

Khalid Bin Al Walid School

Grade 12

General

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Reading Comprehension **Study & practice**

Name _____
Class _____

SPACE EXPLORATION

ANSWER 1

Some people say that exploring space is a waste of money and that there are more urgent needs on earth, such as reducing poverty and saving the environment. However, I completely disagree with this opinion for two reasons.

First of all, many of the technologies today exist thanks to space research – satellite technology, for example, which we depend on for communication and weather forecasting. Without satellites, we would not be able to follow events as they happen in the world, nor give populations any warning of approaching storms.

Space research has also led to the development of new materials that protect us against the heat and allow us to preserve food.

Therefore, I believe that sending human beings into space has often helped us develop new technologies that make our everyday lives better.

The second point is we cannot know what will happen in the future, so we must find a way to escape from the earth. Gradually, we are learning how humans can survive for long periods in space and even travel to other planets in the future. It seems to me that if space exploration is stopped, we will never have this valuable information.

My conclusion is, while it is true that we face serious problems on our own planet and there are many issues with space exploration, it is also important that we continue to explore outer space. This will bring more technological advances as well as a new place to live if we cannot stay on earth in future. Ideally, all nations should cooperate in space research.

ANSWER 2

For years, many countries have invested in the exploration of outer space. This research has required a lot of money, of course.

Therefore many people discuss the following question: has this money been well-spent or wasted?

Some people believe that all or most space research should be stopped because it is very expensive. These people think that it costs billions of dollars to send astronauts to the moon, but all they brought back were a few rocks. Furthermore, these people say that the money and effort now being wasted in outer space could be spent for homeless people, improving the education system, saving the environment, and finding cures for diseases. However, other people believe that space research has given us many benefits. They justify their opinion by pointing out that hundreds of useful products, from personal computers to heart pacemakers to special foods, are the results of space research. They say that weather and communication satellites, which are also products of space programs, have helped people all over the globe. In addition to these practical benefits, there is also the scientific knowledge that we now have about the sun, the moon, the planets and even our own earth as a result of space research.

I agree with people who support space research and I want it to continue. Space research, as I explained, has already brought many benefits to humanity. It is my view that perhaps it will bring even more benefits in the future, ones that we cannot even imagine now, but which will affect us all.

A. Fill the gaps with one word from the text only.

According to the writers, _____

1. Many people discuss the question: Has money been spent or -----.
2. Many technologies ----- today because of space research.
3. Sending humans to space has helped develop new -----.
4. People say that ----- of useful products are the results of space research.
5. The people say that money and ----- are being wasted in outer space.

B. Mark True, False or Not Given

According to the writers, _____

1. Satellites allow us to make warnings and follow events happening around the world.
2. Space has been explored for hundreds of years.
3. Money spent on space could destroy the environment.
4. Space exploration leads to learning valuable information.
5. Some people say that reducing poverty is more important than exploring space.
6. Space exploration leads to finding cures for diseases.
7. Both writers' opinions support continuing to explore space.
8. Space research has helped scientists learn more about the earth, moon, planets and sun.
9. The United Arab Emirates is developing a space program.
10. Not knowing the future is a reason to stop explore space.

Read the three texts and answer the questions:

Paragraph A. Family adventure holiday in Costa Rica

There's a great deal to see in Costa Rica. Stunning volcanoes, many white, sandy beaches and unspoilt tropical rainforest are all part of this Costa Rica holiday adventure. Cruise along the Tortuguero river or hike through the jungle to waterfalls deep inside this national park. The main attraction is watching the Green Sea turtles lay their eggs at night, but there is an extensive network of creeks behind the beaches where you can see river turtles, fish and lots of monkeys. If a walk in the shadow of an active volcano sounds more fun, then the Arenal National Park is for you. Our guides bring their wealth of experience to your adventure as they lead you through the forest to see incredible views of the Arenal volcano and lake and the Tilarán mountain range. In the afternoon relax in the many thermal springs nearby. Alternatively, take a boat along the unique inland waterways of Isla Damas through the mysterious mangrove swamps to see a huge variety of wildlife and plants both above and below the surface of the water. Whatever you choose, a holiday in Costa Rica will be one to remember

Paragraph B. The United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is on the eastern part of the Arabian peninsula. There is a mountain range in the north east, but most of the country is desert. South and west of Abu Dhabi are vast, rolling sand dunes which join the Rub' al Khali or Empty Quarter, part of the largest sand desert in the world. The UAE also has several oases, two of which, the Al Ain oasis and the Liwa oasis, have plenty of underground water for date palm cultivation and permanent settlements. The United Arab Emirates has two coastlines, one on the Arabian Gulf (650 km) and a shorter one on the Gulf of Oman of 90 km. Off the coast lie numerous small islands as well as coral reefs bursting with marine life. The climate is mostly hot and dry, but in the winter months large amounts of rain may fall in short, torrential bursts. Violent dust storms carrying vast quantities of sand high into the atmosphere reduce visibility and can lead to health problems for some.

Paragraph C. Day 5

Now in the second country of my Scandinavian tour – Norway. This country is famous for its fjords, lakes, mountain ranges, pine forests and of course the stunning glaciers. I've just spent the day walking on the Jostedalsglacier in west Norway. What an **experience**! I went with a small group of other hikers and we spent the day trekking across the glacier learning about the animals and plants in the area. One piece of advice I'd give to anyone wanting to do the same is get a guide. They're brilliant and really know what they are talking about. Tomorrow I'm taking a boat to visit some fjords and a few lakes and will hopefully get a chance to take loads of photos of the scenery. I just hope the weather's OK. We had a bit of rain yesterday and my friends say the summer months are often the wettest so I've been lucky so far. In a couple of days I'm going further north to the Arctic Circle to experience the midnight sun! Something I've wanted to do for ages. Will post the best pics online.

B. Read the text to decide if they are true (T), false (F) or the information is not given (NG).

1 There are mountain ranges in all the three countries.

- A True B False C Not Given

2 The country with the driest climate is Costa Rica.

- A True B False C Not Given

3 A natural warm bath is possible in Norway.

- A True B False C Not Given

4 In winter, the sun never sets in Norway.

- A True B False C Not Given

5 The United Arab Emirates has lots of Oases like Liwa Oasis and Al Ain Oasis.

- A True B False C Not Given

6- The Empty Quarter covers almost a quarter of the total area of the Peninsula.

- A True B False C Not Given

7- The Green Sea turtles lay thousands eggs at night.

- A True B False C Not Given

8- The summer months in Cost Rica are often the wettest in the world.

- A True B False C Not Given

9- In the UAE, off the coast lie lots of small islands and coral reefs full of marine life.

- A True B False C Not Given

10- In Costa Rica, you can relax in a lot of hot springs in the afternoon.

- A True B False C Not Given

B- Read the text and match the sentences (6 - 12) to the correct letter (A - C). You can use each letter more than once.

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------|
| example | the country is mostly desert | B |
| 6 | where you can find volcanoes | |
| 7 | where you can see strong dust and sand storms | |
| 8 | the place where plants grow above and below the water | |
| 9 | where you can find the midnight sun | |
| 10 | where you can hike through the jungles | |
| 11 | where you can find a variety of animals | |
| 12 | where you can take photos of amazing lakes and glaciers | |

C- Fill the gaps with ONE word from the text only.

13. You are recommended to have a -----if you want to learn about the animals and plants in West Norway.
14. Due to violent dust storms in the UAE, -----is reduced and people are susceptible to some health problems.
15. To see a big variety of wildlife and plants above and below the surface of water, your best bet is to go take a boat through the mysterious mangrove -----.
16. To enjoy seeing thesun, you are advised to go to the Arctic Circle.
17. The main attraction in Cost Rica is watching the Green Sea ----- lay their eggs at night.

Plants of Arabia

Paragraph A

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. 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 6 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.

Paragraph B

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.

Paragraph C

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.

Paragraph D

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.

A. Read the text to decide if they are true (T), false (F) or information is not given (NG).

1. The tips of a date palm could cut you because of their shape.

A True

B False

C Not Given

2. The oleander grows near the ocean.

A True

B False

C Not Given

3. The desert rose and oleander should not be given to children or pets.

A True

B False

C Not Given

4. The hibiscus flowers are used in making medicines.

A True

B False

C Not Given

5. The desert Hyacinth can be seen in the summer months along the coast.

A True

B False

C Not Given

6. There are hundreds of plants that grow in the United Arab Emirates.

A True

B False

C Not Given

7. The purple heart changes colors depending on its location to the sun.

A True

B False

C Not Given

8. People only use the date palm for its fruit.

A True

B False

C Not Given

9. The leaves of the desert rose are soft and multi-colored.

A True

B False

C Not Given

10. The oleander is a plant found only in the city.

A True

B False

C Not Given

B. Fill the gaps with one word from the text only.

11. The leaves of the purple heart will turn -----if it is left in the shade.

12. Many plants in the United Arab Emirates have ----- to the extreme conditions they live in.

13. The desert rose grows easily along the Arabian -----.

14. The hibiscus will produce ----- of flowers each year, but its flowers only last for one day.

15. The trunks of the date palm are used to make -----.

C- Read the text and match the sentences (16 - 22) to the correct letter (A - D).

You can use each letter more than once.

| | | |
|----------------|--|----------|
| example | this plant grows near the Hajar Mountains | C |
| 16 | the plants can be found in hedges and around people | |
| 17 | this plant can have many different colors | |
| 18 | these are common house plants and found in people's gardens | |
| 19 | almost the entire plant is used for useful purposes | |
| 20 | this plant is found in cooler weather, near the sea | |
| 21 | this plant can make people sick | |
| 22 | plants can only grow if they change with the conditions they live in | |

FUTURE ENERGY

(A) Traditional energy sources like oil, coal and natural gas have been the principal sources of energy around the world since the 1900s, and are mainly used for electricity and transportation. Are they going to run out in the future? When will that be? How will we survive without them?

(B) Many countries believe renewable energy is the way forward; it is energy made from natural sources that will never run out, such as wind, waves and sun. Iceland and Norway already produce nearly 100% of their energy from renewable resources and Denmark aims to reach that goal by 2050.

(C) What do they use? Denmark mainly uses wind power through turbines to mechanically generate power for electricity. Turbines look like giant-size fans placed either on land or in the water. Iceland mainly uses geothermal power – basically the heat coming from the land. Iceland has a high concentration of volcanoes which makes it easy to generate heat.

(D) Why should we use renewable energy? For so many reasons, first of all pollution! Oil use produces vast amounts of toxic gases, which makes it extremely polluting. Renewable energy protects our health because it doesn't produce harmful pollution. Secondly, because it is freely available in many forms, any country which has waves, sunshine or wind can benefit from these resources. Renewable energy is an efficient use of natural resources and can be especially useful for developing countries. The question really should be, Why not?

A. Read the statements, then read the text to decide if they are true (T), false (F) or information is not given (NG).

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Renewable energy sources will also run out in the future. | |
| 2. Iceland and Norway already produce 100% of their energy from renewable sources. | |
| 3. Turbines can be placed on the ground or in the sea. | |
| 4. Iceland uses the heat in the land to create energy. | |
| 5. The text talks about one negative side of traditional energy sources. | |

B. 6-9. Read the different subheadings and match them to the parts of the text. Write the paragraph letter in the boxes below.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 6 | How some countries use the alternative | |
| 7 | The advantages of this alternative | |
| 8 | The problem with our energy sources | |
| 9 | A solution to the problem. | |

C- Fill the missing gaps with ONE word from the text ONLY.

10. Traditional energy sources are mostly used for ----- and transportation.
11. It is thought that wind the solar energy will never run out because they are -----.
12. Iceland largely uses ----- power – basically the heat coming from the land.
13. Renewable energy protects our ----- because it doesn't produce harmful pollution.
14. ----- countries can benefit from renewable energy because of its efficient use.
15. Giant fan-like machines called ----- use wind to create electricity.

Reading

Read each paragraph below.

1 _____ They are interested in the existence of life on other planets, but this process requires large funds and time. This is why some people argue that space exploration is a waste of time and money and that this amount should be spent on other problems.

2 _____ Developing countries have serious problems in the health, education and employment sectors. This could be solved with the help of developed nations. In fact, many countries are giving financial aid and others are investing directly in poor countries in order to solve their problems.

3 _____ Many countries are funding research centres to understand the secrets of the world in order to find natural resources that are running out on earth. Their success could change our lives and open new possibilities for the future.

4 _____ It is my view that helping and improving life in poor nations is the best way to use the money. Meanwhile, research on space exploration should continue. It is a time consuming and expensive process, but it will benefit people's lives in case of success.

Match a topic sentence below (a-e) to the correct paragraph above. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use. Write the correct letter on the line next to the paragraph.

a Rich nations play an important role in bringing change to poor nations.

b To sum up, I believe that it is the responsibility of wealthy nations to solve the problems of their poor neighbouring countries.

c First, space exploration has given us useful inventions like the microwave and mobile phones.

d Many countries are spending large amounts of money on space exploration.

e However, trying to solve mysteries is a real challenge for scientists.

Reading

1 _____ No less than four out of the seven known species of marine turtle have been observed in the coastal waters off the UAE, the most populous species being the Hawksbill Turtle. Because turtles spend time on land only to build a nest and lay eggs – all of which happens in a single night – scientific observation of turtles is difficult. It is only the relatively recent development of satellite tracking – known as telemetry – that has helped us build up a picture of migration patterns, feeding habits and nesting rituals.

2 _____ Turtles typically migrate for 5–20 years in the open ocean. Once they reach maturity (30–50 years old) a cycle of mating and nesting starts. Males never return to land once they are born, but move between the feeding areas and the mating areas. During the nesting season, a female turtle will return to the beach in two-week cycles. The female will usually lay her eggs within 100 metres of the spot where she herself was born. Scientists believe this incredible feat is possible as turtles are able to read the Earth's magnetic fields to navigate back to their nesting grounds after migrating thousands of miles at sea.

3 _____ The female turtle will use her flippers to move loose sand away before digging a deeper hole in which to lay anything from 80 to 120 eggs at a time. The eggs are then covered over with sand as a way of disguising the nest from predators and the turtle makes her way back to the open sea, never returning to tend the nest. During the laying of eggs the female turtle appears to be in a trance-like state and to shed tears. Scientists have concluded that this phenomenon is, in fact, the secretion of salt absorbed from time spent at sea.

4 _____ Baby turtles hatch from the eggs approximately 60–70 days after the laying of the eggs. Hatching always occurs at night and the babies use a sharp claw called a caruncle – which eventually drops off – to crack the shell from the inside. Turtles then leave the nest and use the moonlight to guide them towards the sea. However, the life of a newborn turtle is full of danger and the attentions of sharks, birds and bigger fish mean that survival rates of infant turtles are as low as one in a thousand.

5 _____ Added to this are man-made challenges which are increasingly threatening the marine turtle. Fishing nets, marine debris such as floating plastic and general pollution reduce survival rates. Building developments along the coast have also disturbed nesting grounds, with the added problem of light pollution which confuses newborn turtles who move towards the city lights instead of the sea.

A. Read the text again and write the correct heading letter on the line next to the paragraph above for each paragraph.

- A. Dangers from Humans
- B. Navigation and Beach Selection
- C. Nesting
- D. Incubation and Emergence
- E. The Study of Marine Turtles in the UAE

B. Answer the following questions using no more than two words

- 1 How long does it take a turtle to build a nest? _____
- 2 How much time do female turtles spend on land when nesting? _____
- 3 How far from her birth place do turtles lay their eggs? _____
- 4 How many eggs does a female typically lay? _____
- 5 Which animals are their main predators? _____
- 6 What man-made dangers do turtles face? _____

Complete the summary by writing no more than TWO words in each gap.

Many kinds of turtles populate the coastline of the UAE, 7 _____ the Hawksbill Turtle. Even though scientific study is difficult due to the marine habitat and patterns, satellite 8 _____ has helped scientists understand how these creatures live. Turtles have impressive 9 _____ skills and females always return to their maternal beach to lay eggs. During nesting, 80–120 eggs are laid and the baby turtles hatch after 60–70 days. However, very few 10 _____ due to a variety of predators. Furthermore, man-made pollution and 11 _____ along the coastline has also had a negative impact.

Health Spas

The idea of a spa holiday is always a very attractive one. When we hear the word ‘spa’, we think of treatments, mineral springs and saunas. But some spas are much more than that- they’re places where both the body and mind are given a chance to relax from day-to-day stress. Today, a wide variety of spa types offer lots of different treatments.

Mineral Springs Spas

This type of spa is usually close to nature. Here, the natural healing power of the water is used to treat problems with joints, bones and muscles. The highlights are the mud baths and baths in mineral springs which help visitors relax and get their blood circulating properly. Most visitors prefer a one-day visit to such a spa resort. It’s more affordable and equally relaxing. The day could start with a swim in an indoor or outdoor pool. Then they could spend time in a Jacuzzi with mineral water, in a hot sauna or in a pool with water from hot springs. For a higher price, they could have a mud bath. Others might prefer to spend a few days at the spa and turn their visit into a holiday. Apart from spending time using the facilities, visitors can choose to do sport or other types of activities. Some spa resorts are known for their location in the countryside, near lakes or mountains. Therefore, visitors can combine their spa treatment with hiking, sailing, horse-riding or cycling.

Spa Resorts

Spa resorts may vary in size and style, but they’re a dream destination for many people. They are basically hotels that offer all the services a spa would, plus exercises classes, sessions with personal trainers and nutritionists. Some spa resorts are advertised as perfect for families while others are promoted for couples or business travelers. Visitors are encouraged to experience the power of healthy living. Because there are so many services and activities on offer, often visitors are guided by a personal assistant who helps them to organize their stay. There are also doctors, nurses and physiotherapists on site. Apart from spending time in the spa or in the gym, visitors can take part in group discussions and workshops on how to improve one’s quality of life. Talks are given on a variety of topics, such as keeping fit and motivated, getting better sleep or building better relationships. Visitors can also take up new activities such as yoga, meditation or swimming.

C. Fill the gaps with one word from the text only.

1. Visitors to the Spa resorts are -----to experience the power of healthy living.
2. Spa resorts encourage visitors to attend workshops on ----- their lives.
3. Spa resorts allow for sessions with nutritionists and -----.
4. Mineral Springs spas are ----- to nature.
5. Spas allow ----- (ation) of the body and mind.

D. Mark True, False or Not Given

6. Mineral Spring spas are perfect for families and business travelers.
7. You can visit a mineral spring spa in the countryside, by lakes and in mountains.
8. Spas come in all different shapes, sizes and locations.
9. Spas only help the body to heal.
10. Spa resorts are natural like a mud bath.
11. People who attend a spa resort can listen to a variety of talks on health and nutrition.
12. You have to watch out for wild animals if you go to a Mineral Springs spa.
13. People who want to spend more money could take a mud bath.
14. There are a lot of different treatments that spas offer.
15. The only activity offered at a spa resort is swimming.

A New Life

(A) A young Emirati boy can now lead a normal life thanks to state-of-the-art technology and a great decision made by his parents. Jassim Al Ali was born with Beta Thalassaemia Major (BTM), a genetic blood disorder that can cause slow growth and problems with bones. Without any treatment, the condition leads to death.

(B) Until his stem cell transplant, Jassim needed regular blood transfusions, but since his treatment he's had none and has now returned to school. The donor was his younger brother Salem. Forward-thinking doctors suggested storing Salem's cord blood stem cells when he was born, as they thought he might be a suitable donor. A decision, according to the boys' father, which has made a huge difference to the family's future.

(C) 'BTM is also known as the Middle East disease, because it's so common here, especially amongst Emiratis,' said the laboratory director of the Dubai-based clinic which stored Salem's stem cells. Jassim went to the USA for his treatment and his doctor, Dr Henderson, said that 'stem cell storage can change lives,' and added, 'I always encourage families to store their child's cord blood cells, even if there are no health problems.'

(D) Scientists don't fully understand a lot about BTM yet, but they do know that a stem cell transplant is the only known cure and that's why stem cell storage is so valuable. Fortunately, the number of families storing cord blood in the UAE is increasing, because of the up-to-date facilities in the region. Cutting-edge medical research is essential in the fight against disease and stem cell therapy offers a hope to patients with other life-threatening conditions, such as leukaemia.

(E) Yet, despite the clear benefits of cell therapy, some experts offer a word of warning. According to Professor John Rasko of the University of Sydney, there are many clinics around the world which offer stem cell treatments for conditions such as hair loss and ageing. In the past, these clinics didn't offer medical treatments, but researchers say this is now changing as more clinics are advertising cell-based therapies for some medical conditions including lung diseases. This idea of traveling abroad for treatment is now known as Stem cell tourism.

(F) Stem cell tourism is a growing worry for professionals who argue that the therapies are ineffective and some may even be dangerous. The far-fetched claims the clinics make are not based on medical evidence but offer false hope to people suffering from serious illnesses.

A. Circle the correct letter for each question.

- 1 What condition was Jassim born with?
A- BTM B- Cancer C- Blood pressure D- GMF
- 2 Why were the doctors described as ‘forward-thinking’?
A- They think of the future B- They regret the future
C- they can tell your fortune D- They can affect the future
- 3 What is another name for BTM?
A- Blood Thinner Major B- Biochemical Thermal Model
C Beta Thalassaemia Major D- Bad Tough Matter
- 4 What does Dr Henderson believe all families should do?
A- prevent blood disorders B- store cord blood early in a child’s life
C-get your blood tested every year D- store only the oldest son’s cord blood
- 5 What is one possible reason for more people now storing cord blood in the region?
A- it is expensive to store B- cord blood can help others
C- there is cutting edge medical research about storing cord blood
D- there are a lot of up-to-date cord blood facilities
- 6 Who can benefit from stem cell therapy?
A- anyone B- people in the Middle East
C- people who have life-threatening diseases D- young boys only
7. According to professionals, what is the major problem with stem cell tourism?
A- patients have to travel to get the treatment
B- there is false hope that the therapy will work
C- only a few doctors know about the therapy
D- it will only cure hair loss and lung disease
8. What are some health experts worried about?
A- there is little evidence that cell therapy works B- some therapies are dangerous
C- some therapies are ineffective D- all of the above choices

B. Read the statements, then read the text to decide if they are true (T), false (F) or the information is not given (NG).

9. Jassim had treatment in Dubai.
A True B False C Not Given
10. The best treatments are in the USA?
A True B False C Not Given
11. BTM is common in the Middle East.
A True B False C Not Given

12. If a patient suffers from BTM, they will be short.
A True B False C Not Given
13. Scientists know everything about BTM.
A True B False C Not Given
14. Forward-thinking doctors stored Jassim's cord blood cells when he was born.
A True B False C Not Given
15. Stem cell therapy might help people with leukaemia.
A True B False C Not Given
16. There are a thousands of clinics around the world that use stem cell therapy.
A True B False C Not Given

C. Read the text again and write the correct heading on the line next to the paragraph above for each paragraph.

17. The number of medical facilities storing cord blood cells is rising
18. Jassim's father believes the doctor's made a great decision
19. Many doctors feel that stem cell tourism is dangerous
20. BTM is a life-threatening condition that effects health and growth
21. Jassim's doctor believes that storing cord blood cells can save lives
22. There is an increase in clinics around the world that are practicing cell-based therapy

Reading

Hi Aisha,

(A) I can't wait for you to come and visit. There's so much to do here and I know you're really interested in history so I thought we could go to the Dubai Heritage Village first. It's a brilliant museum which shows you what life was like Dubai in the past. There are people dressed in clothes based on traditional designs and doing jobs we don't do anymore. It's also got historic buildings that come from all over the country which you can go and look at. There's a market where you can buy traditional sweets, pottery and souvenirs made from palm and sometimes you can hear people singing old folk songs. The museum is visited by from all over the world and I think it appeals to everyone because you can really understand our heritage and what it was like to live here in the past.

(B) Then there's Dubai Fort which is part of the heritage and was built in 1787 and opened as a museum in 1971. In the middle of the fort is a courtyard and it's got a display of boats and bamboo houses with their traditional furniture. In 1995 an underground museum was added to the museum but I've never been there – maybe we can get a guide to show us around. What do you think?

(C) Another museum we can visit is the Sharjah Art Museum. It has a permanent collection of contemporary and modern art and sculptures by artists from the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries. I'm not sure what exhibits will be there, but we should visit the permanent collection donated by HH Sheikh Dr Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qasimi.

(D) You can also see the new branch of the Louvre in Abu Dhabi. I think it's an amazing piece of modern architecture which was designed by Jean Nouvel located on Saadiyat Island. There have already been two exhibitions. I went to one last year – it was brilliant. I really liked a little Chinese statue I saw there and I think the exhibits I saw have been loaned to our government so I'll be able to see it when the Louvre properly opens here. Send me your flight details so I can meet you at the airport.

Dana

A. Read the email. Then decide if the statements are true (T), false (F) or the information is not given (NG).

1 Aisha enjoys learning about history.

A- True

B- False

C- Not Given

2 The Dubai Heritage Village encourages visitors to take part in traditional activities.

A- True

B- False

C- Not Given

3 Dina thinks only tourists like the Heritage Village.

A- True

B- False

C- Not Given

4 Dubai Fort became a fort in the mid-90s.

A- True

B- False

C- Not Given

5 Dana wants to visit the underground museum at the fort.

A- True

B- False

C- Not Given

6 The Sharjah Art Museum sometimes exhibits work by international artists.

A- True

B- False

C- Not Given

7 Dana went to see a temporary show at the Louvre.

A- True

B- False

C- Not Given

8 Dana recommends visiting four museums.

A- True

B- False

C- Not Given

B. Find words in Dana's email which mean ...

9. the history and traditions of a country -----*heritage*

10. a person whose job is to show you a place _____

11. artwork of a person or object made by carving wood, stone or metal _____

12. objects that are shown in a museum _____

13. for a very long time or forever _____

14. to lend something which must be returned _____.

C. 15.120. Read the different subheadings and match them to the parts of the text. Write the paragraph letter in the boxes below. Some letters may be used more than once.

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 15 | If you visit this location, you can buy gifts to take home to remember your visit | |
| 16 | Visit this exhibit located in Abu Dhabi | |
| 17 | Visit this place to see an example of stunning, modern architecture | |
| 18 | visit this location to see art and sculptures of the past and today | |
| 19 | Visit this museum to learn about Dubai's history | |
| 20 | Visit this location that was built over 200 years ago | |

Architecture in the UAE.

(A) Traditional permanent houses in the Emirates were usually built close together so there was shade in the alleys between them. Building materials varied depending on the location of the house and included stone, mud brick, wood and palm reeds, although some houses nearer the coast were built of coral stone.

(B) Almost all traditional houses were built around a central courtyard and veranda which provided a private space for family activities, especially for the women of the household. This was a place for cooking, playing and during the summer could be used for eating and sleeping. In some houses they had a well dug to provide drinking water. Rooms were arranged around the courtyard with the most important room being the meeting room where the family received guests. More elaborate houses had a wind tower or barjeel installed to keep the rooms cool. This simple way of bringing air into the rooms and improving ventilation has become a symbol of architecture throughout the Arabian Gulf.

(C) The house of Sheik Saeed Al Maktoum in Dubai is a perfect example of a house built in the traditional style of the region. He got builders to use local materials such as coral, stone and lime as they were easy to obtain. The house has two storeys, three courtyards and twenty verandas and like many houses of its time, Sheik Saeed had the house divided into six independent living areas. It also has four wind towers which rise

5–8 metres above the roof. Although much grander than most houses, the Sheik Saeed House is a reminder of the rich heritage, culture and architecture of the Emirates.

(D) Contemporary architecture in the Emirates is very different. Nowadays architects get builders to use concrete and glass to produce the wide range of housing and offices that can be seen throughout the region. The variety of modern architecture ranges from two-storey villas, with gardens and swimming pools, to amazing skyscrapers which tower above the waterfront. In between are the apartment blocks that house most of the population.

(E) Some of these modern buildings are designed to retain a link with the past. For example, the owners of Burj Al Arab got the designers to produce an iconic design which looks like the sail of a traditional dhow boat. Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, is another building inspired by traditional architecture. The architect was inspired by a range of local influences including sand dunes and minarets, which can be seen in the way the building grows more slender as it rises from the ground.

(F) Like builders of the past, modern-day architects have to find ways to keep the buildings cool during the hot summer months. The architect of Burj Khalifa had thousands of glass panels placed on the outside of the building to reflect the sun. He also used its great height to pull cooler air down from the top to ventilate the lower levels in the same way that wind towers were used centuries ago.

(G) Is Burj Khalifa the future of architecture? The 160 storeys in this skyscraper include a hotel, apartments, sports facilities and an outdoor observation deck for spectacular views of the city. It is really a 'mini city' and according to architects, these super tall buildings are better for the environment. Each one can be built on a fairly small plot of land and can accommodate a large number of people. This means skyscrapers can be constructed closer together and cities could become more 'walkable', both vertically and horizontally, and the need for more roads and pollution caused by traffic could be reduced.

A. Read each question and circle the correct answer.

1. Which is the best heading for article?
 - a. Traditional and modern buildings in the UAE
 - b. Problems facing builders in the UAE
 - c. Family houses in the UAE
2. How did alleys help people in the heat?
 - a. they made it easy for people to walk
 - b. they provided shade between the houses
 - c. they built houses close together
 - d. they were made from many materials
3. Why were homes made of a variety of different building materials in the past?
 - a. the cost of some materials was less than others
 - b. the materials were the same everywhere
 - c. it depended on the location of the house
 - d. it allowed shade for the home
4. How did wealthy homeowners keep their houses cool?
 - a. they cooked outside
 - b. they had meetings in the courtyard only
 - c. they dug deep wells
 - d. they installed a barjeel
5. What is the main building material used today?
 - a. mud and brick
 - b. glass and concrete
 - c. steel and water
 - d. solar panels
6. What did the designers of Burj Al Arab and Burj Khalifa try to do?
 - a. design modern buildings that reminded people of the past
 - b. build the tallest buildings in the world
 - c. use wind towers to keep the building cool
 - d. give people a place to live
7. What do architects believe are the advantages of skyscrapers?
 - a. people will be proud of them
 - b. they remind people of the past
 - c. they can be built on small pieces of land and provide space for many people
 - d. can last for hundreds of years

8. What does 'walkable' mean in this article?

- a. easier to go from one place to another without leaving the building
- b. allow people to take more steps each day
- c. gives people a place to exercise
- d. makes it better for the environment

B. Read the statements, then read the text to decide if they are true (T), false (F) or the information is not given (NG).

9. In the past, all houses were made with the same materials.

- A. True B. False C. Not Given

10. The barjeel was very expensive to make.

- A. True B. False C. Not Given

11. In the past, cooking, eating and sleeping could be done in the courtyard and verandas.

- A. True B. False C. Not Given

12. Sheikh Saeed Al Maktoum's house was a design to represent the future.

- A. True B. False C. Not Given

13. Today,, most people live in the areas between the skyscrapers.

- A. True B. False C. Not Given

14. According to the article, the Burj Al Arab is the 2nd largest skyscraper in Dubai.

- A. True B. False C. Not Given

15. The glass panels of the Burj Khalifa help keep the building cooler in the summer months.

- A. True B. False C. Not Given

C. 16-24. Read the different details and match them to the parts of the text. Write the paragraph letter in the boxes below. Some letters may be used more than once.

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 16 | Builders used the height of the buildings to help cool the inside | |
| 17 | Architecture of today focuses on large skyscrapers and blocks for housing | |
| 18 | Most designs today are constructed with concrete and glass | |
| 19 | The house was designed as a reminder of the Emirati values and heritage | |
| 20 | Skyscrapers can be considered mini-cities because of their convenience for people | |
| 21 | Houses in the past were made of many different materials | |
| 22 | Some modern designs include sails, sand dunes and minarets | |
| 23 | The design of the house became common to the Arabian Gulf Region | |
| 24 | The house had different living areas and many wind towers | |

Read the article about Nabati poetry and answer the questions below.

The Nabati Poetry of the UAE

(A) Poetry plays an important role in the daily reality of the Arab world. Far from being a thing of the past, it is found on television and the Internet and reaches audiences of millions. Mixed with traditional themes, poetry speaks about current social concerns as well as society's values, so it speaks to young and old.

(B) For outsiders, the language can be a challenge, but that obstacle has now been removed by Clive Holes and Said Salman Abu Athera in their collection of Emirati verse with English translations. Its variety of poems allows us to get to know the UAE and, at the same time, the art of Arab poetry in the Gulf today.

(C) The original Arabic versions are included, as well as a CD with studio recordings of the poems, and short biographies of the poets. Each translated poem is preceded by explanatory notes, making this work complete in every aspect and a true pleasure to read and listen to.

- 1 The article talks about
a. a television program b. a book c a film
- 2 The poems are about
a traditional stories b modern issues c both.
- 3 People who do not speak Arabic cannot read this book.
a True b False C- Not Given
- 4 Every Arabic version includes
a a description of the poets b a video of the poet c charts and tables
5. Poetry does not speak about
a people b social concerns c social values
6. Explanatory notes come ———- each translated poem
a before b. after c. during
7. The poetic language for outsiders can be
a easy b difficult c enjoyable

B. 8-14 Read the statements then read the text to decide if they are true (T), false (F) or the information is not given (NG).

8. Young and old people enjoy poetry.
 A. True B. False C. Not Given
9. Clive Holes and Said Salman Abu Athera are poets.
 A. True B. False C. Not Given
10. Poetry is very important to the Arab World.
 A. True B. False C. Not Given
11. Arab poetry is not found on the internet.
 A. True B. False C. Not Given
12. When listening to poetry, you should listen for rhyming words.
 A. True B. False C. Not Given
13. The writer believes that this collection of poetry is enjoyable to listen to.
 A. True B. False C. Not Given
14. The writer that recommends that people should listen to poetry.
 A. True B. False C. Not Given

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 15 | The language of the poetry collection has been simplified | |
| 16 | The importance of poetry | |
| 17 | What is included in the collection | |
| 18 | The purpose of this collection is to learn about the UAE | |
| 19 | The purpose of poetry in the Arab World | |
| 20 | Different media where people can find examples of poetry | |
| 21 | The writer's opinion of the collection | |



The Art of Handwriting

A _____
 Arabic calligraphy is the artistic practice of handwriting using the Arabic language and alphabet. It started hundreds of years ago and is known in Arabic as khatt, taken from the word 'line'.

B _____
 Calligraphy uses different fonts and scripts. One of the most famous ones is naskh which is one of six major scripts. It is the same font as the one taught to young school children. Special tools are required for Arabic calligraphy; these are different from equipment needed for western calligraphy like fountain pens. For example, the celi is a traditional tool for large-scale writing made from hardwood and it is the same tool as the one used today for large size calligraphy art. Bamboo pens are also essential for this art, and have been used for many years. Most importantly, a special kind of paper called ebru is used to give the writing a 'marble' effect when it's complete.

Calligraphers start by learning about the different scripts and practising individual letters. After mastering these, they then move on to joining letters and creating their own designs and layouts. Calligraphy needs a lot of patience and accuracy.

C _____
 The Ministry of Culture in the UAE takes special interest in Arabic calligraphy and classical Arabic art including poetry and traditional Islamic design. Through many initiatives such as competitions, the Ministry aims to create a global community supporting the Arabic language. For example, the Burda calligraphy award based in the UAE started in 2006. Applicants for this award are younger people between twelve and eighteen years old. The award celebrates the role of arts and culture in the Arab World. The award is separated into two categories; traditional and modern. The winners are not only from the UAE, they include candidates from around the world, which allows artists to exchange ideas and inspiration from other cultures and countries. The decision on winners is made by a panel that includes judges with local and international expertise.

D _____
 Several countries around the world have also launched initiatives to revive and encourage the development of Islamic calligraphy. The programmes are usually under the sponsorship of ministries of culture and art, in countries including Turkey, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The programmes include several activities such as basic and advanced calligraphy classes, competitions and government funded commissions for aspiring artists.

A. Look at the different subheadings for the text. Quickly read the text and put the subheadings in the correct places A-D.

| | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | The Basics of Arabic Calligraphy | |
| 2 | What is Arabic Calligraphy? | |
| 3 | Calligraphy Around the World | |
| 4 | Competitions in the UAE | |

A. Read the questions, then read the text to find the correct answers.

5. How long ago did Arabic calligraphy start? Which special calligraphy tools does the text mention?
- a. 1000 years ago
 - b. hundreds of years ago
 - c. 2006
 - d. six major scripts ago
6. Why is ebru paper specially used for calligraphy?
- a. it is inexpensive
 - b. it is easy to find
 - c. it is easy to write on
 - d. its design when it's finished
7. What are the two stages of learning Arabic calligraphy?
- a. alphabet and definition
 - b. practicing letters and creating designs
 - c. traditional and modern
 - d. Eastern and Western
8. What two other forms of Arabic art does the Emirati Ministry of Culture focus on?
- a. traditional and modern
 - b. poetry and traditional Islamic design
 - c. fonts and scripts
 - d. sea and sun
9. What is the age range of applicants for the Burda award?
- a. young school children
 - b. under 25
 - c. over 25
 - d. between twelve and eighteen
10. What are the activities included in calligraphy programmes around the world?
- a. font and script
 - b. ideas and inspiration
 - c. basic and advanced
 - d. design and layout

B. 11-17 Read the statements then read the text to decide if they are true (T), false (F) or the information is not given (NG).

11. The Arabic word “khaat” means paragraph.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Given

12. Arabic Calligraphy is different from Latin Calligraphy.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Given

13. Arabic calligraphy includes language and alphabet.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Given

14. Arabic calligraphy can be used using any type of tool.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Given

15. Calligraphy is done quickly and easily.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Given

16. The “Burda” calligraphy award started in Saudi Arabia.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Given

17. Many countries around the world are trying to popularize calligraphy again.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Given