Reading Comprehension

Practice Test, Part B

TEXT 2: Famous Castles

Task: Match each castle (1–6) to one option (A–H). Two options are extra.

Options are paraphrases: e.g. "marriage ceremonies" = "weddings". Don't confuse similar things: "art collection" ≠ "jewellery".

Options (key words in bold):

A is attractive to people interested in the **history of dress**

B displays a collection of **jewellery**

C is used for holding **weddings**

D was protected by its **location**

E was used as a venue for **social events**

F was available as a **film location**

G inspired a famous **artist** with its scenery

H was a site of **archaeological digging**

Read all six descriptions:

1. Tintagel Castle (Great Britain)

After a period as a Roman settlement and military outpost, Tintagel became a trading settlement of Cornwall during the 5th and 6th centuries. The castle itself was constructed in the 13th century. Its remains are still breathtaking: steep stone steps and thick walls which encircle the great hall. There are many myths and unanswered questions surrounding Tintagel. It is even associated with the romance of Tristan and Isolde. The visitors of the local museum may see a display on the history of the site, including a series of finds from the medieval period excavations.

2. Arundel Castle (Great Britain)

Arundel Castle is a restored medieval castle. Since the 11th century, the castle has been in the family of the Duke of Norfolk and is still the principal seat of the family. Although the present Duke and Duchess still live in a section of the castle, the rest is open to the public. Arundel has been renovated and refurbished many times over the last seven centuries, and its spectacular gardens and beautiful exterior have served as a shooting area for several movies. The modern castle may also be used for Corporate Events and Conferences.

3. Ussé Castle (France)

Ussé Castle is a pretty castle situated close to the River Loire. It is said that Ussé was the inspiration for the Sleeping Beauty fairy tale. The castle is lived in, and much of it is not open to the public, but there is still plenty to enjoy, including the 15th century kitchen, an impressive dining room and some richly decorated bedrooms. For the past two decades, the castle has been filled with wax figures dressed in costumes from the 16th century up to now. The exhibition is changed each year to show the development of people's outfit.

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4. Eltz Castle (Germany)

Eltz Castle is set in the hills in the middle of the forest, surrounded on three sides by the river. It seems to have just grown out of the rock itself. Thanks to its beneficial position, it is among a few castles in Germany that have never been taken by enemies or destroyed. Remarkably, it is owned by the same noble family who built it over eight centuries ago, in the 12th century — 33 generations ago.

5. Leeds Castle (Great Britain)

Leeds Castle is what many people imagine when they think of an English castle. During its 900-year history, Leeds Castle has been the private property of six of England's medieval Queens and a palace used by Henry VIII. Lady Baillie, the last private owner, inherited the place in the early 1900s. In the 1930s, Lady Baillie entertained high society from London, coming to the castle for weekends. Today the interior offers visitors a glimpse of its rich past, with a fine collection of art, porcelain and furniture.

6. Urquhart Castle (Scotland)

Urquhart Castle was one of the largest strongholds of medieval Scotland. Though now in ruins, abandoned in the late 17th century, it remains an impressive structure overlooking Loch Ness. The castle is now owned by the National Trust for Scotland and run by Historic Scotland Fund, which undertook a major construction programme to create a visitor centre at the site and to improve parking facilities. The visitor centre includes a display on the history of the site, a cinema, a restaurant and a shop. Urquhart Castle also hosts marriage ceremonies throughout the year.

Matching

1. Tintagel Castle (Great Britain)

"Finds from medieval period excavations" — excavation = archaeological digging. Not fashion, not jewellery, not an artist.

Castle 1 = _____

2. Arundel Castle (Great Britain)

"Shooting area for several movies" — shooting = filming. Movies = films. Which option is about films?

Castle 2 = _____

3. Ussé Castle (France)

"Wax figures dressed in costumes... development of people's outfit" = how clothing changed. Clothing = dress. History of dress!

Castle 3 = _____

4. Eltz Castle (Germany)

"Surrounded by the river... thanks to its beneficial position → never taken by enemies." Its LOCATION protected it.

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Castle 4 = _____

5. Leeds Castle (Great Britain)

> "Entertained high society for weekends" = hosted social gatherings. □ Collection: art, porcelain, furniture — NOT jewellery!

Castle 5 = _____

6. Urquhart Castle (Scotland)

> "Hosts marriage ceremonies throughout the year." Marriage ceremony = wedding.

Castle 6 = _____

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