

Part One: Reading Comprehension

(Score: 12/20)

Read the following selection in which the writer explains how the art of glass has been developed throughout the years. When you are through with the reading, answer the questions that follow.

The History of Glass Making

1 No one knows exactly when or where glass was first made. Glass appears to have been produced as far back as the second millennium BC by the Egyptians and perhaps the Phoenicians. Evidently, it originated in Mesopotamia, where pieces of well-made glass, dated back to the third millennium, BC have been found.

2 Glass was a lot less common than it is today. It was very **valuable** and has even been compared to gold. The art of glass making eventually reached Egypt. The Egyptians used a method called core-forming. A shaped core was made of clay and dung, and then molten glass was wrapped around it and shaped by rolling it on a smooth surface.

3 Around the end of the 1st century BC, a new method called glassblowing revolutionized glass production. This art was probably discovered along the Eastern Mediterranean coast, probably in Syria. By blowing through a hollow tube, the experienced glassblower can quickly produce **complex** and symmetrical shapes out of the molten glass pieces at the end of his tube or rod. Alternatively, he can blow the molten glass into different shapes. The glassblowing innovation, along with the backing of the powerful Roman Empire, made glass products more **accessible** to the common people.

4 After the decline of the Roman Empire in the 4th and 5th centuries AD, the craft of glass making decreased in Europe. However, the industry continued to **develop** in Iran, Iraq and Egypt. In Europe, there was a limited revival of glass making in the early 12th century, with the development of stained glass windows for cathedrals and monasteries. A flourishing glass industry did not develop in Europe until the end of the 13th century, when the city of Venice in Italy became a major glass making center. Glass makers may have picked up their glass making techniques through their contacts with the near East countries in the 14th century.

5 So by the 15th century, Venice had become the major producer of glassware in Europe. So highly esteemed were the Venetian glass makers that they were forbidden to leave the Island of Murano; glass producers were worried that their precious trade secrets might be told to others. However, after two centuries, in 1676, an Englishman named George Ravenscroft discovered that by adding lead to glass, a far more brilliant sparkle was achieved.

Questions

A. Answer questions 1-3 in complete sentences of your own.

1. Based on Paragraph 1, where and when was glass truly made first? (01)
2. According to Paragraph 3, why did glass making spread to many countries? (01)
3. Based on Paragraphs 4 and 5, what two reasons made the Venetians successful glass traders? (01)
4. The purpose of the selection is to _____. (0.5)
- narrate - inform - criticize
5. What do the underlined pronouns in the selection refer to? (01)
a. it (Par. 2) b. he (Par. 3)

B. Refer to the selection above to complete the chart below. Copy the chart in your answer booklet. (01)

Time	Event
	<i>Producing well-made glass</i>
<i>1st century BC</i>	
	<i>Developing colored glass windows</i>
<i>17th century AD</i>	

C. The reading selection has five paragraphs (1-5). Each of the following extracts (A and B) is the correct part that completes ONE paragraph in the selection. Read extracts A and B carefully, and then choose from paragraphs (1-5) the one that correctly fits with each extract. (01)

Extract (A) *As the size of the Roman Empire increased, the art of glass making spread to many countries.*

Extract (B) *The Venetians provided the link between the ancient and modern glass making arts. Venetian glass was noted for its brilliance and for its light, imaginative forms.*

D. Use contextual clues to figure out the meaning of each word in the box below. Then fill in the blanks with the correct word to complete the following sentences. Make changes when necessary. (02)

valuable (Par. 2)	complex (Par. 3)	accessible (Par. 3)	develop (Par. 4)
-------------------	------------------	---------------------	------------------

- The _____ of a country depends on its production.
- The man couldn't understand the _____ mixture of ingredients in that beautiful craft.
- In many Lebanese cities, the public can have free _____ to museums.
- Old souks are the best places for finding _____ antiques.

E. Correct the ONE grammatical error in each of the following sentences. (02)

- I don't know why does he mix the glass like that.
- Practicing crafts are important for teenagers to grow up mentally.
- She felt boring while watching the people producing glass.
- The history teacher is walking into the art gallery when she tripped and broke her leg.

F. Rewrite the following sentences starting as indicated without changing the meaning. (1.5)

- He rarely visits local museums.
Rarely _____
- Nabil gave the girl a glass souvenir.
The girl _____
- He said, "Do you know how they are manufacturing glass?"
He asked me _____

Part Two: Writing

(Score: 08/20)

Choose ONE of the following prompts.

Prompt (A)

Participating in crafts events and art activities builds good character.

Explain the above quotation, and then write about two important traits (self-confidence, social skills, communication skills, self-expression, creativity, etc.....) that crafts/ arts develop in any person. **Provide a title, and an outline for your essay, and then develop your ideas in a well-organized essay of 150-200 words.**

Prompt (B)

Our school days are full of crafts competitions that both strengthen our relationships as students and leave unforgettable memories from which precious lessons about love, brotherhood, and unity are learned.

Narrate a school event about an art or a craft competition which taught you a precious life lesson. What was the event? Who was involved? What moral lesson did you learn?

Copy and fill in the graphic organizer, and then develop your ideas in a well-organized essay of 150-200 words.

Title	
Setting	
Characters	
Events	
Ending/Lesson learned	

Your essay will be evaluated based on ideas (Score: 2.5), language (Score: 2.5), chart and title (Score: 02), tidiness and legible handwriting (Score: 01).

The History of Glass Making

Part One	Answer Key	Score											
A 1-	Glass was truly made first in Mesopotamia in the third millennium BC. N.B: 0.5 for place, and 0.5 for time.	01											
2-	Glass making spread in many countries due to the development of the glassblowing method, and the great support of the Roman Empire. N.B: 0.5 for each reason.	01											
3-	The Venetians were successful glass traders because they were open to near East countries/ had contacts with near countries and they kept their trading techniques unknown to other glass traders. N.B: 0.5 for each reason.	01											
4-	The purpose of the selection is to inform .	0.5											
5-	a. "it" refers to glass. b. "he" refers to (the experienced) glassblower. N.B: 0.5 each	01											
B	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Time</th> <th>Event</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Third millennium BC</td> <td><i>Producing glass</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st century BC</td> <td>Discovering the glassblowing method</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12th century AD</td> <td><i>Developing colored glass windows</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>17th century AD</td> <td>Adding lead to glass/ Achieving a brilliant sparkle</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Time	Event	Third millennium BC	<i>Producing glass</i>	1 st century BC	Discovering the glassblowing method	12 th century AD	<i>Developing colored glass windows</i>	17 th century AD	Adding lead to glass/ Achieving a brilliant sparkle	01	
	Time	Event											
	Third millennium BC	<i>Producing glass</i>											
	1 st century BC	Discovering the glassblowing method											
	12 th century AD	<i>Developing colored glass windows</i>											
17 th century AD	Adding lead to glass/ Achieving a brilliant sparkle												
N.B: 0.25 each													
C 1-	Extract A is the correct part that completes paragraph 3.	0.5											
2-	Extract B is the correct part that completes paragraph 4.	0.5											
D 1-	development	0.5											
2-	complex	0.5											
3-	access	0.5											
4-	valuable	0.5											
E 1-	... why he mixes the glass like that.	0.5											
2-	... is important...	0.5											
3-	... felt bored ...	0.5											
4-	... was walking into the art gallery...	0.5											
F 1-	Rarely does he visit local museums.	0.5											
2-	The girl was given a glass souvenir.	0.5											
3-	He asked me if I knew how they were manufacturing glass.	0.5											
Part Two	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Title</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Setting</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Characters</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Events</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ending/Lesson Learned</td> <td>0.25</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Title	0.5	Setting	0.5	Characters	0.25	Events	0.5	Ending/Lesson Learned	0.25	Ideas (Score: 2.5), language (Score: 2.5), chart and title (Score: 02), tidiness and legible handwriting (Score: 01)	08/20
	Title	0.5											
	Setting	0.5											
	Characters	0.25											
	Events	0.5											
Ending/Lesson Learned	0.25												