



## CONSOLIDATION 1

### UNITS 6,7

#### READING SECTION

#### THE HISTORY OF DOCUMENTATION

I. Read the text '*The History of Documentation*'. Match the topics (A-E) to the paragraphs (1-5).

1. The manufacturing process of papyrus sheets

a. paragraph 1	b. paragraph 2	c. paragraph 3	d. paragraph 4	e. paragraph 5
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2. The noteworthy decline of papyrus use

a. paragraph 1	b. paragraph 2	c. paragraph 3	d. paragraph 4	e. paragraph 5
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3. The various uses of papyrus stems more than record-keeping

a. paragraph 1	b. paragraph 2	c. paragraph 3	d. paragraph 4	e. paragraph 5
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4. The historical development of writing tools and the adoption of papyrus

a. paragraph 1	b. paragraph 2	c. paragraph 3	d. paragraph 4	e. paragraph 5
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5. The preservation and destruction of papyrus documents

a. paragraph 1	b. paragraph 2	c. paragraph 3	d. paragraph 4	e. paragraph 5
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#### Paragraph 1

Libraries and archives are cultural crossroads of knowledge exchange, where the past transmits information to the present, and where the present has the opportunity to inform the future. Bureaucracies have become the backbone of civilizations, as governments try to keep track of populations, business transactions and taxes. At a personal level, our lives are governed by the documents we possess; we are certified on paper literally from birth to death. And written documentation carries enormous cultural importance. Documentation requires a writing tool and a surface upon which to record the information permanently. About 5,000 years ago, the Sumerians started to use sticks to make marks on mud blocks which were then baked, but despite being fireproof, these were difficult to store. Other cultures used more flexible but less permanent surfaces, including animal skins and wood strips. In western culture, the adoption of papyrus was to have a great impact. Sheets of papyrus not only provide an invaluable record of people's daily lives, they can also be dated using carbon-dating techniques, giving precise information about the age of the text written on them.

#### Paragraph 2

Papyrus is strongly associated with Egyptian culture, although all the ancient civilizations around the Mediterranean used it. The papyrus sedge is a tall grass-like plant. It was harvested from shallow water and



swamplands on the banks of the River Nile. Manufacturing sheets of papyrus from papyrus sedge was a complex process. Soft parts inside the plant's stem was cut into long strips that were laid side by side. These were then covered with a second layer of strips which were laid at right angles to the first, then soaked in water and hammered together. The sheet was then crushed to extract the water, dried and then polished to produce a high-quality writing surface, individual sheets could be glued together and rolled up to make scrolls or folded and bound to form books.

### **Paragraph 3**

The earliest known roll of papyrus scroll was found in the tomb of an official called Hemeka near Memphis, which was then the capital city of Egypt, and is around five thousand years old. In 79CE, nearly 2,000 papyrus scrolls in the library of Julius Caesar's father-in-law were protected at Herculaneum by ash from the catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. However, the most famous discoveries of papyrus have come from the rubbish dumps of the ancient town of Oxyrhynchus, some 160km south-west of Cairo, in the desert to the west of the Nile. Oxyrhynchus was a regional administrative capital and for a thousand years generated vast amounts of administrative documentation, including accounts, tax returns and correspondence, which was periodically discarded to make room for more. Over time, a thick layer of sand covered these dumps, and they were forgotten. But the documents were protected by the sand, creating a time capsule that allowed astonishing glimpses into the lives of the town's inhabitants over hundreds of years. Collections of documents that record information and ideas have frequently been viewed as potentially dangerous. For thousands of years, governments, despots and conquerors have burnt libraries and books to free themselves of inconvenient evidence or remove cultures and ideas that they found politically, morally or religiously unacceptable. The burning of the Great Library of Alexandria has been mythologized and has come to symbolize the global loss of cultural knowledge.

### **Paragraph 4**

Besides their use in record-keeping, papyrus stems were used in many other aspects of Mediterranean life, such as for boat construction and making ropes, sails and baskets, as well as being a source of food. In 1969 the adventurer Thor Heyerdahl attempted to cross the Atlantic from Morocco in the boat Ra, to show that it was possible for mariners in ancient times to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Ra was made from bundles of papyrus stems and modelled on ancient Egyptian craft. As a marshland plant, papyrus sedge stabilizes soils and reduces erosion, while some investigations show that it has potential for water purification and sewage treatment.

### **Paragraph 5**

True paper was probably invented in China in the first century CE. Like papyrus, it was constructed from a meshwork of plant fibres, but the Chinese used fibres from the white mulberry tree, which yielded a tough, flexible material that could be folded, stretched, and compressed. The adoption of this paper by western cultures soon rendered papyrus obsolete. Despite dreams of paper-free societies, western cultures still use enormous quantities of paper, often in ways that it would be inconceivable to use papyrus for. As a paper substitute, the role of the papyrus sedge in western cultures has been superseded; papyrus is little more than a niche product for the tourist market. What makes papyrus noteworthy for western societies nowadays is its use as the surface upon which our ancient ancestors recorded their lives, their art and their science. In the words of the ancient Roman philosopher Pliny the Elder, it is 'the material on which the immortality of human beings depends'.



## II. Choose the best answer according to the text.

6. What was the problem with using animal skins and wood strips for writing on?
- They did not last for a long time.
  - They were not easy to store.
  - They were insufficiently flexible.
  - They could be destroyed by fire.
7. Why did papyrus manufacturers hammer the papyrus?
- to remove water from the pith strips.
  - to join the layers of soft strips together.
  - to allow the pith strips to be easily cut.
  - to position the layers of pith strips at the correct angle.
8. Why did rulers burn libraries and books throughout the history? Because \_\_\_\_\_.
- information could be used for harm as well as for good.
  - new ways must have been found to ensure information was not lost.
  - cultural knowledge depended on more than written texts.
  - those in power wished to keep others in ignorance.
9. What is the importance of papyrus for western cultures today?
- It is better for the environment than using paper.
  - It is the material our ancestors used to record their lives.
  - It is still the best writing surface for some purposes.
  - More efforts need to be made to ensure it stays in use.

## III. Choose the best answer to complete the following paraphrased statements according to the text 'The History Of Documentation'.

10. Governments rely on \_\_\_\_\_ to monitor populations, business transactions, and taxes, making them the backbone of civilizations.

a. lives	b. crossroads	c. bureaucracies	d. opportunities
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11. Around five thousand years ago, the earliest discovered papyrus scroll was found in the \_\_\_\_\_ of an official named Hemeka near the capital city of Egypt at the time, Memphis.

a. Mount Vesuvius	b. tomb	c. the Nile	d. over time
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12. Papyrus stems had various uses in Mediterranean life beyond record-keeping, including boat construction, rope, sail, and basket-making, as well as serving as a \_\_\_\_\_.

a. food source	b. boat Ra	c. adventurer Thor	d. ancient times
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## VOCABULARY SECTION

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences.

1. The scientist's new research provided factual \_\_\_\_\_ that the theory of relativity was correct.

a. exposure	b. proof	c. outbreak	d. suppress
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2. The teacher reminded her students not to \_\_\_\_\_ small details in their research, as they could be important to their findings.

a. alarm	b. undergo	c. breed	d. overlook
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3. The instructor reminded the students that plagiarism was a serious academic \_\_\_\_\_ and would not be tolerated.

a. threat	b. outbreak	c. species	d. nation
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4. The project required a \_\_\_\_\_ amount of research before the team could move forward with development.

a. ruling	b. polluted	c. substantial	d. sterile
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5. The local conservation group aimed to preserve the natural \_\_\_\_\_ of endangered species.

a. vaccine	b. habitat	c. factor	d. bacteria
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6. The experts warn that if people \_\_\_\_\_ animals in an irresponsible way, this will lead to serious health problems and genetic defects.

a. associate	b. breed	c. alarm	d. grant
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7. The lecturer reminded the students that using cell phones during class could \_\_\_\_\_ the learning environment for others.

a. inject	b. gather	c. breed	d. disrupt
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8. Everybody agrees that the internet has made information \_\_\_\_\_ available to people all over the world.

a. official	b. inevitable	c. overall	d. widely
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9. The panellists discussed that the process of \_\_\_\_\_ often results in increased pollution and traffic congestion.

a. nation	b. urbanization	c. habitat	d. species
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10. The \_\_\_\_\_ party made an announcement that astonished the entire nation.

a. ruling	b. inevitable	c. widely	d. polluted
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11. It is known that the internet has revolutionized \_\_\_\_\_ because the way of how people buy and sell goods or get services has changed and become practical.

a. threat	b. vaccine	c. commerce	d. productivity
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12. Her remarkable talent and unique style help \_\_\_\_\_ her from other artists in the industry.

a. gather	b. assist	c. distinguish	d. alarm
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13. \_\_\_\_\_, I thought the movie was well-acted and engaging, but the ending left something to be desired

a. Because of	b. Nevertheless	c. Consequently	d. Overall
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14. The sudden noise from the construction work outside \_\_\_\_\_ the people, who were passing by.

a. alarmed	b. associated	c. collapsed	d. assisted
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15. Most people \_\_\_\_\_ the smell of freshly baked cookies with the warm and cosy feeling of being at home.

a. overlook	b. associate	c. distinguish	d. absorb
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