

Faculty of Arts and Languages.  
Department of Arabic Language.  
Course: Foreign Language.

Level: 3rd Year LMD.

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TEXT

**A/Comprehension:**

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

Sumer known in classical times as Babylonia consists of the lower half of Mesopotamia, identical with modern Iraq. Its climate is extremely hot and dry, and its soil is arid and unproductive.

Despite natural drawbacks, Sumerians with their creative intellect, turned Sumer into a Garden of Eden and developed the first high civilization in the history of man. The earliest Sumerians developed a system of irrigation using the overflow of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to water their fields. Besides they baked the river clay for making sickles, pots, plates, jars and also bricks used in building. Additionally, they devised tools, skills and techniques as the plow, the sculpture in stone, engraving and inlay. They originated a system of writing on clay later called cuneiform.

Sumerians were remarkable not only for their material and technological progress, but also for their ideas, ideals and values. They were the first to compile laws as the Sumerian was deeply conscious of his personal rights. There was a spirit of co-operation among individuals shown through the irrigation process in which communal effort and organization were manifested.

Whatever is said about the Sumerians one can never be grateful enough for their contributions to modern life.

*Adapted from: "The Sumerians" by Samuel Noah Kramer, University of Chicago Press, 1963*

**1. Write the letter that corresponds to the right answer.**

- A- The soil of Sumer is ...**a. salted**                      **b. fertile**                      **c. sterile**  
B- The Sumerians developed irrigation using ...                      **a. rainfall water**                      **b. river flood**                      **c. sea water**  
C- Cuneiform is a...                      **a. system of irrigation**                      **b. system of writing**                      **c. code of laws**  
D- The Sumerian's spirit of co-operation was manifested through ...  
**a. his consciousness of his rights**                      **b. irrigation process**                      **c. his technological progress**

**2. Fill in the following table with information from the text.**

Sumer			Achievements		
Place	Climate	Soil	Agriculture	Building	Writing
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

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

- a. What helped the Sumerians develop the first high civilization in the history of mankind?

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- b. How were sickles, pots, plates and jars made in Sumer?

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- c. Why did Sumerians compile laws?



