Passage 2

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions which follow it.

To be "engaged" basically means to pledge oneself or in the case of a couple planning to get married, to bind by a promise of marriage. A typical Malay wedding in Malaysia is usually a carnival of gaiety, fun, laughter, music and splendour. But before the actual wedding takes place, there is the traditional Malay engagement **ritual** for the couple to go through which is equally fascinating and elaborate.

For instance, if a young man has dated a girl several times, then it's quite natural for her parents to expect an engagement to be forthcoming. Once a **proposal** has been made and accepted, the boy's family will send some representatives to meet the girl's family in order to make the engagement arrangements. After a thorough consultation with the girl's family, the boy's representatives will decide upon the date for the engagement, the dowry and the number of trays of gifts for the engagement.

According to Malay custom, a "kenduri" (feast) or "jamuan" (banquet) is held for families, relatives and friends during the engagement. In addition, the boy's representatives will present an engagement ring, a box of "tepak sirih" (betal leaves) and "**bunga rampai**" (variety of flowers). The ring serves as an engagement gift while the betel leaves serve as a conversation opener, a symbol of friendliness and good luck. The flowers are an expression of the boy's love for the girl. In return, the boy is given a ring. Frequently, the "hantaran" (gifts) to the girl during the engagement will also include some cakes, fruit, jewellery, cosmetics and clothing. Generally, it is the norm that if the boy presents the girl with five trays of gifts for her engagement, then she must give him seven trays of gifts in return. And if he gives her seven trays of gifts, she must send him nine trays of gifts. Such is the Malay engagement tradition.

During the engagement period, should the pledge to marry be broken, there are two rules to be strictly observed. One is that if the boy initiates the broken engagement, then all his engagement gifts are forfeited and not returned. But should it be the girl who breaks off the engagement, then twice the amount of all the gifts and wedding expenses sent to the girl must be returned to the boy.

Usually, the date of the wedding is fixed a year or two in advance. This prolonged period of engagement allows the young couple more time to understand each other.

Traditionally, most Malay parents do not like to see a girl marrying before her older sisters. But when this happens, the young man is obliged to bring gifts for the older sisters of his prospective wife as a token of politeness for overstepping them in the marriage process. However, families do not mind if the girl marries before her elder brothers and no gifts are required for this.

(Adapted from *Talk Of The Town* – May 1991.)

11. The first paragraph tells us that _____.

A. the engaged couple have a great time dancing and having fun
B. the Malay engagement ritual is fascinating
C. a typical Malay wedding is a dull affair
D. a Malay engagement cannot be broken

12. The word **ritual** in line 4 can best be replaced by _____.

A. ceremony
B. marriage
C. occasion
D. meeting

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13. The word **proposal** in line 7 means _____.

A. a scheme of marriage
B. a show of marriage
C. a request to marry
D. a plan of marriage

14. Which of the following is decided before the engagement ceremony?

A. The date of the engagement.
B. The type of engagement ring.
C. The number of trays of gift for the wedding ceremony.
D. The number of people to invite for the wedding ceremony.

15. The **"bunga rampai"** (line14) is given as _____.

A. a sign of the boy's love for the girl
B. a symbol of friendliness
C. a sign of good luck
D. a dowry

16. From the passage we can conclude that of a boy presents the girl with three trays of gifts for the engagement, then she must give him _____ trays of gifts in return.

A. three
B. four
C. five
D. six

17. The last paragraph of the passage is about a young man _____.

A. finding a suitable husband for his sisters-in-law
B. marrying his prospective wife before the marriage of her elder sisters
C. marrying his prospective wife after the marriage of her elder brothers
D. giving gifts to his prospective wife's elder brother as a token of politeness

18. The date of the wedding is fixed a year or two after the engagement so that the young couple can have more time _____.

A. to understand their respective parents
B. to prepare the wedding gifts
C. to look for a place to stay
D. to get to know each other

19. Which of the following statements is **incorrect**?

A. The ring given to the girl by the boy serves as an engagement ring.
B. Trays of gifts are given to the girl's family during the engagement.
C. The girl's family will decide on the date of the engagement.
D. A feast is held during the engagement.

20. According to the passage, _____.

A. if the boy breaks off the engagement, then he has to give the girl double the amount of all the gifts and wedding expenses
B. if the girl breaks off the engagement, then she has to return double the amount of all the gifts and wedding expenses
C. if the boy breaks off the engagement, then the girl has to return all the gifts given to her by him
D. if the boy breaks off the engagement, then he has to pay the girl a certain sum of money

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