

Homework: Unit 7: Lesson 5

Reading

Reading



Exam tip: Summary completion tasks are often applied to passages that contain a lot of factual or technical information. Some of the words you need to use will be words related to a very specific area and you won't recognize them. The task directly assesses your ability to understand those words from the context.

A Look at the title of the passage on the next page and the pictures below. In pairs, answer the questions below.

1. What do you think a wattle and daub method of building involves?
2. What were the advantages and disadvantages of the method when it was widely used?
3. What is the appeal of wattle and daub in modern times?



B Use a dictionary to check the words in the box below if necessary. Then use each word to complete the topic sentences from each paragraph of the passage.

movement infills damage timber limewash gables panels

1. The wonderful irregularities of wattle and daub walls and the undulations of a distorted roofline are much of the attraction of a medieval _____-framed building.
2. Wattle and daub is one of the most common _____, easily recognizable by the appearance of irregular and often bulging panels that are normally plastered and painted.
3. The strength of wattle and daub is that it is able to accommodate even the most severe structural _____.
4. Traditional infill _____ in timber-framed buildings can perform extremely well if properly constructed and maintained.
5. Where timber framing was not plastered over, it was normal practice to _____ it each spring.
6. In some cases, weatherboarding or tile hanging may have been added over the infill panels, particularly on exposed _____, to protect them from the weather.
7. Through the passage of time, buildings may become neglected and some _____ is inevitable.

C Has reading the topic sentences helped you to predict more about the style and content of the passage? Discuss in pairs.

Wattle and daub

The wonderful irregularities of wattle and daub walls and the undulations of a distorted roofline are much of the attraction of a medieval timber-framed building. The walls gain their character from the timber frame which forms the load-bearing structure of the building, leaving open areas between that need to be filled in to keep the weather out. The type of infilling varies according to the function and status of the building, its location within the country and the locally available materials. It is probably fair to assume that if a material was readily available and could be adapted for use it would have been used as an infill to a timber-framed building at sometime, somewhere.

Wattle and daub is one of the most common infills, easily recognizable by the appearance of irregular and often bulging panels that are normally plastered and painted. Wattle is the arrangement of small timbers which form a matrix to support a mud-based daub. The timbers normally fall into two groups, the primary timbers or staves, which are held fast within the frame and the secondary timbers or withies, which are nailed or tied to the staves. Arrangement and sizes of panels vary from area to area, as does the orientation of the staves. The daub was applied simultaneously from both sides, pressed into and around the wattle in order to form a regular mass. Once the daub had hardened, the surface was dampened to receive a lime plaster covering. The surface plaster was usually made of lime and sand or other aggregates reinforced with animal hair or plant fibre. The plaster was finished flush, or in some cases, it would continue across the panels and timbers alike. This would allow less important timbers to be concealed and only principal timbers to be visible.

The strength of wattle and daub is that it is able to accommodate even the most severe structural movement. It is usually well sprung into the timber frame and offers support to weakening timbers that other forms of infill may not. Wattle and daub is not lightweight or flimsy. Its weight is not dissimilar to bricks, but its insulation is better and from a security point of view it can be far more difficult to break through than brick. Although wattle and daub is porous and moisture is absorbed when it rains, moisture levels are kept low because the daub acts like blotting paper to disperse the moisture and because of the high rate of evaporation from its surface. In moderate, sheltered conditions and if maintained, a wattle and daub panel should last indefinitely. Seven hundred-year-old examples are known to exist.

Traditional infill panels in timber-framed buildings can perform extremely well if properly constructed and maintained. Although in some areas of the country it was normal for infill panels to have protective plaster coatings which extended over the timber frame, it has become fashionable to remove plaster to expose timbers. This is likely to compromise the performance of the building and accelerate the decay of the previously protected structure. It is unreasonable to expect to have a timber frame exposed on both sides and not have draughts and some water penetration.

Where timber framing was not plastered over, it was normal practice to limewash it each spring. This was partly for hygienic reasons since fresh limewash acts as a mild disinfectant, but it also had the benefit of filling minor cracks caused by seasonal movement. Medieval buildings would have looked quite different from the more recent black and white interpretation that we see so often today.

In some cases, weatherboarding or tile hanging may have been added over the infill panels, particularly on exposed gables, to protect them from the weather. Removing the protective covering can lead to the recurrence of old problems. It would be wise to learn from our ancestors' experience and consider alterations only for specific reasons, rather than on purely aesthetic grounds. Decay is often caused by the introduction of hard cement into new renders and repairs, and by the use of modern impervious paints. Cement-based renders are brittle and often crack, especially at the junction with the timber frame. When it rains, water runs down the face of the panels because both the cement and the modern paints are impervious, soaking into the wall behind wherever a crack appears. The daub will become wetter and wetter over time, leading to the decay of the timber frame and wattles, as well as soggy, unstable daub. Only soft, porous and flexible finishes such as haired lime plaster and lime wash should be applied to daub.

Through the passage of time, buildings may become neglected and some damage is inevitable. Knowing whether a damaged panel should be repaired or replaced, even with experience, requires careful consideration, weighing up many factors such as age, importance, rarity, position and function within the building, condition and cost. Although cost has deliberately been placed at the end of this list it will, in many cases, be the deciding factor. Age, importance and rarity can be difficult to define without research, but all elements of ancient fabric are important and its loss erodes our heritage.

For questions 1–10, complete the summary. Use NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS from the text for each answer.

The building method known as wattle and daub is what gives the walls of many old buildings (1) _____. A vast range of (2) _____ can be used to fill in the panels between large timbers. Wattle is a (3) _____ of small timbers, which is covered by daub. It usually consists of two sizes of timbers, the larger of which are called (4) _____ and the smaller of which are known as (5) _____. Both sides of the wattle were covered in daub, to which (6) _____ was then applied. All but the largest timbers were usually (7) _____ by the finished panels. Wattle and daub is flexible and is not affected by (8) _____. It supports older timbers. It is also strong and provides greater (9) _____ than brick. The walls of these old buildings are porous, but wattle and daub absorbs and disperses water in the same way that (10) _____ does. In the right conditions, a wattle and daub panel should last forever.

For questions 11–16, complete the summary using the list of words A–O below. Write the correct letter as your answer.

There are various strategies when it comes to maintaining and protecting wattle and daub. Exposed timbers benefit from a regular wash with lime, which both cleans and addresses any slight (11) _____. Panels higher on the building will be exposed to (12) _____ and any structures designed to prevent attack should be left in place. It is best to deal only with what is necessary and not try to improve the (13) _____ of old buildings. Using the wrong materials on panels can be disastrous. Where there are (14) _____, hard cement will crack easily, while modern paints allow (15) _____ to penetrate daub and cause decay. Over time, there will be deterioration, especially when an old building lacks (16) _____, but restoration is a process that must be treated sensitively.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A value | B holes | C heat |
| D condition | E treatment | F wind and rain |
| G sunlight | H joints | I damage |
| J patches | K complications | L appearance |
| M attention | N support | O moisture |

For questions 17–20, choose the correct answer a, b, c or d.

17. The attraction of old buildings built using wattle and daub is that they ...
 - a. come in all shapes and sizes.
 - b. do not look perfectly regular.
 - c. are clearly very strong.
 - d. they have cost a lot of money to construct.
18. The secondary timbers or withies, which were part of the wattle ...
 - a. were held in place by large timbers.
 - b. were held in place by daub.
 - c. could move around freely.
 - d. were attached to slightly larger timbers.
19. Exposing larger timbers by removing panels of wattle and daub ...
 - a. has never become popular.
 - b. protects wood from decay.
 - c. will speed up deterioration.
 - d. keeps cold air out of the building.
20. Which of the following is not mentioned as a consideration when it comes to repairing wattle and daub?
 - a. how long the work will take
 - b. whether there are many other examples of the building
 - c. what the building is used for
 - d. how expensive the work will be

E Answer the questions below in small groups.

1. Are there old wattle and daub buildings in your country?
2. Do you think money spent restoring an old building is money well spent or should it be spent on building modern housing?
3. Would you prefer to live in an old house with character or a modern house built with the most up-to-date materials?

Listening

SECTION 3, Questions 21–30

Audio

QUESTIONS 21–23

Choose the correct letter, **A**, **B** or **C**.

21. Why does Sandra talk to the adviser?
- A** Sandra wants some tips about the exam.
 - B** Sandra is unprepared for the exam.
 - C** Sandra has lots of questions about the exam.
22. The adviser thinks that Sandra should
- A** eat nothing before the exam
 - B** leave home early to allow for traffic jams
 - C** be prepared to feel sleepy during the exam
23. To avoid feeling nervous while waiting for the exam she should
- A** talk to other students
 - B** read through her notes
 - C** look at questions from last year

QUESTION 24

Complete the sentence below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for the answer.

The adviser's most important piece of advice is to read the **24** _____ carefully.

QUESTIONS 25–29

Complete the table below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** for each answer.

From adviser to Sandra

Problem	Advice
1 Running out of time	• 25 _____ time for each question • wear a 26 _____ during the exam • guess the answer to as many questions as possible
2 Losing marks and 27 _____ (on essay questions)	• write the required number of words for each essay • allocate time for each essay according to marks

Problem	Advice
3 Feeling panicky or physically tired during the exam	- relax - take slow, deep breaths 28 _____ the arms, legs, neck and back
4 Making spelling, grammar and punctuation mistakes	29 _____ at the end for checking answers

QUESTIONS 30

Complete the sentence below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS OR A NUMBER** for the answer.

30. The adviser says that if she _____ and stays calm she will do well because she has worked hard and is prepared.

SECTION 4, Questions 31–40 Audio

QUESTIONS 31–33

Complete the notes below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

People borrow money for several reasons:

31. to buy a house you need a _____
 32. to buy a car you need to _____
 33. to buy everyday items you need _____

QUESTIONS 34–37

Complete the sentences below.

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

34. People in developed countries have _____ to credit.
 35. For poor people, they must use a private lender for a _____.
 36. People have increasing debts when they cannot _____.
 37. This might be because of something unplanned, for example, a failed business or _____.

QUESTIONS 38–40

Complete the flow chart below. Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer.

