

Reading Comprehensions

1- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

"The Egyptian Government's request for a freeze on the assets of members of the country's former ruling elite does not involve former President Hosni Mubarak or his family, a European Union official said.

"EU member states have received a request from the foreign minister of Egypt for the freezing of assets of some high-ranking officials... but not for former President Mubarak and his family," said Maja Kocijancic, spokeswoman for EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Press Agency the request targeted seven officials, but Kocijancic would not confirm the number.

The United States, Britain and France said that Egypt had asked them to freeze the assets of former officials. Paris and Washington said Mubarak was not on the list of officials.

EU diplomats approved the Egyptian request, ahead of regular talks of the bloc's foreign ministers.

"The EU is using a United Nations convention against corruption as grounds for freezing accounts and seizing assets," a EU official said. Mubarak, who resigned after weeks of protests, and other senior officials are suspected of having sent billions of dollars of assets abroad. Protesters have called for the cash to regained to help alleviate poverty in Egypt. **A- Give short answers to these questions:**

- 1 - What is the passage about?
- 2- What is Catherine Ashton's position?
- 3 - Why do the protestors want the assets to be got back?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

- 4- This passage is a/an
 a) tragedy b) essay c) newspaper report d) political analysis

- 5 - The underlined word "grounds" means
 a) demands b) motives c) causes d) reasons

2- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

Egypt's military Government announced that work reforming the country's constitution is to be completed in 10 days as a legal panel was formed to do the job, just five days after an 18-day revolution toppled former long-serving President Hosni Mubarak.

"An eight-member panel must finish its work to revise the Constitution in a period of no longer than 10 days after the date of this decision," read a statement from the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.

The panel of judges and constitutional law experts, chaired by former deputy chief of the State Council Court Tareq el-Beshry, is tasked with revising articles 76,77,88,93,189 and the cancellation of article 179 of the constitution to guarantee democracy and fair elections, the statement added.

The military took power on Friday when Mubarak's 30-year-reign was brought to an end. Since then, Egyptian workers have begun testing the bounds of their new freedom with strike action the military suspended the constitution and dissolved parliament, but it has promised to oversee a six-month transition to democratic rule.

A- Give short answers to these questions:

- 1 - Who has done the constitutional reforms?
- 2 - How was the president toppled?
- 3 - Why have some articles in the constitution to be amended?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

- 4 -The transition to democracy will take
 a) six years b) six months c) six weeks d) sixteen days

- 5 - The underlined word "guarantee" means
 a) to make it certain that something will happen b) to take power
 c) to hold demonstrations d) to cancel articles in the constitution

3- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

The victory of the January 25 Revolution should shed light on great challenges lying ahead to help Egypt's tourism restore its prestige globally and regionally. We have to work hard to restore the world's confidence in our country and its tourist attributes. The new publicity campaign to be launched worldwide should highlight the values of the Egyptian people, who launched a peaceful revolution to

get rid of their oppressors and celebrate democracy and freedom. We should campaign to convince world's governments to cancel warnings issued before to warn their citizens from visiting Egypt. Our diplomatic missions overseas should act immediately to persuade these governments to allow their citizens to resume their visits in Egypt. We should in the meantime upgrade our cooperation with tour operators and partners in major tourist markets to relinquish their anxieties and resume their traditional trips to our country. The task is not easy. But we have to be confident and optimistic inspired by the spirit of the Youth Revolution.

A- Give short answers to these questions:

- 1 - What sort of challenges does the passage refer to?
- 2- Why did our young people launch a peaceful revolution?
- 3-When can tourists resume their visits to Egypt?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

- 4 - The suggested new publicity campaign should be launched
a) on a small scale b) all over the world c) only in America and Europe d) in a gradual way
- 5 - The underlined word "their" refers to.....

a) diplomatic missions b) world's governments c) Egyptian people d) warnings issued before

4- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

The Egyptian Revolution of 2011 is sometimes called the 25 January Revolution, the Revolution of the Youth or the White Revolution. It is a social movement that began in Egypt on 25 January, 2011, characterised by a series of street demonstrations, marches, rallies, acts of civil disobedience, riots, labour strikes, and violent clashes. The protests were largest in Cairo and Alexandria, with significant activities in other cities of Egypt. At times over a million people were protesting to demand the overthrow of the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, an end to corruption and police repression, and democratic reforms of the political system. The demonstrations and other actions in Egypt in this period were part of a campaign of civil resistance, a technique of struggle relying primarily on non-violent methods. On 11 February, Mubarak resigned from office as a result of determined popular protest. While localized protests had been common in previous years, the 2011 protests have been the largest demonstrations seen in Egypt since then.

A- Give short answers to these questions:

- 1- What are the three names given to the Egyptian Revolution of 2011?
- 2- What characterised the Egyptian Revolution of 2011?
- 3- Mention three demands of the demonstrators.

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

- 4 - Mubarak resigned from office due to
a) his serious illness b) people's support
c) police repression d) determined popular protest
- 5 - The underlined word 'relying' means
a) leading b) learning c) depending d) leaving

5- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

FRANKFURT (Reuters) -Two of Europe's biggest travel companies said on Monday they would restart holidays from Germany to Egypt and Tunisia in March.

The German units of British groups Thomas Cook (TGG.L) and TUI Travel (TT.L) had cancelled holidays from Germany to the African countries until the end of February, in the face of unrest that swept the countries' long-time leaders from power. The companies' move came after the German foreign office relaxed its travel advice for resorts in the two countries.

German group TUI (TUIGn.DE) said last week it expected a hit of up to 37 million euros (\$50 million) from the uprisings, while Thomas Cook put the damage to its earnings at up to 20 million pounds (\$32 million).

A-Give short answers to these questions:

- 1- When would German tourists restart visiting Egypt and Tunisia?
- 2- Why were holidays from Germany cancelled?
- 3- What do you think "Reuters" is?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4 - "Thomas Cook" is a..... .

- a) car factory b) broadcasting station c) new website d) travel agency

5 - The underlined word 'swept' means

- a) cleaned the floor b) moved with force - c) cause damage d) revolt against

6- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

Educational reform will take 20 years. But it is better to start today. Countries live much longer than individuals. What is important is to start on the right track, We should not be demanding change now. That is bound to fail. There are things that can be done now and things to be done over time.

The easiest part of educational reform is the physical part such as text book, school teacher compensation and teaching methods. We can start on these issues right away. The part that will take time is to figure out how to motivate the educators at all levels, and to align the incentives of these people to deliver good quality education.

The third point, which is even more difficult, is public accountability-or making sure citizens have a voice and can influence what goes on in schools and how education policies are formulated by the government This is the part that will take longer because it will be part of the process of democratization, and that process needs to take its course.

A- Give short answers to these questions:

- 1- What is the easiest part of educational reform?
- 2- Why, do you think, educational reform is so demanding?
- 3- What is meant by "public accountability?"

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4 - Educational reform should be

- a) a gradual process b) done at once c) ignored for long d) left altogether

5 - The underlined word refers to

- a) education b) reform c) accountability d) democratization

7- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

In 2010, 15 million tourists visited the country. Tourism contributed six per cent of the nation's GDP with \$13 billion in revenues in 2010, But the latest events have proved devastating to Egypt's most significant hard currency earner. According to official statements, some one million tourists have **departed** the country within the first 10 days, causing losses estimated at billions.

"Tourists in the country left and tour operators abroad cancelled all trips to Egypt for at least two months ahead," said Gena Riad from Grand Plaza Travel; who works with the Italian market.

Riad added that governments have warned tour operators abroad against organising trips even to the remote Red Sea resorts of Sharm El-Sheikh and Hurghada on the grounds that "it is highly risky to be in the country for the time being," Moreover, insurance companies are no longer insuring individuals or groups visiting the country.

The events have hit one of the busiest tourist seasons of the year. "January and February are among the busiest months".

A- Give short answers to these questions:

- 1- How much did Egypt earn from tourism in 2010?
- 2- Why did all tourists leave Egypt in January?
- 3- When is the busiest tourist season in Egypt?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4 - Tourist operators cancelled all trips to Egypt for ,..... days at least,

- a) sixteen b) thirteen c) sixty d) thirty

5 - The underlined word **departed** means

- a) reached b) lived c) left d) visited

8- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

Some measures have been taken concerning the Egyptian Stock Exchange. These measures include reducing the trading hours to three hours and cancelling the exploratory session ahead of the main trading session.

Amid expectations that the Egyptian Stock Exchange will re-open soon, the Financial Supervisory Authority has unveiled a package of preventive measures to protect traders and slave off a sharp decline.

The 18 days of mass street protests that forced Hosni Mubarak to step down on Feb. 11 struck a heavy blow to the Egyptian economy and disrupted trading on the Bourse. While banks have re-opened, the stock market's closure could raise investor doubts in the Egyptian economy's ability to **recover**. The Stock Exchange said in a statement on Saturday that it was putting procedures in place to prevent "market troubles" and allow for the market's "gradual return to normal operation".

A- Give short answers to these questions:

1- Mention two steps taken to prevent stock turmoil.

2- What does the package of preventive measures aim at?

3- Give a suitable title to the passage. B- **Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:**

4 - The stock market's closure has a/an effect on economy.

a) promising b) passive c) negative d) encouraging

5 - The underlined word '**recover**' means

a) put a cover b) cover again c) return to normal activity d) become worse

9- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

More than two million Egyptians thronged into Cairo's iconic Al Tahrir Square on Friday to celebrate the popular 18-day uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak's regime on Feb 11.

As part of the political culture of the Arab world's most populous country, the jubilant Egyptians celebrated the historic event with banners and posters for a certain leader, or company, or governorate that presumably played an active role in the revolt

During that important **rally**, the famous square breathed a little harder now that a banner war had been declared in a country where political posters and banners usually outnumber advertising billboards. **A-**

Give short answers to these questions:

1- Why did people throng into Al Tahrir Square on Friday , Feb 18?

2- How long did our young men's uprising last?

3-How did the Egyptians celebrate?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4 - The number of political posters and banners was advertising billboards on Feb 18 .

a) fewer than b) similar to c) the same as d) more than

5 -The underlined word **rally** means

a) race b) meeting c) lecture d) session

10- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

A legal representative for Hosni Mubarak denied media reports that the former Egyptian President has amassed enormous wealth in office, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency (MENA) said, "Since President Hosni Mubarak stepped down on February 11, some **media** reports suggested his wealth may have amounted to billions of dollars".

"The former President Hosni Mubarak has submitted his final financial statement to the concerned judicial bodies according to the law," said the legal representative to Mubarak, quoted by MENA.

Egyptian officials are required to submit regular financial statements to the relevant authorities.

Mubarak's representative said: "Ill-intentioned rumours had no basis in fact related to the size of **his** fortune or having assets or possessions overseas," adding that the rumours were aimed at damaging Mubarak's reputation and financial integrity.

A- Give short answers to these questions:

1- What did the legal representative for Hosni Mubarak deny?

2- Why were rumours spread against Hosni Mubarak?

3- According to the passage, who is responsible for checking the financial statements of people?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d: *

4 - MENA is a.....

a) car company b) travel company c) news website d) news agency

5 - The underlined word **his** refers to

a) Mubarak b) Mubarak's representative
c) an Egyptian official d) a newspaper reporter

11- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

Despite the uphill challenges facing the caretaker Government of Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq, - especially at the economic level, some steps have been taken to satisfy ordinary citizens, especially the governmental employees as well as jobless people. They have long suffered neglect, which was one of the main reasons for the January 25 Revolution.

One such step is to offer around LE500 unemployment benefit to young people suffering from unemployment, a suggestion that has raised many question marks over the ability of the State to finance this benefit from its resources.

As the caretaker Government considers increasing the minimum wages of employees to a reasonable limit, the state budget would suffer an additional burden. This would be added to the huge losses that the country continues to incur because of the decline in its tourism industry and the expected losses on the Stock Exchange,

A- Answer the following questions:

1 - What was one of the main reasons for the January 25 Revolution?

2- Why would some young people be given LE 500?

3- Mention two challenges the government is facing.

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4- measures have been taken to satisfy government employees by the caretaker government

a) No b) Hardly any c) Unnecessary d) Very few

5- The underlined word 'the minimum wages'* means the

a) biggest b) smallest c) widest d) highest

12- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

The revolution in Egypt and uprisings across the region have prompted Western governments to rethink their policies of supporting autocratic leaders.

Egypt is now governed by a military council, led by veteran Defense Minister Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, who met Cameron. Cameron later conferred with Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq.

I think this is a great opportunity to talk to those currently running Egypt, to make sure this really is a genuine transition from military rule to civilian rule/' Cameron was quoted by Reuters as telling reporters on the plane before landing in Cairo.

Cameron was also planning to meet with representatives of the opposition.

British officials said it would be a good idea to meet other, less organised opposition groups to highlight the fact that they are other alternatives to Mubarak.

"We want to expand our important trading relationship and equally our security relationship, in fighting extremism and terrorists," Cameron said.

British investment in Egypt is an important way to create economic opportunities and promote stability.

A- Give short answers to these questions:

1 - What has made Western governments rethink their policies?

2- Why did Cameron confer with Tantawi and Shafiq?

3- What did British officials predict concerning British investment in Egypt?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4 - Cameron came to Egypt.....

a) by sea b) in a car c) by plane d) on a train

5 - The underlined WM d 'opportunity' means a/an to do something.

a) plan b) order c) chance d) suggestion

13* Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

With President Mubarak stepping down, the hope that tourism will return to Egypt and Sharm in particular is growing in our hearts.

Egypt now focuses on establishing a transitional government, which will create the foundation for democracy and pave the way for the upcoming presidential elections. The 'New Egypt' emerging from that process will help tourism flourish and send the message that Egypt is a peaceful country and Sharm truly The City of Peace¹.

On a positive note: Thomas Cook continued some of its chartered flights from England to the Red Sea resorts Hurghada and Sharm, demonstrating true belief in the Egyptian people and the safety of both cities. In addition, on February 20 Russia sent two chartered planes with tourists to Sharm, signaling the **resumption** of operations to Egypt. Most importantly, it was said that Russian tourists preferred to come back to Egypt than to go to other destinations,

A- Give short answers to these questions:

- 1 - What sort of State is Egypt aspiring for?
- 2- How will setting up true democracy help tourism?
- 3- What does the return of some tourists to the Red Sea resorts show?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4 - The January 25 Revolution in Egypt..... at first.

- a) has helped tourism to flourish
- b) has made tourists feel safe
- c) has increased the national income
- d) has been a failure

5 - The underlined word '**resumption**' means

- a) travelling abroad
- b) visiting ancient sights
- c) creating a new system
- d) starting something again

14- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

"Our mission in the coming months is to ensure Egypt is on the right track to establish a democratic state based on a new constitution, **fair** and transparent elections, and to hold officials of former president Mubarak's regime accountable for their crimes against the Egyptian people," says El-olaimi. The Youth Coalition of the Revolution issued a "roadmap" outlining their vision of peaceful transition to a democratic state. It demanded a new constitution, an end to the emergency law, a transitional unity government formed of technocrats to remain until elections, and an end to restrictions on forming political parties, labour unions and publishing newspapers, "They demanded the abolition of state security, the release of all political prisoners, the dissolving of the National Democratic party and the removal of Ministry of Interior Forces from university campuses,

A- Give short answers to these questions:

- 1- Who, do you think, El-olaimi is?
- 2- Mention two goals of the January 25 Revolution, mentioned in the passage.
- 3- Why did the Youth Coalition of the Revolution issue their roadmap?

B- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4 - The transitional unity is to be formed of.....

- a) media people
- b) local councils
- c) technical experts
- d) famous businessmen

5 - The underlined word '**fair**' means

- a) beautiful
- b) equal
- c) acceptable
- d) average

15- Read the following passage, then answer the questions:

In the wake of the Egyptian revolution, some protesters drew up a list of public figures who they claimed favoured keeping the status quo and who urged protesters to keep out of Tahrir Square, the centre of the revolt. Among the names listed were sports figures who enjoyed close relations with former President Hosni Mubarak, including Egypt football coach Hassan Shehata; Zamalek coach, Hossam Hassan and his twin Ibrahim ; Egypt goalie Essam El-Hadari ; Zamalek stars Shikabala and Ahmed Hossam 'Mido', and TV sports presenter Khaled El-Ghandour.

The main cause of the unstable situation which Egypt is facing is the result of the success that some people had in **driving a wedge** between demonstrators and those who didn't protest/ El-Hadari said, adding that he supports Mubarak wholeheartedly.

A - Give short answers to these questions:

- 1- What did the list mentioned in the passage include?
- 2- Why is Tahrir Square world-famous?
- 3- What did El-Hadari think of Egypt's former president?

B-Choose the correct answer from a, b, c or d:

4 - sportsmen are mentioned in the passage.

- a) Eight b) Six c) Seven d) Five

5 - The underlined words '**driving a wedge**'¹ means

- a) sparkling public demonstrations
- b) responding to people's demands
- c) enjoying close relations with
- d) causing two people or groups to disagree