READING PRACTICE

I. Choose the best answer to complete the passage.

Studying a language in a country (1)……. it is widely spoken has many advantages. It is, therefore, a good idea to study English in a country such as Britain. (2)…., I believe it is not the only way to learn the language.

In the first place, most students in (3)…. countries learn English at secondary school, and sometimes at university nowadays. Although their spoken English is not usually of a very high standard, their knowledge of grammar is often quite advanced. This is certainly useful when students come to an English-speaking country to perfect the language.

Secondly, studying the basics of English at secondary school is (4) ….. than learning the language while overseas. This is because students living at home do not have to worry about problems such as finding accommodation, paying for their study and living costs, and trying to survive in a foreign country where day to day living (5) …. much stress.

1.	A. which	B. where	C. when	D. that
2.	A. Moreover	B. However	C. Therefore	D. Otherwise
3.	A. English speaking	B. English spoken	C. speaking English	D. non-English – speaking
4.	A. less stressful	B. less stressed	C. more stressful	D. more stressed
5.	A. results from	B. leads	C. causes	D. makes

II. Read the passage carefully. Then choose the correct answer.

Becky was preparing for a school trip to Cambodia. She had never been to Cambodia before so she surfed the Internet to find out more about the country. Cambodia has a population of 14.8 million people. It ranks sixty-eight in the world in terms of its population. About ninety-five percent of its people are Buddhists. The country's capital is Phnom Penh. As Becky continued to read about the country's history, she was appalled by its violent past. She read about the Khmer Rouge and their vile crimes against humanity. She read about their methods of torture and how many innocent people suffered. ***It*** was heartbreaking. She could not believe that such cruelty could possibly take place.

When Becky first arrived in Cambodia, she was engulfed in a wave of heat. Thankfully, the tour coach that they were on had air-conditioning. The pupils first checked into their hotel to settle down and had a short rest. The first places they visited were several cultural sites where they learnt about the people's culture and how they were trying to rebuild their lives. It was fascinating. That night, Becky had her first taste of Cambodian food. She was not very accustomed to the spices in their cuisine. The highlight of the next day's activities was a visit to the world-famous temple site, Angkor Watt. It was the largest Khmer temple complex in the world. The grounds were extensive and impressive. The old and ruined structures of the once majestic temples were now well-weathered by time and nature. The walls were crumbling but the architecture of whatever was left standing was enough to captivate anyone. This amazing structure was now a symbol of Cambodia. It was on the country's national flag and was the prime attraction for tourists. Becky took many photographs so that she could show them to her family when she returned home. The rest of the trip was really an eye-opener for Becky. She was shocked at the state of living conditions and how poor the people were. It was not easy for the people to try to rebuild their lives after decades of being ravaged by wars. After Becky returned to the United States, she learnt not to take her life for granted. She now realized how much she had compared to the other children in Cambodia. She was very thankful for her comfortable and peaceful life.

1. Why did Becky carry out research on Cambodia?

(A) She wanted to use the Internet.
(B) She had never been overseas before.
(C) She was interested in knowing about Buddhism.
(D) She wanted to know more about the country that she was visiting.

2.***What does the underlined word 'it' in paragraph one refers to?***

(A) Becky's heart
(B) Cambodia's population

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(C) The existence of innocent people
(D) The injustice which the Cambodian people suffered

3. ***According to paragraph two, which of the following is not true?***
(A) The weather in Cambodia was cool.
(B) Becky had not tasted Cambodian food before the trip.
(C) The pupils learnt about Cambodian culture during their trip.
(D) The pupils went to the hotel directly after reaching Cambodia.

4. ***Why did Becky take many photographs of Angkor Watt?***
(A) It was a temple site.
(B) It was on Cambodia's national flag.
(C) She wanted to show them to her family.
(D) It was well-weathered by time and nature.

5. ***According to the last paragraph, what did Becky learn on her trip?***
(A) She learnt how to open her eyes
(B) She learnt about the origin of war.
(C) She realized how lucky she was.
(D) She realized she was thankful to the Cambodian children.

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