

UNIT 5: CULTURAL IDENTITY READING & VOCABULARY

I. The word in brackets at the end of each of the following sentences can be used to form a word that fits suitably in the blank.

1. In many circumstances, the attire is a _____ business suit, but it can range from a dinner jacket to blue jeans. CONSERVATION
2. Shaping a stone tool is one of the oldest cultural _____, and it still takes great skill and knowledge. PRACTICING
3. A positive attitude helps language students maintain their interest in learning long enough to _____ their goals. ACHIEVEMENT
4. When Helen moved to Japan, she had to quickly _____ a new language into her vocabulary. ASSIMILATIVE
5. His _____ and attire suggested the seaman rather than a man of art. BEHAVE
6. His paintings were so unique as to require no signature for _____. IDENTIFY
7. Dying languages and urbanization are threats to cultural _____. IDENTIFICATION
8. When people of different cultures come together to celebrate and share their different traditions, it is an example of a(n) _____ celebration. CULTURE

II. Choose the correct answer.

1. Of the four dresses, I like the red one (**better/ best**).
2. Pat's car is (**faster/ fastest**) than Dan's.
3. John is the (**less/ least**) athletic of all the men.
4. Does Fred feel (**weller/ better**) today than he did yesterday?
5. My cat is the (**prettier/ prettiest**) of the two.
6. This vegetable soup tastes very (**good/ best**).
7. David is the (**happier/ happiest**) person that we know.
8. This book is (**the better/ the best**) of the pair.
9. Jim has as (**few/ fewer**) opportunities to play tennis as I do.
10. The museum is (**the further/ the furthest**) away of the three buildings.

III. Complete each of the following sentences, using the structure comparative + and + comparative with the word in brackets.

1. It is becoming _____ to find a job. (hard)
2. His visit to New York seemed to get _____ because he was very busy at work. (short)
3. Eating and travelling in this city is getting _____. (expensive)
4. As the day went to the weather got _____. (bad)
5. We had to stop the discussion because the question we becoming _____. (complicated)
6. Your English is Ok now, your pronunciation has got _____. (good)
7. Little John is becoming _____. (active)

IV. Choose the best answer.

1. As she did so, her parents became _____.
A. the angriest B. the most angry C. the more angry D. angrier and angrier
2. People should eat _____ and do _____ to reduce the risk of heart disease.
A. less fat/more exercise B. less and less fat/the more exercise
C. the less fat/the more exercise D. fatter/more exercise

3. He spent a year in India and loves spicy food. _____ the food is, _____ he likes it.
 A. The hotter/the more and more B. The hotter/the more
 C. The more and more hot/the more D. The hottest/the most
4. It gets _____ to understand what the professor has explained.
 A. most difficult B. mostly difficult C. the most difficult D. more and more difficult
5. Increasing your vocabulary will make it easier for you to _____ reading comprehension skills.
 A. fit B. allow C. use D. assimilate
6. Of course you can come to the party. _____.
 A. The more the merrier B. The more and the merrier
 C. The more and merrier D. The more and more merrier
7. I feel _____ I did yesterday.
 A. much more tired than B. many more tired than C. as many tired as D. as more tired as
- 8 Cultural identity must be _____ and locals should be encouraged to continue their traditions in the wake of tourism.
 A. protected B. insured C. assured D. confirmed
9. I can't believe that you _____ all the three exercises. You just started five minutes ago.
 A. have finished B. have been finishing C. finished D. are finishing
10. She is _____ a spectator.
 A. more an athlete than B. more of an athlete than
 C. an athlete more than D. an athlete of more than
11. His house is _____ mine.
 A. twice as big as B. as twice big as C. as two times big as D. as big as twice
12. _____ live in Ho Chi Minh City than in the whole of the rest of the country.
 A. As much as people B. More people
 C. As many as people D. People more
13. Touring the small villages of Vietnam by bicycle was a(n) _____ experience.
 A. existing B. general C. particular D. unique
14. We spend a lot of time together as a family, which sometimes is the best way to learn about _____.
 A. customs B. habits C. activities D. establishment
15. It gets _____ to understand what the professor has explained.
 A. the more difficult B. more difficult than
 C. difficult more and more D. more and more difficult

V. Read the following passage and choose among A, B, C or D the correct answer to each of the questions.

The custom of paying a bride price before marriage is still a well-established part of many African cultures. In paying a bride price, the family of the groom must provide payment to the family of the bride before the marriage is allowed. The bride price can vary greatly from culture to culture in Africa. In the Zulu and Swazi tribes of southern Africa, the bride price often takes the form of cattle. In Western African kola nuts, shells, and other goods are often used for the payment of the bride price. The actual **payment of money** sometimes takes place, but the payment of goods is more frequent. The amount of paid in a bride price can also vary. In modern times, the bride price is occasionally quite small and its value is mainly symbolic. However, the bride price can still be quite high, especially among **prominent** or highly traditional families.

There are a number of justifications used to explain the payment of bride price. **The first** is that the bride price represents an acknowledgement of the expense the bride's family has gone in order to raise her and bring her up as a suitable bride for the groom. It also represents payment for the loss of a family member, since the bride will officially become a member of her husband's family and will leave her own. On a deeper level the bride price represents payment for the fact that the bride will bring children into the family of the groom, thereby increasing the wealth of the family. This concept is reinforced by the fact that the bride price must often be returned if the bride fails to bear children.

The payment of the bride price has quite a number of effects on African society. First, the payment of bride price acts to increase the stability of African family structures. Sons are dependent on their fathers and older relatives to help them pay the bride price of their wives, and this generally leads to greater levels of obedience and respect. The negotiations between the two families concerning the bride price allow the parents and other family members to meet and get to know one another before the marriage. Finally, since the bride price must often be repaid in case of divorce, the bride's family often works to make sure that any **marital** problems are solved quickly. Bride prices also work as a system of wealth distribution in African cultures. Wealthier families can afford to support the marriage of their son, and thus their wealth is transferred to other families.

- According to paragraph 1, all of the following are true of the bride price EXCEPT _____.
 - its amount and form can vary
 - its practice is occasionally only symbolic
 - it is a relatively new practice in Africa
 - it is generally higher among traditional families
- Why does the author mention "**the payment of money**" in paragraph 1?
 - To stress that the use of goods in the payment of bride price is most common.
 - To demonstrate the differences in how rich and poor families pay the bride price.
 - To illustrate how the practice of bride price has changed over time.
 - To demonstrate how expensive a bride price can be sometimes.
- The word "**prominent**" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.
 - educated
 - important
 - religious
 - conservative
- The phrase "**The first**" in paragraph 2 refers to the first _____.
 - marriage
 - bride price
 - payment
 - justification
- It can be inferred from the paragraph 2 that African families _____.
 - never see their daughters after marriage
 - pay the bride price on the day of the wedding
 - place more value on men than women
 - place great importance on childbirth
- The author uses the word "**marital**" to indicate that the problems are related to _____.
 - money
 - law
 - marriage
 - pregnancy
- Which of the following statements is TRUE?
 - Sometimes the bride's family has to return the bride price to the groom's for equal distribution of wealth.
 - The initial negotiations over the bride price provide opportunities for 2 families to meet each other.
 - Animals are not an acceptable form of payment when it comes to paying the bride prices.
 - Without having to pay the bride price, African men would not respect their family members.
- Why are women often married to older men?
 - Young men lack the financial to marry.
 - The legal age for marriage is lower for women than for men.
 - Families are eager to gain the bride price from their daughter's marriage.
 - Women live longer than men on average.