

Subject two

Part One: Reading (14pts)**A/ Comprehension (7pts)**

Read the text carefully then do the following activities.

After the fall of the Toltec civilization, which flourished from the 10th to the 11th century, waves of immigrants flooded into Mexico's central plateau area around Lake Texcoco. As late arrivals, the Aztecs were forced to occupy the swampy area on the western side of the lake. They were surrounded by powerful neighbours who exacted tribute from them, and their only piece of dry land was a tiny island surrounded by marshes.

That the Aztecs were able to build this unpromising start into a powerful empire within two centuries was due in part to their belief in a certain legend. The legend specified that the Aztecs would found a great city at the place where they found an eagle eating a serpent while perched upon a cactus growing out of a rock. According to a later legend, Aztec priests discovered this scene near Lake Texcoco and there built their city named Tenochtitlan. At its height, the Aztec Empire covered much of modern Mexico's central plateau and stretched down into the northern part of Guatemala.

As the Aztecs grew in number, they established superior military and civil organisations. By 1325 they had founded the city of Tenochtitlan on the side of present-day Mexico City.

(Funk & Wagnalls, New Encyclopaedia)

1/ What type of discourse is the reading passage above? Choose the right answer(0.5)

- a- Descriptive b- Narrative c- Argumentative

2/ Are the following statements true or false? Correct the false ones.(2pts)

- a- The Aztecs were the first to arrive in Mexico.
 b- They occupied the best land.
 c- The building of the Aztec city was based upon a legend.
 d- The Aztec Empire spread to Guatemala.

3/ Answer the questions according to the text. (3pts)

- a- Did the Aztecs choose to live on the western side of the lake?
 b- What helped the Aztecs build a powerful empire within 2 centuries?
 c- Did the Aztecs discover a scene of the legend?

4/ In which paragraph is it mentioned that the beginning of the Aztec Empire was improbable? (0.75)**5/ Choose the appropriate title to the text (0.75)**

- a- The History of Mexico
 b- The Aztecs' beliefs
 c- The Birth of the Aztec Empire.

B/ Text Exploration (7pts)**1/ Find in the text words closest in meaning to the following (1.5)**

- a- Large numbers (1§) b- spread (2§) c- created and established (3§)

2/ Complete the table as appropriate (1.5)

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
.....	expansion
To spread
.....	believable

3/ Write sentences a so that they mean the same as sentences b (2pts)

- a- The Aztecs were surrounded by powerful neighbours.
 b- Powerful
 a- The Aztecs were forced to occupy a swampy area. However, they became very powerful.
 b- Although.....

4/ Complete the following dialogue. Imagine what B says to A (1pt)

A: Did you watch last night's documentary?

B:.....?

A: It was about the Phoenicians. Did you know that they brought the alphabet?

B:.....?

A: Well, they are said to come from what is known today as Lebanon.

B: I think I missed something interesting!

5/ Classify the words according to the number of syllables.(1pt)

Several – civilisation – emergence – invade

Part Two: Writing (5pts)**Choose one of the following topics.**

A/ Using the notes below, write a paragraph on the following topic:

What were the causes of the collapse of most civilisations? Support the ideas with examples.

- Wars
- Epidemics
- Economic problems
- Drought.

Or B/ What would you do to fight counterfeiting if you had power?