**10** What is the purpose of the passage?

A. to describe difficulties people might have on a desert trip

B. to report a journey to the hottest place on earth

C. to give advantages of travelling with others to a desert

D. to describe beautiful desert landscapes

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# PASSAGE 2

Questions 11-20

15 minutes

**GHI CHÚ**

Các câu hỏi dễ hơn cần ưu tiên trả lời đúng

★ Câu hỏi thông tin chi tiết: **14, 16, 17**

★ Câu hỏi từ vựng: **15, 18**

★ Câu hỏi ý chính: **11**

Volcanoes are both creators and destroyers. They can shape lands and cultures, but can also cause great destruction and loss of life. Two of the best-known examples are found at opposite ends of the world, separated by the Pacific Ring of Fire.

**Japan's Sacred Summit**

Located in the center of Japan, Mount Fuji is a sacred site. Japan's native religion, Shintoism, considers Fuji a holy place. Other people believe the mountain and its waters have the power to make a sick person well. For many, climbing Fuji is also a rite of passage. Some do it as part of a religious journey; for others, it is a test of strength. Whatever their reason, reaching the top in order to stand on Fuji's summit at sunrise is a



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must for many Japanese – and every July and August, almost 400,000 people attempt to do so.

Fuji is more than a sacred site and tourist destination, however. It is also an active volcano around which four million people have settled, and sits just 112 kilometers (70 miles) from the crowded streets of Tokyo. The last time Fuji exploded, in 1707, it sent out a cloud of ash that covered the capital city and darkened the skies for weeks. [A]

Today, new data have some volcanologists concerned that Fuji may soon erupt again. According to Motoo Ukawa and his associates at the National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention, there has been an increase in activity under Fuji recently, which may be caused by low-frequency earthquakes. Understanding what causes these quakes may help scientists predict when Fuji, the largest of Japan's 86 active volcanoes, will come back to life. In the meantime, locals living near Fuji hold special festivals each year to offer gifts to the goddess of the volcano – as they have for generations – so that she will not erupt and destroy the land and its people below.

**Mexico's Smoking Mountain**

Halfway across the globe from Fuji, El Popo – one of the world's tallest and most dangerous active volcanoes – stands just 60 kilometers (37 miles) southeast of Mexico City. Although the volcano has erupted many times over the centuries, scientists believe its last great eruption occurred around 820 A.D. In recent years, however, El Popo has been threatening to explode once more; in December 2000; almost 26000 people were evacuated when it started to send out ash and smoke. As with all active volcanoes, the question is not if it will erupt again (an eruption is inevitable); the question is when it will happen. [B]

"Every volcano works in a different way," explains Carlos Valdés González, a scientist who monitors El Popo. "What we're trying to learn here are the **symptoms** signaling that El Popo will erupt." These include earthquakes, or any sign that the mountain's surface is changing or expanding. The hope is that scientists will be able to warn people in the surrounding areas so they have enough time to escape. A powerful eruption could displace over 20 million people – people whose lives can be saved if the warning is delivered early enough. [C]

For many people living near El Popo – especially the farmers – **abandoning** their land is unthinkable. As anyone who farms near a volcano knows, the world's richest soils are volcanic. They produce bananas and coffee in Central America, fine wines in California, and enormous amounts of rice in Indonesia. [D]



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People who live near El Popo consider it as a god, a mountain, and a human all at the same time and present their offerings, asking the volcano to protect and provide for one more season.

**11** What is paragraph 2 mainly about?

A. how Mount Fuji became an important religious site

B. the healing properties of Mount Fuji

C. reasons people climb Mount Fuji

D. the visitors to Mount Fuji

**12** What is NOT a reason for people who climb Mount Fuji?

A. religion

B. testing their health

C. finding a cure for a disease

D. seeing the sunset

**13** Which of these statements about Mount Fuji is NOT true?

A. It is the largest volcano in Japan.

B. Scientists believe it may erupt soon.

C. It has erupted recently.

D. Locals have traditions concerning the mountain.

**14** How can scientists date the last great eruption of El Popo?

A. by talking to people who experienced the event

B. from videos of the eruption

C. from investigating geological evidence

D. from descriptions in religious books

**15** In paragraph 6, the word '**symptoms**' could be replaced with .

A. earthquakes

B. signs

C. sounds

D. lessons



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**16** What was the reason for the evacuation from El Popo in 2000?

A. Ash and smoke were seen coming from the mountain.

B. A large earthquake was felt.

C. A change in the mountain's surface was noticed.

D. A powerful eruption took place.

**17** Which statement is true about both Mount Fuji and El Popo?

A. They have both erupted recently.

B. They are both less than 100 kilometers from a very large city.

C. Locals present gifts to both volcanoes for protection.

D. They both provide rich soil used for producing coffee.

**18** The word '**abandoning**' in paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to

A. leaving

B. reaching

C. cultivating

D. farming

**19** In which space (marked A, B, C and D in the passage) will the following sentence fit?

*For this reason, people will stay on their land, even if they face danger.*

A. [A]

B. [B]

C. [C]

D. [D]

**20** Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

A. Volcanoes as religious sites

B. Destructive volcanoes

C. Two most famous volcanoes worldwide

D. Mount Fuji and El Popo – examples of active volcanoes

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