Unit 5. CULTURAL IDENTITY

READING

I. Choose the word or phrase among A, B, C or D that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

Travelling is a great thing to do. It helps us learn about different people and different places. Some people travel because they want to see nature. Others travel because they want to make friends and try great food. Of course, a lot of tourists are interested in (1) ____ culture.

Tourism can be very good for traditional cultures. This is because when people travel to (2) ____ country, they often want to learn more about that country's traditions, such as music, food, and history. Therefore, the local people in that country will keep their traditional culture (3) ____. They will wear traditional clothing, and sell traditional food. They will also have shows for tourists. These shows can be (4) ____, concerts, plays, or something else.

Tourism also helps people respect each other. If you understand another culture well, you will probably respect that culture much more. You will probably want to (5) ____ that culture as well.

However, tourism is not always good for traditional culture. Many people say that tourism creates "fake traditional culture". This means that the local people wear traditional (6) ____, and do traditional dances only for tourists, but that is not their real lifestyle. Their real lifestyles are similar (7) ____ the tourists lifestyle. They are just pretending because they want to make money.

Another problem is that tourists can interfere with the local people's lives. For example, sometimes tourists come to watch local people praying in temples. While the local people pray, tourists take photographs and make noise. This often bothers the local people. Sometimes tourists also damage local sites. If 500 people enter an (8) ____ temple every day, they may damage that temple.

No matter (9) ____, more and more tourists want to learn about traditional cultures. Most local people want more tourism, because tourists bring money and help local businesses. Tourists have to respect local culture and places. Local governments have to make laws that protect places and lifestyles. If everyone is responsible, then tourism will be (10) ____ for traditional cultures.

1. A. ideal	B. traditional	C. regular	D. new
2. A. other	B. others	C. one	D. another
3. A. alive	B. clean	C. beautiful	D. luxury
4. A. dances	B. foundations	C. establishment	D. fact
5. A. work	B. train	C. protect	D. prevent
6. A. shows	B. costumes	C. acts	D. symbolizes
7. A. with	B. for	C. by	D. to
8. A. ancient	B. attractive	C. impressive	D. famous
9. A. what	B. how	C. that	D. when
10. A. big	B. large	C. great	D. nice

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II. Fill in the blank with a suitable word in the box.

1. encountered 2. foundation 3. influence . 4. code 5. belief

6. practicing 7. principles 8. represents . 9. embrace 10. Traditions

The definition of cultural identity, in its most basic form, is a sense of belonging. This includes a shared sense of companionship, beliefs, interests and basic (1) ..... of living. When a person identifies with their culture, they often (2) ..... traditions that have been passed down through the years. The cultural identity links a person to their heritage, and it can help them to identify with others who have the same traditions and basic (3) .....systems.

Some people claim that a person's cultural identity is the (4) ....._ or groundwork on which every other aspect of their being is built. It is the cornerstone of what makes them who they are. Following one's culture often means (5) .....a specific religion, wearing a certain type of clothing or something else that (6) .....their culture. It creates an outward visible means of identifying that person as part of a particular culture or nationality.

The Aboriginal tribes of Australia and New Zealand are excellent examples of this. Many tribes still live and behave as they did when they first (7) .....white civilization. They hunt, dress, celebrate and live their lives as if no one has ever attempted to (8) .....them. They follow a tribal form of government and also stick to a strict (9) .....of ethics both in tribal and family life. (10) .....are often passed down from generation to generation and have been in existence for hundreds of years.

III. Read the following passage and choose the best answer to each of the questions.

UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S CASTE SYSTEM

It has been said that life is what we make of it. In other words, if we work hard and focus on our goals, we can have great careers and enjoy high status is society. However, these opportunities don't exist for everyone. In some places, the family you are born into will decide almost everything about your life. India's caste system is an example of **this**.

The caste system is a major part of the Hindu religion that has existed for thousands of years. It is a way of organizing and grouping people based on the occupation of the family. Castes will determine whom people can socialize with and their place in society. Originally, a person's caste was supposed to be determined by their personality, but over time it has been linked to their job and family.

There are four classes, also known as varnas, in India's caste system. The highest one is Brahmin. People in this class have jobs in education and religion. These are seen as extremely important functions for the society as they deal with the knowledge. The second highest level is the Kshatriya, or **ruling** class. People from this group can be soldiers, landowners, or have jobs in politics. The class beneath this is the Vaishya. These people often work in the commercial sector as merchants. The fourth class level is the Shudra. Shudras typically work as unskilled laborers doing factory or farm work, or they may also be employed as artists.

There is another group, the Harijan, that is at the bottom and considered to be outside of the caste system. For many years, they were known as Untouchables, people from this caste held the most undesirable

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jobs in society, such as cleaning up garbage. Furthermore, they weren't allowed to pray at public temples or drink water from the same wells as other classes. If someone from another caste came into contact with an Untouchable, they were considered dirty and would be expected to bathe vigorously to clean themselves,

Although the caste system still exists in India, the government is taking steps to improve the living conditions and decrease unemployment rates for the Shudras and Harijan. This includes providing better health care, offering literacy programmes, and making sure that people from higher social classes do not exploit them. It seems unlikely that the caste system will disappear any time soon, but the overall conditions for those at the bottom do seem to be improving.

1. Which of the following is not true about India's caste system?

A. The caste system has been used in India for a long time.

B. The Kshatriya is the second highest class.

C. Hard work helps people move up in the caste system.

D. It is possible that a Shudra would work on a farm.

2. The word "**this**" in paragraph 1 refers to ____.

A. the fact that your origin will mostly decide your future

B. the pleasure of life in India

C. the India's caste system existing for thousands of years

D. the major part of the Hindu religion

3. What is the caste system mainly based on?

A. What a person believes on

B. When a person starts school

C. Who a person's parents are

D. Where a person was born

4. What kind of job would a Brahmin likely have?

A. A priest B. A warrior C. An inventor D. A painter

5. What could replace the word "**ruling**" in paragraph 3?

A. defeating B. guessing C. delaying D. governing

6. All of the following are true about the Harijan EXCEPT that ____.

A. they used to be known as Untouchables

B. they had to do undesirable jobs in society

C. any contact between someone from another caste with an Untouchable was considered unacceptable

D. anyone from another caste coming to contact with an Untouchable is not allowed to pray at temples

7. What does the passage suggest about the future of the caste system?

A. One day soon it won't be used anymore in India.

B. It is probably going to get worse before it gets better.

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C. The bottom groups will rise to rule over the top classes.

D. It will likely continue to exist for a long time in India.

IV. Read the following passage and choose among A, B, C or D the correct answer to each of the questions.

The custom of paying a bride price before marriage is still a well-established part of many African cultures. In paying a bride price, the family of the groom must provide payment to the family of the bride before the marriage is allowed. The bride price can vary greatly from culture to culture in Africa. In the Zulu and Swazi tribes of southern Africa, the bride price often takes the form of cattle. In Western African kola nuts, shells, and other goods are often used for the payment of the bride price. The actual **payment of money** sometimes takes place, but the payment of goods is more frequent. The amount of paid in a bride price can also vary. In modern times, the bride price is occasionally quite small and its value is mainly symbolic. However, the bride price can still be quite high, especially among **prominent** or highly traditional families.

There are a number of justifications used to explain the payment of bride price. **The first** is that the bride price represents an acknowledgement of the expense the bride's family has gone in order to raise her and bring her up as a suitable bride for the groom. It also represents payment for the loss of a family member, since the bride will officially become a member of her husband's family and will leave her own. On a deeper level the bride price represents payment for the fact that the bride will bring children into the family of the groom, thereby increasing the wealth of the family. This concept is reinforced by the fact that the bride price must often be returned if the bride fails to bear children.

The payment of the bride price has quite a number of effects on African society. First, the payment of bride price acts to increase the stability of African family structures. Sons are dependent on their fathers and older relatives to help them pay the bride price of their wives, and this generally leads to greater levels of obedience and respect. The negotiations between the two families concerning the bride price allow the parents and other family members to meet and get to know one another before the marriage. Finally, since the bride price must often be repaid in case of divorce, the bride's family often works to make sure that any **marital** problems are solved quickly. Bride prices also work as a system of wealth distribution in African cultures, Wealthier families can afford to support the marriage of their son, and thus their wealth is transferred to other families.

1. According to paragraph 1, all of the following are true of the bride price EXCEPT ____.

A its amount and form can vary

B. its practice is occasionally only symbolic

C. it is a relatively new practice in Africa

D. it is generally higher among traditional families

2. Why does the author mention "**the payment of money**" in paragraph 1?

A. To stress that the use of goods in the payment of bride price is most common.

B. To demonstrate the differences in how rich and poor families pay the bride price.

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C. To illustrate how the practice of bride price has changed over time.

D. To demonstrate how expensive a bride price can be sometimes.

3. The word "**prominent**" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to ____.

A. educated B. important C. religious D. conservative

4. The phrase "**The first**" in paragraph 2 refers to the first ____.

A. marriage B. bride price C. payment D. justification

5. It can be inferred from the paragraph 2 that African families ____.

A. never see their daughters after marriage B. pay the bride price on the day of the wedding

C. place more value on men than women D. place great importance on childbirth

6. The author uses the word "**marital**" to indicate that the problems are related to ____.

A. money B. law C. marriage D. pregnancy

7. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

A. Sometimes the bride's family has to return the bride price to the groom's for equal distribution of wealth.

B. The initial negotiations over the bride price provide opportunities for 2 families to meet each other.

C. Animals are not an acceptable form of payment when it comes to paying the bride prices.

D. Without having to pay the bride price, African men would not respect their family members.

8. Why are women often married to older men?

A. Young men lack the financial to marry.

B. The legal age for marriage is lower for women than for men.

C. Families are eager to gain the bride price from their daughter's marriage.

D. Women live longer than men on average.

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