

1. Read a text about India, its culture, history and geography.

India is the second most populated country in the world with more than 1.34 billion people. It can be found on the continent of Asia and shares a border in the northwest and northeast with several countries including Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bangladesh, and others. Most of the country forms a peninsula, which is an area of land surrounded on three sides by water.

The terrain of the country includes the world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas, in the north; the Thar Desert in the west; and jungles to its northeast. The Ganges Plain is a very fertile area of land covering much of northern India and had been created from soil deposited by rivers running from the Himalayan Mountain Range. The Ganges River is over 1,500 miles long and the Hindus consider it sacred, home of the goddess Ganga, and it is used by many people for purification.

The capital of India is New Delhi, the largest city, and the second largest is Mumbai. Though Hindi is the main language in the country, most of the people speak English quite well. Hinduism is the main religion and is second only to Islamism.

The society and population of India are divided into social ranks called castes. A caste is used to determine the class of people a person belongs, and is determined at a person's birth and is nearly impossible to change. High castes include people who are priests, landowners, and soldiers; the lower peoples have no castes and are called the untouchables. They do the most menial and lowest paying jobs, and many of them are poor and live in terrible conditions.

India became an independent country in 1947 following nearly 200 years of British control. Following its independence, India became the largest democracy in the world. Many different political parties compete for elected positions, and the economy of India continues to grow rapidly. Experts predict it will become one of the leading markets in the world.

One of the most famous people and leaders from India was Mahatma Gandhi, who in 1920, began a campaign against non-violence against the British government as the country was seeking its independence. He led three decades of organized protests and peaceful demonstrations, but there were many Indian people who were killed during the movement. Later, Gandhi was assassinated.

A famous landmark in Indian is the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It was built as a mausoleum between 1632 and 1648. It is made of white marble and can be found on the banks of the Yamuna River. Respect for animal life is very important to the people's beliefs. In fact, the cow is a sacred animal and may not be harmed. They often wander the crowded streets of India causing traffic jams.

There are varied climate zones throughout India, and other animals found in the country include elephants, pythons, river dolphins, tigers, rhinos, and many others. In the Sundarbans forest, tigers swim in the same river as dolphins, crocodiles, and sharks.

The famous writer, Mark Twain, once said of India: 'India is the cradle of human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great-grandmother of tradition.'

Answer the following questions about the text: (6x3=18 points)

1. Which countries share borders with India?
2. What is the Ganges Plain?
3. Who are the untouchables?. What do they do?
4. How long was India under British rule?
5. What kind of campaign did Gandhi begin?

6. What was the original purpose of the Taj Mahal?

Find a word in the passage that has similar meaning. (12x1=12 points)

Boundary

Demonstrate

Big

Produce

Forecast

Full of people

Look for

Land

Side

Make

Damaged

Most important

A. Complete the sentences with a suitable word to form an expression with the words in bold.

There are more words than you need. (8 x 1 = 8 points)

move | wipe | glance | place | behind | stand | make | kick | breath | whole

1 What you're saying isn't logical. It doesn't **sense**.

2 You'll begin to feel better when the antibiotics **in**.

3 I could tell **at a** that she was furious.

4 I was completely **out of** by the time I reached the top of the stairs.

5 The audience is unaware of all the work that goes on **the scenes**.

6 Our restaurant has decided to **with the times** and provide digital menus.

7 Forest fires in the area **out** thousands of trees every year.

8 The ceremony will **take** tomorrow at 5 pm.

1 **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.** (10 x 1 = 10 points)

1 I'll tell my father the good news the moment he (call) me.

2 The tickets are sold out. I wish we (buy) some last week.

3 My car is dirty. I'm going to it
..... (clean) tomorrow.

4 Where are you? We (wait) here for an hour.

5 I (think) about Sheila all day when she suddenly appeared.

6 Sean doesn't eat enough. He would look healthier if he (not be) so thin.

7 Why everything (sell) at half price yesterday?

8 What a noise! I wish the neighbours (not shout) like that.

9 The dogs are outside. The door (must / leave) open.

10 I (not eat) that cake if I had known there was so much sugar in it.

2 Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Active, passive and Causative forms (10 x 2 = 20 points)

Dan Fabbio is a talented musician who ¹ (play) the saxophone **all his life**. When he **discovered** that a tumour ² (find) in his brain and that he needed to ³ it (remove), he was worried about losing his musical ability. He knew that during an operation, part of the brain ⁴ (might / damage). To prevent harm to the part of Fabbio's brain responsible for processing music, doctors and scientists mapped his brain for six months to find exactly where the musical area ⁵ (locate). During the operation, while Fabbio ⁶ (operate) on, he ⁷ (encourage) to play the saxophone! Then, after the long operation which ⁸ (go on) for hours, everyone cheered when he played perfectly. Fabbio was happy because if the operation ⁹ (harm) his ability to play music, it ¹⁰ (destroy) the thing he loved best.

3. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the Past Perfect simple or the Past Perfect Continuous: (7 x 1 = 7 points)

- 1.- I at home for two days. (not be)
- 2.- The roads were blocked in the morning. It all night. (snow)
- 3.- She called the police when she the light in the hall. (see)
- 4.- They got to the beach after they for hours. (walk)
- 5.- Before we parked our car we the ticket. (collect) I arrived on Sunday.
- 6.- His English was perfect. He it since he started school. (study)
7. I all my life in the city before I moved to the country.

Write an opinion essay of about 100-140 words, telling how you think your country will be in the future.