Part 1: Reading Comprehension 80%

The Mayan Indians lived in Mexico for thousands of years before the Spanish arrived in the 1500s. The Maya were an intelligent, culturally rich people whose achievements were many. They had farms, beautiful palaces, and cities with many buildings. The Mayan people knew a lot about nature and the world around them. This knowledge helped them to live a better life than most people of that time, because they could use it to make their lives more comfortable and rewarding. Knowledge about tools and farming, for instance, made their work easier and more productive.

In ancient Mexico there were many small clearings in the forest. In each clearing was a village with fields of corn, beans, and other crops around it. To clear the land for farms, the Maya cut down trees with stone axes. They planted seeds by digging holes in the ground with pointed sticks. A farmer was able to grow crops that produced food for several people. But not every Maya had to be a farmer. Some were cloth makers, builders, or priests.

The Maya believed in many gods, including rain gods, sun gods, and corn gods. The people built large temples to honor the Mayan gods. Skillful workers built cities around these temples. It was difficult for them to construct these cities, because they had no horses to carry the heavy stone they used to build with. Workers had to carry all of the building materials themselves. Today, many of these ancient Mayan cities and temples are still standing.

Although the cities that the Maya built were beautiful, and the people worked hard to build them, very few of the people lived in them. Usually, only the priests lived in the cities.

The other people lived in small villages in the forests. Their houses were much simpler than the elaborate structures in the cities. They lived in small huts with no windows. The walls were made of poles covered with dried mud, and the roof was made of grass or leaves. Most Maya lived a simple life close to nature.

Measuring time was important to the Maya, so they developed a system for measuring it accurately. Farmers needed to know when to plant and harvest their crops. Mayan priests made a system to keep track of time. They wrote numbers as dots (•) and bars (―). A dot was one and a bar was five.

The Mayan priests studied the Sun, Moon, stars, and planets. They made a calendar from what they learned. The year was divided into 18 months of 20 days each with five days left over. The Mayan calendar was far more accurate than the European calendars of the time.

Around the year 800, the Maya left their villages and beautiful cities, never to return. No one knows why this happened. They may have died from an infectious disease. They may have left because the soil could no longer grow crops. Archaeologists are still trying to find the lost secrets of the Maya. They
are still one of our greatest mysteries.

Question 1:

Who are the Maya?

a) A tribe of Indians that lived in Mexico  
b) The name of a place in Mexico  
c) The name of a Mexican god  
d) A different name for Mexico 

Question 2:

What does the author believe about the Maya?

a) The Maya are not advanced or modern people.  
b) The Maya understood nature and science.  
c) The Maya believed that gods controlled the world.  
d) The Maya have all died. 

Question 3:

What is the author describing in this passage?

a) Why the Maya died.  
b) The many beliefs of the Maya  
c) The complex nature of Maya society  
d) Mayan ideas about the gods 

Question 4:

Which sentence about the Maya is true?

a) The Maya were poor people who lived in the forest.  
b) The Maya had many strange ideas about nature.  
c) Mayan farmers had no money so they lived in the countryside.  
d) Most of the people in the cities were priests. 

Question 5:

Which sentence about the Maya is not true?

a) The Mayan calendar was very accurate.  
b) The Mayans have disappeared.  
c) The Maya had a complex society.  
d) The Maya lived in the forest. 

Question 6:

Which topic is not discussed in the reading?

a) Maya writing system  
b) Maya calendar  
c) Maya houses
d) Maya lifestyle

Question 7:

What does the author believe about Maya culture?

a) It is simple
b) It is rich and complex
c) It is poor
d) It is too hard to describe

Question 8:

Why did the Maya disappear?

a) They ran out of food.
b) They got sick and died.
c) The Spanish killed them.
d) No one knows.

Part 2: Vocabulary 20%

1. Taiwan has a democratic ______ system.
   a) political
   b) social
   c) cultural
   d) economic

2. Taiwan has many ______ beliefs.
   a) economic
   b) traditional
   c) ethnic
   d) famous

3. The Chinese nation is made up of many different ______ groups
   a) ethnic
   b) educational
   c) human
   d) building

4. Taiwan Aborigines have several different ______.
   a) schools
   b) farms
   c) tribes
   d) gladiators

5. China has many ______ cities.
   a) religious
   b) tribal
   c) ancient
d) social  

6. A ______ is one way to measure time. 
   a) state  
   b) nation  
   c) calendar  
   d) economy  

7. ______ is a problem all over the world  
   a) religion  
   b) society  
   c) institutions  
   d) racism  

8. Along with class and gender, ______ is one of the building blocks of identity.  
   a) cement  
   b) ethnicity  
   c) money  
   d) education  

9. Nothing would shake his ______ in the power of love.  
   a) feathers  
   b) pride  
   c) belief  
   d) feelings  

10. The market ______ is based on the principle of supply and demand.  
     a) vegetables  
     b) traffic  
     c) prices  
     d) economy