



Upper secondary
Week 11

The Write Tribe

PAPER 2 TECHNIQUES
SECTION C



Section C

[25 Marks]

Text 3

The text below is about a disappearing race in Thailand. Read it carefully and answer Questions 14 – 19.

- 1 On Thailand's tropical Surin Islands lies one of the world's fastest disappearing cultures. The Moken is a nomadic sea tribe that has roamed the Andaman sea for centuries and are in a desperate fight to keep their traditions alive. In general, nomadic peoples are often discriminated against by modern society. Their value systems are often out of synch with our aggressive pursuit of land ownership, formal education, advanced technology and material wealth. However, on that fateful day of the tsunami, it was the Mokens' ancient wisdom that saved them. That wisdom, transferred from one generation to another by oral storytelling, is fast disappearing. 5
- 2 The Moken survived the 2004 tsunami by recalling their ancestors' cautionary tales. These indigenous folks were blessed with life-saving institutional memory - folk tales passed down by elders warned of "laboon" or massive waves seen by past generations. The stories suggest that tsunamis often come right after the ocean suddenly recedes. No one on the Surin Islands perished from the wave that day. All saw the signs and fled to higher ground. However, currently, the winds of modernity are proving to be a greater threat to their way of life than any tsunami. This sudden injection of modernity has brought both promise and peril. 15
- 3 On the Surin Islands live two hundred Moken gypsies as part of one of the only communities where children still speak fluent Moken, and young men spear fish the traditional way - by holding their breath and diving to great depths. Since the islands are now part of a national park, the Moken are forbidden from cutting down trees to make their traditional boat, the kabang. Mokens would spend months at sea aboard their wooden kabangs during the dry season. It is only during the rainy season when the seas were menaced by monsoon storms that they stay on land. Just a few generations ago, most nomadic Mokens were born on kabangs. Today, there are hardly any left in Thailand. The only kabang found was brand new, funded privately and built to serve tourists in the Surin Islands. 25
- 4 The bounty of the sea feeds the Moken. They fish, catch squid and free dive up to 30m deep to spear fish, collect sea cucumbers and shellfish. Spearfishing has long been integral to the Moken way of life, but sadly, overfishing by large vessels have emptied nearby seas. Moken divers now have to dive deeper and go further out to sea to find fish. Moken fishermen can no longer hold their breaths long enough to free dive for spear fishing. They instead rely on rubber hoses attached to air compressors that feed them air and allow them to stay underwater longer. Many using this method have died from accidents or decompression sickness. 30

5 Today, many Mokens have abandoned their nomadic ways, and live where their ancestors spent monsoon seasons. They have never legally owned the waters they fish in or the land they inhabit during monsoon season because they are nomadic. Once neglected, those stretches of shoreline are now greatly sought after by developers, eager to cash in on the growing tourist demand for tropical beaches. As property values skyrocket, fiercely contested land battles are playing out, with the Moken often on the losing side.

6 One such community can be found on Rawai beach, on Thailand's Phuket island. More than a dozen lawsuits have been filed by a deed owner against residents of Rawai. To investigate the Mokens' claim to the land, the government has dug up old Moken graves in the area. The said businessman and deed owner says when he legally purchased the land in 2008, he was not aware that so many Moken were already living there. Since then, he says he has not been able to use his land because local residents chase him out. After years of legal battles, there is still no resolution in sight.

7 Now, as the Mokens attempt to hold on to their tradition, it is a lop-sided balance they strike between tradition and modernity. Can they maintain their life when the ocean resources they depend on are fast depleting? Will they be able to preserve their traditions while adapting to modern Thai life? And can they survive a cultural crisis that may be a greater threat than any tsunami?

Adapted from: <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/101east/2014/03/vanishing-sea-tribe-201431191014701721.html>

14. With reference to paragraph 1 (line 2), 'Their value systems are often out of synch with our aggressive pursuit of land ownership, formal education, advanced technology and material wealth'.

Quote the word/phrase which means:

[2]

Not in line

Superior

15. (i) From paragraph 2, what was the wisdom that saved the Mokens on the day of the tsunami? [1]

(ii) Provide evidence from paragraph 2 that the ancient wisdom served the Mokens well. [1]

16. (i) Which word from paragraph 2 suggests that Mokens do not stay in one place? [1]

(ii) Which word in paragraph 3 conveys a similar meaning? [1]

17. Why is modernity both promise and peril for the Mokens? [2]

18. At the beginning of paragraph 7, '.. it is a *lop-sided balance* they strike between tradition and modernity'.

State what is unusual but effective about the phrase in italics. [2]

19. Using your own words as far as possible, summarise how modernity and the influx of outside influence have affected the Moken.

Use only the material from paragraphs 3 – 6 of Text 3.

Your summary must be in continuous writing (not note form). It must not be longer than 80 words, not counting the words given to help you begin.

The Mokens are facing a lot of changes due to modernity and the influx of outside influence. Their island is...



No. of words [15]