

THEME 4 TRADITIONS READING SKILL (PASİFİK)

A. Read the text and write the characteristics of the past and the 21st century.

“My dear granddaughter, thank you for visiting me on this religious festival morning. You know, some people go on holiday during religious festivals these days. Religious festivals were different when I was a child. All relatives and friends used to visit one another during those days, not after the festival. We always wore new clothes. Nowadays, people don’t buy special clothes for festivals because they frequently buy a lot of clothes and they don’t give any particular importance to them. They consider religious festivals as holidays because they have to work hard. Life was different in the past. For example, only a few women used to work. Most women stayed at home to look after their children because there didn’t use to be many nurseries. Doing housework is easier now. We have different household appliances in our century; washing machine, dishwasher, vacuum cleaner, etc. My great grandmother used to wash the clothes by hand.

And families used to have a joint family. I mean most married couples used to live with their parents. That has changed now. Every couple wants to live in a nuclear family. We are not very close to our relatives or neighbours. In the past, neighbourhood was very important. Nowadays, we don’t even know our neighbours.

Another point is this: The entertainment styles have changed in the 21st century. A lot of people eat out and go to the cinema or theatre. In the past, there used to be very few restaurants and most people preferred to eat and spend time at home. People used to read more books. Nowadays, we only watch TV and look at our mobile phones or computers.”

Characteristics of the past

Characteristics of the 21st century

B. Read the text again and answer these questions.

1. Why don’t people buy special clothes for religious festivals?
2. Why is housework easier nowadays?
3. What was neighbourhood like in the past?
4. What was good about reading in the past?

C. Read the text and answer these questions.

Social, Educational and Technological Life in the Past

After the Middle Ages ended, life was peaceful for many people in the Ottoman territory, but the slaves in many parts of the world were fighting for their rights. Islam taught its followers goodness, charity and love. The Ottoman Sultans used to build foundations for charity. Foundations and charities helped the poor. There was honesty in business life, too. Ahî Evran, the Turkish philosopher, used to tell the members of Ahî Foundation to be honest when they bought and sold things.

During its history, the Ottomans created the characteristic Ottoman culture. So, the Ottoman ceremonies, costumes and monuments of İstanbul took place in European paintings. The structure of the Ottoman architecture also amazed and influenced the world.

Ottoman scientists showed remarkable success in science. In the 16th century, Muslims used to know a lot about astronomy to find praying and fasting times and geography to find the direction of the Kaaba. The most important Ottoman geographer was Muhyiddin Pîrî Reis. In the meantime in the world, The Polish astronomer Copernicus published his theory that the earth and the planets revolved around the sun. A Turkish philosopher İbni Sina wrote the best medicine book of the time and Leonardo Da Vinci, an Italian painter, scientist, theorist and architect, drew human organs and body parts very well.

Education in the Ottoman period was in mektebs and madrasas. The graduates of these institutions used to work for the government. The first state school for girls opened in 1858. In 1869, primary education for six to ten-year-old boys and girls was compulsory. So, families began to send their children to school.

After the Renaissance, European children used to go to classical secondary schools. Students learned about culture and civic values. The curriculum of American schools was also humanist. In the 19th century, women in the United States could have secondary education and in western Europe, all children had to go to school to a certain age.

1. What was life like in the Ottoman period?
2. What did Ahî Evran want people to do?
3. What did European artists paint?
4. What did Muslims in the 16th century use to be good at?
5. Which schools did the Ottoman children use to go to work at government offices?
6. When did primary education for all children become compulsory in the Ottoman period?