**Castles**

1 Palaces are known for their beauty and splendor, but they offer little protection against attacks. It is easy to defend a fortress, but fortresses are not designed with the comfort of a king or queen in mind. When it comes to structures that are both majestic and well-fortified, the classic European castle is the pinnacle of design.

2 Across the ages, castles changed, developed, and eventually fell out of use, but they still command the fascination of our culture. Castles were originally built in England by Norman invaders in 1066. As William the Conqueror advanced through England, he fortified key positions to secure the land he had taken. The castles he built allowed the Norman lords to retreat to safety when threatened by English rebellion.

3 Castles also served as bases of operation for offensive attacks. Troops were summoned to, organized around, and deployed from castles. In this way castles served both offensive and defensive roles in military operations. Not limited to military purposes, castles also served as offices from which the lord would administer control over his fiefdom. That is to say, the lord of the land would hold court in his castle. Those that were socially beneath the lord would come to report the affairs of the lands that they governed and pay tribute to the lord. They would address disputes, handle business, feast, and enjoy festivities. In this way castles served as important social centers in medieval England.

4 Castles also served as symbols of power. Built on prominent sites overlooking the surrounding areas, castles constantly loomed in the background of many peasants’ lives and served as a daily reminder of the lord’s strength. The first castles constructed in England were made from earth and timber. Those who constructed them took advantage of natural features, such as hills and rivers, to increase defenses. Since these castles were constructed from wood, they were highly susceptible to attacks by fire. Wooden castles were gradually replaced by stone, which greatly increased the strength of these fortifications; however, being made from stone did not make these castles entirely fireproof. Attackers could hurl flaming objects into the castle through the windows or ignite the wooden doors. This led to moving the windows and entrances off of the ground floor and up to the first floor to make them more difficult to access.

5 As the nobility accumulated wealth, England became increasingly attractive to those who sought to plunder. Raids by Vikings and other marauders increased regularly. In response to these attacks, castle defenses were updated and improved. Arrow-slits were added. These were small holes in the castle, large enough for an arrow to fit through, which allowed defenders to fire from nearly invulnerable positions. Towers were built from which defenders could provide flanking fire. These towers were connected to the castle by wooden bridges, so that if one tower fell, the rest of the castle was still easy to defend. Multiple rings of castle walls were constructed, so that even if attackers made it past one wall, they would be caught on a killing ground between inner and outer walls. Advances such as these greatly increased the defense of castles.

6 The demise of castles can ultimately be attributed to gunpowder. Gunpowder was first introduced to Europe during the 14th century, but the first gunpowder weapons were unreliable, inaccurate, and weak by later standards.

7 During the 15th century, artillery became powerful enough to break through stone walls. This greatly undermined the military role of castles. Castles were then replaced by artillery forts that had no role in civil administration, and country houses that were indefensible. Though castles no longer serve their original purposes, remaining castles receive millions of visitors each year from those who wish to experience these majestic vestiges of a time long passed.

Part 1:

Q1. True/false: Castles offer better security due to the way they are built. True

Q2. True/false: Castles were first built by William the Conqueror. False

Q3. A word in paragraph 2 which means strengthened is:

a. retreat

b. fortified

c. developed

Q4. What is the main purpose of paragraph 2?

a. To discuss the history of castles.

b. To describe castles at old times.

c. To inform about the many uses of castles.

Q5. One of the following is not a use of castles:

a. military operations.

b. home of royals and nobles.

c. Place for offices and handling business.

Q6. The Lord used castles for:

a. Serving other royal members.

b. Attending the troops while they fight.

c. practicing is power and handling business affairs.

Q7: True/False : Castles only served militent and business purposes. False

Q8. A word in paragraph 4 which means noticeable:

a. loomed

b. prominent

c. susceptible

Q9. In order to secure castles, constructors had to:

a. build castles in far places.

b. Change its structure.

c. build it closer to where peasants lived.

Q10. Castles were a symbol of power due to its:

a. structure.

b. ruling Lord.

c. security.

Q11. The reason why castles were open for attacks is:

a. having many windows and gates.

b. not being inhabited by anyone.

c. They way they were constructed.

Q12. Which of these best describes the author’s word choice in paragraph 4?

a. impressed

b. enthusiastic.

c. factual

Q13.Paragraph 5 contains the most information about —

a. Developing castles’ defend system.

b. Main attackers of England’s castles.

c. Importance of building towers.

Q14. The reason why England was open for attacks is:

a. its nobility

b. its castles

c. its riches

Q15. True/False : Towers and rings played major role in protecting castles. True

Q16: An adverb in paragraph 5 which means frequently:

a. increasingly.

b. regularly

c. accumulated

Q17. True/False: building wooden bridges were part of developing castles’ defense system.

False

Q18. The meaning of the word “demise” as used in paragraph 6 is:

a. power

b. security

c. end (of)

Q19. Castles stopped serving its main purposes because of:

a. They are no longer being attacked.

b. the failure of its security system.

c. it can no longer be ruled by anyone.

Q20. The main purpose of the article is to —

a. Describe how secured castles were.

b. Persuade readers to learn more about castles.

c. To inform the reader about old castles and its security.

Part 2: Grammar

1. If our passports \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (BE) all right, we wouldn't have been arrested.

( were, are, had been)

2. If he leaves his bike outside, someone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (STEAL) it.

(would steal, will steal, would have stole)

3. If the weather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (STAY) like this, the clothes will be dry in a few hours.

(stayed, had stayed, stays)

4.I would tell you his number if I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (KNOW) it.

(knew, had known, will know)

5. 17. If you hate your job, why \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (YOU NOT CHANGE) it?

(won’t you change, don’t you change, wouldn’t you change)

6. If he worked hard, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (FINISH) in time.

(will finish, would have finished, would finish)

7. If John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (BUY) a season ticket, he would lose it.

( bought, would buy, would have bought)

8. If the man \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (NOT FOLLOW) him, he wouldn't have fallen down the stairs.

(didn’t follow, hadn’t followed, doesn’t follow)

Part 3 : literature

Q1. The author’s main claim in The Automation paradox is the effects of increased automation on employment.

True.

False.

Q2. Occupations that use computers grow slower, not faster.

True

False

Q3. Automation leads to faster processing of voluminous tasks and reduced turnaround timelines.

True

False

Q4. One of the following is not a benefit of Automation:

a. working for less hours.

b. Lowering operating costs.

c. guaranteeing worker’s jobs in future.

Q5. The only way that computers can cause unemployment is if they make certain people's jobs unnecessary.

True

False

Q6. The primary reason that legal companies are using an automated system is to:

a. find important documents.

b. replace workers.

c. keep up with technology.

Q7. We define automation as "the creation and application of technology to monitor and control the production and delivery of products and services.”

True

False