

PRACTICE 9

Read the text and answer questions 1 to 10.

The origins of the book as we know today can be traced back to the ancient Egyptians, who first developed the written script. Egyptians wrote on many different surfaces including metal, leather, clay, stone and bone.

Around the first century, the Romans invented the codex which had the same structure as today's books. It was made of a stack of pages sewn at the side with a cover as protection. The codex was more user-friendly than the scrolls used earlier by the Egyptians. It was also less expensive to produce.

In the middle ages, books were made by monks who copied them by hand onto prepared animal skin called parchment. At that time, books were scarce, very expensive and only a few people could read. The next major innovation in the history of books came with the inventions of paper and block printing, during the Tang Dynasty in China, in the seventh century. The earliest example of a dated, printed book is a Buddhist text called the *Diamond Sutra*.

Paper and printing came to Europe around the fourteenth century. Johann Gutenberg of Germany perfected printing in the 1450s and with this, books became common. By the nineteenth century, steam-powered presses were used and books could be printed in huge amounts.

Today people read books using electronic devices such as e-books and tablets. In fact, more than 100 million e-books are sold every year.

Questions 1 to 8

Answer the questions below.

Choose **no more than five words and/or a number** from the text for each answer.

- 1 The first written script is believed to be have been developed by the _____

- 2 The Romans invented the _____ which was very similar to today's books.
- 3 The codex was considered to be better than the scrolls used by the Egyptians because it was _____
- 4 The books used by monks were scarce and expensive because they were _____
- 5 The Chinese were responsible for the invention of _____
- 6 The _____ was one of the earliest printed books.
- 7 Printing started in Europe around the fourteenth century and _____
_____ perfected printing around 1450.
- 8 At present people use electronic devices such as _____ to read.

Questions 9 to 10

Complete the table below with a word from the text.

For each question, write your answer in the space provided.

Meaning	Word
9 skin of animals	
10 not easily available	