PASSAGE 3 – Questions 21-30

Pottery refers to dishes, plates, cups and cooking pots made out of clay. Chinese pottery was invented during the Neolithic period (5,000-2,200 BC) and it was molded by hand. Before this time, people had been nomadic, making it difficult to carry heavy, breakable pieces of pottery. At first, pottery was made by pushing a hole into a ball of clay or by taking a piece of clay and coiling it up into a pot shape. Many early pots were simple lumps of clay. However, people later discovered that clay, when placed in an open fire, hardened. This technique, known as firing, soon became common practice in pottery production.

People used pottery as a way of forming their social identity or showing who they were and how they were different from other people. Many of the designs that were used on pottery were usually borrowed from those already found on clothing and garments. The decoration of pottery began with simple **incisions**, which were later painted on. Gradually, plants, animals, and human figures were included on the vases. Mythological scenes were common as were dancers, musicians, and images from everyday life.

[A] Pottery also has roots in ancient China where, for centuries, people produced black, carved, and painted pieces from rough clay. It was in the Sui dynasty, however, that the aesthetics of pottery took a major leap forward. **[B]** Potters began experimenting with porcelain and the effect was a stunning, shiny new look and feel for Chinese ceramics. **[C]** This **gleaming** pottery became popular not only in China, but in West Asia as well. **[D]** Inevitably, this led to a new market for cheap imitations.

After 1,200 AD, Chinese potters began using different colored glazes to create designs on their pots. Chinese pottery was still the best and most expensive. After thousands of years of advancements in technique and materials, painted porcelain such as blue and white, tri-color, and under-glazed became successfully produced.

The Chinese often used pottery as part of the burial ritual; bronze vessels were decorated with elaborate designs of plants and animals. In Chinese culture, **jade** symbolizes nobility, perfection, and immortality. Jade utensils were laid over the **deceased** and some were placed In the mouth or enclosed In the hand. Liquids were placed In the vessels to help the dead in their afterlife and also to aid In funerary ceremonies in which the living communicated with deceased ancestors and gods in an altered state of consciousness after drinking fermented beverages.

Such vessels containing liquids have been excavated at centers near the Yellow River, especially from burials of elite, eminent individuals. Many pottery fragments and figurines have also been discovered in the Chang Jiang drainage area.

Pottery can be divided into three groups: those designed for storage, those for preserving or holding liquids, and those for special uses. The Greeks made pottery for many purposes. The custom of burning their dead involved using vases to collect the ashes. Some pottery served as decorative pieces, while others were used for ceremonies or during religious festivals. Amphoras were larger vessels used to store liquids such as water or wine. Amphoras have occasionally been found in ancient shipwrecks; some held wine and others were shipped empty after selling their contents off to other countries. The Alabastron had special uses such as holding perfume or

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oil. The Skyphes, a flat-bottomed bowl, was used as a drinking cup.

Grecian soil had many deposits of clay near rivers. **This abundance of raw material was not available to others, giving the Greeks a strategic advantage in manufacturing material**. They made full use of clay. After its discovery, vessels were made in a wide range of sizes and shapes. Jugs, vases, fruit bowls, and feeding bottles were widely used in homes. Although some larger vessels were made of stone, glass, or metal, clay was by far the most prominent.

The ancient Egyptians used pottery and ceramic art for burial purpose. Four vases were sometimes deposited with the mumified body, A large number of vases which have been recovered had been buried with the dead in tombs. Some vases are found hanging or standing upright in the tomb. They appear to have been valued by the deceased, hence leaving them for burial in the tomb.

21. According to paragraph 1, which of the following statements is true of early pottery?

A. The first pots were made of hardened clay.

B. The nomadic nature of man before the Neolithic period prevented the widespread use of pottery.

C. Pottery was invented as a way of storing fresh fish and meats.

D. It was not possible to fashion clay into shapes for pottery.

22. The word "incisions" in the passage is closest in meaning to____.

A. figures B. squares

C. paintings D. cuts

23. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 2 about pottery designs?

A. Designs helped the pot to stay together and not break.

B. The designs on pottery reflected the culture of those who made them.

C. Three basic techniques to produce pottery vessels have been used around the world.

D. Pot design was imaginative and unique in every example.

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24. The word "gleaming" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. shiny B. dull

C. delicate D. soft

25. According to the passage, whose pottery was regarded as the most valuable?

A. Japanese B. Egyptian

C. Chinese D. Greek

26. The author mentions "jade" in the passage in order to_____.

A. demonstrate how stone could be carved into pottery

B. give an example of the use of expensive material in burials

C. show how different cultures value different materials

D. explain the difficulties in mining a stone for pottery

27. The word "deceased" in the passage is closest in meaning to_____.

A. sick B. dying

C. dead D. diseased

28. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

A. The use of substantial amounts of clay in Greece resulted in a culture rich in pottery.

B. The ancient Greeks had a more advanced way to construct pottery.

C. Pottery making was harder for the ancient Greeks, but pottery was important to them for storage.

D. Pottery was very convenient and useful because the raw material, clay, was abundant and simple to shape and fire In Greek.

29. According to the passage, which of the following was NOT a use of pottery?

A. storing wine B. ceremonial offerings

C. holding ashes D. cooking

30. Look at the four squares [_] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

However, it was very expensive there because it had to be carried from China on camels and donkeys.

Where would the sentence best fit?

A. [A] B. [B]

C. [C] D. [D]

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