Reading

Reading Passage 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1-13**, which are based on **Reading Passage 1.**

Ancient Egyptian Culture

A. Ancient Egyptian culture flourished between c. 5500 BCE with the rise of technology (as evidenced in the glass-work of faience) and 30 BCE with the death of Cleopatra VII, the last Ptolemaic ruler of Egypt. It is famous today for the great monuments which celebrated the triumphs of the rulers and honored the gods of the land. The culture is often misunderstood as having been obsessed with death but, had this been so, it is unlikely it would have made the significant impression it did on other ancient cultures such as Greece and Rome.

B. Religion was an integral part of the daily life of every Egyptian. As with the people of Mesopotamia, the Egyptians considered themselves co-labourers with the gods but with an important distinction: whereas the Mesopotamian people believed they needed to work with their gods to prevent the recurrence of the original state of chaos, the Egyptians understood their gods to have already completed that purpose and a human's duty was to celebrate that fact and give thanks for it.

C. One of the technological advances of the ancient Egyptian culture was papyrus (from which comes the English word `paper'). The Egyptians were also responsible for developing the ramp and lever and geometry for purposes of construction, advances in mathematics and astronomy (also used in construction as exemplified in the positions and locations of the pyramids and certain temples, such as Abu Simbel). Glass working, metallurgy in both bronze and gold, and furniture were other advancements of Egyptian culture. Their art and architecture are also famous world-wide for precision and beauty.

D. Among the lower classes, homes were built of mud bricks baked in the sun. The wealthier a citizen, the thicker the home; wealthier people had homes constructed of a double layer, or more, of brick while poorer people's houses were only one brick wide. Wood was scarce and was only used for doorways and window sills (again, in wealthier homes) and the roof was considered another room in the house where gatherings were routinely held as the interior of the homes were often dimly lighted. Clothing was simple linen, un-dyed, with the men wearing a knee-length skirt (or loincloth) and the women in light, ankle-length dresses or robes which concealed or exposed their breasts depending on the fashion at a particular time. It would seem that a woman's level of dressing, however, was indicative of her social status throughout much of Egyptian history. Dancing girls, female musicians, and servants and slaves are routinely shown as naked or nearly naked while a lady of the house is fully clothed, even during those times when exposed breasts were a fashion statement.

This publication's user rights are given to
Email: tuongquangdodn@gmail.com
Phone: 0988788959

LIVEWORKSHEETS

E. In daily life, the Egyptians seem little different from other ancient cultures. Like the people of Mesopotamia, India, China, and Greece, they lived, mostly, in modest homes, raised families, and enjoyed their leisure time. A significant difference between Egyptian culture and that of other lands, however, was that the Egyptians believed the land was intimately tied to their personal salvation and they had a deep fear of dying beyond the borders of Egypt. Those who served their country in the army, or those who travelled for their living, made provision for their bodies to be returned to Egypt should they be killed. It was thought that the fertile, dark earth of the Nile River Delta was the only area sanctified by the gods for the re-birth of the soul in the afterlife and to be buried anywhere else was to be condemned to non-existence.

F. Swimming was an important part of Egyptian culture and children were taught to swim when very young. Water sports played a significant role in Egyptian entertainment as the Nile River was such a major aspect of their daily lives. The sport of water-jousting, in which two small boats, each with one or two rowers and one "jouster" and fought each other, seems to have been very popular. They also enjoyed games having nothing to do with the river, however, which were similar to modern-day games of catch and handball.

G. Gardens and simple home adornments were highly prized by the Egyptians. A home garden was important for sustenance but also provided pleasure in tending to one's own crops. The labourers in the fields never worked their own crops and so their individual garden was a place of pride in producing something of their own, grown from their own soil. This soil, again, would be their eternal home after they left their bodies and so was greatly valued.

Questions 1–5

Reading Passage 1 has 7 paragraphs, **A–G**.

Which paragraph contains the following information?

Write the correct letter, **A-G**, on your answer sheet.

NB You may use any letter more than once.

1. An indicator of a woman's social status
2. A difference in religion
3. Examples of house construction that reflected how affluent a person was
4. Inventions used in construction
5. The reasons for the Ancient Egyptians' devotion to their homeland

This publication's user rights are given to
Email: tuongquangdodn@gmail.com
Phone: 0988788959

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 6–10

Do the following statements agree with the information in the text?

Write:

TRUE: if the statement agrees with the information

FALSE: if the statement contradicts the information

NOT GIVEN: if there is no information on this

6. The Ancient Egyptians' obsession with death had a major influence on other ancient cultures.
7. Paper was first invented by Ancient Egyptians.
8. In ancient times, rich Egyptians used wood to build certain parts of their homes.
9. In Ancient Egypt, women with different social statuses wore different clothes.
10. In Ancient Egypt, the Nile River Delta was the only sacred place where soldiers, if killed, were buried.

Questions 11–13

Complete the summary below.

Choose **ONE WORD ONLY** from the text for each answer.

Water sports, especially swimming, were a popular form of **11** ..... in Ancient Egypt because of the close relationship between the Ancient Egyptian Civilization and the Nile River. There were also many games common among the Ancient Egyptians that resembled many games nowadays. The Ancient Egyptians considered gardens to be an important part of their homes, not only for **12** .....but also for the pleasure and pride in growing crops and **13** ..... something from their own soil.

This publication's user rights are given to
Email: tuongquangdodn@gmail.com
Phone: 0988788959

LIVEWORKSHEETS