Reading Comprehension (I Semester)

II Nature Study

1. Read the text.

An unusual job!

Have you seen a football match recently? If you have, I'm sure that you heard lots of comments about the referee as well as about the players! Referees have a very difficult job. They have to make quick and important decisions in the middle of a fast-moving game. And, of course, there are thousands of people shouting at them too. The crowd is never happy when the ref sends off their favourite player. Also, in football today there still isn't the same technology as there is in other sports, like tennis. The job can get even more difficult when you're a woman who is refereeing a men's match!

There is no reason why there should not be the same number of male and female referees in the sport today. However, the number of female refs is still very low – particularly at the highest levels of professional football. This is something that one woman, Pat Dunn, who died in 1999, would have been very sad about.

Pat was the first woman in the UK to referee a men's football match but she wasn't allowed to do this for a long time. Pat was a strong supporter of women's rights in sport and became President of the Ladies' Football Association in 1969. Then she decided to train to be a referee. For a long time the Football Association refused to give her a certificate although she had passed the exams. But Pat continued fighting and she finally got permission in 1976. The next month she became famous when she refereed her first official FA game. Pat became a very good and successful referee and even saved a footballer's life. She helped him when he was injured during a match!

Today there are some famous female referees, like Bibiana Steinhaus from Germany who has just refereed the final of the Women's Football World Cup. Bibiana decided to become a referee at the age of sixteen and later was the first female referee in the German men's professional league. But there are only a few like her.

Football is still mainly a men's game – both for players and referees. But for how long? Will we see more women referees in the future? We'd like to know what YOU think. So, please go online and leave a comment on our website. We'll print the most interesting ones in the magazine next week.

1.1. Decide if the sentences are True or False.

1 The article is from a magazine. ___
2 The writer says that women are better referees than men. ___
3 Pat Dunn is still alive today. ___
4 Pat didn't get her referee certificate immediately. ___
5 Bibiana Steinhaus played in a football final. ___

1.2. Choose the best answers.

1 Referees have a difficult job because ...
   A they need to run fast.
   B the players shout at them.
   C they have to think quickly.
2 In the sport of tennis ...
   A they use more technology.
   B there are more women players.
   C there are bigger crowds.
3 Who was Pat Dunn?
   A A woman football player.
   B A nurse at football matches.
   C An important member of the Ladies' Football Association.
4 When was the first female referee in the UK appointed?
   A 1969
   B 1976
   C 1999
5 Bibiana Steinhaus ...
   A wanted to be a referee when she was a teenager.
   B recently refereed a men's football final.
   C plays in the top women's league.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

II. Read the parts of the text.

2.1. Put the parts of the text in the correct order.

These mountains were used by film director James Cameron in his sci-fi film *Avatar* because they look like something from another planet. On my last weekend in China, I took a cable car up into the mountains there. Trees grew on the sides of hundred-metre cliffs, and strange towers of rock appeared out of the morning fog. It looked just like the pictures in the China Art Museum. For a moment, I felt like I was inside a Chinese painting!

My first introduction to Chinese art was an early morning walk in Beihai Park in Beijing. There, I saw elderly people writing on the pavement with paintbrushes which were a metre long! I soon learned that they were doing water calligraphy – writing in water. The words have meanings, but they are also art. The calligraphy quickly disappears, of course. But tomorrow, the old people will be back.

Temporary art like this is very popular in China. Every winter, Harbin, in northern China, is visited by sculptors and tourists from around the world. They come for the Harbin Ice Festival, when the city has huge sculptures made out of ice. The sculptures are bigger than houses, and they take weeks to make. Harbin's freezing winter temperatures make it very difficult for the artists to work outside. But the weather also means that the sculptures will be protected until the spring.

At the China Art Museum, in Shanghai, I saw wonderful 16th-century Chinese paintings of tall mountains, trees and cliffs. The paintings were beautiful, but they didn't look very realistic to me at the time. 'Mountains aren't like that,' I thought. But that was before the last stop on my trip: the mountains of Zhangjiajie National Park.

Of course, not all Chinese art is temporary – some of it has been around for a very long time! Near the city of Xi'an, I visited the amazing terracotta warriors, or soldiers. In 200 BCE, 8,000 statues of soldiers were made by sculptors out of a material called terracotta. They are as big as real people and they all have different faces. An important king had the statues produced to protect his body after he died. They stayed under the ground with the dead king for over 2,000 years, until they were discovered by a farmer in 1974.

A few days later in Tibet, western China, I watched artists make sand paintings. The pictures are full of symbols, and they have important religious meanings for Tibetan people. They look amazing, but the paintings are soon destroyed by the artists who make them. It is important for Tibetan culture to make these paintings, then have them destroyed.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2.2. Choose the correct variant.

1 What is true about the people in Beihai Park?

A They introduced themselves to the writer.

B Some of them were writing graffiti.

C Their art didn't last very long.

D They use paint and big brushes.

2 What does the author say about the ice festival in Harbin?

A It's only popular with local people.

B It's easy to make sculptures out of ice.

C The sculptures don't last long.

D The winter weather both helps and causes problems.

3 The author says that Tibetan sand paintings

A last a long time.

B are difficult to understand.

C are destroyed by vandals.

D have special meanings for local people.

4 What is true about the terracotta soldiers of Xi'an?

A They all look the same.

B Nobody saw them for a long time.

C Many people died making them.

D They are bigger than real people.

5 Which statement describes the author's feelings about Chinese art?

A She was surprised that it was so old.

B She was impressed by different types of Chinese art.

C She didn't think it was very realistic.

D She particularly liked old Chinese paintings.

LIVEWORKSHEETS