

Task 1

Read the text below. Match choices (A-H) to (1-5). There are three choices you do not need to use

Famous Castles

1. _____ Tintagel Castle

After a period as a Roman settlement and military outpost, **Tintagel, Great Britain**, became a trading settlement of Cornwall during the 5th and 6th centuries. The castle itself was constructed in the 13th century. Its remains are still breathtaking: steep stone steps and thick walls which encircle the great hall. There are many myths and unanswered questions surrounding Tintagel. It is even associated with the romance of Tristan and Isolde. The visitors of the local museum may see a display on the history of the site, including a series of finds from the medieval period excavations.

2. _____ Arundel Castle

Arundel Castle, Great Britain, is a restored medieval castle. Since the 11th century, the castle has been in the family of the Duke of Norfolk, and is still the principal seat of the family. Although the present Duke and Duchess still live in a section of the castle, the rest is open to the public. Arundel has been renovated and refurbished many times over the last seven centuries and its spectacular gardens and beautiful exterior have served as a shooting area for several movies. The modern castle may also be used for Corporate Events and Conferences.

3. _____ Ussé Castle

Ussé Castle, France, is a pretty castle situated close to the River Loire. It is said that Ussé was the inspiration for the Sleeping Beauty fairy tale. The castle is lived in, and much of it is not open to the public, but there is still plenty to enjoy, including the 15th century kitchen, an impressive dining room, and some richly decorated bedrooms. For the past two decades, the castle has been filled with wax figures dressed in costumes from the 18th century up to now. The exhibition is changed each year to show the development of people's outfit.

4. _____ Eltz Castle, Germany, is set in the hills in the middle of the forest surrounded on three sides by the river. It seems to have just grown out of the rock itself. Thanks to its beneficial position, it is among a few castles in Germany that have never been taken by enemies or destroyed. Remarkably, it is owned by the same noble family who built it over eight centuries ago in the 12th century, 33 generations ago.

5. _____ Urquhart Castle, Scotland, was one of the largest strongholds of medieval Scotland. Though now in ruins, abandoned in the late 17th century, it remains an impressive structure, overlooking Loch Ness. The castle is now owned by the National Trust for Scotland, and run by Historic Scotland Fund, which undertook a major construction program to create a visitor centre at the site, and to improve parking facilities. The visitor centre includes a display on the history of the site, a cinema, a restaurant and a shop. Urquhart Castle also hosts marriage ceremonies throughout the year.

Which castle _____?

- A. is attractive to people interested in the history of dress
- B. displays a collection of jewellery
- C. is used for holding weddings
- D. was protected by its location
- E. was used as a venue for social events
- F. was available as a film location
- G. inspired a famous artist with its scenery
- H. was a site of archaeological digging

Task 2

Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D).

Everything you need to know about the British Parliament

There's some confusion about the Houses of Parliament – why are they also called the Palace of Westminster? Why are there two houses? What exactly is Big Ben? Read our interview for some answers.

So, what's the reason for the two names?

Interesting question. Well, they're also called the Palace of Westminster because the site was originally home to the early kings and queens of England. It was Canute, the king of Denmark, Norway and England, who started building here way back in the eleventh century. Since then, it has undergone a few transformations. It has been destroyed by fire and rebuilt twice, once in 1512 and again in 1834. When the royal family moved out in the sixteenth century parliament moved in, and has remained there until today.

The place grew in size considerably when they built on a reclaimed area of the Thames, and now it has an impressive façade along the river. Most people will recognize the silhouette of its iconic clock tower and call it Big Ben. But really it's the Elizabeth Tower, and Big Ben is just the name of the enormous bell inside.

I didn't know that! What other interesting facts can you tell us about the buildings themselves?

Oh, there is so much! Did you know, for example, that there are 1,100 rooms and nearly three kilometres of corridors! It's a nightmare to try to find your way. As well as all the 30 offices, the buildings also house everything the MPs need, like, a gym, nursery, hairdresser's, post office and even an old shooting gallery where MPs used to be able to practice using guns! Another piece of interesting information is that no animals are allowed inside the Houses of Parliament, apart from guide dogs, of course, and an army of mice that are said to overrun the buildings!

Fascinating. What's the difference between the Houses of Parliament and Parliament itself?

OK, so the British Parliament is an institution which has some very long traditions. First the English Parliament, formed in the thirteenth century, joined with Scotland to become the Parliament of Great Britain in 1707. Then in 1801, it was joined by the Parliament of Ireland, forming the Parliament as it is now. The political system can be quite confusing; Britain has a constitutional monarchy. That means that the king or queen is official Head of State, but he/she

only rules symbolically. All the power is in the hands of parliament, which consists of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. When the people vote in an election, they vote for MPs to sit in the House of Commons. There are 650 elected MPs but because there are only seats for 427 of them, they need to arrive early in the mornings to secure a seat - otherwise, they will have to stand. Each MP represents an area, called a constituency. Elections normally happen every five years and the political party with the majority of MPs (the Government) sit on one side of the house on long green benches and face the Opposition. Their job is to debate important issues and make new laws. One of the most powerful people in Commons is the Speaker who controls the debates. When MPs meet, it's called "a sitting" and starts with a strange tradition: the Speaker who leads a procession into the chamber, is preceded by an official carrying a long, gold stick (the Mace). This is placed on the table; if it's not there, tradition says that any laws passed will be illegal!

Who are the Lords then, and what's their role?

The Lords are aristocrats, lords, barons, etc. — people who inherit a title and others who have been honoured for outstanding service to the country by the monarch. Their job is to check the laws made by the Commons. They can make recommendations for changes, but they cannot stop a new law completely. There are over 670 members of the Lords (with seating only for 400) and they debate in a very ornate chamber, with red benches. The State Opening of Parliament, a very grand and traditional event, takes place here, in the House of Lords, and the monarch reads out a speech with the government's plans for the coming year. Incidentally, that's the only time the monarch is allowed inside the Houses of Parliament!

1. *Who was the first king to start building on the site that is now the Palace of Westminster?*

- A. William the Conqueror.
- B. Canute.
- C. King Henry VIII.
- D. King George III.

2. *How many times has the Palace of Westminster been rebuilt after being destroyed by fire?*

- A. Once.
- B. Twice.
- C. Twelve times.
- D. Ten times.

3. *What is the official name of the clock tower commonly known as Big Ben?*

- A. The Big Tower.
- B. The Westminster Clock.
- C. The Elizabeth Tower.
- D. The Parliament Bell.

4. *What is the total number of rooms in the buildings of the Houses of Parliament?*

- A. 650.
- B. 1,100.
- C. 1,200.
- D. 1,500.

5. *What significant event takes place in the House of Lords?*

- A. Prime Minister's Question Time.
- B. The State Opening of Parliament.
- C. The House of Commons sitting.
- D. Election of the Speaker.

Task 3 (vocabulary)

Read the text below. For questions (1-12) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Museum and Gardens

Mount Vernon was the 1. _____ of George and Martha Washington from the time of their marriage in 1759 until the time of their deaths in 1799 and 1802, 2. _____ Washington diligently expanded his plantation from 2,000 to 8,000 acres and the Mansion house from six rooms to twenty-one, 3. _____ long absences for military and public service.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association purchased Mount Vernon from the Washingtons family in 1858. Mount Vernon is 4. _____ of the federal government and no tax dollars are expended to support the 500-acre estate, its programmes or activities.

Guests are invited 5. _____ the Mansion house and estate, which comprises more than a dozen outbuildings. Guests can walk around the gardens, bike the forest trail, and 6. _____ the Pioneer Farm, a four-acre working farm that 7. _____ a recreation of Washington's 16-sided barn.

At no additional 8. _____, guest admission also covers your visiting 25 galleries and theatres at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Centre and Ford Orientation Centre. This expanded experience boasts more than 500 artifacts, hands-on exhibits, 9. _____ movies, and high-tech immersion experiences that illuminate George Washington's remarkable life.

You should, by all means, 10. _____ why George Washington was undeniably, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen!"

	A.	B.	C.	D.
1.	location	birthplace	home	motherland
2.	comparatively	particularly	relatively	respectively
3.	besides	despite	through	without
4.	independent	inconvenient	famous	favourite
5.	to go	to come	to inspect	to tour
6.	seek	look	explore	investigate
7.	consists	composes	includes	admits
8.	bargain	charge	price	profit
9.	obvious	natural	native	original
10.	place	open	discover	distinguish

Task 4 (grammar)

Read the text below. For questions (1-13) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

If you ask people what they think of graffiti, many say that they consider 1. _____ vandalism, but some actually appreciate the images or words, sprayed on walls and think of it as an art form. Interestingly, wall painting 2. _____ in various forms for about the last 40,000 years. 3. _____ prehistoric times, humans used to paint images of wild animals or people on the walls and ceilings of caves. There are many theories about the reasons for creating these images, but 4. _____ knows for sure. Evidence shows that they were not just used to decorate the living areas, as most of the caves 5. _____ inhabited at the time when the paintings were created. Many experts believe that cave paintings 6. _____ a way of communicating with others.

Although today street art rarely features in art exhibitions, works of art in public places remain popular with artists all over the world. Whether they use chalk drawings, street sculptures or graffiti, street artists use the streets as their gallery to communicate with the public more directly. There are even 7. _____ walls around the world where graffiti is encouraged. For example, the famous John Lennon Wall in Prague in the Czech Republic, 8. _____ was filled with graffiti featuring lyrics from the Beatles' songs. It 9. _____ for over two decades until the wall was painted over with a single colour 10. _____ 2000.

	A.	B.	C.	D.
1.	as if	it to be	like as	as like
2.	has existed	had existed	existed	exist
3.	While	Since	From	During
4.	somebody	everybody	nobody	anybody
5.	aren't	haven't been	hadn't been	weren't
6.	must be	should have been	may have been	could have
7.	much	a few	little	a little
8.	which	where	when	whom
9.	has been popular	was popular	were popular	be popular
10.	to	for	on	in