

Exam practice 8

Rediscovering the past

A The Angkor temple complex in Cambodia is one of the most important archaeological sites in south-east Asia. The site contains archaeological remains from the ninth to the fifteenth century. As well as the impressive architecture found in the area, Angkor also has evidence of an ancient urban planning system and water reservoirs that could provide drinking water for a large population. However, a recent study has shown that the site is much larger than was first thought.

B In April 2012, the National Academy of Sciences did a high-tech survey of the site and published the results a year later. The survey revealed that temples and buildings which had previously been thought of as separate cities are actually part of a much larger interconnected area.

C Previously, researchers had assumed that Angkor had the same sort of design as medieval European cities. But it seems that Angkor was actually a vast urban area – spread out more like a modern city. Unlike old European cities like Edinburgh or Prague, the most important buildings are found throughout a wide area instead of all being concentrated at one central point. Large stone temples would have stood in the middle of a network of wooden buildings which were used as homes.

D The key to making these discoveries was a laser-scanning instrument called Lidar. This was attached to a helicopter which flew over the Cambodian forest. Although Lidar was developed in the 1990s, the technology it uses has only recently been able to see through the forest. This means that archaeologists can now analyse extremely detailed models of the forest floor.

E Before Lidar was available, archaeologists took several weeks to locate suitable areas in which to dig. Now, archaeologists can see the site much more easily and, as a result, have a far better understanding of how people lived there. The images from Lidar have revealed a network of routes and buildings that connect sites up to 120 kilometres away from each other. The tourist industry is keen for the archaeological sites to be opened up to visitors, but the size of the area means that excavations may take many years. Whatever happens at Angkor, we are only just beginning to learn about this important piece of the past.

Reading

- 1 Answer the questions according to the information given in the text. Use your own words and full sentences.**
- 1 What have researchers recently discovered about Angkor?
.....
 - 2 What mistake did earlier researchers make?
.....
 - 3 How was Lidar technology different in the 1990s?
.....
- 2 Choose the correct answers.**
- 1 The temple complex at Angkor ...
A was a capital city.
B had some features of a modern city.
C contained large wooden buildings.
 - 2 Previous archaeological research has shown that Angkor was ...
A like many cities in Europe.
B built of wood and stone.
C a very small urban area.
 - 3 Current archaeological work at the Angkor site may take ... to complete.
A many weeks B several months C many years

Use of English

- 3 Find synonyms in the text for the words.**
- 1 proof (*paragraph A*)
 - 2 study, examination (*paragraph B*)
.....
 - 3 together in one place (*paragraph C*)
.....
 - 4 system (*paragraph E*)
- 4 Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in bold.**
- 1 Most travellers said they would like to Cambodia by plane. (**travel**)
 - 2 Tour companies have become used to their clients to exciting destinations like Angkor. (**send**)
 - 3 It is unlikely that UNESCO will allow tourists the Angkor site on their own. (**explore**)

Writing

- 5 Choose one of the tasks. Write 100–150 words.**
- 1 Write a description of a memorable journey that you've been on. Say what made it memorable and whether you would like to do something similar in the future.
 - 2 Write an opinion essay with the following title: 'The only way to find out about a culture is to live in a country; going on holiday there is not enough.'

