**ENGLISH 8 – UNIT 8- SKILLS 1**

**I. Read the passage and answer these questions below:**

England is not a large country. No town in England is very far from the sea, and many English families spend their summer holidays at the seaside. There are no high mountains in England, no very long rivers and very large forests.

There are many towns in England. No town is very far from another. The English countryside between the towns is like a carpet of many colors. In spring and summer, the fields, meadows and forests are light green or dark green, and the gardens are green, red, blue, yellow and white with flowers.

**Questions:**

1. Is England a large country?

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2. Where do many English families spend their summer holidays?

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3. Are there many towns in England?

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4. What is the English countryside like?

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**II. Read the passage and do the tasks that follow**

 Alaska is perhaps the most amazing state in the USA. It has coastlines facing both the Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. This state has an incredible three million lakes. That’s four lakes per person living there.

 Many cities in Alaska cannot be reached by road, sea, or river. The only way to get in and out is by air, on foot, or by dogsled. That’s why Alaska has the busiest sea airport in the world, Lake Hood Seaplane Base. Nearly two hundred floatplanes take off and land on the water of this airport Midnight Sun every day. It is a really fun scene to watch.

 Alaska is called the land of because in summer, the sun does not set for nearly three months. But in winter the sun stays almost unseen.

 All Alaskans take special pride in their beautiful and unique state.

**A. Choose the correct answer:**

1. Alaska \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**A.** is another name for the USA

**B.** is an island in the Pacific Ocean

**C.** has coastlines facing both the Arctic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean

2. Which statement below is NOT CORRECT?

**A.** In Alaska, the number of lakes is bigger than that of people.

**B.** There is one lake for each person living there.

**C.** Alaska has an incredibly high number of lakes.

3. Which method below can always be used to reach a place in Alaska?

**A.** by air **B.** by road **C.** by river

4. In Alaska we can always see the sun \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**A.** in winter **B.** in summer **C.** every month of the year

**B. Answer the questions:**

1. What is Alaska?

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2. Where do floatplanes take off and land?

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3. Why do people call Alaska “Land of the Midnight Sun”?

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4. How do the Alaskans feel about their state?

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**III. Read the passage and**

The Maori arrived in New Zealand from other Polynesian islands over a thousand years ago. They were the first people to live there. They made beautiful wooden buildings with pictures cut into the wood. There are about 280,000 Maori today. Maori have brown skin, dark brown eyes and wavy black hair. In 1840, they agreed to become British colony, and they learned European ways quickly. Today, there are Maori in all kinds of jobs. They attend schools and universities and become lawyers and scientists. There are Maori in the government. Most of them live like the white New Zealand.

However, the Maori do not forget their traditions. Children learn the language, music and old stories. They have yearly competitions in speaking, dancing, and singing. The Maori live a comfortable, modern life, but they keep their traditions by passing them to their children.

**a) True (T) or False (F).**

…… 1. Maori are Polynesians.

…… 2. New Zealand is an island country.

…… 3. The Maori look like the Chinese.

…… 4. The Maori live by hunting and fishing.

…… 5. The Maori like music.

**b) Aanswer the following questions.**

1. Where did the Maori come from?

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2. Are there about 280,000 Maori today?

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3. What do the Maori look like?

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4. What do they do at their yearly competitions?

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5. Do they forget their traditions?

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