Level:3rd year lit & philo Hali Abdelkarim secondary school

# The First Examination of English

**Read the text carefully,then do the following activities**

Before Alexander's conquest, a thriving new civilization had emerged in southern Jordan. It appears that a nomadic tribe known as the Nabateans began migrating gradually from Arabia during the sixth century BCE. Over time, they abandoned their nomadic ways and settled in a number of places in southern Jordan, the Naqab desert in Palestine, and in northern Arabia. Their capital city was the legendary Petra, Jordan's most famous tourist attraction. Although Petra was inhabited by the Edomites before the arrival of the Nabateans, **the latter** carved grandiose buildings, temples and tombs out of solid sandstone rock. They also constructed a wall to fortify the city, although Petra was almost naturally defended by the surrounding sandstone mountains. Building an empire in the arid desert also forced the Nabateans to excel in water conservation. They were highly skilled water engineers, and irrigated their land with an extensive system of dams, canals and reservoirs.

The Nabateans were exceptionally skilled traders, facilitating commerce between China, India, the Far East, Egypt, Syria, Greece and Rome. They dealt in such goods as spices, incense, gold, animals, iron, copper, sugar, medicines, ivory, perfumes and fabrics, just to name a few. From **its** origins as a fortress city, Petra became a wealthy commercial crossroads between the Arabian, Assyrian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman cultures. Control of this crucial trade route between the upland areas of Jordan, the Red Sea, Damascus and southern Arabia was the lifeblood of the Nabatean Empire

We still know comparatively little about Nabatean society. However, we do know that they spoke a dialect of Arabic and later on adopted Aramaic. Much of what is now known about Nabatean culture comes from the writings of the Roman scholar Strabo. **He** recorded that their community was governed by a royal family, although a strong spirit of democracy prevailed. According to him there were no slaves in Nabatean society, and all members shared in work duties. The Nabateans worshipped a pantheon of deities, chief among which were :the sun god Dushara and the goddess Allat .

**From Jordan History.com**

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**A-Reading & interpreting:**

**Ex1/Choose the most appropriate title to the text:**

a-The legendary Petra. b-The mysterious Nabateans. c-Commercial crossroads.

**Ex2/Say if these statements are (True) or (False) according to the text:**

a-The Nabateans appeared in the Middle East.
b-The Nabateans kept their nomadic ways when they migrated.
c-Petra was strongly protected by a wall.
d-The Nabateans believed in one god.

**Ex3/Answer these questions according to the text:**

a-How did Nabateans deal with the matter of water,since they lived in arid desert??
b-Did the Nabatean society comprised classes?justify….

**Ex4/Complete the following chart with information from the text:**

## The Nabatean civilization

| Location? | Capital? | Merchandises dealt with? | Language? |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

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**Ex5/What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text:**
a-The latter(§1) b-Its(§2) c-He(§3)

## B-Text exploration

**Ex1/Find in the text,words whose definitions are the following:**
a-Period of 100 years.(§1)
b-A wall built across river to hold back the water. (§1)
c-Form of a language used in a part of a country.(§3)

**Ex2/Divide these words into roots & affixes:**
southern – commercial – comparatively – decoded

| Prefix | root | suffix |
|---|---|---|

**Ex3/ Combine the pairs of sentences using the connectors between brackets ,make any necessary changes:**

a-The Nabateans disappeared for unknown reasons/Legendary Petra still exists in Jordan. (although).
b-Alexander the Great invaded Persia & other parts of Asia/Greek transformed into an empire. (after)

**Ex4/Classify these words according to the pronunciation of their final /ed/:**
inhabited – carved – forced – worshipped

| /t/ | /d/ | /id/ |
|---|---|---|

**Ex5/Fill in each gap with only one word from the list below:**
**(commercial – followed – the forming – become )**

During the years that……1……Alexander the Great and that led to ……2…… of the Roman empire,The Nabateans managed to……3……one of the most successful……4……societies in the Middle East.

**C-Written expression:**

**Choose one of the following topics:**

**Topic one:** one of the major achievements of Nabateans was the invention of sophisticated irrigation system.Using the following notes,write a composition of about 80 to 100 words on how Nabateans developed irrigation & state some of its benefits:

-arid & dry desert. -construction of dams/canals/reservoirs
-controlling water usage -feeding the population.

**Topic two:** Our modern civilization facing many challenges that may lead to its collapse…write a composition of about 70 to 80 words on the topic.

Good luck for all

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