

Text 4

Read the text. Answer the questions on your mark sheet.

The Legend of King Arthur

The legends of King Arthur began to appear in the twelfth century and it is possible they are based on the stories of a Celtic leader of the fifth and sixth centuries who defended his country against Saxon invasion.

King Arthur was the son of Pendragon, and was born in Tintagel in Cornwall. The castle where he is supposed to have lived is still standing today and thousands of tourists visit it every year. Arthur was brought up by the magician Merlin and became king of Britain when he was fifteen. He proved his right to be king because he managed to pull a sword from a rock. Many others had tried but only he succeeded. He also had to fight many knights, and when he defeated them with Merlin's help, he received the magic sword *Excalibur* from the Lady of the Lake.

Arthur married Guinevere and set up his royal court in a castle at Camelot. No-one knows for sure where this place is, but it is believed to be somewhere in Great Britain. It was here that Arthur's knights sat at a round table so that they were all equal and nobody could sit at the head of the table. Many of the stories in the legend are about the adventures of the knights, among them Lancelot, Gawain and Galahad. They spent their time hunting and fighting giants and dragons. They always behaved correctly, with respect, honour and compassion.

Arthur went to Rome to fight the emperor Lucius and left his kingdom in the hands of his nephew Mordred. While he was away, Mordred took control of his kingdom and made Guinevere a prisoner. Arthur returned to fight Mordred but during the battle he was seriously wounded. He ordered the knight Belvedere to throw his sword *Excalibur* into the waters of a lake where it was caught by the hand of the Lady of the Lake and taken below the surface.

The legend says that Arthur did not but lives on and will return one day when his country needs him.

26. According to the text, the castle at Tintagel:

- a. Does not really exist.
- b. Can be visited nowadays.
- c. Was where Arthur lived all his life.

27. The word "legend" in the text has a similar meaning to:

- a. Story.
- b. Battle.
- c. Magic.

28. According to the text, Arthur became king because:

- a. He was the son of Pendragon.
- b. He pulled a sword from a stone.
- c. He was helped by Merlin.

29. The text suggests that Camelot is:

- a. A real place.
- b. A place that may exist.
- c. A place that never existed.

30. The word "wounded" in paragraph 4 means the same as:

- a. Annoyed.
- b. Unhappy.
- c. Hurt.

31. Which word would best fill the gap in the last paragraph?

- a. Die.
- b. Leave.
- c. Return.