The history of taxes



Taxes have been around since human civilization first [1]___. The oldest tax that we know about was used in Mesopotamia as [2]___ as 4,500 years ago. The longest existing tax, a Chinese agricultural tax, was in use for over 2,600 years [3]___ it was eliminated in 2006.

Throughout history, many unusual taxes have been used by governments to [4]___ money. One of the strangest was the tax on beards introduced by the Russian Emperor, Peter the Great, who wanted his countrymen to [5]___ more like clean-shaven Western Europeans. However, the more traditional citizens considered beards a [6]___ of religious belief, and the tax had been a source of conflict until the government decided to end it in the 20th century. In the 18th century, [7]___ was a tax in England that made house owners pay for each window in their house. People were [8]___ to pay more tax if they had more windows. Because people wanted to avoid the tax, they started building houses with very few windows, which [9]___ led to health problems.

Although most modern taxes are not so strange, many people still [10]___ paying them. But people will always try to avoid unpleasant things, won't they?

1	A went	B gave	C began	D was
2	A early	B late	C soon	D well
3	A because	B until	C while	D after
4	A pay	B have	C spend	D raise
5	A see	B look	C watch	D seem
6	A sound	B right	C sign	D way
7	A where	B there	C that	D which
8	A had	B got	C said	D made
9	A before	B after	C eventually	D while
10	A accept	B dislike	C encourage	D consider

LIVEWORKSHEETS