

# Unit 6

## Vietnam: Then And Now



**VIII** Read the text and choose the correct answer A, B, or C for the questions.

### THE TRAM SYSTEM IN HA NOI: THEN AND NOW

Hanoi had its first tramways in 1900. The tram system was a major means of transport in the city for nine decades, and thus the image of the tram and its clanging sounds have gone deep into the hearts and minds of Hanoians. Since it was convenient and cheap to get around the city and to the suburban areas by tram, the system was very popular. However, due to the population boom and the need for a wider road system, the last rail track was removed.

Now, after more than 20 years, the population of Hanoi has risen from about two million people to more than six million people; therefore, the number of vehicles on the roads has increased dramatically. To meet the increasing travel demands, Hanoi is launching its first sky-train system, connecting Cat Linh and Ha Dong. The system is expected to begin operations by 2016, with initial four-compartment sky-trains. Furthermore, a new rail system project including around eight kilometers of sky-train rail and four kilometres of subway rail, connecting Hanoi Central Station and Nhon, has also been under construction and is expected to be completed in a few years.

1. The first tram system was built in .....  
 A. the 19<sup>th</sup> century                      B. the 20<sup>th</sup> century                      C. the 21<sup>st</sup> century
2. Hanoians were deeply attached to their .....  
 A. tram system                      B. sky-train system                      C. subway system
3. The tram system was removed because of the .....  
 A. increased population                      B. transport demand                      C. both A & B
4. The population of Hanoi has increased remarkably within .....  
 A. two hundred years                      B. two decades                      C. twelve years
5. The first sky-train system connects .....  
 A. Ha Noi and Ha Dong                      B. Cat Linh and Ha Dong                      C. Ha Noi and Nhon

**IX Choose the correct option A, B, C or D for each gap in the passage.**

Living in a city has a (1) ..... of drawbacks. Firstly, there are many problems of traffic jams and traffic accidents. The increase (2) ..... population and the increasing number of vehicles have caused many accidents to happen every day. Secondly, air pollution negatively affects people's health, and it also has a bad influence on the environment. More and more city dwellers (3) ..... from coughing or breathing problems. Thirdly, the city is noisy, even at night. Noise (4) ..... comes from the traffic and from construction sites. Buildings are always being knocked (5) ..... and rebuilt. These factors contribute to making city life more difficult for its residents.

- |                 |               |              |              |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. A. lots      | B. great deal | C. number    | D. numerous  |
| 2. A. at        | B. in         | C. on        | D. of        |
| 3. A. suffer    | B. differ     | C. recover   | D. different |
| 4. A. polluting | B. polluted   | C. pollution | D. pollute   |
| 5. A. up        | B. down       | C. on        | D. at        |

**X Read the passage and answer the questions below.**

**Hoi An ancient town (World cultural heritage)**

Hoi An is an old town down the Thu Bon River, on the coastal plain of Quang Nam Province, about 30 km south of Da Nang City. Hoi An used to be known the international market with many different names such as Lam Ap, Faifo, Hoai Pho and Hoi An.

What is so special about Hoi An is that this little port town is in an incredible state of preservation. It offers some of the most densely-concentrated sights in Viet Nam with its old streets bordered with ancient houses and assembly halls, its pagodas, temples, ancient wells and tombs. In total, more than a thousand places of interest. The architecture of Hoi An is characterised by a harmonious blend of Vietnamese, Chinese and Japanese influences. After many centuries, Hoi An is still respectful of its traditions, folk festivals, beliefs and of its sophisticated culinary art. Set in a quiet environment, Hoi An is surrounded by peaceful villages that have crafts such as carpentry, bronze making, ceramic...

Researchers said most of the buildings in Hoi An underwent restoration at the beginning of the 19th century even if they might be constructed long time ago. The ancient architecture is shown most clearly in the Ancient Town that is located in Minh An Ward. It covers about 2 square kilometres and almost of all famous relics in Hoi An are gathered here. The streets are very short and narrow, having a winding, crossing as the chessboard style. The topography of the ancient town tilt gradually from north to south. The buildings in the old town is built mostly with traditional materials such as: brick, wood and no more than two floors. The traces of time is able to find not only on the architectural design of each building but also everywhere like: on the yin- yang roof tiles covered with moss and plants; the old gray mold walls; the pictures carved on a strange animal, or describing a old story.

Having inherited a multi-cultural architecture so varied and sophisticated, Hoi An must have attracted numerous and talented workers in carpentry, ceramics, and woodcarving from China, Japan and other regions of Viet Nam.

For centuries, Hoi An had developed into a melting pot of various nationalities who came to the area, bringing along their own cultures. Accordingly, Hoi An features the co-existence of indigenous customs and habits and those imported by foreign settlers.

• **Answer the questions:**

1. What is Hoi An famous for?

.....

2. What is so special about Hoi An?

.....

3. How many places of interest are there in Hoi An?

.....

4. Where is the ancient architecture shown most clearly?

.....

5. What are the buildings in the old town mostly built with?

.....

## E. LISTENING

**XIII** The following pictures depict some significant features of families in the past. Work in pairs, and discuss the following questions.



1. What feature is depicted in the picture about families in the past?
2. How has it changed now?
3. What do you think about the changes?

**XIV** 1. Listen to the significant changes in the life of Vietnamese families from the past to present. Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Women used to have little to no power in families. ....
2. The family reform occurred in the mid-1950s. ....
3. In the past, when getting into a trouble, people often called for help from neighbors and friends. ....



4. In the mid-1950s, the notion that family was the only focus of .....  
each individual was discouraged.

5. Extended family structure became less popular for no reasons .....

**2. Listen again. Answer the questions below.**

1. In a Vietnamese traditional family, the man always has a ..... than the woman.
2. The law in 1960 entitles women to enjoy ..... and ..... related activities like men.
3. A new family law in December 1986 defined the ..... social roles of each family member to the development of the whole society.
4. The dominant family structure in the past was the ..... family.
5. According to the 1986's law, each family had to practice .....

## F. WRITING



**XV Rewrite the following sentences based on the words given.**

1. Nowadays people can talk and exchange information easily thanks to technological advances. It is convenient.

→ It is .....

2. In this busy world, parents and children don't have much quality time for each other. It is such a pity.

→ It is .....

3. My neighbor looked after my pet cat when I was away for some days. She was very helpful.

→ It was .....

4. I left my hometown to go to university in 2010. This bridge was built in my hometown 2 years after that.

→ By the time .....

5. My brother got a good job in a state bank, then he got married.

→ Before .....