

Grade 12 Reading Mock Exam

Name _____ Date _____

Read the three texts (A, B, and C) carefully and answer the following questions.

Text A

The Great Wall of China is not a continuous wall, but is a collection of short walls that often follow the crest of hills on the southern edge of the Mongolian plain. The Great Wall of China, known as “Long Wall of 10,000 Li”, extends for about 8,850 kilometers. The wall is up to 7.6 meters high, 4.6 to 9.1 meters wide at the base, and from 2.7 to 3.7 meters wide at the top.

The first set of walls was designed to keep Mongol nomads out of china. It was built of earth and stones in wood frames. Some addition and modifications were made to these simple walls over the next millennium, but the major construction of the “modern” walls began during the Ming dynasty (1388-1644 Chinese calendar).

It is wide enough at the base to allow the marching of troops or passing of wagons. At regular intervals, guard stations and watch towers were established. Since the great wall was not continuous, Mongol invaders had no trouble breaching it.

Text B

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were located in the east bank of Euphrates, South of Baghdad in Iraq. King Hammurabi was the most famous king of the Babylonian kingdom. Under his rule, the entire kingdom flourished. His son Nebuchadnezzar was the one who built the Hanging gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven marvels of world.

The gardens did not really hang on the roof using cables or ropes, but derives this name from the fact that it was built on the roof top. According to the popular notion, Nebuchadnezzar built it to lessen his wife's homesickness. He was married to Amities, daughter of the king Medes who seems to have had a passion for mountainous surroundings. So the king decided to build an artificial, terraced hill cultivated with trees and flowering plants.

According to Herodotus, the outer walls of the garden were 80 feet thick, 320 feet high, and 56 miles in length. Inside the inner walls there were fortresses and temples containing immense statues of solid gold.

Text C

The Deira Clock Tower, sometimes called the Dubai Clock Tower, is a roundabout that is located in the heart of Dubai. It was built in 1962 to mark the discovery of oil in the region.

The Deira Clock Tower stands at the gateway of Maktoum Bridge, and was the first permanent structure to straddle Dubai Creek, providing a vital link between Bur Dubai and Deira. Maktoum Bridge was officially opened in 1963, enabling goods to move quickly from the customs wharf, or landing stage in Bur Dubai to the Deira dhow wharf, for transportation by traditional dhow to the Gulf States and India.

This clock tower is one of Dubai’s oldest monuments and was built by Overseas AST. Company. However, during 1972, the monument started to crack and corrode because the local builder had used unwashed beach sand for the concrete. In addition, the steel reinforcements used to build the tower had corroded, as concrete had not been used in the original construction. It was then restored in the same year.

A. Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

1. The three texts provide information about_____.
- A. famous buildings
 - B. exciting destinations
 - C. outstanding landmarks
 - D. historical cultures

B. Match the following statements / questions with the correct text. Write A, B or C on the line.

2. This site connected between two major parts of the city. _____
3. Which text provides information about what was kept in the walls? _____
4. Which text explains why it is called like this? _____
5. This location represents the start of an important event. _____
6. Some changes and maintenance were done to this site. _____

C. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Write true or false on the lines.

7. The Great Wall of China extends as one piece. _____
8. During Nebuchadnezzar's era, the kingdom developed very well. _____
9. A foreign organization constructed the clock tower. _____

D. Use NO MORE THAN ONE WORD from the texts to complete the following sentences.

10. Since the _____ wasn't narrow, soldiers could walk on the wall.
11. A/An _____ mountainous scene was created to make the wife happy.
12. It became easy to transport _____ from Bur Dubai to Deira.