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TEST 15

Read the following text and answer the questions given below.

(8 marks)

All his life Hesith had lived with his parents in Colombo, but he had always loved the country, and he was particularly interested in agriculture, so when finished school he decided to go to an agricultural college and learn how to be a farmer. He studied all kinds of things about farming at college during his first year, and when the vacation came he thought he was an expert farmer.

He had an uncle called Mahinda who had a farm in the North Central Province – about twenty miles from Polonnaruwa, so after a week at home in the big city, he phoned him and asked whether he could come and spend a week with him. He said that, considering he had been at the agricultural college for a year already, he might be able to give him some really up-to-date ideas about farming methods which could be useful to him.

His uncle tried not to laugh as he answered. He asked Hesith to come whenever he liked and said he would like to exchange ideas with Hesith. Mahinda had met other similarly eager young agricultural students before, and did not have a very high opinion of their knowledge. He had been farming for twenty years, and watched the early morning and weekend farming programmes on television regularly, so he suspected that he did not have much to learn about his work from a first year student.

However, he went to the station to meet Hesith, when he turned up, and drove him back to his farm for lunch, during which they talked mostly about family. "If I've been born on a farm instead of the city" Hesith said, "I have friends who really enjoy city life, and who feel unhappy unless they're in bright lights, but I'm just the opposite I love the country and everything to do with it." After lunch, Mahinda said to his nephew, "I suppose you'd like to get on with looking round the farm now, so that you can give me your expert advice about what we are doing wrong."

Hesith blushed and protested that he would probably not be able to find anything wrong at all, but Mahinda could see that he was saying this only out of politeness, and that he really thought himself an expert on farming. He asked him to change his shoes before going out, so as not to make his carpets dirty when they came in again. Then as **they** went out of the house to start their tour, Mahinda said, "I suppose you know that we grow a variety of vegetables on this farm. We sell **them** to the markets at Dambulla and so on. We are having a lot of competition from Nuwara Eliya, and now from the North.

Hesith nodded. They were entering a nursery full of young plants, and Mahinda asked Hesith to tell him what he thought of them and told him not to be shy. "Mm," he said solemnly, "Your methods are certainly very old-fashioned. It isn't surprising you can't compete with the North. We went to Jaffna to study their methods, you know, I don't suppose you get more than three kilos of tomatoes off each of those plants over there". He smiled in a superior way.

"I am sure we don't", answered his uncle, "Those are chili plants".

1. State whether the following statements are true or false by writing "T" or "F" against each sentence.

- (a) Hesith did not live in a place that he liked. (... ..)
- (b) He always liked to study agriculture. (... ..)
- (c) He decided to enter an agriculture school after he left school. (... ..)
- (d) At the end of the first year, he was an expert farmer. (... ..)

2. What did Hesith offer to do for his uncle once he visited the farm?

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3. How did his uncle, Mahinda, know so much about farming? Give two reasons.

(i)

(ii)

4. Why did Hesith blush and protest when his uncle said Hesith could give expert advice on farming?

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5. Write the sentence which says that his uncle grew different kinds of vegetables in his farm.

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6. Name the two places where his uncle face a big contest when selling vegetables.

(i) (ii)

7. Why did his uncle agree, when Hesith said that he thought he did not get enough tomatoes off his plants?.

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8. What do the following words refer to? (paragraph 5)

(a) they :

(b) them :

TEST 16

Write on one of the following. Use about 200 words. (15 marks)

1. A speech to be made at your school assembly on **'The value of reading'**.

Include the following:

- a short introduction of importance and benefits one gets from reading
- types of books, magazines we should read
- finding time for reading

2. An article to be sent for the school magazine on **'Vandalism'**.

Write the article using following guidelines.

- what do you mean by vandalism
- reasons for vandalism
- effects of vandalism on public
- prevention of vandalism

3. Write an article on **'Road Safety'** to a newspaper.

Use the following points in your article.

- Importance of road rules- for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists
- negligence of road users
- drunk driving

4. Complete the following story.

It was a bright and breezy morning and I was getting ready to go to school as I was the prefect on duty for the day. Suddenly the telephone rang.

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