

First Term English Exam

Part One: Reading

(15points)

A/ Comprehension

(07points)

Read the text carefully then do the following activities.

The eighth wonder of the ancient world was discovered by accident. In 1974 in Xi'an, China, a group of farmers were digging when they uncovered a pit containing thousands of life-size warrior statues. The Terracotta Army is part of an enormous mausoleum, built to accompany the First Emperor into the afterlife.

Over 2,000 years ago, Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi had united the seven warring states into the single nation of China, which gets its name from his kingdom. The resulting peace meant there was no use for his vast army, so he set them to work building his elaborate tomb.

Much like the whole of Chinese society at the time, the Emperor was obsessed with life after death. He believed that the next world mirrored this one, therefore he commissioned an army of life-size clay warriors to help maintain his rule. The pits were excavated and clay bases were made for each figure. All the body parts were made separately and baked in a kiln before being joined, in an impressive early example of assembly-line construction. Once complete, each warrior was baked again at 1,000 degrees Celsius to harden the final structure. These advanced methods make that the Terracotta army is a lasting reflection of the ingenuity of early Chinese society.

*Adapted by Hicham Ouazene
<https://smarthistory.org/>*

1. Say whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false one(s).

- a) Chinese farmers found many statues underground in China.
- b) The Chinese states were in peace before they were unified.
- c) The ancient Chinese were not interested in the afterlife.

2. Identify the paragraph in which the following ideas are mentioned.

- a) Chinese beliefs concerning the afterlife.
- b) The burial site of China's first emperor.

3. Answer the following questions according to the text.

- a) What is the Terracotta Army?
- b) Who unified ancient China?
- c) How was the Terracotta Army made?

4. Find who or what the underlined words in the text refer to.

- a) they (§1)
- b) its (§2)
- c) He (§3)

B. Text Exploration:

(08points)

1. Find in the text words or phrases that are closest in meaning to the following.

- a) hole (§1) =
- b) large (§2) =
- c) preserve (§3) =

2. Divide the following words into roots and affixes.

Words	Prefix	Root	Suffix
uncovered			
reflection			
impressive			

3. Combine each pair of sentences with the connectors given between brackets. Make changes where necessary.

- a) The emperor began the construction of the tomb. The emperor took the throne. (**as soon as**)
- b) The number of the Terracotta warriors is vast. Each warrior has unique facial features. (**despite**)
- c) They will find more artifacts in the site. The site will be declared a World Heritage Site. (**if**)

4. Fill in each gap with the appropriate word from the list given.

prisoners – help – protective – built

Incredible manpower and materials helped construct the world's longest wall. Although the first sections of border walls had been(1).... in the 8th century BC, it wasn't until 220 BC that Emperor Qin ordered for them to be joined up as a(2).... barrier. He set soldiers, peasants and(3).... to work constructing the wall from stone, soil, wood and even sticky rice, which was used to(4).... hold the bricks together.

Part Two: Written Expression

(05points)

Choose ONE of the following topics

Topic One:

A common misperception of Chinese historical society is that it was the least successful compared to other great ancient people. Write an article of about 80 to 120 words for your school blog to tell your schoolmates about the rise and achievements of the ancient Chinese civilization.

The following notes may help you:

- the Huang He Valley / the birthplace of Chinese civilization
- ruled by an emperor
- the Tang dynasty / the most successful
- achievements & inventions: paper / the compass / paper money / matches...
- advances in different fields / agriculture / mathematics...

Topic Two:

Your grandparents keep saying that they used to have a harder but happier life. As a young person living in a modern society, write an article of about 80 to 120 words, for your school magazine to share your opinion with your schoolmates about this belief.