Exercise 13. Read the following passage then answer the questions.

Gong culture in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam has been recognized by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Gong culture covers five provinces of the Central Highlands: Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Dak Lak, Dak Nong and Lam Dong. The masters of gong culture are the ethnic groups of Bahnar, Sedang, Mnong, Coho… The Gong Festival is held annually in the Central Highlands. In the festival, artists from these provinces give gong performances, highlighting the gong culture of their own province. For the ethnic groups of the Central Highlands, gongs are musical instruments of special power. It is believed that every gong is the symbol of a god who grows more powerful as the gong gets older. Therefore, gongs are associated with special occasions in people's lives, such as the building of new houses, funerals, crop praying ceremonies… The gong sound is a way to communicate with the gods.

1. Where does Gong culture exist?

.....

2. How often is the Gong Festival held?

.....

3. What do artists do in the Gong Festival?

.....

4. Is the gong sound a way to communicate with the ancestors?

.....

Exercise 14. Read the passage carefully and choose the correct answers.

GIFT-GIVING CUSTOMS IN VIET NAM

Gift-giving is important in Viet Nam because of the significance of interpersonal relationships in Vietnamese culture.

First and foremost, do not encourage corruption. There is a clear cut between gift-giving and bribery. Nevertheless, it is common in Viet Nam for exchanging small gifts on certain occasions such as anniversaries, Tet holidays... to express respect, love, appreciation, or gratitude.

Gift-giving customs depend on the context. If it is a private gift for one Vietnamese partner you should give the gift at a private occasion. If you have a

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gift for the whole office or company, you should give it after the business meeting with the whole office employee.

Do not wrap a gift in black paper because this colour is unlucky and associated with funerals in Viet Nam. Gifts that symbolize cutting such as scissors, knives, and other sharp objects should be avoided because they mean the cutting of the relationship.

Vietnamese may or may not open these gifts when they are received; leave the option to them. You will also receive gifts and should defer to your host as to whether you should open them when receiving or not. Regardless of when it is opened or what it is, profuse thanks are always appropriate.

1. According to the passage, why is gift-giving important in Viet Nam?
   A. Because it helps to establish a friendship.
   B. Because it's common in Vietnamese culture.
   C. Because it's the best way to build up a stable relationship.
   D. Because personal relationships play a vital role in Vietnamese culture.
2. Which of the followings should not be a reason for gift-giving?
   A. To show appreciation
   B. To bribe somebody
   C. To express gratitude
   D. To show affection
3. When giving a gift, you should .....
   A. wrap it in black or white paper
   B. give it in the business meeting
   C. never give sharp objects, such as knives or scissors
   D. avoid giving it on a private occasion
4. When receiving a gift, you should ..... .
   A. always say "thank you"
   B. try to find what is it
   C. open it in front of the giver
   D. ask your host to open it
5. Which of the following is NOT true about gift-giving customs in Viet Nam?
   A. Gift-giving is a good way of strengthening relationships.
   B. Gifts for your partners should be given at private occasions.
   C. You should avoid giving anything sharp.
   D. It is considered rude not to open the gift in front of the giver.

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Exercise 15. Read the passage and answer the question below.

Wedding custom in Viet Nam is quite complicated. Before an official wedding, a ceremony of engagement must be held first. In Vietnamese tradition, an engagement ceremony is an official occasion for families of fiancé and fiancée to mark their relationship and to arrange the wedding.

Each family needs to prepare a representative who is a family member having a happy life and a high-ranking position in the family. On the day of the engagement, the representatives of the two families will have some announcements about the wedding and exchange gifts. The time of the wedding is chosen suitably based on the lunar calendar. Gifts which are put in trays are prepared by the family of fiancé a few days before the engagement ceremony. The number of trays must be an odd number. In Vietnamese habits, odd numbers are thought to bring luck to the couple. In the trays, there are betel leaves, areca nut fruits, wine, tea, husband-wife, and sticky rice. On the wedding day, the couple has to stay apart to avoid unlucky things. The wedding ceremony starts in front of the ancestor altar. The master of the wedding ceremony will declare the couple becomes a new family.

1. What ceremony occurs before the official wedding?

   .....

2. Who is selected to be the representative of each family?

   .....

3. Who prepares gift trays for the engagement ceremony?

   .....

4. Why must the number of trays be an odd number?

   .....

5. Where does the wedding ceremony occur?

   .....

Exercise 16. Rewrite the following sentences without changing their meanings.

1. gifts/ and have a/ meet/ to exchange/ traditional meal./ Most families/

   .....

2. with/ Homes/ and kumquat./ are decorated/ the apricot blossom,/ peach blossom,/

   .....

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3. during Tet./ are encouraged/ Children/ or cry/ not to fight/

.....

4. the house./ plant/ a new year's tree/ Many families/ in front of/

.....

5. to worship/ After/ attend/ the local pagoda/ ancestors./ the family meal,/ many Vietnamese people/

.....

6. festival./ exciting/ music/ The Glastonbury Festival/ is an/

.....

7. that/ the first person/ is a generous/ and kind-hearted./ to enter/ their house/ Vietnamese people/ hope

.....

8. colorful flowers./ the festival,/ people/ Before/ with/ prepare/ their houses/ to decorate/

.....

9. on the/ 15th day/ The Vu Lan Festival/ seventh/ of the/ lunar month./ takes place/

.....

10. to/ seeing/ I am/ festival/ in Dak Lak./ looking forward/ the elephant race/

.....

11. first day/ of Tet./ shouldn't/ You/ on the/ sweep/ the house/

.....

12. about/ other/ cultures./ I am/ interested/ in learning/

.....

Exercise 17. Write in full sentences using the given words.

1. We/ wish/ our mom/ health/ longevity!/

.....

2. He/ released/ after being/ questioned/ by/ police/ yesterday.

.....

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3. He/ prays/ luck/ happiness./

.....

4. The man/ monk/ from/ Emei Mountain./

.....

5. They/ make/ sacrificial offerings/ the gods./

.....

6. The ornamental tree/ in our front yard/ growing/ rapidly./

.....

7. Martial arts/ originates/ the East.

.....

8. Young rice cake/ a speciality/ this area.

.....

9. You should/ learn/ Vietnamese table manners./

.....

10. We/ have/ a family/ reunion/ next week./

.....



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