

I - Read the following passage and do the tasks below.

The Muong have a population of around 1 million who live mainly in northern provinces like Hoa Binh and Thanh Hoa. In a Muong hamlet, stilt houses shelter in the shade of big trees, huddle against the mountain, and look out on vast paddy fields. A Muong house is designed to maximize convenient use and air ventilation to counter the warm, humid mountain climate.

The Muong's costume is special. Men often wear a round-neck shirt which opens in the front and has two pockets. Their pants have large trouser legs. The Muong women wear a long, black dress and a white shirt with a line of buttons in the front and long sleeves. They wind a white or indigo headscarf around their head. The highlights of the Muong costume are embroidery on the dress hem and belt.

The Muong have diverse folk arts including folk songs and poems, tales, proverbs, lullabies, and riddle songs. The gong is the most popular musical instrument along with the flute, the two-string violin, and the drum.

Part 1: Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. What is the passage mainly about?

- A.** The population of the Muong **B.** The typical culture of the Muong
C. The traditional costume of the Muong
D. The popular musical instruments of the Muong

2. The most outstanding part of the Muong costume is its _____.

- A.** materials **B.** embroidery patterns
C. sizes **D.** colour combinations

3. Which musical instrument is NOT popular with the Muong people?

- A.** the gong **B.** the flute **C.** the drum
D. the piano

Part 2: Answer the following questions.

1. Where do the Muong primarily live?

→ _____

2. What does the design of the Muong stilt house benefit?

→ _____

3. What do the Muong men usually wear?

→ _____

4. Do the Muong women wind a red headscarf around their head?

→ _____

II - Read the passage and decide whether the statements are True (T) or False (F).

According to legend, the first Vietnamese people were descended from the dragon King Lac Long Quan and the fairy Au Co. The dragon and the fairy married and produced one hundred eggs, from which hatched Hung Vuong, the first Vietnamese King.

The reality, unsurprisingly, is rather less poetic. The population of Viet Nam is an eclectic mix of cultures, languages and religions, encompassing at least 54 ethnic groups. The majority of the country, however, is dominated linguistically and culturally by the ethnic Vietnamese - also known as the Viet, or Kinh - who make up nearly 90% of the population and are thought to have originated in an area now occupied by southern China and northern Viet Nam.

The only areas in which the ethnic Vietnamese do not form the majority are the far northern regions of the country, where a diverse collection of ethnic groups maintain lifestyles and cultures quite different from the mainstream. These minority groups can often be recognised by their distinctive traditional dress and unique local customs. The largest of these groups are the Tay, Tai, Muong, Khmer Krom, Hoa, Nung and Hmong.

1. Hung Vuong is one of Lac Long Quan's sons.
2. There is an eclectic mix of cultures, languages and religions in the population of Viet Nam.
3. The ethnic Vietnamese are thought to have originated in southern Viet Nam.
4. The ethnic Vietnamese form the majority everywhere in the whole Viet Nam.
5. Each of minority groups has its own traditional dress and unique local customs.

KỸ NĂNG NGHE (LISTENING SKILLS)

Listen to the Corn Festival of the Cong and fill in the blanks with ONE or TWO appropriate words.

1. The Cong hold the Corn Festival to express their gratitude to their_____.

2. Some necessary dishes in the festival are_____, steamed corn with glutinous rice, and boiled corn.

3. In the festival, 12_____ represents the 12 months.

4. The Cong people go together through the_____ on the first day of the Corn Festival.

5. They strewn_____ on the way in hope of making the ghosts happy.