack ______________________________________________________ because he was on a business trip.

13. He made a great effort to become successful in the competition. He was also lucky.

IN ADDITION TO
He made a great effort to become successful in the competition _____________________________.

14. My father regrets not accepting the job offered in London.

WISHES
My father ___________________________________________________________ the job offered in London.

15. The rain in the east of Spain started three hours ago.

FOR
It ____________________________________________________________.

16. ‘Will you go to Dan and Kate’s wedding ceremony?’ asked Henry.

Henry wanted to know _____________________________________________.

PART B: _______ / 6
The reason why children become more excited than adults at receiving gifts has (17) ___________ identified by scientists. They found that the areas of the brain involved in processing rewards were far more active in younger people (18) ___________ they received a prize. This explained why children found it almost impossible (19) ___________ hide their excitement on birthdays.

(20) ___________ team from the US National Institute of Mental Health used scans to study (21) ___________ parts of the brain were stimulated when rewards were presented to participants. Younger people showed more activity in key brain areas while they were viewing a video game (22) ___________ received money.

Dopamine, a chemical that carries messages between brain cells, is believed (23) ___________ act as a ‘currency’ in the brain’s reward processing areas. However, the brain’s dopamine system declines with age. The study suggested that this is why receiving presents feels less thrilling as people (24) ___________ older.

The scientists say that targeting these dopamine mechanisms may help in the development (25) ___________ the ways of treating various disorders of the reward system, (26) ___________ as pathological gambling and drug addiction.
Young people are suffering ten times more back pain than their parents did at the same age according to a survey due to long hours spent on PCs and computer games. Figures from the survey show that (27) __________________ knees are afflicting 63 percent of under 18s in comparison with only three percent of 55 year olds who had knee problems in their (28) __________________. The survey blames lack of exercise, (29) __________________ lifestyles and longer working hours. Lack of opportunity to get off the pavement and walk on a (30) __________________ landscape is also responsible for problems like backache, ankle (31) __________________ and joint pain, it says. More than eight out of ten of those surveyed only ever walk on concrete. Joshua Wies, a physiotherapist said “It is very (32) __________________ that under 18s are experiencing problems that are usually associated with the pensioners”. Are we going to start seeing teenagers having (33) __________________ for hip problems something that was completely (34) __________________ just a decade ago?

**PART D: _______/4**

**LANGUAGE USE TOTAL: _______/20**