Section 4

In my presentation, I'm going to talk about coffee, and its importance both in economic and social terms. We think it was first drunk in the Arab world, (1) ……before the 1500s, although of course that doesn't mean that people didn't know about it before then.

However, there is evidence that coffee was (2) …… Ethiopia, in the northeast of Africa. In the early sixteenth century, it was being bought by traders, and gradually its use as a drink spread throughout the Middle East. It's also known that in 1522 in the Turkish city of Constantinople, which was the centre of the Ottoman Empire, (3) …… ……..

By the mid-1500s, coffee bushes were being cultivated in the Yemen and for the next hundred years this region produced most of the coffee drunk in Africa and the Arab world. (4) …… is its effect on social life. It was rarely drunk at home, but instead people went to coffee houses to drink it. These people, usually men, would meet to drink coffee and chat about issues of the day. But at the time, this chance to share ideas and opinions (5) ……and in 1623 the ruler of Constantinople demanded the destruction of all the coffee houses in the city, although after his death many new ones opened, and coffee consumption continued. In the seventeenth century, coffee drinking spread to Europe, and here too coffee shops became places where ordinary people, nearly always men could meet to exchange ideas, Because of this some people said that (6) …… The opportunity they provided for people to meet together outside their own homes and to discuss the topics of the day (7) ……..…, and many social movements and political developments (8) ……

In the late 1600s, the Yemeni (9) ……and coffee production started to spread around the world, helped by European colonisation. Europeans set up coffee plantations in Indonesia and the Caribbean and production of coffee in the colonies skyrocketed. Different types of coffee were produced in different areas, and it's interesting that the names given to these different types like Mocha or Java coffee, were

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often taken from the port they were shipped to Europe from. But if you look at the labour system in the different colonies, there were some significant differences.

In Brazil and the various Canbbean colonies coffee was grown in huge plantations and the workers there were almost all slaves. But this wasn't the same in all colonies, for example in Java. which had been colonised by the Dutch, the peasants grew coffee and passed proportion of this onto the Dutch (10) ……..……. But whatever system was used, under the European powers of the eighteenth century, coffee production was very closely linked to colonisation. Coffee was grown in (11) ……..……from Europe, and it became nearly as important as sugar production, which was grown under very similar conditions. However, coffee prices were not yet low enough for people to drink it regularly at home so most (12) ……..……and it still remained something of a luxury item. In Britain, however a new drink was introduced from China, and started to become popular, gradually taking over from coffee although at first it was (13) ……. This was tea, and by the late 1700s it was being widely drunk. However, when the US gained independence from Britain in 1776, they identified this drink with Britain and coffee remained the preferred drink in the USA, as it still is today.

So by the early nineteenth century coffee (14) ……. But during this century production boomed and coffee prices started to fall. This was partly because (15) ……. which were cheaper and more efficient. So now working people could afford to buy coffee, it wasn't a drink for the middle classes. And this was at a time when large parts didn't stop when it got dark they might have to continue throughout the night. (16) ……- it wasn't just a drink people drank in the morning for breakfast.

There were also changes in cultivation…

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