

PART 3

You are going to read a magazine article about an ancient city called Great Zimbabwe. Eight paragraphs have been removed from the article. Choose from the paragraphs A - I the one which fits each gap (14-20). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use. There is an example at the beginning (0).

The Golden Heart of Africa

When news of an amazing discovery in Africa was reported in the 1870's, fantastic rumours were heard everywhere. Here was the Queen of Sheba's capital or maybe King Solomon's treasury.

0 [] E

Looking at Great Zimbabwe, it is easy to describe: a hilltop fort below which is a royal enclosure and a collection of ruined houses.

14 []

The first thought amongst Europeans was that no African people could have built it as building with stone was not known among the African peoples. Also, the inhabitants of the region were nomadic. They spent only a few years in one place and then moved on.

15 []

The second mistake was assuming that cows and cattle had been the most important part of Zimbabwe's economy. In fact, Zimbabwe had been a trading centre long before the first white man arrived. Traders visited Africa from the Middle East, India and China.

16 []

With the rise of Islam in the Middle East, trade grew. Gold was needed in the Islamic cities. But gold was in short supply. Soon explorers were searching the east coast of Africa looking for gold.

17 []

But Zimbabwe was not an easy place to get to. Lying between 600 and 1,200 metres above sea level, it could only be reached along rivers. It was surrounded by areas where mosquitos, which cause malaria and tsetse fly, which causes sleeping sickness, were found.

18 []

The local Africans decided to settle down and started putting up more permanent buildings and walls. The settlements grew and terraces and forts were built. Most surprising is the fact that not only were the buildings enormous, but they were found all over Zimbabwe.

19 []

But trade wasn't everything in Great Zimbabwe's economy. Agriculture was also important, with cattle moving over great distances. The power of the rulers was supported by religion. Carvings of the sacred fish-eagle, to which all Zimbabweans looked for advice, were found on the walls of the royal palace.

20 []

All we know is that for hundreds of years Great Zimbabwe dominated Southern Africa. Suddenly, for some unknown reason, the civilisation came to an end. Possibly it was destroyed by an enemy, possibly by fire and drought. Today Great Zimbabwe remains an archaeological puzzle.

TEST 2

READING

- A Merchants traded manufactured goods for raw materials. Africans received mainly beads and cloth; the visitors left with minerals, slaves and ivory. They came from across the ocean along routes which had been known for thousands of years.
B However, the only reason few African stone buildings had been discovered was that Africans had no suitable stone to build with. Instead they used mud. But the area of Great Zimbabwe was covered with stone and it would have been natural to use it for building.
C Little is known about the people who lived in these buildings - the inhabitants of Great Zimbabwe - although they did leave records of the people they traded with. A painting in a Southern African cave shows four Persian merchants with beards, trousers and pointed hats. Trade was obviously one of the most important features of Zimbabwean life.
D But Great Zimbabwe shows no regularity of shape. It wanders over the land with neither a square or a circle to be seen. The fort is heavily protected where it overlooks the valley but is unprotected on the other side. Walls start and stop for no reason. Passages lead nowhere. In short, it is an archaeologist's nightmare.
E The reports told of a ruined palace with massive walls, stone towers, statues and tombs, and above all unlimited supplies of gold. For a while the area was the centre of a mini gold rush. It was only years later that archaeologists finally realised they had discovered the ancient city of Great Zimbabwe.
F The news they brought back was encouraging. Inland in Africa was a region where all that man could desire was freely available. More ships set sail and soon Great Zimbabwe was born.
G Modern Zimbabwe also boasts many thousands of cattle which graze on the plains around the ancient city. This modern industry provides the Zimbabwean economy with a large amount of income.
H The traders, however, found the journey worthwhile. The area had thousands of cattle and an enormous supply of minerals. There was iron, copper and tin.
I But what was the Zimbabwean religion? No one can say for sure. Who were the rulers, the chiefs, the kings and queens of these people? We simply don't know and may never know.

PART 4

You are going to read some information about a week's TV viewing. For questions 21-35, choose from the reviews (A-I). Some of the reviews may be chosen more than once. When more than one answer is required, these may be given in any order. There is an example at the beginning (0).

What should you tune into if:

- 0 [] E you are curious to see a drama based on a well-known book?
21 [] you like football?
22 [] you like medical stories?
23 [] you are more interested in good acting than in the plot?
24 [] you enjoy romance?
25 [] you like a story with a historical background?
26 [] 27 [] you like watching films based on real life?
28 [] 29 [] you like comedies?
30 [] 31 [] you like stories based on family life?
32 [] 33 [] you like factual programmes?
34 [] you want to see a married couple act together?
35 [] you are curious about your fellow drivers?

TV Highlights

- Angle [] A is mostly autobiographical, is packed with drama. The film is perhaps too realistic to be enjoyable. Stick to the book.
Serial Mom [] F Beverly Sutipin (Kathleen Turner) seems like a supermum. With hubby Eugene (Sam Waterston) and kid Misty (Ricki Lake), who's a horror-movie fan, Beverly completes the ideal all-American family. But when every-one leaves for the day, she becomes the housewife from hell, wiping out anyone who stands in the way of her family's happiness... A cheeky comedy that'll make you chuckle.
From A to B - tales of Modern Motoring [] B The title won't set you alight, but don't miss this hilarious documentary. It is about what British drivers are really like: it shows a couple arguing over map-reading, parents fighting with teenagers and even some back-seat passion. Some of it will sound familiar, and will certainly make you rethink your in-car behaviour.
Doctor Finlay [] C If you find the blood and guts realism of 'Casualty' too strong, try watching this gentle medical drama. In this second series, Dr Finlay (David Rintoul) struggles to cope with his workload, while facing life or death decisions on a daily basis. It also stars Annette Crosbie, who's better known as the long-suffering wife of grumpy Victor Meldrew.
Sleepless in Seattle [] D It was only released last year, but SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE is already something of a romantic classic. Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star in this wonderful weepie about a reporter who falls in love with a man she's never met and who lives thousands of miles away. It'll restore your faith in true love.
The House of Spirits [] E Isabel Allende's epic novel THE HOUSE OF SPIRITS is a brilliant read - but despite an impressive cast, the film is a let-down. Meryl Streep, Jeremy Irons and Glenn Close star in the saga, which follows a Chilean family through three generations. Sadly it's all a bit dull. The book, which

- Scattered Dreams [] G The always excellent Tyne Daly stars in SCATTERED DREAMS. It's all about a couple who are torn apart when they are sent to prison for a crime they didn't commit. It's based on a true incident but spoilt here by being over-larded with easy sentiment. The film is saved by a strong cast, but it's a typical example of Hollywood overdramatising a simple story. Their release at the end is all too predictable.
Natural Neighbours [] H The humour in this new series, all about links between humans and animals, is perhaps overdone for what is really a fascinating subject. The first in the series of light-hearted documentaries is about pigs. We all now know that pigs are intelligent and sensitive, but the programme insists on telling us that we think of them as dirty and lazy, and that we are wrong. Pigs are employed in the war against drugs and are even kept as pets in America. Facts mixed with fun.
An Evening with Gary Lineker [] I This is a film version of a successful stage comedy, which records the goings-on in a hotel room on the night England lost to West Germany in the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup. Paul Merton stars with his real-life wife Caroline Quentin. It's saucy and fun. Stay in to watch it.