Read the text below. For questions 1-5 choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

Why is a baker's dozen not 12?

Request a dozen eggs from a farmer, a dozen steaks from a butcher, or a dozen pencils from a travelling office supplies salesman, and you will almost certainly receive 12 of your chosen item (although counting errors do happen). But a *baker's* dozen is commonly understood to mean 13. Are bakers just bad at counting? Not quite.

There are a few theories as to why a baker's dozen became 13, but most think it has its origins in the fact that many societies throughout history have had extremely strict laws concerning bakers' products. This is due to the fact that it is fairly easy for bakers to cheat customers and sell them less than what they think they are getting.

These societies took this very seriously as bread was a primary food source for many people. So in Britain from the mid-13th century up to the 19th century there was the Assize of Bread and Ale law. This law set the price of ale and what weight a loaf of bread should be. So basically, in terms of bread, it settled the relationship between the price and quality of wheat and what the price and quality of a loaf of bread from a certain quantity of wheat should be.

Even though this law appeared at the request of bakers, it still caused a problem for them. If they happened to accidentally cheat a customer by giving them less than what they were supposed to according to the law, the punishment and fines were severe. Depending on where the lawbreaker lived, it could include for example losing a hand.

In those times it wasn't that hard to accidentally cheat a customer. Making a loaf of bread with an exact weight was nearly impossible by hand without modern day tools. So, bakers began giving more than what the statute outlined to make sure they went over and never under. Specifically, in terms of the "baker's dozen", if a vendor or other customer were to order a dozen or several dozen loaves of bread from a baker, the baker would give them 13 for every dozen they ordered. Likewise, when selling quantities of anything, they'd give 13 measures when only 12 were purchased.

This practice eventually made its way into the Worshipful Company of Bakers (London) guild code. This guild was actually started in the 12th century and had a large part in putting together the conditions of the Assize of Bread and Ale law.

1 Why did many societies have strict laws about bread products?

A Customers wanted more bread than bakers could produce.
B Bakers were not very good at counting.
C It was not very difficult for bakers to give customers less than they paid for.
D It was easy for bakers to sell more bread.

2 What did the Assize of Bread and Ale law regulate?

A the weight of a loaf
B the price of bread
C the quality of bread
D all of the above

3 Why was the Assize of Bread and Ale statute a problem for bakers?

A They did not want it to appear.
B They had to pay money or recieve another punishment if caught cheating.
C They had to take less money for products.
D They all lost a hand if they made a mistake.

4 Why wasn't it hard to accidentally cheat a customer?

A All the loaves were underweight.
B No one knew how big a loaf should be.
C It was hard to make loaves which were all the same weight.
D They did not use any tools.

5 How did the bakers make sure they did not cheat customers?

A They gave one extra loaf if anyone bought 12 loaves.
B They always sold 13 loaves.
C They did not sell bread to vendors.
D They always gave the exact amount of bread the law ordered.