IELTS READING NOTE COMPLETION-1

The Origins of Friday the 13th as an Unlucky Day

Being wary of Friday the 13th is much more than a quaint superstition observed by a few uneducated people in distant, unreachable towns and hamlets. In the United States alone, it is estimated that between 17 and 21 million people dread that date to the extent that it can be officially classified as a phobia.

So why is Friday the 13th considered such an "evil" day? The origins aren't perfectly clear, but we do know that both Friday and, separately, the number 13 have long been considered unlucky and it was around the late 19th century that the first documented instances started popping up of people putting the two together to form the unluckiest day of all.

To start with, the most popular theory as to why Friday is considered unlucky or an evil day is thought to spring from Christianity. By tradition, Friday is considered the day that Eve gave Adam the "apple" and they were kicked out of the Garden of Eden- of course, "Friday" wouldn't have been around yet. (Note: The notion that it was an apple is a second century invention and contrary to what is stated in Genesis.)

Also by tradition, Adam and Eve were purported to have died on the then non-existent "Friday". The Temple of Solomon was said to have been destroyed on Friday. And Jesus was traditionally considered to have been crucified on a Friday, the day we refer to now as Good Friday. That said, there are several references in somewhat recent history of Good Friday being considered the one exception to Fridays being unlucky. Such as this reference from 1857:

Notwithstanding the prejudice against sailing on a Friday... most of the pleasure-boats... make their first voyage for the season on Good Friday.

Others theorize that Friday being unlucky pre-dated Christianity. The name "Friday" was chosen in honor of the Norse goddess Frigg, also known as Freyja, who was the multi-talented goddess of love, beauty, wisdom, war, death, and magic. Teutonic people are thought to have considered the day extremely unlucky, especially for weddings, due in part to the lovely goddess the day was named for. Later, the Christian church attempted to demonize the goddess, so that may or may not be a contributing factor as well.

Whatever the case, despite these quite old origin theories, well documented instances of the notion that Friday was popularly considered unlucky among the masses don't seem to have popped up until around the mid-17th century. Within the next two centuries after that, the idea continued to spread and by the 19th century was nearly ubiquitous in certain cultures

Using no more than THREE words from the text, complete the following notes:

1. Just over 100 years ago, people became wary of combined number and weekday — can see appearances of recorded _____

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2. Before dying on a Friday, first two humans removed from the _____ on that same weekday.
3. Example of not every Friday following the rule is _____
4. The naming of Friday came before the church, which tried to _____ the origin of the name.
5. In 1800s, notion of Friday being an unlucky day had become _____

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