

Task 1 – Long Reading

Trinity ISE II: THEMES: Local produce & Society and living standards

As part of your studies you are going to read about gardening. Read the following text and answer the 15 questions on the next page.

Amateur gardening in the UK

Paragraph 1

Around half of all adults in the UK list gardening as one of their pastimes and over 90% of UK homes have a garden of some sort. Not surprisingly, the level of participation generally rises the older people get. Fewer than one in five people aged 16 to 24 claim to do any gardening, for example. But this is hardly surprising since the average age at which people can afford to buy their first home is nearly 40 - you are unlikely to start gardening until you own one, after all.

Paragraph 2

First-time gardeners may be getting slightly older, but there is no doubt the pastime's popularity is on the rise again. The comeback of gardening may have more to do with the present economic situation than with gardening becoming 'trendy', though. For instance, the percentage of home-grown fruit and vegetables eaten in the UK has been rising for a number of years. It is no coincidence that at the same time income levels have been falling. Growing more of our own food makes financial sense.

Paragraph 3

That said, why people are returning to their gardens hardly matters; the important fact is that they are. Gardeners enjoy increased levels of physical activity and a reduced risk of obesity and other weight-related health problems as a result. Research has also shown that gardening helps people decrease and manage their levels of stress, so not only is it good for our physical well-being, but gardening also helps our mental wellness. Indeed, there is growing evidence that it can even reduce the symptoms of dementia and other illnesses in the elderly.

Paragraph 4

However, there are some downsides to gardening's renewed popularity. For example, amateur gardeners are the largest consumers of peat* in the UK, but already 94% of the country's natural peat bogs**, which are home to many precious plants and animals, have been destroyed. Peat regrows at a rate of 1mm per year, meaning the damage cannot be reversed. And while many of the UK's remaining areas of peat bog are now protected, we continue to import peat products from other countries, such as the Republic of Ireland and Finland.

Paragraph 5

The good news is we can solve the problem. Gardening enthusiasts just need to educate themselves about the alternatives on offer. The most obvious of these is peat-free compost***. Over the years, such products have improved dramatically and are now arguably just as good for the plants in our gardens as peat itself. Another practical and money-saving solution is to make your own compost. It is estimated that around 30% of all household waste can be turned into compost. This includes some things you might not expect, such as paper, cardboard and natural clothing. With a few simple steps, therefore, we can make gardening good not just for us, but also for the environment.

* peat: soft brown substance formed from decaying plants just under the surface of the ground, found in cool wet areas

** peat bogs: wet soft ground, formed of decaying plants

***compost: decayed plants or food etc. added to soil to help plants grow

Questions 1-5 (one mark per question)

The text on the previous page has five paragraphs (1-5). Choose the best title for each paragraph from A-F below and write the letter (A-F) on the lines below. There is one title you don't need.

1. Paragraph 1
2. Paragraph 2
3. Paragraph 3
4. Paragraph 4
5. Paragraph 5

- | | |
|---|--|
| A | Environmental impacts of gardening that should concern us |
| B | How age and property factors influence gardener numbers |
| C | How practical money reasons contribute to gardening's popularity |
| D | How you can make your gardening more eco-friendly |
| E | How gardening can help the body and the mind |
| F | How gardening is damaging most of Britain's peat bogs today |

Questions 6-10 (one mark per question)

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the text on the previous page. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the lines below (in any order).

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

- | | |
|---|--|
| A | Gardening is the most popular hobby for around half of UK adults. |
| B | Gardening could help improve life for older people with certain mental illnesses. |
| C | More people are growing their own fruit and vegetables now than for some years. |
| D | Peat-free compost did not use(d) to be as high in quality as it is today. |
| E | UK gardening habits contribute to damaging the environment of other countries. |
| F | Around 30% of household waste is recycled as compost. |
| G | Peat-free compost sold in shops is less expensive than peat compost. |
| H | In general, adults above the age of 24 are more likely to work in the garden than adults under 24. |

Questions 11-15 (one mark per question)

Complete sentences 11-15 with a word, phrase or number from the text (maximum three words). Write the word, phrase or number on the lines below.

11. People typically cannot purchase a home of their own until they are
12. The writer suggests gardening's popularity is partly due to people having less
13. Research suggests that people who garden can better control their
14. The vast majority of the UK's no longer exist.
15. Almost one third of all can be made into compost.

Task 2 – Multi-text Reading

As part of your studies you are going to read about the Maasai tribal people of Kenya. In this section there are four short texts for you to read and some questions for you to answer.

Trinity ISE II: THEME: Society and Living Standards

Questions 16-20 (one mark per question)

Read questions 16-20 first and then read texts A, B, C and D below the questions.

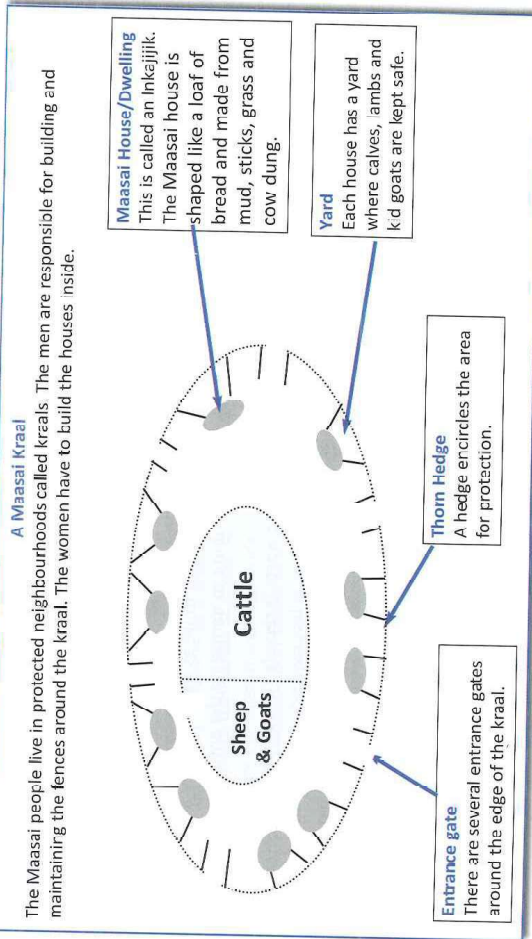
As you read each text, decide which text each question refers to. **Choose the letter – A, B, C or D – and write it on the lines below.** You can use any letter more than once.

Which text

16. describes the materials used to make the buildings Maasai people live in?
17. compares Maasai life with that of the writer?
18. encourages people to do something the writer has a ready done?
19. suggests a type of animal is used as a form of money by the Maasai?
20. has information about what is in the private yards of Maasai houses?

Text A

Sara: Jackie, about our school project, I can't find a diagram of a kraal – any help?
Jackie: Here you go.



Sara: Thanks! What's the fence made of?

Jackie: Acacia tree branches – they have really sharp thorns to keep wild animals out.

Sara: And who lives there again?

Jackie: It's often one big extended family – aunts, uncles, etc. Each individual family unit has its own section of the kraal.

Sara: OK. That makes sense. Uh, what are 'calves', 'lambs' and 'kids', though?

Jackie: They're babies: calf = baby cow; lamb = baby sheep, etc.

Sara: Ah! OK. Understood. So the adult cows, etc. stay in the middle but the young ones stay near the houses, right?

Jackie: Right!

Text B

Warrior Farmers ★★☆☆

This documentary aired on Channel 5 last night. There's a repeat next Thursday at 8pm. Fascinating stuff so don't miss it!

It follows the story of a young Maasai boy named Meikuaya on his journey towards adulthood. Meikuaya is taught from a young age by his father and the other elder males. Aged 6, he is given his own small herd of farm animals to look after. When he turns 9, his herd and his responsibilities within the family grow. There is no time for school. Instead, he learns how to use a spear, a type of weapon for protecting the family and its livestock from wild animals and other tribes (groups of Maasai). At the age of 13, Meikuaya goes through a special ceremony to become a man or a warrior. He now carries his weapon all the time and is expected to protect his family and its animals from danger. Aged 21, Meikuaya is married to a woman chosen by his family. This is very typical for the Maasai. Within three years, he is a father. Aged 30, Meikuaya is now considered an elder. He is a wise and brave father, not just to his own family now, but to the rest of the tribe.

Text C

Jackie's Blog

Phew – that's hard work!

I just can't believe how hard Maasai women work. Traditionally, girls are taught by their mothers and other female elders from a very young age about the functional roles they will have to do when they get older. They learn how to build houses, make jewellery, cook and clean their homes. I'm fourteen and I'm looking forward to another few years enjoying my childhood, but Maasai girls become women at this age. Their parents pick husbands for them and they get married. That's very young to get married, right? And just look at the daily chores they have to do. Here's a list of some:

- build and maintain houses
- milk the cows
- prepare food
- collect water
- collect firewood
- keep the fire burning
- wash clothes
- make decorative jewellery for the family
- look after the children

Text D

Cattle – the centre of everything

The Maasai are an African tribe of semi-nomadic farmers. That means they don't stay in one place but sometimes move home to find good feeding areas for their animals. Animals, especially cattle, are key to Maasai life. Cows provide food, drink, bedding and clothing. They are also used as a type of currency. Different groups of Maasai even go to war with one another over cows. Cattle raids, where one group of Maasai warriors tries to steal cows from another, are common and very dangerous. Wild animals are also a huge danger. Maasai warriors must protect their animals from lion and other big cat attacks.

Questions 21-25 (one mark per question)

Choose the five statements from A-H below that are TRUE according to the information given in the texts alone. Write the letters of the TRUE statements on the lines below (in any order).

- 21.
 - 22.
 - 23.
 - 24.
 - 25.
- A Maasai women are allowed to pick who they want to marry themselves.
 - B Maasai males carry weapons around with them all the time from the age of 9 onwards.
 - C As well as protecting their family from big cats, Maasai warriors also have to defend against attacks by other groups of Maasai.
 - D Maasai women make things that look nice for the rest of their family to wear.
 - E Maasai farmers will sometimes move their homes to areas with a better supply of food.
 - F Maasai boys work from a very young age and do not attend school.
 - G Maasai women have to construct their homes, while Maasai men make the hedges that protect them.
 - H Kraals are houses made of mud, grass and other materials.

Questions 26-30 (one mark per question)

The summary notes below contain information from the texts on the previous pages. Find a word or phrase from texts A-D to complete the missing information in gaps 26-30. Write your answers on the lines below.

Summary notes

The Maasai People

- Life of a Maasai male:
- starts working at the age of 6 and gets a bigger (26.)
 - o' animals to take care of at the age of 9
 - learns to use a (27.) as a weapon from a young age
 - becomes a man at 13, marries when 21 and is usually a father within three more years
 - an elder of his tribe by 30 and responsible for protecting the family and farm

Life of a Maasai female:

- taught the (28.) of a female member of the family, including house-building, jewellery-making etc, from a young age
- considered to be woman when she is (29.)
- marries young
- does a huge number of household chores every day

The Maasai neighbourhood:

- called a kraal (= a round area of land)
- a fence or hedge of acacia thorn branches is made by men to protect the farm
- women build inkajijik homes in the shape of (30.)
- farm animals also kept inside kraal for protection

Task 3 - Reading into writing

Use the information from the four texts you read in Task 2 to write a short article (150-180 words) for your school magazine about the Maasai people of Kenya. You should plan your article before you start writing. Think about what you want to say and make some notes to help you in this box:

Planning notes

(No marks are given for these planning notes)

Now write your article in about 150-180 words. Try to use your own words as far as possible - don't just copy sentences from the reading texts.

When you have finished your article, spend 2-3 minutes reading through what you have written. Make sure you have answered the task completely. Remember to check how you made use of the reading texts, as well as the language and organisation of your writing.

Task 4 - Extended writing

Trinity ISE II: THEME: National Customs

Your school magazine is inviting readers to choose their favourite national customs. Write a letter to the editor of the school magazine about your favourite local custom. Write your letter (150-180 words) and say what it is, how you celebrate and why it is your favourite one. You should plan your letter before you start writing. Think about what you want to say and make some notes to help you in this box:

Planning notes

(No marks are given for these planning notes)

Now write your letter in about 150-180 words.

When you have finished your letter, spend 2-3 minutes reading through what you have written. Make sure you have answered the task completely and remember to check the language and organisation of your writing.