

**PART 3***Read the text below and answer questions 17 to 24***Bananas**

Bananas are not only nutritious but convenient as a snack food. They are one of **the most important fruits in the world** and are always available throughout the year. Banana plants thrive in humid, tropical climates where they **are grown** for export to other countries. Bananas from the Cavendish **variety can be eaten fresh as desserts** or mashed and made into cakes, muffins or puddings. The cooking varieties **or plantains** are either fried to make fritters or cooked into **various dishes, both sweet and savoury** like banana cakes. Ripe bananas have quite a high content of sugar as well as potassium and vitamins.

Other parts of the banana plants are also useful. **People love** the fragrance of the leaf which can be used to wrap rice, fish or some local cakes and desserts. In some Indian cuisines, it is traditional to serve rice dishes on banana leaves. The stem of the banana plant can be skinned and the soft part inside or the core can be **added into beef curries**. After young banana clusters have been produced, the remaining flower can be cut off. This flower or the heart is delicious after **being made into dishes or simply boiled and dipped** into chilli sauce. Even fibres can be obtained from the stem of the plant making it as versatile as a coconut palm.

Choose **no more than three words and / or a number** from the text for each answer. For each question, write your answer in the space provided on your answer sheet.

How would bananas be available to consumers?	17.
Places where bananas grow well	18.
A banana variety for desserts	19.
Describe a characteristic of plantains	20.
An example of a sweet dessert using bananas	21.
What do people love about banana leaves?	22.
Name other parts of the plant that can be eaten.	23.
	24.