English 11

Unit 3: Becoming independent

Reading comprehension

Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

Victor Hugo, a French author, wrote the famous book The Hunchback of Notre Dame. This book tells the story of Quasimodo, a hunchback who lived in the bell tower of the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. Completed in 1345, Notre Dame means "our lady" in French. It is one of the most famous Catholic cathedrals in the world. Victor Hugo's book helped make the cathedral famous worldwide. He called cathedrals "books in stone." He thought that these buildings had much to teach and many stories to tell.

Since the 19th century, Notre Dame has been called "The World Ambassador of Gothic Cathedrals." Gothic architecture is light and airy. The buildings show the creativity of humans. Architects wanted to build cathedrals where citizens could celebrate God. The cathedrals are extremely **impressive**. It is almost impossible not to be in awe of these buildings. They were meant to tell people about the possibility of heaven. Most cathedrals are built in the shape of the cross, a symbol of Christianity.

The most recognizable features of Gothic architecture are flying buttresses and huge archways. Architects wanted to let as much sunlight stream into the cathedral as possible. That way beautiful stained-glass windows could line the sides of the cathedral. However, the architects wanted to build high walls as well. They needed to figure out how to support high walls with very little stone. Arches and vaulting were one answer. An arch is a very strong shape that can support a lot of weight, and vaulting means to construct arched ceilings. Flying buttresses were the other solution. They are arches that stick out on the outside of the church to help support the weight of the thick stone roofs and the ceilings inside.

(http://www.readworks.org/passages)

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Question 1: Which of these is NOT a feature of Gothic architecture mentioned in the passage?

A. arches B. vaulting C. marble columns D. flying buttresses

Question 2: Why does the author describe the book The Hunchback of Notre Dame?

A. The author of the book also was the architect of the cathedral.

B. The hunchback still lives in the cathedral today.

C. It helped make the cathedral of Notre Dame world famous.

D. It is where the name of the cathedral comes from.

Question 3: Based on the passage, which of these had the greatest influence on how the cathedral of Notre Dame was designed?

A. medieval French art B. English literature

C. the Christian religion D. Greek mythology

Question 4: The highlighted word **"impressive"** in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.

A. inspiring or awesome B. disappointing

C. dark and mysterious D. causing sadness

Question 5: What is the author's main purpose for writing this passage?

A. To teach people about Victor Hugo

B. To explain what a flying buttress is

C. To explain Christianity

D. To teach people about Gothic architecture

Read the passage again and try to guess the meaning of the following words from the context, then match the words with their definitions.

1. hunchback /ˈhʌntʃbæk/ (n) 2. ambassador /æmˈbæsədə/ (n) 3. buttress /ˈbʌtrəs/ (n) 4. arch /ɑːtʃ/ (n) 5. vault /vɔːlt/ (n)	**A.** a roof or ceiling in the form of an arch or a series of arches **B.** a structure with a curved top that is supported by straight sides, sometimes forming an entrance or built as a monument **C.** a large curved part on the back of somebody; a person that has a hump (a large curved part) on their back **D.** an official who lives in a foreign country as the senior representative there of his or her own country **E.** a structure made of stone or brick that supports a wall; trụ tường

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