Exercise 1

To get a general idea of the context of this Reading passage, read the title and paragraphs quickly. Then choose the best summary for each paragraph.

Olive production in Greece

A The olive tree typically grows in areas with hot, dry summers and wet winters, often near the sea. Greece is an ideal location for cultivating olive trees, and indeed olives have been an integral part of life there for thousands of years. The fruit from these trees has long been eaten as a food, but around 90% of olives are actually used to make oil after they have been picked. Not only is this used as a healthy alternative to cooking fat, but it can also be used in the production of cosmetic products such as soap and shampoo. In addition, the wood from the olive trees can be used to make high-quality furniture and kitchen equipment like bowls or chopping boards.

B On Corfu alone, there are an estimated three million olive trees. As a result, olives have long been an important part of this island's economy. Despite modern technology, some people there still collect olives in a very traditional way. For instance, nets are laid under each olive tree during the winter months. The grass and weeds on the ground beneath each one are cleared by hand. By April, the olives drop naturally into the nets, where they wait to be collected. They are then loaded into sacks, and transported long distances over mountainous terrain. Because of this, donkeys are often used. One benefit of using these methods to harvest olives, even though machines are available, is that the fruit is not bruised. Consequently, the quality is often higher.

C One problem affecting these trees is the olive fly. This creature thrives in cool and wet summers, and, in large numbers, it can consume vast quantities of olives. Moreover, with enough food to eat, the flies multiply quickly. Therefore, in one summer, several generations of these insects can cause severe damage to olive crops. Attempts have been made using modern solutions to reduce the number of flies. For example, poisonous chemicals were once sprayed on the olive trees, but these have now been banned.

1. Paragraph A:

    - The history of olive production
    - Where and how olives are used

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2. Paragraph B:
    - How olives are farmed
    - The advantages and disadvantages of traditional farming
3. Paragraph C:
    - A threat to olive production
    - A threat to olive production

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