

## Training your Reading skills for C1 English Certificate

### Multiple Choice

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

**Instructions:** Read the passage and answer the following questions.

### Who Lived in Mohenjo Daro?

**1** The Indus river valley, in the northern part of what is today called India, was home to the largest of the four ancient civilizations in that part of the world. These cultures included Egypt, Mesopotamia, South Asia, and China. The Indus valley was a place of great extremes and included areas of desert, mountains, forests and jungles. It was also a place of extreme climates, involving droughts, floods, and monsoons. Despite, or perhaps because of these various features, people living in the Indus valley developed a highly complex and successful culture beginning 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

**2** Although archaeologists first visited Mohenjo Daro in 1911, most of the excavations occurred in the 1920s through 1931. Small probes, or searches, took place in the 1930s, and subsequent digs occurred in 1950 and 1964.

**3** In 1921, excavations<sup>1</sup> began in the ancient Indus city of Mohenjo Daro, located in modern-day Pakistan. Archaeologists<sup>2</sup> discovered a sophisticated street grid and an elaborate drainage system that indicate that the occupants of Mohenjo Daro were skilled urban planners who knew how to control water and treated it with immense respect. But just who these people who occupied the ancient city during the third millennium<sup>3</sup> B.C. were remains a puzzle.

**4** "It's pretty faceless," says Indus expert Gregory Possehl of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The city lacks ostentatious<sup>4</sup> palaces and temples so common in many ancient regimes. There's no obvious central seat of government or evidence of a king or queen. Modesty, order, and cleanliness were apparently preferred. Pottery<sup>5</sup> and tools of copper and stone were standardized. Seals and weights suggest a system of tightly controlled trade. Instead, the city's wealth and importance is evident from the discovery of artifacts, or ancient objects, made from precious stones and metals, including gold, as well as the baked-brick city structures themselves.

**5** A watertight<sup>6</sup> pool called the Great Bath, perched on top of a pile of dirt and held in place with walls of baked brick, is the closest structure Mohenjo Daro has to a temple. Possehl believes it suggests a set of beliefs that focus on cleanliness. Wells, dug deep in the ground, were found throughout the city, and nearly every house contained a bathing area and drainage system.

**6** The ancient city of Mohenjo Daro sits on elevated ground in the modern-day Larkana district of Sindh province in Pakistan. According to Possehl, the city was among the most important to the Indus civilization during its heyday<sup>7</sup> from about 2500 to 1900 B.C. It spread out over about 250 acres (100 hectares) on a series of mounds.

**7** This ancient city was divided into two major areas, the "Citadel Mound," an area of land which rises high above its surroundings, and the "Lower Town." The word "citadel" means "fort" and one large building on this mound was probably part of a military center designed to decrease the vulnerability of the city. Another nearby building, called "the Great Bath," also occupied this elevated area. No one knows for sure what the actual function of the second building was. Workers who originally excavated it were not carefully supervised, and therefore didn't keep records; so much of what they found was dispersed to various different locations before it could be sorted and labeled. Some archaeologists suspect it was an administrative building. Others think it might have been a temple or a storehouse<sup>8</sup> of some sort. There are two additional buildings on Citadel Mound, both of which appear to have a public function. It is believed that one of them was probably an educational institute of some sort and the other a large assembly hall used for large meetings.

**8** Lower Town is made up of a series of smaller mounds. These lie to the east and probably suggest the borders of several different walled neighborhoods. Those who first studied the area thought that the different mounds represented distinct divisions within the city, each with a separate function. The area along the western margin of the city was thought to be the administrative center. It was assumed that the lower mounds were areas where most of the people lived and where industries were located. However, more recent studies have come up with a different interpretation.

**9** It is now believed that there were actually a variety of different things going on in each of the mounds. It appears that a mixture of rich and poor lived in each of these areas. Large brick homes have been found in many of the mounds, along with many smaller structures where the less wealthy might have lived. There also appear to be industrial areas in many of the different mounds. To date, no temples have been discovered. However, one large building with a double set of stairs may have had some sort of religious function. No cemetery<sup>9</sup> has ever been found, although a few individual graves have turned up during excavations.

**10** According to archaeologist Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, the mounds grew little by little over the centuries as people kept building platforms and walls for their houses. "Gradually you have a high promontory<sup>10</sup> on which people are living," he says.

With no evidence of kings or queens, Mohenjo Daro was likely governed as a city-state, perhaps by elected officials or chosen leaders from each of the mounds.

**11** Many fascinating artifacts have been discovered in Mohenjo Daro which may provide clues to its culture and even reasons for its demise. A tiny statue of a naked female, known as the "dancing girl," was celebrated by archaeologists when it was discovered in 1926, Kenoyer notes. Of greater interest to him, however, are a few stone sculptures of seated male figures, such as the carefully carved and colored Priest<sup>11</sup> King, so-called even though there is no evidence he was either a priest or a king. The sculptures were all found broken, Kenoyer says. "Whoever came in at the very end of the Indus period clearly didn't like the people who were representing themselves or their elders," he says.

**12** There is no logical explanation for why Mohenjo Daro and the whole Indus civilization died out. Kenoyer suggests one thesis--that the Indus River changed course, which would have hampered<sup>12</sup> the local agricultural economy and the city's importance as a center of trade. But no evidence exists that flooding destroyed the city, and the city wasn't totally abandoned, Kenoyer says. And, Possehl says, a changing river course may have been one of the factors involved, but it doesn't explain the collapse of the entire Indus civilization. Throughout the valley, the culture changed, he says. "It reaches some kind of obvious archaeological fruition<sup>13</sup> about 1900 B.C.," he said. "What drives that, nobody knows."

**13** One really amazing thing about Mohenjo Daro is that no one really knows much about the people who lived there. Some people call it the city without a face. Although a great many artifacts have been found, they do not form a clear picture of what the people were like or what they believed in or how they spent their time. As archaeologists persist in their work, they hope to uncover more clues to the mystery of who lived in Mohenjo Daro.

- <sup>1</sup> **Excavation** is the process of digging in the earth to uncover something.
- <sup>2</sup> An **archaeologist** is a person who studies societies and people of the past.
- <sup>3</sup> A **millennium** is a thousand years.
- <sup>4</sup> If something is **ostentatious**, it is highly decorated and showy.
- <sup>5</sup> Pottery includes pots, dishes, and other objects made of baked clay
- <sup>6</sup> If something is **watertight**, it doesn't allow water to leak out.
- <sup>7</sup> A city's **heyday** is its most successful period.
- <sup>8</sup> A **storehouse** is a place where food or other important items are kept.
- <sup>9</sup> A **cemetery** is a large field where a city buries its dead.
- <sup>10</sup> A **promontory** is a cliff that stands out from the surrounding lower land forms.
- <sup>11</sup> A **priest** is a religious leader.
- <sup>12</sup> When something is **hindered**, its movement or progress is slowed.
- <sup>13</sup> A **fruition** is an achievement that has finally been realized.

ADAPTED FROM:

<http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/archaeology/mohenjo-daro/>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

<http://www.harappa.com/har/indus-saraswati.html>

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/india/indus/geography.html>

<http://www.mohenjodaro.net/indusbuildings.html>

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The passage is mainly about the \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. people of Mohenjo Daro  
b. history of Mohenjo Daro  
c. importance of the Indus River  
d. work of Gregory Possehl
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In paragraph 3, sentence 2, the meaning of the phrase *reverence for* is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. fear of  
b. respect for  
c. curiosity about  
d. confusion about
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In paragraph 7, sentence 1, the word *mound* means \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. hill  
b. building  
c. castle  
d. fort
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In the last sentence of paragraph 8, another way of saying *have come up with a different interpretation* is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. have arrived at a similar conclusion  
b. haven't understood the earlier findings  
c. have decided that they are right  
d. have disagreed with the earlier findings
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The first archaeologist to work in Mohenjo Daro arrived in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 1911  
b. 1931  
c. 1950  
d. 1964

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What is the main idea of paragraph 12?
- a. Mohenjo Daro slowly lost importance as a center of trade.
  - b. Kenoyer has a thesis about why Mohenjo Daro declined.
  - c. The Indus civilization depended on the Indus River for survival.
  - d. No one really knows or has evidence about why Mohenjo Daro died out.

**True/False**

*Indicate whether the statement is true or false.*

Refer to "Who Lived in Mohenjo Daro?" to answer the questions.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. In paragraph 3, sentence 3, *it* refers to "water"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The people of Mohenjo Daro probably fought many wars.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The rich and poor of Mohenjo Daro lived separately.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Mohenjo Daro started losing power from 1900 B.C. onwards.

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### Sección de respuesta

#### ELECCIÓN MÚLTIPLE

- |           |        |             |  |
|-----------|--------|-------------|--|
| 1. RES: B | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 | OBJ: Understanding gist                  |
| 2. RES: B | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 |  |
|           |        |             | OBJ: Understanding vocabulary in context |
| 3. RES: A | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 |  |
|           |        |             | OBJ: Understanding vocabulary in context |
| 4. RES: D | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 | OBJ: Understanding paraphrasing          |
| 5. RES: A | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 | OBJ: Understanding details               |
| 6. RES: D | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 | OBJ: Understanding main ideas            |

#### VERDADERO/FALSO

- |            |        |             |                               |
|------------|--------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 7. RES: T  | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 | OBJ: Understanding references |
| 8. RES: F  | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 | OBJ: Understanding inferences |
| 9. RES: F  | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 | OBJ: Understanding inferences |
| 10. RES: T | PUN: 1 | REF: Unit 1 | OBJ: Understanding details    |