The Importance of Mummies

I. Pre-Watching

- **Learn new words**

Embalmers - a person whose job is to use chemicals to prevent a dead body from decaying
Elaborate - carefully arranged parts or details
Seal - fasten or close securely
Malediction - a curse
Validity - the quality of being based on truth or reason
Herald - be a sign that (something) is about to happen
Plunge - push into sth quickly and forcefully
Natron - mineral salt found in dried lake beds
Decomposition - the state or process of rotting
Under the aegis - protected or sponsored by
Defiler - a person who does harm to others
Entrails – removed internal organs
Pauper - a very poor person
Resurgence – an increase after a period of little activity

- **Fill in the faps using the words above**

1. The mummification techniques were jealously guarded by .....
2. For all those who could not afford any embalming process, desert burials offered an alternative for .....
3. There is a myth of a mummy coming back to take revenge on its .....
4. Historians were skeptical about the ..... of the Herodotus' texts.
5. The bodies of the deceased were ..... into ..... for more than a month.
6. Embalming was a very ..... process.

II. While-Watching

- **True or False**

1. People first learnt about embalmers from inscriptions in pyramids.
   True False
2. Embalming was a hobby for wealthy people.
   True False
3. The process of mummification hadn't been confirmed up to the 20th century.
   True False
4. The ouabet used to be located inside the city limits, until the New Kingdom, when it was located in tents at the edges of the city.
   True False
5. "Viscera" means brain.
   True False
6. The removal of the brain was a must.
   True False
7. Surmaïs was injected as the cheapest option of embalming.
   True False
8. The Cook agency was at the head of mass tourism to Egypt.
   True False
9. The process of unwrapping the mummies brought from Egypt was a social event.
   True False
10. The myth of a mummy seeking revenge is still popular.
    True False

- **Choose the correct answer**

1. Embalmers hierarchy meant ...
   a) a possibility to choose rich clients
   b) specialization in different phases of the process
   c) working less
2. What was Herodotus and Diodorus' contribution?
   a) They taught people the process of mummification
   b) They practised embalming
   c) They discovered the methods of mummification
3. The ouabet was ....
   a) the pure place
   b) the pure body
   c) the pure process
4. Why was the ouabet in the open-air spaces?
   a) because embalmers lived in tents

b) because embalmers needed more space

c) because of the smell of decomposition

5. Who had access to the most elaborate of mummification rituals?

a) pharaoh

b) rich citizens

c) priests

6. How long was the body kept in natron?

a) 4 days

b) 40 days

c) 140 days

7. Who helped the poor bury their dead relatives?

a) forest burials

b) cliff burials

c) desert burials

8. Westerners discovered mummies in the ...?

a) Antiquity b) Middle Ages c) 19th century

9. Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign took place in ... century.

a) 18-19 b) 19-20 c) 16-17

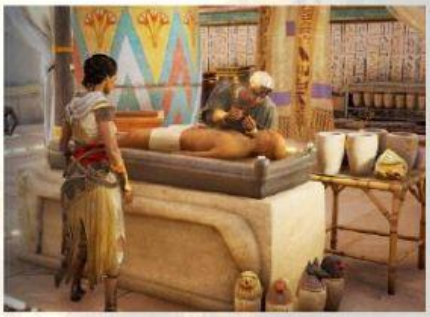
10. What was considered the shining cultural event of the season?

a) visiting Egypt

b) bringing a mummy

c) unwrapping a mummy

III. After-Watching

- **Put the stages of the mummification process in order.**

1. Removing the seal
2. Sealing the body
3. Purifying the body
4. Wrapping in linen
5. Injecting a liquid
6. Plunging into natron