**PART ONE: Reading (15 points)**

**A) Comprehension (8 points)**

***Read the text carefully then do the activities below*.**

Our solar system is an exciting place that consists of several celestial bodies, each having a number of interesting features. It consists of the sun in the centre and several other bodies including the planets in order, their satellites, [asteroids](http://www.buzzle.com/articles/asteroids/), meteoroids etc... all revolving around [the sun](http://www.buzzle.com/articles/the-sun/). The earth is one of the nine planets. **They** all go round the sun in the same way. Each of them also turns on its own axis. The earth makes a complete journey round the sun in one year. It turns once on its axis in 24 hours. The sun rises and sets because the earth is turning.

There are two planets nearer the sun, Mercury and Venus. Mercury is small and it is very near the sun. The same side always faces the sun and this side is always very hot. The other side away from the sun is very cold. Indeed, nobody can live **there**. Venus is almost the same size as the earth. It is called the evening star and it is very beautiful; but it is not a star. Earth is the third planet. Mars is the fourth planet, which completes its journey round the sun in one year and a half. **It** is the biggest planet. It takes about twelve years to go around the sun. The next planet is Saturn. It travels once around the sun in about thirty years. Saturn has ten moons. Uranus, the next planet is 1.783 million miles from the sun and has four moons. Neptune’s first name was the Georgian and it is the eight planet. It completes its orbit round the sun in 165 years. Pluto was found in 1930. It goes once round the sun in 248 years. However, post 2006, [Pluto](http://www.buzzle.com/articles/pluto/) was taken out of the list and is no more considered as a planet.

The detailed study of the stars, planets, galaxies and comets is applied in the understanding of the space background radiation that takes place consistently beyond the atmosphere of the Earth. The revelations have largely affected and influenced man’s understanding of evolution, meteorology and the laws of physics. Astronomy reveals a Universe that is vast, varied, and beautiful - the beauty of the night sky, the spectacle of an eclipse, the excitement of a black hole. Astronomy thus illustrates the fact that science has cultural as well as economic value. **It** has inspired scientists, artists, and poets throughout the ages. **(Adapted from wikepidea.)**  
  
***1. Circle the letter that corresponds to the right answer.***

The text is:

**a .** descriptive **b.** argumentative **c.** expository

***2. Are these statements true or false? Write T or F next to the letter corresponding to the statement:***

**a-** Planets revolve the sun in different directions.

**b**- Venus is a beautiful star.

**c**- It takes planet Saturn about 13 years to make one revolution around the sun.

**d**- Pluto is no more regarded as a planet.

***3. Answer the following questions according to the text.***

**a-** Name some of the celestial bodies that our solar system consists of?

**b-** In which feature are planets similar?

**c-** In what way is astronomy a useful science?

***4. In which paragraph is it mentioned that:***

**a**- The solar system is composed of many floating bodies.

**b**- Astronomy is a useful science.

***5. What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text?***

**a.** They (§1) **b.** there (§2) **c.** It (§2) **d.** It (§3)

**B)** **Text Exploration (7 points)**

***1. Find in the text words or expressions that are closest in meaning to the following:***a) rotating (§1)= b) trip(§2)= c) development (§3)=

***2.Divide the following words into roots and affixes***

excitement unbeautiful - -revolving

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Prefix** | **Root** | **Suffix** |
| /////////// |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| /////////// |  |  |

***3. Ask the questions that the underlined words answer:***

a) Neptune goes once round the sun **in 248 years**

b) Uranus is **1.783 million miles** from the sun

c) Light travels at **a speed of 300000 km per second**.

***4. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets***

a) Suppose we (to be) in another planet, we (to meet) other creatures.

b) Providing that we act now, we (to protect) our planet from external threats.

c) I wish we (to live) in another planet in the future.

d) Countries had better ( to stop) wasting money on astronomical research.

***5. Join the pairs of sentences using the appropriate connector from, the following list (*** *like, unlike, both…and ,whereas****). Make any necessary changes.***

a) Jupiter is far from Earth. Mars is far from Earth.

b) Some planets are cold. Other planets are hot.

c) The planet Earth is inhabited. The planet Mars isn’t inhabited.

***6. Classify the following words according to the pronunciation of their final /s/.***

planets - journeys - sciences - radiations

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **/s/** | **/z/** | **/Iz/** |
|  |  |  |

***7. Fill in the gaps with only six words from the following list to make a coherent passage.***

**take length to how orbit around way for**

All the planets ………..different amounts of time to get all the way …………to the sun .Our Earth takes a year ……..make one complete orbit .In fact ,that’s …….we decided how long a year should be –it’s the ………..of time it takes us to get all the …….around the sun !

**PART TWO : Written expression ( 5 points )**

**Choose ONE of the following topics:**

**Topic one**: Using the information provided in the table, write an essay comparing and contrasting the two planets presented.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Planets** | **Moon** | **Rings** | **Rotation**  **period** | **Atmosphere components** | **Diameter(km)** | **Distance from the Sun(million km)** |
| Jupiter | 16 | 1 | 11,86 years | Hydrogen  Helium | 143,200 | 778,3 |
| Earth | 1 | 0 | 365,3 days | Nitrogen, Oxygen | 12,756 | 149.6 |

**Topic Two**: Do you think that astronomy is a useful science? Explain by giving true arguments and facts.