

**C. READING**

**IX** Read the passage. Decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

**Men Attire**

Anyone who has seen the exquisite costumes worn by Vietnamese women will recognize similarities in the traditional dress of the male. There are many variations on the basic theme. At the top of the list is the elaborate dress of the emperor and the mandarins. Their rank was shown in the display of color in the brocade and embroideries. Gold brocade with embroidered dragons was for the emperor only. Gold is the national color and the dragon heads the fabulous mythical animal world. Purple is the color reserved for high-ranking court mandarins, while blue is for those of lower rank. Costumes worn for religious ceremonies also have their special colors. Dresses for ceremonial occasions usually have very wide and ample sleeves. Wedding dresses are similar to the popular fashions, and the color is usually purple or blue brocade. Dresses for mourning have frayed fringes or a line up the back and may be either black or white in color.

1. The Vietnamese traditional dress of men and women are somehow similar. ....
2. The dress of mandarins is at the top of the list. ....
3. The rank of person could be revealed via the color of the dress ....
4. Gold brocade and embroidered dragons was for the emperor and mandarins. ....
5. The normal dress and the ceremonial dress have no difference. ....

**X** Read the passage.



**1** Fill in the blank with a suitable word.

Buffalo fighting (1) ..... a unique and traditional festival of people in Do Son District, Haiphong City. This festival is associated with Water Goddess worshipping and sacrificing

custom. It also expresses bravery and risk-taking spirit of people in the coastal city of Haiphong. The festival has been long conducted within the region (2) ..... the 18th century. It is annually and officially operated (3) ..... the 9th day of the 8th month in Vietnamese Lunar Calendar; however, its preparation (4) ..... participants nearly a year to process. From choosing the right buffaloes to buy, raising and training them all of which require hard work and ongoing effort. For example, fighting buffaloes (5) ..... selected based on a wide (6) ..... of requirements: at least 4 or 5 years old, wide chest, bow-shape horns, toned thighs, and long tail. Also, these buffaloes (7) ..... kept separately from normal ones, and so on. Like other festivals in Vietnam, Buffalo Fighting Festival consists (8) ..... two parts: spiritual rites and entertaining activities. After many tensions and dramatic games, at the end of the day, the winning buffalo will be killed in a ceremony worshipping Water Goddess.

2

**Answer the questions below.**

1. What is the festival related to?  
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2. What about the local people does the festival show?  
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3. When did the festival start?  
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4. How long does it take local people to get ready for the festival?  
.....
5. What are the main parts of the festival?  
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