Task Two: Read the text and answer the questions below.

Plants of Arabia

1 There are around 678 plant species which grow in the United Arab Emirates. Many have adapted well to the extreme desert conditions in which they thrive.

2 The date palm is one of the most familiar trees in the country. It grows to about 30 metres and has a narrow trunk. The leaves are long (up to six metres) and sharp at the tips. Most famous for its fruit, almost every part of the tree can be used including the trunks to make houses and the leaves to make roofs and fences.

3 The desert hyacinth grows in the salty sands of the coast. It has no branches, but long overlapping brown leaves which point upwards.
The flowers are yellow, orange or white and appear between December and March after the rains.

4 The desert rose is native to the Arabian peninsula and grows easily in the UAE. The leaves are like leather and the flowers are white, pink or red and shaped like a funnel. The oleander which grows naturally in the Hajar mountains can also be found all over the Emirates, but all parts of this flowering shrub are dangerous. The desert rose and the oleander are used in public places as hedges but are highly poisonous and should be kept away from children and animals. Both can cause heart problems, stomach upset and dizziness.

5 The purple heart or purple queen has beautiful deep purple leaves if it grows in the sun, but these leaves turn green if the plant is in shade. At the end of each branch are pale pink flowers. The hibiscus has large, trumpet-shaped flowers in a variety of bright colours. The flowers only last for one day, but the plant will produce hundreds of flowers throughout the year. Either is perfect for brightening up a balcony or garden as they grow well in pots and can cope with extremely high temperatures.

Task Two A: Reading Comprehension Questions:

What is the reading about?

a. Animals and plants around the world.

b. Plant species in the UAE.

c. Plant species around the world

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Task Two C:

1. How many plants species are there in the UAE?

a. seven hundred
b. six hundred and seventy eight
c. six hundred and seventy five

2. Which **ONE** does the reading **NOT** talk about?
   a. purple heart
   b. purple queen
   c. sunflower
   d. Hibiscus
   e. date palm
   f. desert rose
   g. oleander
   h. desert hyacinth

3. Which is **NOT** a synonym of the word 'species'

a. kind
b. group
c. type
d. area

4. The plants in the UAE mainly grow in:
a. in wet, rainy conditions
b. in dry desert conditions
c. the local parks

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