Part I - READING COMPREHENSION (A)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions in English

Babylon 6

I

Babylon is an Israeli program that **translates** individual words or even long texts into many different languages with the click of a mouse. In 1997, this Israeli company sold computer users a CD-ROM that worked with Windows 95 and translated **individual words** from one language to another. Recently, the company switched to online sales.

II

Today, there are more than 35 million Babylon installations, many of them purchased by international companies. Home users, who are used to getting things free on the Web, will find many good reasons to pay for the newest version. In the new and **updated version**, you can translate not only words but also whole paragraphs at a time between any two of these languages: English, Hebrew, Arabic, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, German, Russian, Japanese, and Chinese.

III

Since updated words are constantly provided through the company's Web site, you will get new words added to the database automatically. It also provides 25 professional dictionaries in 13 languages. All you have to do is highlight a word or paragraph, click the right mouse button and press your keyboard's Shift key at the same time, and a "Babybox" opens on your screen. **Select the language** you want the text translated into and you will get it in seconds.

IV

Babylon's translation of texts gives an accurate idea of the content, but human translators don't have to worry about losing their jobs. This is because the program is not yet good enough to understand and translate full texts perfectly in the way **a native speaker** does.

(Adapted from *The Jerusalem Post, May 26, 2006*)

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QUESTIONS

1. ***Answer the following questions in*** English (40 points)

a. What is Babylon? (paragraph I)

_____

_____

b. What did a person need in order to use Babylon in 1997? (paragraph I)

_____

c. Where can a user buy Babylon today? (paragraph I)

_____

d. What **TWO** different types of users are mentioned in paragraph II?

_____(1

_____(2

e. In what way is the new version of Babylon different from the older one? (paragraph II)

_____

_____

f. How does a user get the updated words? (paragraph III)

_____

_____

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g. Why are human translators NOT worried? (paragraph IV)

_____

_____

_____

h. Translate the following words and expressions into Hebrew or Arabic according to their meaning in the context. These words and expressions appear in bold type in the text.

(i) translates (line 1) _____

(ii) individual words (line 4) _____

(iii) updated version (lines 9) _____

(iv) Select the language (line 18) _____

(v) a native speaker (line 23) _____

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