Name: _____ Class: _____ Total: ____/30

Reading 1: Sikidang Crater, Indonesia

Part A: Fill in each blank with ONE word that fits the context.

The Dieng Plateau is one of the (1) _____ beautiful places in Central Java, a complete destination (2) _____ plenty of interesting attractions. One of the most fascinating spots in these highlands (3) _____ Sikidang Crater. Sikidang literally means "deer."

Some say the crater got its name because it is always moving. Its location does indeed shift, albeit very slowly. Another legend, (4) _____, says that the name comes from a prince named Kidang Garungan.

Known as the Love Story of Queen Shinta Dewi, the tale tells of a beautiful queen (5) _____ received a marriage proposal from a supposedly handsome and wealthy prince. Upon meeting him, however, the queen was disappointed to find that his looks did not meet her (6) _____: he was a human with the head of a deer. To turn down his proposal, she asked him to dig a big, deep well. When the well was nearly finished, the queen and her guardsmen filled it with soil while the prince was still inside.

Using his enormous power, Prince Kidang Garungan tried to escape and turned the melted soil into a boiling-hot substance, but his efforts were in (7) _____. The queen herself kept burying him until he could no longer get out. The angry prince cursed the queen, vowing that her descendants would be born with tangled hair. Over time, the exploding well became a crater, (8) _____ was then called Sikidang.

As you might expect from a volcanic crater, Sikidang is extremely hot. As (9) _____ as you enter the area, you can smell the sulfur in the air. The crater is so hot that many visitors used to bring eggs and boil them there, but for safety reasons this is no longer allowed. (10) _____ occasionally can you still see a local boiling eggs.

Part B: For questions 1–2, circle A, B, C or D. For questions 3–5, write TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN.

1. In the passage, the word "albeit" is closest in meaning to

A. because B. even though C. unless D. until

2. In the passage, the word "vowing" is closest in meaning to

A. begging B. doubting C. swearing D. forgetting

3. _____ The prince succeeded in escaping from the well.

4. _____ The queen asked the prince to dig the well as a way of refusing his proposal.

5. _____ Tourists are still allowed to boil their eggs in the crater.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading 2: The Singapore Merlion

Part A: Fill in each blank with ONE word that fits the context.

It sounds (1) _____ a very peculiar choice, but everything about Singapore's Merlion is easily explained once you look further into the country's past.

(2) _____ to the most prevalent theory, Singapore was founded by a Malay prince who saw a lion when he first set foot (3) _____ the island, now a sovereign nation, and went on to establish a new settlement there. Yet another amazing story tells of the Merlion – a huge sea monster with red eyes – which would visit the island of Sentosa every year to guard the well-being of the Lion City. One night, the island (4) _____ threatened by a raging storm, and the Merlion fought the thundering skies (5) _____ its mythical powers and preserved the land.

The country's name pays homage (6) _____ those beginnings. "Singapura" traces its roots back to Sanskrit, more specifically to the words "Singa," meaning "lion," and "Pura," meaning "city" – which also explains Singapore's nickname, the "Lion City."

More (7) _____ that, the lion's head symbolizes bravery and strength, while the creature's chimeric nature embodies the passion to leap forward – all qualities greatly valued among Singaporeans. The "Mer" part of (8) _____ name is a direct reference to the sea and corresponds to the lower part of the statue: its fish body. According to leading experts, this traces (9) _____ to the origins of Singapore as a humble fishing village and seaport, back when the city was still (10) _____ "Temasek," which, in Javanese, translates to "sea town."

Part B: For questions 1–2, circle A, B, C or D. For questions 3–5, write TRUE, FALSE or NOT GIVEN.

1. In the passage, the word "peculiar" is closest in meaning to

   A. strange B. popular C. practical D. modern

2. In the passage, the word "prevalent" is closest in meaning to

   A. unusual B. recent C. unproven D. widespread

3. _____ According to the most prevalent theory, the Malay prince established a settlement before he saw the lion.

4. _____ In the story about Sentosa, the Merlion defended the island using supernatural abilities.

5. _____ The Merlion statue was designed by a Singaporean artist.

LIVEWORKSHEETS