

USE OF ENGLISH

Easter Island is a Polynesian island in the south-eastern Pacific Ocean. It is famous for its monumental statues, called *moai*, created by the Rapanui people. The history of Easter Island is rich and controversial. Its inhabitants have endured famines, epidemics, civil war, slave raids and colonialism, and the crash of their ecosystem.

Reading and Use of English, Part 3

For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line.

Easter Island – a monumental collapse?

It is a familiar tale of greed, stupidity and self-destruction. For hundreds of years the (1) _____ of one of the most remote islands on Earth vied with each other to build ever more impressive statues, pillaging their resources to feed their obsession. (2) _____ disaster was inevitable. As the island's last tree was (3) _____, the society collapsed into war, starvation and (4) _____. Armed with deadly spears, the workers rose up against their rulers. The vanquished were either (5) _____ or eaten.

This version of events on Easter Island has become not only received wisdom, but a dark warning about a possible fate for our entire planet. The parallels between Easter Island and the whole modern world are (6) _____ obvious,' writes Jared Diamond of the University of California. 'Easter's (7) _____ makes it the clearest example of a society that destroyed itself by overexploiting its own resources.' But is it true or, in our (8) _____ to think the worst of our species, have we been seduced by mythologies?

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LISTEN TO THE EXTRACT AND COMPLETE THE GAPS

- 1 The islanders may have _____ with each other by trying to build the biggest statues.
- 2 There is a lack of _____ to prove that the people of Easter Island brought about their own destruction.
- 3 The island was 'discovered' on _____ by a Dutch explorer called Jacob Roggeveen.
- 4 The island had once been home to around _____ palm trees.
- 5 Due to _____ the trees were all gone by the year 1500.
- 6 It is thought that _____, introduced by colonisers, may have eaten the palm nuts.
- 7 Many of the oral stories contain contradictory information and are therefore considered to be _____.
- 8 Missionaries may have _____ the idea that the islanders were cannibals.
- 9 What some people consider to be spearheads may in fact have been made for _____ purposes.

