



ZAHIRA COLLEGE – COLOMBO

Holiday Assessment- August 2015

Medium : English

Grade: 08

Subject : English language

Date :

Adm. No :

Name :

01 Read the passage below and answer the questions

People of long ago used to live in groups in caves or in jungles. They wandered from place to place hunting animals and looking for food like nuts, roots, wild fruits and berries.

Then later people began to settle along or near rivers. They lived near the rivers because they were sources of water, food, trade and transport. They used the river water for drinking, cooking and washing. Their animals also drank from these rivers.

The rivers were full of fish. Birds also lived and laid their eggs near rivers. Birds got their food from rivers too. As a result, these areas provided a good source of food for the people. the people caught the fish, collected the birds' eggs and trapped the birds as food.

Rivers also made good farmland for these early river settlers. during the yearly flood, rivers carried along with them river mud which was very fertile. this fertile soil was left behind after each flood. Thus river banks or valleys were suitable places for farming. The people started to cultivate their own crops. This means they could settle down in one place and they didn't have to wander in search of food any more.

Besides the fertile soil, rivers were also used as a form of highway. Men began to use rafts and boats as a form of water transport to carry their extra food. they sailed to another part of the river to trade with the other settlers. So they became farmers as well as trades. When they began to travel up and down the rivers, they learned about the customs and beliefs of the other settlers.

As trade and transportation grew, the population also grew. These river settlements grew into cities, and these cities became centers of great civilizations like those found in early Egypt, India and China. These civilizations had powerful governments with many laws and government workers. Then these cities grew into some of the important and powerful countries in the world.

1. Why did people of long ago settle along rivers?

2. Why were river bank suitable for farming for the early settlers?

3. The word cultivate can best be replaced with
a. obtain b. look for c. buy d. grow
4. How could rivers be used as a form of high way?

5. The best title for this passage would be
a. River water
b. river cities
c. Rivers and the beginning of civilization
d. Rivers and the customs and beliefs of the settlers

02. Read the situations and form questions

1. You want to borrow your friends camera. What do you say to him?

2. You are at a friends house and you want to use her phone. How would you ask?

3. You've written a letter in English. Before you send it, you want an English friend to check it. What do you ask him? _____
4. The man in the next room is playing music. It's very loud. You want him to turn it down. What do you say to him? _____
5. You want to leave work early because you have some things to do. What do you ask your boss? _____

03. Complete the following dialogue. Use the words and phrases given below. The first one is done for you

Press officer: Hello boys! You seem to be very busy

Tony: Well, It's 1 The run of the year . The National Health Run

I 2. _____

Press officer: 3. _____

Harry: There's fun, No doubt, But 4 _____

Press officer: a cause?

Gim: 5 _____

A run against drug abuse

Press Officer: Fine our 6 _____

- Is it for fun that you take part in this event
- Yes, a worthy cause
- It's the run of the year
- Youngsters should be saved from this danger
- we support a cause
- look forward to this event

04. Match A with B and write meaningful sentences in the given space

A

B

1 We greet our teacher

are good for small children

2 Only a few films

because he was thirsty

3 The teacher gave

by private coach

4 Many people travel

like to travel by train

5 some people

each boy a present

6 He drank much water

everyday in the class

eg: 1 We greet our teacher everyday in the class
